

**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.



**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
February 2023**

**Welcome to our second newsletter of 2023. We hope you find this information interesting and useful. As the months go on, the more you share, the more we can add to this newsletter.**

**Email Helen Miller: [newsletter@stjameswoolton.org](mailto:newsletter@stjameswoolton.org) with anything you wish to include or have any suggestions.**

**MINISTER'S MESSAGE February 2023:**

Hello Everyone and welcome to February's edition of our Church Newsletter.

As I write this at 4pm on 31st January the sun is still shining and there is a look and feel of spring in the air. I know it is a bit premature to write winter off just yet, but it is encouraging to see the signs of life all around us.

The first month of 2023 has flown by and by the time of our March Newsletter the days will be even longer!

Lent begins early this year - on Ash Wednesday 22nd February. One writer refers to Lent as "God's Springtime".

This suggests that just as in our gardens, pots, window boxes and containers, there is work to do to prepare for the coming of new life. There are still old dead leaves to be removed and pruning when the time is right.

In our spiritual lives these old dead leaves could be habits; actions and ways of thinking that can hinder the life of God coming through.

What needs pruning in our lives. The traditional practice of giving something up for Lent may help with this, but it may be even more helpful to take something on - perhaps reading a spiritual book, re-joining a group, engaging in positive actions - including random acts of kindness.

We know that in two months time we will be about to celebrate the resurrection life of Jesus so let us use the time before then to get ready - looking forward in God's springtime.

God Bless  
Peter

## Christmas Gift Day Donations

We are very grateful for the very generous gifts given by yourselves during our Gift Day Service on the 11<sup>th</sup> December and for those which came in after that date.

An amazing total of **£643.50**.

This amount was converted into Asda Gift Vouchers and distributed to the following centres:

**Centre 56** – a charity run Nursery and after school club for children 2 years to 12 years. Providing support for families living in crisis situation be it drugs, alcohol, mental health, poor housing or feeling isolated from family and friends. They are open 50 weeks of the year closing only during the Christmas holiday period.

**Action for Children** working from the Ellergreen Centre in Norris Green.

**Two Refuge Centres** – one in the north of the city and one here in the south. Both working and accommodating women and children fleeing from abuse. YMCA Together are the service providers for both centres.

**YMCA Together Alt Bank House  
Whitechapel Centre.**

**Below are the thanks received from each of these centres.**

### **YMCA Alt Bank House**

*Dear St. James members,*

*Thank you so much for your generous donation of vouchers. We really appreciate you thinking of us. We work with clients who have been rough sleeping or become homeless due to unforeseen circumstances. The vouchers will be well used to support people with food purchases when they are struggling.*

*Kind regards,*

*All the team and residents at Alt Bank House.*

### **FAE house. Women and children's refuge**

*Thanks so much to you and the members of St. James church for the vouchers you kindly gave us for our residents. This was thoughtful and greatly appreciated. We appreciate the work that you do for us.*

### **Empowering practitioner**

**YMCA Together.**

**A great big thank you from Grace House refuge for women and children fleeing abuse.**

Hope this letter finds you all well.

We would like to say a big thank you for the support and donations by yourselves to our women and children.

The vouchers received were greatly appreciated and enabled us to buy specific items that the children requested and ensured that they all had a lovely Christmas.

The continuous support of food and toiletry donations assist our families massively.

We really do appreciate everything that you all do in assisting our families and we are thankful to have built up a relationship with yourselves knowing there are people filled with kindness who are willing to help at short notice fills our service with joy.

