

**ST JAMES' METHODIST & UNITED REFORMED CHURCH WOOLTON L25 7RJ**

Web address: <http://stjameswoolton.org>

**MINISTER:** Revd. Peter Hughes [peter.hughes@methodist.org.uk](mailto:peter.hughes@methodist.org.uk)  
0151 364 0134

Peter's day off is Friday - messages and emails left on Fridays will not be received by him until Saturday.



**NEWSLETTER – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022**

**John 8:1-11**

**“Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.”**



***This Week's Collect***

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross, we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**UPCOMING PREACHERS**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April Liz Hudson (St James') Liz Hudson (phone)**

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**



**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March to 6<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm Lent Groups**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm Mission Action Group Meeting (open to all)**

## WORSHIP AT ST. JAMES'

There are now 3 ways in which you can enjoy our Sunday morning services.

- By attending St James'
- Via telephone
- Via Zoom



All details and information are below.

**Please use the Zoom link below**

**Joining from 10.15 for a 10.30 am start – Liz Hudson**

Either click on this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/5913455610?pwd=aVdZcFpaZVVaMDdsZ1BiR3lhRE1yQT09>

**Meeting ID: 591 345 5610**

**Passcode: 12466**

**We hope to see you there.**

If you want to listen in to the Service on Sunday, dial the above number, then PIN and listen in. You can chat up to 10.30, but when the service starts everyone will be “muted” to avoid feedback/noise.

**This Sunday our preacher will be Liz Hudson**

To join us for a short (15-20 minutes) Act of Worship:

Between 2.20pm and 2.30pm on Sunday:

From your normal “landline” telephone: Dial: 0333-006-7775

On being asked, enter the following number, or “Pin”: 08 39 09 01

You will be able to chat with everyone else who joins until the service starts.

This Sunday’s Act of Worship, or short service, will comprise:

**The Host for this service is Liz Hudson**

**Order of Worship:**

- **Welcome and notices:**
- **Opening prayer** (Host)
- **Bible reading** (Pat Fagan – Reading TBA)
- **Lord’s Prayer** (Host)
- **Talk or “mini-sermon”** (Liz Hudson)
- **Prayers** (Pam Bellis)
- **Grace and dismissal.** (Host)



**COST:** - The above number costs the same to dial as ordinary UK numbers – if you have “free minutes” from your telephone supplier then there will be no cost.

**God Bless Graham Martin**

Communications officer (and local preacher) St. James Church

[Call me on 0151-222-5832 or 07712-525239 if you have any questions.

## ***Monetary Offerings***

Your monetary donations are vital to the running and future of St. James Church.

Please contact Margaret Dee if you would like to change your giving to a Standing Order or join the Weekly Envelope scheme (out now).

Also, if you are a UK Tax payer, please consider Gift Aid, as the Church is able to claim 25% from the Government at no addition cost to you (for example, for every £10 the Church would receive £2.50).

***We thank you for your continued support. Contact Margaret Dee (428 3356).***

## ***St James' Garden***

Now that the weather is improving and so are the weeds; we would be grateful if anyone could help out maintaining our church garden. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Margaret Dee (428 3356).

## ***Recycling at St. James'***

Recycling of batteries, ink cartridges and spectacles: We will no longer be offering donation boxes for these items. All large supermarkets now have used battery collection tubs and some also take ink cartridges. Spectacles can be taken to Boots, Specsavers, Vision Express and some independent opticians will also take them. We will however continue to collect used stamps.

**Thank you.**

## ***Church Flowers***

We have recently resumed our beautiful flower displays in Church each week.

If you would like to donate money for flowers on a particular Sunday - perhaps in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a happy event - please speak to Jonquil Dickson who can add you to the calendar for the months ahead.

Also, if you would simply like to donate for flowers so that we can make sure all Sundays are covered, please speak to Jonquil. At present, we have many dates available, especially **Easter Sunday**.

