

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

MINISTER: Revd. Peter Hughes 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 – 12th December 2021



This Week's Collect

God for whom we wait and watch, you sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people for the coming of the Messiah. Inspire the ministers and stewards of your truth to turn our disobedient hearts to you; that, when Christ shall come again in glory to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before him, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**



God of mercy and power, whose Son rules over all, grant us so to live in obedience to your holy will, that at his appearing we may be raised to eternal life; 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.**

Second Sunday of Advent

UPCOMING PREACHERS

Sunday December 12th **Revd. Peter Hughes (St James')** **Liz Hudson (phone)**

Please ensure that you wear a face covering in church.

PROGRAMMES YOU MAY ENJOY – Sunday 12th December

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

Helen Jones brings you the Sunday magazine reflecting Merseyside's worlds of faith.

8.10 a.m. Radio 4: Sunday Worship. Jazz Carols

A service of jazz carols from Highfields Church, Cardiff, led by the Rev Dave Gobbett. With reflections and readings, and music from Highfields' own jazz band featuring Matt Featherstone.

13.15 BBC 1 Songs of Praise: Festive Joy in Lincoln

The Rev Kate Bottley is in Lincoln to explore its famous Christmas market, held annually in the shadow of the city's magnificent gothic cathedral.

Minister's Message

We have already reached the Third Sunday in Advent. This Sunday, when we remember John the Baptist, we light a different coloured Advent Candle. This different represents "Gaudete Sunday". "Gaudete" is Latin for rejoicing. Traditionally Advent was a solemn season, focused on judgment and repentance. Gaudete Sunday was a change of tone, a chance to rejoice at the halfway point of Advent. Perhaps this Sunday we can celebrate and rejoice knowing that, although we are still battling the pandemic, God is with us and draws closer to us in Jesus. May we each find something to rejoice in this Sunday.

God Bless, Peter.

Sabbatical Photos

On my second full day staying with my friends Daniel and Suzy, we drove across Mull to catch a ferry to Iona. This is an island which is special to me, Daniel and many other Christians. It is known as a "thin place", somewhere that people feel God is especially close. The three of us walked part of the Iona pilgrimage route, including a visit to the beach where St Columba landed on the island in 563, bringing Christianity to Scotland. We also visited St Oran's Chapel, a very plain building, where we lit candles and prayed. God did feel close to me, in the friendship I shared with Daniel and Suzy, in the awareness of Christians who had walked this way before, and in the vast open space of the peaceful island.



WORSHIP AT ST. JAMES'

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

- By booking a place and 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 – Revd. Peter Hughes

Either click on this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/5913455610?pwd=aVdZcFpaZVVaMDdsZ1BiR3lhRE1yQTo9>

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.

**Also from St. James Church: - Invitation to Telephone Worship
(And every Sunday until the end of November)**

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 Malachi 3:1-4)
- **Lord’s Prayer** (Host)
- **Talk or “mini-sermon”** (Liz Hudson)
- **Prayers** (Chris Bolton)
- **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.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT ALL THESE EVENTS

Fellowship Group

Please note that the Fellowship Group (formerly the Monday House Group) will meet on Monday 13th December at 2.30pm in Church.

The Wednesday House group will be meeting on 15 December at 7.30pm in church. New (as well as existing) members welcome.

Saturday December 11th – Roy Barker and Friends Christmas Sing-along.

Roy Barker & Friends Christmas Sing-along is on Saturday 11th December at 7.00 pm (doors open at 6.30pm).

Come and join us for some Christmas fun and lots of singing. Wear your Christmas hats and sweaters and bring your voices.

Due to Covid safety restrictions, seating has been reduced so get your ticket now. Tickets adults: £6, children: £1.

Contact Roy and Lynne Barker 0151 421 1218



Christmas baubles

We asked for your help a few weeks ago to knit, crochet or sew Christmas baubles for this year's planned Christmas experience. As we continue our planning it would be helpful to know how many have been made or are in the process of being made so far, so if you get a spare minute, perhaps you could let me know? There is no panic, and plenty of time left to carry on making them too!

Thank you to everyone who has been busy making Christmas baubles. Would you please bring them to church by 28th November or if you need them picking up, please give me a call and I will arrange that for you.