## **The Whitechapel Centre.**

*On behalf of the The Whitechapel Centre I would like to thank you for your recent donation of Asda Vouchers. We are very grateful for to your members for their support.*

*The Whitechapel Centre is a leading homeless and housing charity for the Liverpool region. We work with people who are rough sleeping , living in hostels or struggling to manage their accommodation. We are committed to help people who find and maintain a home and learn the life skills essential for independent living.*

*Last year we supported 4.000 people in Liverpool who were experiencing homelessness. It's only thanks to the generosity of supporters like you that we're able to continue our life changing, lifesaving work. Thank you.*

*We believe prevention is the first step in the fight against homelessness. We aim to offer support in housing at every step of the journey of homelessness, from the moment a person is at risk of losing their home, right through to those who have become entrenched in a 'street lifestyle'. With this in mind, we also prevented, 1,050 individuals from becoming homeless thanks to interventions for those at risk including drop-in advice sessions, benefits advice and personal negotiation with landlords and agencies.*

*We supported a further 2,467 homeless people into the right accommodation for their needs. We also ensured 332 people had access to education and employment activities to enable them to continue to live independently.*

*Because of your support and generosity our vital services remain open to all, operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, a 24 hr public helpline (0300 123 2041), and dedicated Street Outreach Teams.*

*We know there are so many more people in Liverpool who still need our help, and, with your ongoing support, we will continue to offer help to anyone who needs it. Thank you.*

## **From Centre 56**

Dear members of St., James Church

I am writing to you all today to say a huge thank you for the Asda vouchers received before Christmas and in addition the further donation vouchers received on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

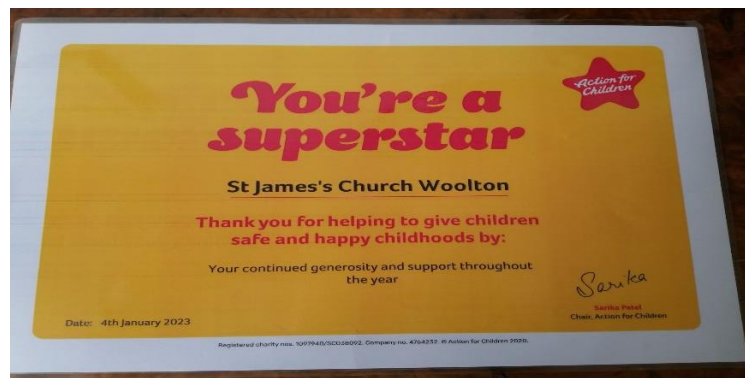
The vouchers will be used to be distributed to those families most in need and will be used to buy food and other essential items. Our families are really struggling through these difficult times and these vouchers area lifeline of support.

Myself and the team at Centre 56 cannot thank you all enough for your continued and ongoing support. We wish you all happiness and health in the new year.

Thank you!!!!

Best wishes.

## **Action for Children:**



**From The Royal British Legion. Dear Supporter. I would like to thank you for your contribution of £175.00 to the poppy appeal. Kim MacKenzie (Supporter Care Manager) (You can view her full letter on our church notice board)**

### **Pastoral Visitors - Job Vacancies**

Our Church Pastoral visitors to an amazing job of offering care to all members of our Church and congregation. However, several have had to retire recently and we are in URGENT need of more people to join our team.

Pastoral Visitors are each allocated a group of people who they keep in touch with, offering spiritual support in times of joy and sorrow. We work together as a team and training is provided on a regular basis.

Pastoral visitors can be male or female. If you would like to find out more about the role of Pastoral Visitors, please speak to Irene Elliott or Peter Hughes. As with all the roles in our Church, Pastoral Visitors will now be safely recruited which will include the need to provide referees, have a DBS check and attend Safeguarding Training.

### **Church Action on Poverty Sunday, 19 February 2023**

#### **Give, Act and Pray as part of the movement to unlock UK poverty**

When people come together to reclaim their dignity, agency and power, we can make huge changes. In ourselves. In our communities. In the world. Building a powerful movement to unlock poverty has never been more important. The cost of living crisis threatens to sweep millions into poverty, threatening their dignity and agency. No one should have to face the choice between heating and eating. To prevent more people being swept deeper into poverty, it's vital that those of us affected have a say. Now more than ever, churches and communities need to stand together and uphold each other's dignity, agency and power.

On Church Action on Poverty Sunday, join with other churches across the UK in giving, action and prayer. Celebrate the transformational possibilities of people coming together to reclaim their dignity, agency and power.

visit [www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/give](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/give) to make a secure online donation to Church Action on Poverty

### **FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT**

Fairtrade Fortnight 2023 is taking place **27 February – 12 March 2023**. This Fairtrade Fortnight, join us in spreading a simple message: choose Fairtrade now and help save our favourite foods.