We will then deliver those flowers to people after the Service. If you know someone who you feel would be blessed by receiving flowers from Church please speak to Jonquil or a steward.

We will also need some more volunteers to take flowers out to people.

## ***BIRTHDAYS***

For those who are celebrating a birthday this week, wishing you a wonderful time ahead.

Happy, happy birthday,  
That's my birthday wish for you,  
I hope your day brings you joy,  
Whatever you plan to do.  
Live each moment to the fullest,  
Every single moment is dear,  
This is the time to remember,  
You only get one birthday a year.



Many happy returns to Lilian Jeffers, who celebrates her special on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Love from everyone at St James'.

## ***Lilian & John Jeffers Anniversary***

Lilian would like to say a huge thank you for all of their cards, good wishes and round of applause they received in church, when celebrating their wedding anniversary.

## ***The Samaritans Challenge***



I have now completed my 310,000 Steps in March fundraising challenge for The Samaritans. I have been overwhelmed with the generous support of my church family and friends who have sponsored, supported and prayed for me during this challenge. I completed the 310,000 steps on 24th March, ahead of schedule. In total I walked approximately 132 miles and raised £460 in total (three times more than I expected). This money will make a huge difference to anyone who needs the caring support of The Samaritans when they are at their lowest point in life. If you have not yet given me your sponsorship donation, can you please let me have it within the next couple of weeks. Many thanks, once again, for all your support. It has been very much appreciated. Bless you all. **Pam Alexander**

### **HARMONY CAFÉ**

Come and join us at 6.30 pm on Palm Sunday 10th April as we share the Easter story through words and song. Due to Covid safety measures, we won't be able to offer refreshments this time and masks are preferred for the singing. Everyone is very welcome. Doors open at 6.00 pm.

If you'd like to know more, please contact Roy and Lynne Barker 0151 421 1218 or email: [the\\_barkers\\_88@hotmail.com](mailto:the_barkers_88@hotmail.com)

### ***Scout Section News***

We have got off to a quick start this year. Lots of cooking – pancakes and Chinese New Year. Beavers and Cubs have been on an activity weekend at Kingswood, Colomendy, Scouts have done a evening hike circumnavigating round Woolton and Squirrels Have been busy building dens / drays.

2021 was a hard year for everyone but we have emerged stronger than ever. Our annual census adds up to over one hundred members which includes 34 adults. I am pleased to welcome Clare Elman as Squirrels leader plus we have three assistants in training.

Our strong numbers mean that we have paid £3400 in capitation to Central organization. This covers us for all essential insurances and safeguarding support. Scouting makes safeguarding as its number one priority. We leaders all have to renew our training every three years – all our adults are up to date.

Last year we had to adapt our programmes, and in doing so incurred extra expenditure which we were able to cover from our reserves. We wish to keep scouting affordable so have taken the decision not to increase our fees. We have enough money left to donate £1000 towards hall running costs.

Looking forward we have managed to get booking for Wingding. It is returning this year to Taud Vale. It is a brilliant weekend attraction 2000 beavers and Cubs from across Merseyside. Scouts have camps and hike planned. In summary we are planning to get back to a more normal programme.

Scouting is a team activity. Our Scout Group is sponsored by St James and we appreciate all the help and support we have been given. We are always looking to strengthen our team, especially as we return to outdoor activities, contact any leader to find out more.

Thanks Skip / Colin

## Opening Words

When the Lord restored his people's fortunes, we were like those who dreamed.  
Our mouths were filled with laughter.

The nations around us said:

"The Lord has done great things for them."

Our tongues praised God with songs of joy. The Lord indeed does great things for us and we are filled with joy.

