

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

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

**MINISTER:** Rev. Peter Hughes [peter.hughes@methodist.org.uk](mailto:peter.hughes@methodist.org.uk)  
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Peter's day off is Friday - messages and emails left on Fridays will not be received by him until Saturday.



**NEWSLETTER – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**First Sunday in Lent**

Gracious Father, your blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world. Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER**

Unfortunately, our planned Zoom Lent Groups are not able to take place as planned. Instead, it is suggested that people watch the Holy Habits Lent videos which have recently been created by Andrew Roberts who wrote the book "Holy Habits". If you would like to see these they are found in the Holy Habits Home Group channel on You Tube at:

<https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fplaylist%3Flist%3DPL2uFtow2Ubdddr8FV64ylmbFLxSAv8ept&data=04%7C01%7C%7C7c06755e64b541ff7cbf08d8d4305726%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637492651363573223%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mno%3D%7C1000&sddata=cLbYrixmksjJcFudMLguRc3R%2FRnaJVOe5te4%2FHh8RgI%3D&reserved=0>

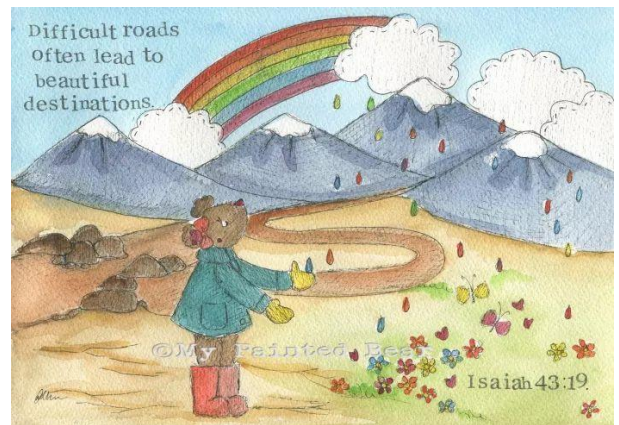
Further sessions will be available each week during Lent.

**Birthdays.**

For those who are celebrating a birthday this week, wishing you a wonderful time ahead. Sending you smiles for every moment of your special day... Have a wonderful time and a very happy birthday! Happy birthday to Gwladys Gardner who was 93 on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>, Lynne Barker whose was on the 16<sup>th</sup> and to Roy Barker, who will be 65 on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. Everyone at St. James' wishes you a happy birthday and enjoy your day.

**PRAYERS NEEDED**

Father of goodness of love,  
Hear our prayers for the sick members of our church family and for all who are in need.  
Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence.  
Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits.  
May these special people find lasting health and deliverance and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts.  
We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed. Amen.



## The Lent Cross

The Lent Cross During the Sundays during Lent, St James Church usually focus on the Lent Cross. The Cross is placed at the front of Church and each Sunday a different item is placed at the foot of the cross. These symbols represent different aspects of the path which Jesus took to the cross and the things which he suffered. We are not expecting to be worshipping in Church during the whole of Lent this year. We will still be using the Lent Cross - placing it inside the Church porch and adding a new item each week. Ash Wednesday 17th February is the start of Lent when Christians focus on confessing our sins to God and receiving his forgiveness.

From the first Sunday in Lent – 21st February – we will be putting a new item by the cross each week. Please feel free to return each week and see the new symbols we are adding. On Easter Day we will be replacing the symbols with flowers, representing the joy of the resurrection – when Jesus rose from the dead. You will find the information about the symbols further along our Church railings.

### Sunday 21st February – Lent 1 The bowl and towel



As Jesus and his disciples gathered for a last meal together, Jesus took them by surprise by washing his friends' feet.

Jesus took the role of a humble servant to them, even though he was their leader.

This reminds us that we are called to serve one another.

We give thanks for all who serve us, especially those who have helped us during the Covid 19 pandemic. "This is our God, the Servant King".



### New Moderator of URC's Mersey Synod

**We're delighted to announce that the Revd. Geoffrey Felton has been nominated as our new Moderator of the United Reformed Church (URC) Mersey Synod.**

Geoff was born and raised in Higher Bebington on the Wirral where he spent his teenage years before moving away to study. He became a Christian in 1984 at Anfield during Mission England, led by late American evangelist Dr Billy Graham.

Having passed his Geology degree at Portsmouth Polytechnic, now the University of Portsmouth, Geoff worked for six years in the North Sea on various offshore installations as a geologist.