**Did you know cocoa, bananas and coffee could soon be much more difficult to find on our shelves?**

Climate change is making crops like these harder and harder to grow. Combined with deeply unfair trade, communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink.

**But here's the good news.**

More of us choosing Fairtrade means extra income, power, and support for those communities, as they work to build sustainable and prosperous futures.

So not only is choosing Fairtrade best for people and planet, it could help save everyday treats like chocolate, bananas and a hot cuppa!

Read more here: [Fairtrade Fortnight - Fairtrade Foundation](https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/fairtrade-fortnight)

### Birthdays and Celebrations



If you have an upcoming birthday or something to celebrate during the month, let us know so we can celebrate with you too...

If your birthday is this month, you share it with these famous people:

February 7<sup>th</sup> – Charles Dickens

February 11<sup>th</sup> – Burt Reynolds

February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Lord Robert Baden Powell

## Prayers

**We will include anyone you want remembered in our prayers here**



We pray particularly for Margaret Dee, Pam Draper, Sheila Thwaite, Ron Swindells, Mike Hughes, Billy Lamb, Arthur Evans, Joan Greenall, Ken Kitchen, Heather Hughes, Dave and Madge Tilly.

### A Prayer for the cold and homeless

God of compassion,  
your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus,  
whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable  
and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross:  
we hold before you those who are homeless and cold  
especially in this bitter weather.

Draw near and comfort them in spirit  
and bless those who work to provide them  
with shelter, food and friendship.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



## Harmony Café

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March**, arrivals from 3.45pm, singing from 4.15pm

We are planning to get together to sing some school Assembly / Sunday School favourites to welcome the Spring so please let us know yours and any particular memory they have for you. We can't promise to sing them all, but we'll give it a good go – and we can always meet again!

Many thanks, Roy and Lynne Barker email: [the\\_barkers\\_88@hotmail.com](mailto:the_barkers_88@hotmail.com)

## Sunday 26th February Guest Preacher

On Sunday 26th February we will have a guest preacher in the Communion Service led by Peter.

The guest preacher will be Kathleen Till, a Member of St Peter's Church and a representative of Open Doors, a charity working on behalf of persecuted Christians around the world. **Our Benevolent Offering on this day will be for the Open Doors charity.**

## Monday Fellowship Group

The February Meeting of the Monday Fellowship Group will be at the home of Pam Draper on Monday 27th February at 2.30pm. All are welcome as we share in our second session looking at the book of Ephesians.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Future Services at St James':** (\* after service tea and coffee)

**February 5<sup>th</sup>:** Paul Holt (St James')

**February 12<sup>th</sup>:** Steve Mitchell (St James') All Age Worship (\**Dave & Jonquil Dickson*)

**February 19<sup>th</sup>:** Andy Gillespie (St James'),

**February 26<sup>th</sup>:** Revd. Peter Hughes (St James') 1st service in Lent & Holy Communion (\**Wendy Doig & Glenys Evans*)

## Other important dates during February 2023:

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February** 1.30pm – 2.30pm Quiet prayer at Church

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February** - 10.00am – 12.00pm Coffee Morning and Farmer's market

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February** - 9.30am – 11.30pm Coffee Morning

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February** - 9.30am – 11.30pm Coffee Morning

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** - 9.30am – 11.30pm Coffee Morning

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February** – 2.30pm Bible Fellowship Group (At Pam Drapers house)

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March** - arrivals from 3.45pm, singing from 4.15pm **Harmony Café**

## St James' Photo Gallery



### Church flowers for Sunday 15th January.

These beautiful flowers were sponsored by Maureen and Bobby Sorfleet in memory of her Mum, Lilian Blackhurst's birthday.

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. We now have a box at the back of church for any donations or small change. All donations are gratefully received. 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.

**Carol Skyner has been busy visiting some our treasured friends recently.**

Pam Draper recovering well from her hip operation.



Arthur Evans in his new home: Oaks Spring Care home. Visitors welcome.