Thanks Pam Bellis

Christmas Services

Advent Sunday: November 28th, 2021 – dedication of donations in lieu of toys and gifts for our Christmas Charities at 10.30 a.m.

Sunday, December 12th, 2021, CHRISTINGLE SERVICE, (all age worship) at 10.30 a.m.

Sunday December 19th Morning Service with Holy Communion at 10.30am AND Carols by Candlelight at 4pm

Friday December 24th, 2021, Christmas Eve Communion at 11.30 pm

All the above services will be led by Revd Peter Hughes

Christmas Day - Morning Worship led by Andrew Gillespie at 10 a.m.

NO SERVICE on Sunday December 26th, 2021.



St James' Christmas Card

We are going to send a St James Christmas card to all our members and friends of the church again this year.

If you would like to send a greeting, please either speak to me in person, email me at pambellis@hotmail.com or give me a call on 0151 356 7510 to give me your greeting and who it is from.

If you wish to make a charitable donation in lieu of sending cards we will be donating to Christian Aid.

Thanks, Pam Bellis.



PRAYERS

Dear Lord, it is my will to surrender to you everything that I am and everything that I'm striving to be.

I open the deepest recesses of my heart and invite Your Holy Spirit to dwell inside of me.
I offer you my life, heart, mind, body, soul, and spirit.

I surrender to you my past, present, and future problems.

I ask You to take hold over every aspect of my life.
I surrender to You all my hurt, pain, worry, doubt, fear, and anxiety, and I ask You to wash me clean.

I release everything into Your compassionate care.

Please speak to me clearly, Lord.
Open my ears to hear Your voice.

Open my heart to commune with You more deeply.

I want to feel Your loving embrace.

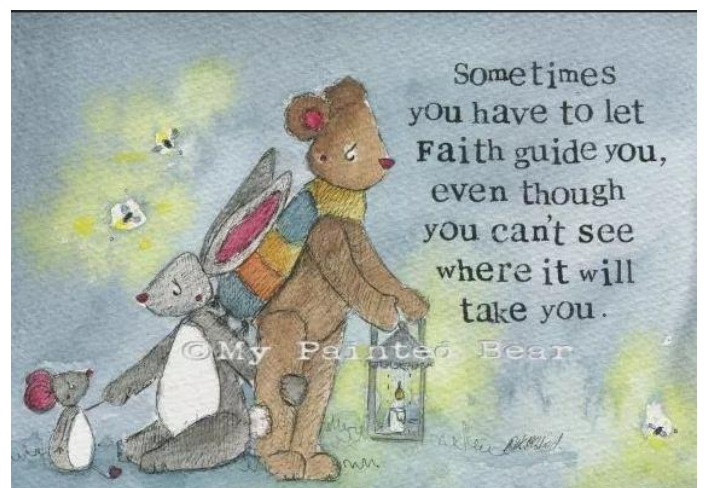
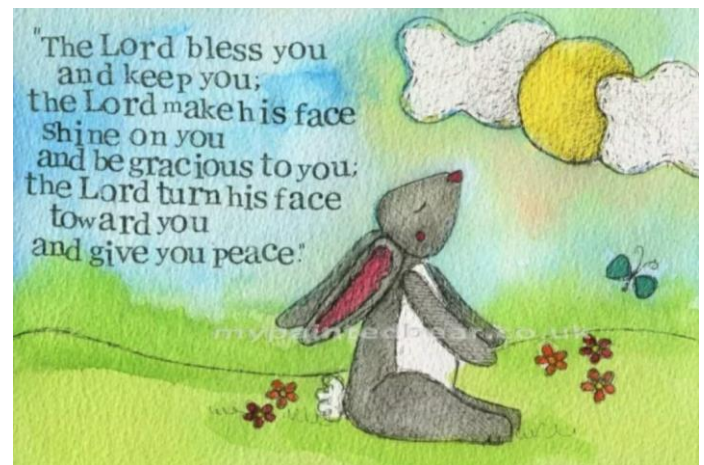
Open the doors that need to be opened and close the doors that need to be closed.

Please set my feet upon the straight and narrow road that leads to everlasting life.

Amen.

We continue to pray for Gordon and Christine Salmon, Ken Kitchen, John and Sylvia Pagan, Peter Barlow and Arthur Evans.