*(Ps 126 NIV adapted)*

**Hymn:** StF 94 – To God be the glory

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here: [To God Be The Glory \( Royal Albert Hall, London\) - YouTube](#)

To God be the glory, great things he has done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life in atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in:

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son;  
and give him the glory -- great things he has done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of God!  
And every offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives:

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see:

### *Let us pray together*

God, Lord of history and beyond, you were before the beginning, and will endure beyond, time. We worship you. In recognising your greatness, we acknowledge how small we are, how little we understand, how often we fail to see the bigger picture of your kingdom behind the events of our times and lives. We bow before you. Yet you know us; you have called us your people, by name, as you have called people from the beginning of time. You have created us for your purpose and shaped us through our experiences. You surprise us by your actions and refresh us with water in dry places. We adore you.

In Jesus you have demonstrated your humility and love, undertaking the struggle against evil, sin and death on our behalf and offering us not only forgiveness, but new life in his name. We thank you.

Forgive us if we take your love for granted or dismiss your kindness as being of little worth. Restore our sense of your calling to us, until we pour out our lives as a gift of gratitude and reflection of our joy in being yours. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



**Today's Reading from the Old Testament:** Isaiah 43:16-21

**Today's Gospel Reading:** John 12:1-8

### **Time to Reflect**

When Covid-19 appeared in the world, it changed our lives in ways we would never have imagined. It has changed how we work, how we relate, and how confident we may be in the plans we make for the future. As I write this, war has begun in Ukraine: people are on the move; whole neighbourhoods have been shattered by bombardment. The future is uncertain, not just in the region, but across the world. Politicians and journalists are saying that the world has changed - again.

The God who spoke, through the prophet Isaiah, to warn his people that failure to change their ways would lead to exile and destruction is the same God who, in our reading today, promises a return and restoration. Not only that, but he will smooth the path into their new future. God invites the people to clear their minds of hopes of returning to the way things used to be. He is doing something new. It is already in process; we just may not have perceived it yet.

Isn't this always the case? We are in constant change as individuals. Society and technology continually alter as innovation and development goes on. New discoveries and fresh ideas arise that challenge our former knowledge and presuppositions. Sometimes those things are welcome, sometimes not. But in the ebbs and flows of history, somehow, God is doing a new thing; always doing new things.

So, in the life of Jesus, he is doing something uniquely new. He is wrapping up the sacred history of the past, focused on one family, one nation, in the story of one man who fulfils the calling of Ancient Israel; and through his dying and rising, Jesus opens the presence of God to all people. He preaches a message of a new age already here among us, and brings that age to birth, empowering those who take him at his word to continue his work of welcome and transformation across all time and in all places.

Now, in Lent, we journey with him through the high drama, from Bethany to Gethsemane to Golgotha; from table to cross to grave. Today Mary foreshadows what is to come, as she pours rich oils on Jesus' body, a sign for those who can perceive it, that the God who does new things is doing new things again.

### ***Take a time to sit quietly***

Where, in the twists and turns of your life and the life of the world today, do you glimpse God's new beginnings?

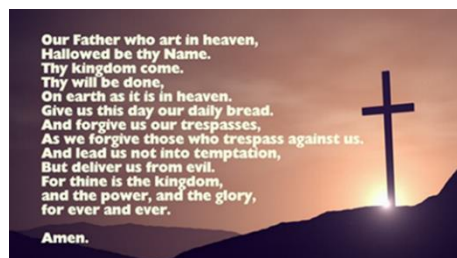
### ***A time of prayer***

Unchanging God, always moving on, never still, no matter how much we call for stability, hear our prayer: for your church, rich in history and tradition, yet challenged by a new world and ever developing need; for our world, swept along in the currents of history, driven by political and economic forces, causing the rise and fall of nations and peoples; for our country, seeking the common good, yet struggling with the challenge of making a fair future for all and needing fresh vision for the task; for people wrapped up in the circumstances of their days, trying to make ends meet, to find freedom and satisfaction, dealing with illness, grief or loss;

Unchanging God, open our eyes to your new possibilities, and our hearts to your courage in the face of the unknown. Through Jesus Christ our Lord

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

Our Father .....