At St George's URC in Hemel Hempstead, Geoff began to explore his call to ministry by attending the London Bible College and Westminster College in Cambridge.

Geoff was ordained in 2000 and inducted into the Canterbury pastorate in the URC's Southern Synod, which he served for ten years. He then moved to Plume Avenue URC, his current pastorate, in 2010.

Geoff is excited about returning home to the north west and serving the people of Mersey Synod with compassion and vigour. He said, 'We live in difficult days, but we have a God who through Jesus Christ is victorious. I'm looking forward to leading the Synod through these post pandemic years – years that will help shape the Church of the future and its witness to a world in need of hope and love.'

The nomination will be presented to URC national Mission Council in March and Geoff will hopefully start with us sometime in July.

We look forward to welcoming Geoff, his wife and their family into Mersey and to working with Geoff in the near future.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

**From St. James Church:-  
Invitation to Telephone Worship  
As reported in the Methodist Recorder!  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February: 2.30pm  
(And now every Sunday until the end of March)**

This Sunday our preacher will be Rev Peter Hughes.

**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:**

Welcome and opening prayer, Bible reading, Lord's Prayer, Talk or "mini-sermon" – By Rev Peter Hughes, Prayers, Grace and dismissal.

**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.

**ALSO – Morning Worship at St. James is now being held as a "Zoom" service.**

**Joining from 10.45 for an 11am start – Preacher: Liz Hudson**

**Either** click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5913455610?pwd=R3RFV1RWU2NpKzJ1cTM1VFJ2STk4UT09>

**Meeting ID:** 591 345 5610

**Passcode:** 6WbLRw

We hope to see you there.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Where a preacher provides a copy of the words of their sermon, we will include this (after it has been preached) with our Church Notices and other Worship Material. – We do not want to waste a good sermon! even if it arrives a few days after it was preached.

**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]

## LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Across: 1 Horses, 4 Threw, 7 Slanderers, 8 Spit, 9 Altar, 11 Present, 13 Galilee, 15 Asaph, 17 Envy, 18 High Priest, 20 Ruddy, 21 Doubts.

Down: 1 Hyssop, 2 Salt, 3 Singing, 4 Theta, 5 Rue, 6 Wiser, 7 Sisera, 10 Talent, 12 Tarried, 14 Elymas, 15 Asher, 16 Happy, 17 Esau, 19 God.

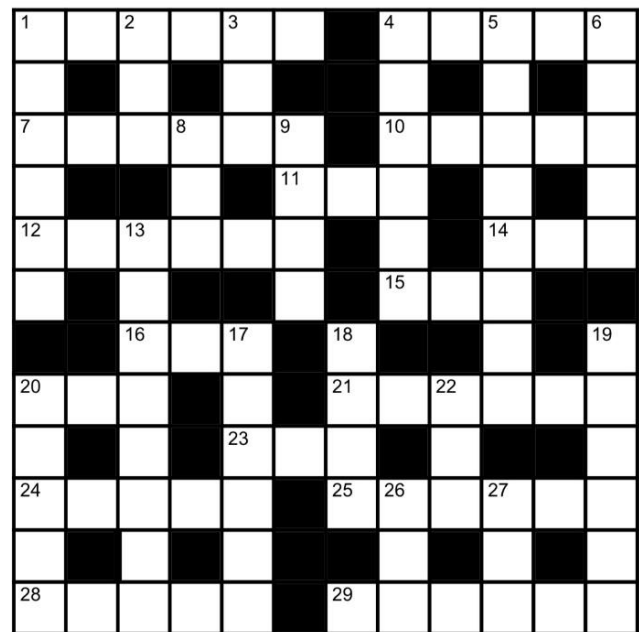
## THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 A priest of Midian (6)
- 4 Red Sea parter (5)
- 7 Blustery (6)
- 10 One in charge (5)
- 11 Death (3)
- 12 City where Paul preached (6)
- 14 Type of testament (3)
- 15 Scarlet (3)
- 16 Atmosphere (3)
- 20 Possess (3)
- 21 Cross to bear (6)
- 23 Adversary (3)
- 24 One of Job's friends (5)
- 25 Gives in (6)
- 28 Have a dispute (5)
- 29 Like God (6)

### Down

- 1 Fairly (6)
- 2 Number of men crucified with Christ (3)
- 3 Male sheep (3)
- 4 Unlawful killing (6)
- 5 Magnificent (8)
- 6 Stable bedding (5)
- 8 Decay (3)
- 9 A.D. 70, for example (4)
- 13 Status (8)
- 17 Type of city (6)
- 18 Follow the rules (4)
- 19 Togetherness (6)
- 20 Alpha's counterpart (5)
- 22 Deeply regret (3)
- 26 Place to stay (3)
- 27 Falsehood (3)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.com

### ***Pope Francis made this inspirational speech last Tuesday.***

You can have flaws, be anxious, and even be angry, but do not forget that your life is the greatest enterprise in the world. Only you can stop it from going bust. Many appreciate you, admire you and love you. Remember that to be happy is not to have a sky without a storm, a road without accidents, work without fatigue, relationships without disappointments.

