

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

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

MINISTER: Rev. 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 – September 13th 2020

O God, you bear your people ever on your heart and mind. Watch over us in your protecting love, that, strengthened by your grace and led by your Spirit, we may not miss your way for us but enter into your glory, made ready for all in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary

Go before us, Lord, in all that we do, with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Welcome everyone to another St James Newsletter, and thanks once again to Andrew and Jayne for bringing us this great way of keeping in touch. For some of us, this Sunday will be a joyful occasion as we worship at St James Church for the first time since March. I will look forward to seeing those of you who have booked in - a reminder that it is essential to book in advance. For others, the time isn't right for you to come to Church just yet. I know that you will be with us in spirit, and we will be thinking of you too.

We hope that in due course everyone will be able to safely return to Church. However, we have learned that we can worship in many different ways as well as by being in Church. We are thankful that the Government has given Worship an exemption from the "Rule of 6". This enables us to come together at Church and worship the Lord Jesus as we continue the journey through this crisis.

We thank God for his amazing grace which has helped us so far. In the words of one of our hymns:

**'Tis Jesus, the first and the last
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home,
We'll praise Him for all that is past,
And trust Him for all that's to come.**

God bless, Peter.

This week's preacher will be the Rev. Peter Hughes. Next will be Matthew Dyer.

STONEMWORK REPAIRS ON THE CHURCH ROOF

The urgent stonework repairs at the front of the church roof have now been completed. Work at the back is still going on so the church gardens and grounds must remain closed for a little longer while the workmen are on site.

I'm really sorry for any inconvenience this will cause but we hope that this will all be finished in the near future. Thank you, Pam Bellis.

BOOKING INFORMATION FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH AT 10.30 AM

If you would like to attend this service, please call

Jayne McLaren on 07859062692
or

Email: jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk

AFTER 3.30 PM on Sunday September 6th.

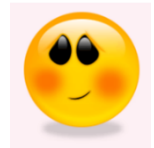
Bookings will be taken in order of their arrival time but any calls or emails before 3.30pm cannot be registered, so please do not make contact earlier,

Places will be given on a first come first served basis. You can book for family members to sit together, but please do be certain of the numbers.

If we can't fit you in at the service, we'll start a waiting list for the current week and / or allocate you first place at the next week's service.

Please don't "turn up" at Church if you haven't booked for that service; we may not be able to accommodate you and we wouldn't like to disappoint.

We also rely on you to let us know if your plans change after you have booked, so others can be allocated your seat(s).



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AN APOLOGY to all members of the church family exempt from wearing a face covering

The Re-opening Church Information issued recently asked anyone exempt from wearing a face covering for health reasons to bring proof of their exemption the first time they came to church, if possible.

Government guidance¹ indicates this is not necessary, and the request was made in error. We apologise most sincerely for any anxiety or distress this has caused.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Protecting yourself and others from coronavirus

Face coverings: when to wear one, exemptions, and how to make your own

Cabinet Office Department of Health & Social Care

Guidance:

Face coverings: when to wear one, **exemptions** and how to make your own

Updated 27 August 2020

Exemption cards

Those who have an age, health or disability reason for not wearing a face covering should not be routinely asked to give any written evidence of this, this includes exemption cards. No person needs to seek advice or request a letter from a medical professional about their reason for not wearing a face covering.

Some people may feel more comfortable showing something that says they do not have to wear a face covering. This could be in the form of an exemption card, badge or even a home-made sign.

This is a personal choice and is not necessary in law.

Telephone Worship at St. James – 2.20pm for 2.30 pm every Sunday in September

This Sunday our preacher will be Rev John Lansley.

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

Between 2.20pm and 2.30pm on Sunday:

From your normal “landline” telephone: Dial: 0330-159-6644

On being asked, enter the following number, or “Pin”: 373818

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” , Grace and dismissal.

We normally have a “congregation” of 15-19.

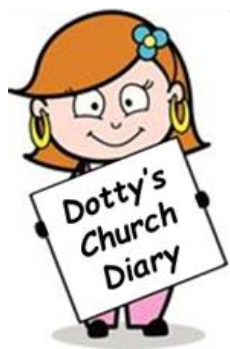
COST: – The cost is the same as dialling an ordinary UK number – if you have “free minutes” or “free at Weekend” package from your telephone supplier then there will be no cost.

A SURPRISE FAREWELL

We have just heard that Revd Jacky Embrey, Moderator of the URC Mersey Synod, is leaving Liverpool to join a Missional Partnership in North Western Synod in Bolton and Salford. She and husband John have been members at St James since coming to Liverpool nearly 6 years ago, and although they have not been able to spend a lot of time with us due to work and other commitments, Jacky has been warmly received on the occasions she has been able to lead worship at St James. They were both enthusiastic and regular supporters of Harmony Café and it was good to share those times with them.