We continue to pray for those who need our prayers at this time due to ill health, struggling with mental health and all difficult situations.



Opening Prayer

Eternal God, source of all blessing, help us to worship you with all our heart and mind and strength; for you alone are God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**
(MWB p28)

Many churches light candles in Advent. If you are in a place where it is safe to do so, you may like to light 3 candles or tea lights now.

Advent candles tell their story

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words of the first three verses, or listen to it here:
<https://youtu.be/tlC5ybhWcrM>

StF165 *Advent 1*

Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness
changed for gladness on that day.

Advent 2

Prophet voices loudly crying,
making pathways clear,
glimpsing glory, self-denying,
calling all to hear.
Through their message —
 challenged, shaken —
hearts awaken: God is near!

Advent 3

John the Baptist, by his preaching
and by water poured,
brought to those who heard his teaching
news of hope restored:
'Keep your vision strong and steady,
and be ready for the Lord.'



Let us pray together:

God of all glory, you brought the universe into existence, and raised up witnesses to your greatness and love. We praise and adore you. Grant that by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit we may worship and serve you,
and praise your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen. (MWB p117)

Epistle: Galatians chapter 3, verses 26-29.

Gospel: Matthew chapter 1, verses 1-17.

Time to Reflect:

We don't often read this list of the ancestors of Jesus – are you surprised?!

-- but remember Matthew was originally writing 2000 years ago for people with a Jewish background.

If you compare this list with that in the books of Chronicles, Matthew has left a few out to make the numbers add up to 14 x 3!

The list includes some women:

Tamar's child was fathered by her father-in-law and Rahab was a prostitute – do these sound like your usual 'pillars of the chapel'? – Ruth was a foreigner; Bathsheba was "the wife of Uriah" whom David had killed so he could take her as his wife; and Mary, Jesus's mother. But in those days...

Jewish thought did not allow women to prove a pedigree – it was the father that counted. Nor did they allow foreigners. You had to be 'pure' Jewish blood.

So, Matthew is saying, in this new religion of Christianity: women matter, foreigners' matter, people on the fringes of society matter. And there's room for saint and sinner in the new life of Jesus. Paul agrees. Re-read our epistle.

So, this rather boring list of names at the start of Matthew's gospel is telling those who first read it, and is telling us too, that the coming of Jesus brings changes in thinking.

it brings changes in our ways of living; and is still bringing change, as he leads us on.

Take a time to sit quietly

Intercessions

Let us pray for God's family throughout the world; for all who bear responsibility among his people; for all church leaders (particularly those feeling under exceptional pressure); and for all who are sharing in this act of worship, wherever they may be.

Let us pray for the peace of the world; for the rulers of all the nations; for government in accordance with God's holy will; and for a just and proper use of the natural resources of the world.

Let us pray for the concerns and activities of the churches nearby, and for the people around us, and for ourselves, our families, friends and neighbours.

Let us pray for all in sorrow, need, anxiety or sickness; for the neglected, the persecuted and the lonely, and for those in any need or trouble.

Let us praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honoured, and pray that we also, inspired by their example, may have grace to glorify Christ.

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not ask, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father....

Hymn: Into the darkness of this world StF173 (Also SoF821) <https://youtu.be/qXKOxub5obc>

Into the darkness of this world,
into the shadows of the night;
into this loveless place you came,
lightened our burdens, eased our pain,
and made these hearts your home.
Into the darkness once again --
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come with your love
to make us whole,
come with your light to lead us on,
driving the darkness far from our souls:
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Into the longing of our souls, into these heavy hearts of stone,
shine on us now your piercing light, order our lives and souls aright,
by grace and love unknown, until in you our hearts unite --
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come with your love to make us whole, come with your light to lead us on,
driving the darkness far from our souls: O come, Lord Jesus, come.

O Holy Child, Emmanuel, hope of the ages, God with us,
visit again this broken place, till all the earth declares your praise
and your great mercies own. Now let your love be born in us,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come in your glory, take your place, Jesus, the Name above all names,
we long to see you face to face, O come, Lord Jesus, come.

or if you prefer a traditional Advent hymn StF172 (also HP237)
Hills of the north rejoice
<https://youtu.be/oFMQLLlbPh4>

Hills of the north, rejoice, river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice; valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love, he brings salvation from above.