***Listen to We seek your kingdom*** [We Seek Your Kingdom \(Official Video\) | Noel Robinson, Lou Fellingham, Andy Flannagan, Donna Akodu - YouTube](#) or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

### ***A prayer of blessing***

May the God of new beginnings hold us in peace, fill us with hope and guide us by wisdom as we step each day into the unknown future with him. **Amen.**

### ***Isaiah 43:16-21***

**16** This is what the Lord says — he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, **17** who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick: **18** “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. **19** See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. **20** The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, **21** the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.



### ***John 12:1-8***

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ‘Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?’ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, ‘Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.’



## **PRAYERS**

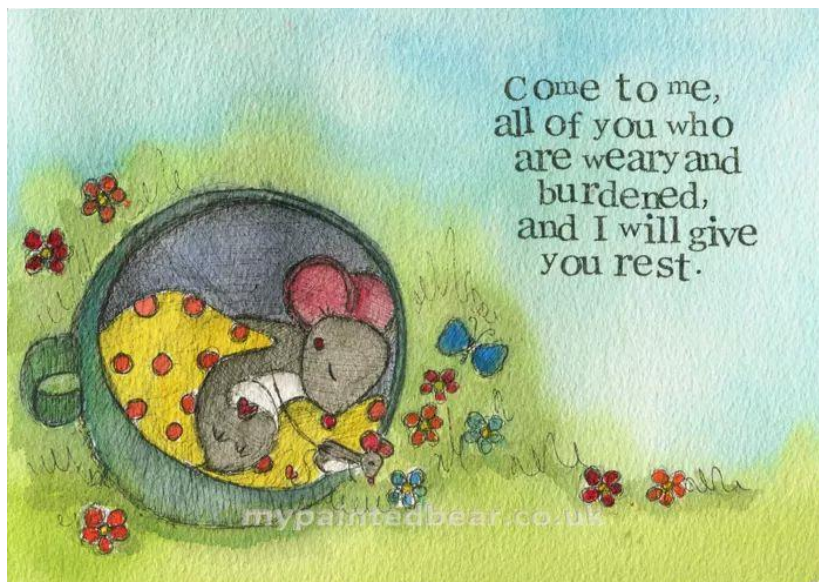
Dear Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the Sick, I turn to You in this time of illness.

Dearest Comforter of the troubled, alleviate our worry and sorrow with Your gentle love, and grant us the grace and strength to accept this burden.

We place our worries in Your hands. We ask that You restore Your servant to health again.

Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge Your holy will and know that whatever You do, You do for the love of us.

**Amen**



**We also pray for Revd Peter Hughes, Ken Kitchen, John and Sylvia Pagan, Ian Taylor, Arthur Evans, Helen and Fred Stanford, Pat Fagan, Pam Draper, Alex and Doreen Banks, Ron Swindells and Mike Hughes.**

### **LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

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Across: 1 Breath, 5 Lystra, 10 Encamps, 11 Messiah, 12 Spring, 15 Priest, 16 Dead Sea, 17 Rose, 18 Star, 19 Legions, 20 Path, 22 Spot, 25 Sneezed, 27 Elisha, 28 Sister, 31 Tempest, 32 Madness, 33 Shadow, 34 Remote.

Down: 2 Records, 3 Almond, 4 Host, 5 Lamp, 6 Sisera, 7 Raiment, 8 Censer, 9 Whiter, 13 Gehenna, 14 Adviser, 15 Pennies, 20 Plenty, 21 Triumph, 23 Patient, 24 Thresh, 25 Shield, 26 Diadem, 29 Stew, 30 Omer.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