We wish them great happiness as they move home at the end of this week and settle into their new life. Our thoughts and prayers for every blessing go with them, especially as the area they are moving to is currently observing even more stringent lockdown rules than Merseyside.

DOTTY’S DIARY



Diaries are inevitably personal, and none more so than this record of 18 memorable hours this week.

Tuesday 11pm: check late news on phone; discover government is re-imposing strict UK- wide socialising limits from next Monday. Heart sinks at impact on church family, newly re-gathering for worship. Sleep *very* badly!

Wednesday 9.30 a.m. top update on Methodist website - message on social media, posted by Archbishop Justin Welby: *"After contact with Government we hear that there is no change to guidance on places of worship. Worship is the*

work of God – not a social gathering – and gives the strength to love and serve....." My spirits rise faster than a well-struck bell at the fairground.

Wed. 1pm. BBC news gives little detail, but PM will say more at 3.45pm. Wait, anxiously, trying to fill the time with useful things so I don’t have to think or feel.



Wed. 3.45pm Notepad and pencil ready: PM says some Covid-19 secure venues - like churches - will be exempt from new restrictions, as long as there are no individual groups of more than 6, and groups don’t mix socially or form larger groups. Suddenly find I am breathing again.

Wed. 5pm. Go for walk (get blister from new shoes!!). Ponder why I have felt like this? Am I selfish and short-sighted that this matters to me so much? There are life and death events of great seriousness all around. Is being able to go back to church so important? [YES!]

Am reminded of the privilege of being permitted to worship, and the need to take care of and for others. Archbishop (and others) had something to pray about that too.



Thanks be to God for the blessings of each day.

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL READINGS

Gospel Reading: Matthew chapter 18 verses 21 to 35

Jesus tells the parable of the unmerciful servant – reminding us of God's forgiveness to us and the challenge to forgive others in return.

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?'

22 Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'

23 'Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.'

26 'At this the servant fell on his knees before him. "Be patient with me," he begged, "and I will pay back everything." 27 The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.'

28 'But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.[i] He grabbed him and began to choke him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he demanded.'

29 'His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, "Be patient with me, and I will pay it back."

30 'But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.'

32 'Then the master called the servant in. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.'

35 'This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Epistle Reading: Romans chapter 14: verses 5 to 13

St Paul writes about how to handle differences in opinion and tradition within the Church. He reminds the Christians in Rome about what is most important – that Jesus died and rose again for us all.

5 One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. 6 Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. 8 If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. 9 For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. 11 It is written:

"As surely as I live," says the Lord,

"Every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God."

12 So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling-block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

MISSION ACTION GROUP

There will a meeting on Tuesday 15th September at 4pm and is open to all. People should contact Graham for the link if you are interested. gimartin@blueyonder.co.uk

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

For those who are celebrating a birthday this week, remember age is merely the number of years the world has been enjoying you. Everyone at St. James' wishes a happy birthday and enjoy your special day.