To be happy is to find strength in forgiveness, hope in battles, security in the stage of fear, love in discord. It is not only to enjoy the smile, but also to reflect on the sadness. It is not only to celebrate the successes, but to learn lessons from the failures. It is not only to feel happy with the applause, but to be happy in anonymity.

Being happy is not a fatality of destiny, but an achievement for those who can travel within themselves. To be happy is to stop feeling like a victim and become your destiny's author. It is to cross deserts, yet to be able to find an oasis in the depths of our soul. It is to thank God for every morning, for the miracle of life.

Being happy is not being afraid of your own feelings. It's to be able to talk about you. It is having the courage to hear a "no". It is confidence in the face of criticism, even when unjustified. It is to kiss your children, pamper your parents, to live poetic moments with friends, even when they hurt us.

To be happy is to let live the creature that lives in each of us, free, joyful and simple.

It is to have maturity to be able to say: "I made mistakes".

It is to have the courage to say, "I am sorry".

It is to have the sensitivity to say, "I need you".

It is to have the ability to say, "I love you".

May your life become a garden of opportunities for happiness ...?

That in spring may it be a lover of joy. In winter, a lover of wisdom.

And when you make a mistake, start all over again.

For only then will you be in love with life. You will find that to be happy is not to have a perfect life.

But use the tears to irrigate tolerance.

Use your losses to train patience.

Use your mistakes to sculptor serenity.

Use pain to plaster pleasure.

Use obstacles to open windows of intelligence.

Never give up .... Never give up on people who love you. Never give up on happiness, for life is an incredible show.

### **Pope Francis**



## **Property and Special Projects committee update.**

We thought that a short report to you all on the daily 'happenings' in our buildings would keep you updated on life which still continues here at St. James.

Although we are once again plunged into a lockdown and our church building is closed maintenance and emergency works continue. Several of you, will remember with a shiver that our church boiler ceased to work for our last two morning services. It seems that these essential machines always do fail at the most inconvenient times! It just being prior to the Christmas break parts were not immediately available and engineers were either finished for the holiday break or in isolation mode because of Covid 19. However, we now have a repaired boiler – several new parts were required – at a cost of £850 but at least the building is now warm and ready to welcome you back.

Two small windows in an office in the hall were found to be in a state of bad repair following an ingress of water and have had to be replaced. During installation of these two windows and essential gutter cleaning and replacement of a high hopper to the side of the hall further rotting frames were found to the staircase window and large window to the small hall. Fortunately, our wonderful maintenance go to man was able to repair these and has worked through all this appalling weather to make them watertight and hopefully in good repair for some years yet.

There has been a number of damp areas appear in the main hall which have needed immediate attention for safety reasons. We have a water leak from the tower on the roof. This week end it was found that the two flat roofs to the new sports hall storage extension are leaking badly, in one place causing the fire alarm to activate due to water ingress into the unit and will need urgent attention. So, you see that there is never a dull (or wet) moment!

There is a constant need to maintain securely and safely both our wonderful buildings but this maintenance comes at a cost and as we have virtually no rental income from the hall due to groups being unable to meet this is a worrying time.

Which leads me to our **Special Projects Group** which plans to meet, via Zoom, on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7.45 p.m. if anyone would like to attend that meeting, it is an open one, please contact me beforehand. [wdoig45@gmail.com](mailto:wdoig45@gmail.com) or 07867795179) OR if anyone has ANY ideas whatsoever as to how we can do some very much needed but fun fund raising during these very restricted times please do contact me.

Wendy Doig.

If anyone has a floor rug they no longer want, in fairly reasonable condition, would you please contact Wendy Doig on 07795179 or [wdoig45@gmail.com](mailto:wdoig45@gmail.com)

We have a lady who is moving from one of the Refuge units we support into her own accommodation and the property does not have flooring so a few rugs would brighten up and warm the place for her. Thank you.

### ***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)**