Isles of the southern seas, sing to the listening earth;
carry on every breeze hope of a world's new birth:
in Christ shall all be made anew; his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the east, arise! He is your brightest morn;
greet him with joyous eyes, let praise his path adorn:
your seers have longed to know their Lord; to you he comes, the final Word.

Shores of the utmost west, lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light, who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

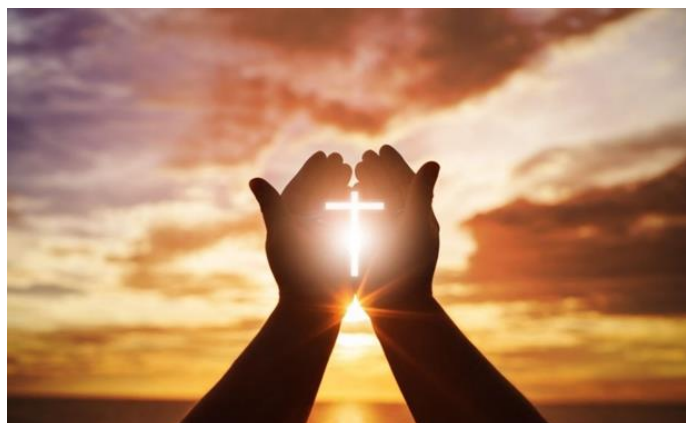
Shout, as you journey on; songs be in every mouth!
Lo, from the north they come, from east and west and south:
in Jesus all shall find their rest, in him the universe be blest.
Charles Ernest Oakley (1832-1865) and Editors of English Praise.

A prayer of blessing

Go out into the world and prepare a way for the
Lord. Speak and act in loving ways to show he is
with us.

God bless you and guide you in the way of all
truth and justice.
And go in peace.

If you lit candles, blow them out now!



Galatians 3:26-29

...for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Matthew 1:1-17

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

So, all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

F	I	G	S		R	E	F	O	R	M	E	D
O		E		F		L		M		A		U
R	A	B	B	O	N	I		N	U	L	L	S
E		E		U		D		I		A		T
K	E	R	E	N	H	A	P	P	U	C	H	
N				T		D		R		H		S
O	X	G	O	A	D		J	E	M	I	M	A
W		E		I		I		S				C
	T	R	A	N	S	G	R	E	S	S	O	R
S		I		G		N		N		L		E
K	E	Z	I	A		O	R	C	H	A	R	D
I		I		T		R		E		V		L
N	U	M	B	E	R	E	D			D	E	N

Across: 1 Figs, 3 Reformed, 9 Rabboni, 10 Nulls, 11 Kerenhappuch, 13 Oxgoad, 15 Jemima, 17 Transgressor, 20 Kezia, 21 Orchard, 22 Numbered, 23 Deny.

Down: 1 Foreknow, 2 Geber, 4 Elidad, 5 Omnipresence, 6 Malachi, 7 Dust, 8 Fountain Gate, 12 Sacredly, 14 Gerizim, 16 Ignore, 18 Slave, 19 Skin.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.com

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Maybe bug in shrub, eating nothing initially, was not consumable? (7,4)
- 6 Meat found in Troas thrown away (5)
- 7 Quiet peer is a jewel (5)
- 8 King in rough sea they hear? (4)
- 9 Woman is envied, oddly (3)
- 10 Bank excluding Italian editor is forced out (7)
- 14 Lie disturbed old priest (3)
- 15 Caught seven dropping off five (4)
- 16 Praise officer after axe is returned (5)
- 17 Pick out God's chosen (5)
- 18 Sunday Devil working in a foolish way (11)

Down

- 1 Endlessly bore the German neighbour (6)
- 2 Primate wearing red gathered crops (6)
- 3 Make sense of alien going after injured printer (9)
- 4 Bishop with experience brought back creatures (4)
- 5 Asian Republic airways became lost overlooking Washington (5)

1		2		3		4		5	
6						7			
				8					
9									
		10					11		12
	13						14		
			15						
16						17			
18									

by Philologus

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- 7 Prince is one starting to release several hostages (9)
- 11 Support for champion (6)
- 12 Unclean partly fulfil thyself (6)
- 13 Grown old and pale (5)
- 15 Second cover moved sideways (4)

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