PRAYERS NEEDED

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

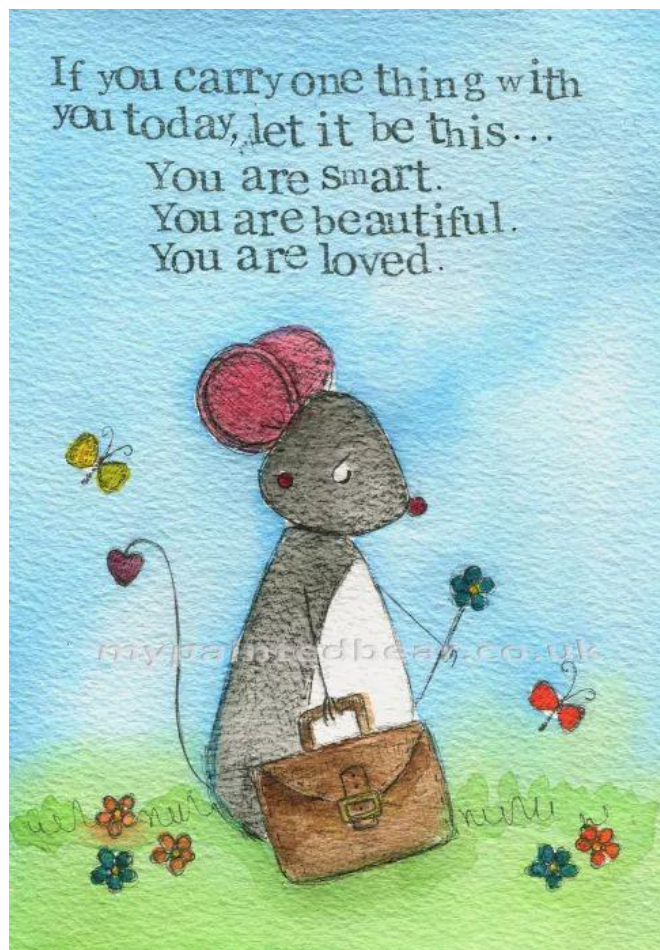
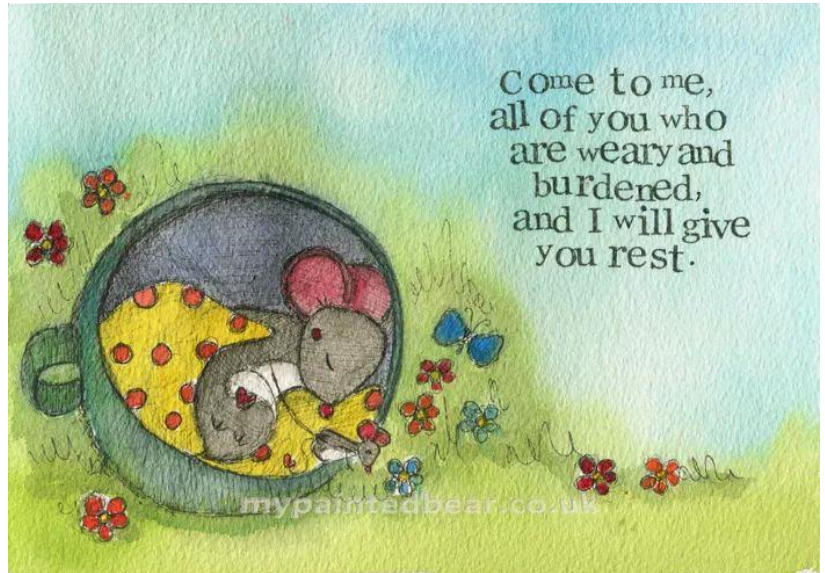
Dearest Comforter of the troubled, alleviate our worry and sorrow with Your gentle love, and grant us the grace and strength to accept this burden.

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 continue to pray for all those in need at this time, especially Clarice Rogers.



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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

Across: 1 Knapsack, 5 Opened, 9 Laughing, 10 Cocoon, 12 Eaten, 13 Lamenting, 14 Tribes, 16 Sackbut, 19 Burdens, 21 Moaned, 23 Threshing, 25 Cakes, 26 Colony, 27 Advocate, 28 Eldest, 29 Housetop.

Down: 1 Killed, 2 Adulterer, 3 Sihon, 4 Candles, 6 Phoenicia, 7 Naomi, 8 Dung Gate, 11 Amos, 15 Blessings, 17 Breakfast, 18 Obstacle, 20 Ship, 21 Megiddo, 22 Asleep, 24 Ruled, 25 Cross.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.com

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 A Herod (7)
- 7 Not at sea (6)
- 8 Hanging cloth (7)
- 9 Clean animal (4)
- 10 Killed (4)
- 12 Proud of (7)
- 14 Ones who owe (7)
- 16 Portion (4)
- 18 Angle (4)
- 20 Bible outcast (7)
- 21 Diseased persons (6)
- 22 Breastplate stone (7)

Down

- 1 Pointed a finger at (7)
- 2 Days of Saul's blindness (5)
- 3 Talk to God (4)
- 4 Moses removed his (7)
- 5 He escaped incineration (8)
- 6 Country (6)
- 11 Guards (8)
- 12 Oath (7)
- 13 Desecrated (7)
- 15 Banished people (6)
- 17 River of Damascus (5)
- 19 Footwear (4)

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by Philologus

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Paul the Apostle WORDSEARCH



ANANIAS
APOSTLE
ARRESTED
ATHENS
BAPTISED
BARNABAS
BLINDED
CHURCH
CONVERTED
CORINTH

DAMASCUS
EPISTLES
GALATIA
GENTILES
IMPRISONED
JERUSALEM
LETTERS
LIGHT
MISSIONARY JOURNEY
PAUL

PREACHING
ROMAN CITIZEN
ROME
SAUL
SERVANT OF CHRIST
SHIPWRECK
SILAS
TARSUS
THESSALONICA
TIMOTHY

LAST WEEK'S GUESS WHO



Were you correct?



NEWSLETTER NOTICES FOR NEXT WEEK



If you would like to share anything during lockdown 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**