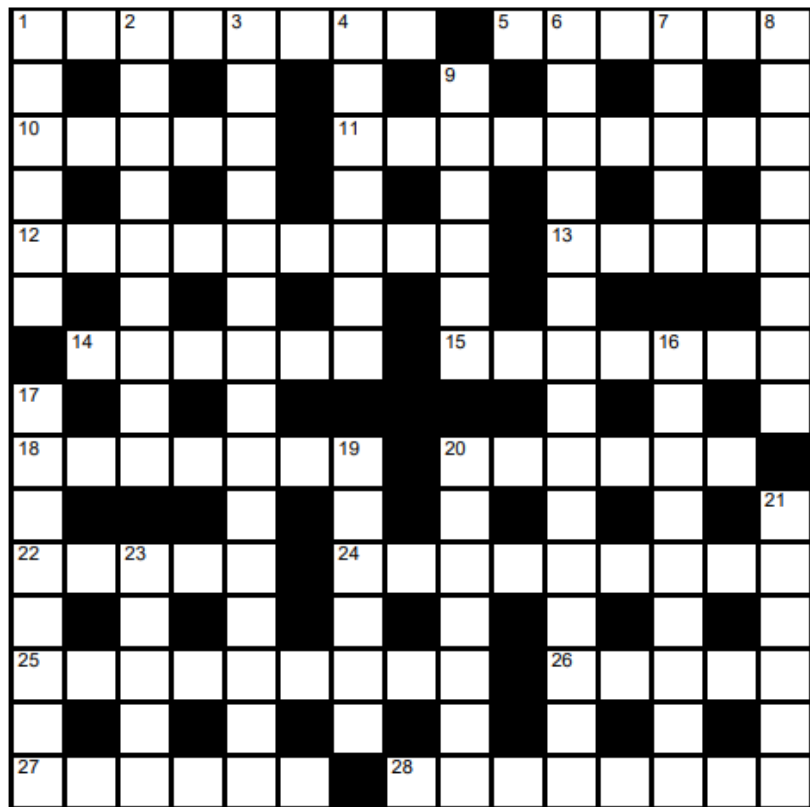




## THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 Dealt with money in the temple (8)  
 5 Sacrifices (6)  
 10 Burial perfume (5)  
 11 Lamenting (9)  
 12 Assembly (9)  
 13 Blast of sound (5)  
 14 Blossoming tree (6)  
 15 Endures (7)  
 18 Prepares to sleep outdoors (7)  
 20 As the Amorites did, like bees (6)  
 22 Can be stony, clean or wicked (5)  
 24 Re-establish (9)  
 25 Synagogue chief (9)  
 26 Of God, still and small (5)  
 27 Shot as a sign by Jonathan (6)  
 28 Often gated (8)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.com

### Down

- 1 Appoint (6)  
 2 Relating to the disciples (9)

- 3 The opening of a new covenant (6,2,7)  
 4 Haggai and Zechariah's call to the Jews (7)  
 6 Jewish festival (5,2,8)  
 7 Manassite warrior (5)  
 8 Roadside marker (8)  
 9 Idols (6)

- 16 Pinnacle (9)  
 17 "House of mercy" (8)  
 19 Sacred place (6)  
 20 Deep red (7)  
 21 Worship (6)  
 23 Son of Korah (5)

### PROGRAMMES YOU MAY ENJOY – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

#### 6:00 – 9:30 a.m. Radio Merseyside: Daybreak

Paul Beesley sits in. The Sunday magazine reflecting Merseyside's worlds of faith.

#### 8.10 a.m. Radio 4: Sunday Worship – A Passion for Hospitality: I was in prison

On Passion Sunday the service comes from the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula in the Tower of London and takes as its theme 'I was in prison'.

#### 13.15 BBC 1 Songs of Praise: God's Help in Herefordshire

The Rev Kate Bottley visits the historic cathedral city of Hereford to discover how faith has been put into action in the past and in the present.

### NEWSLETTER NOTICES NEXT WEEK



If you would like to share anything with your Church family in this newsletter including any birthdays, celebrations, or anyone to include in our prayers, please let me know.

Please send any messages to Jayne McLaren at

[jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk)