

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 – 31st October 2021

This Week's Collect

Holy God, you have called witnesses from every nation and revealed your glory in their lives. Grant to us the same faith and love that, following their example, we may be sustained by their fellowship and rejoice in their triumph; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



All Saints

Almighty God, you have knit together your chosen people in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord. Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys which you have prepared for those who love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

UPCOMING PREACHERS

Sunday October 31st Revd. Peter Hughes (St James') Chris Bolton (phone)
A Pastoral Visitors Dedication Service and will include Communion.

Sunday November 7th Liz Hudson (St James') Revd. Peter Hughes (phone)

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Hello Everyone, I hope you remembered to turn your clocks back last night! Many of us don't enjoy the darker evenings and shorter days, but it's only two months till they start getting longer again! Today is Halloween - All Hallows Eve, the day before All Saints Day. As Christians we believe in the triumph of light over darkness. We know that our loved ones who have died are safe with Jesus. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we have a hope that is steadfast and certain.

This weekend is an opportunity to remember with joy and thankfulness the lives all who have gone before us. Hebrews chapter 12 verse 1 reminds us that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, God's people who have faithfully walked his way.

May you know comfort, peace, joy and hope at this time. **God Bless, Peter**

Pictures form Peter's Sabbatical

On the second day of my pilgrimage in Wales I walked from the village to Talybont to Nant yr Arian forestry visitor centre. At one point my path was blocked by a fallen tree, but as a good pilgrim I didn't let any obstacles stop me! I passed through the village of Bontgoch with its pretty churchyard and an inscription on a grave that stuck in my mind: "God gives us love, but those he love he only lends us". Later I reached Cwmsymlog. Although it is now a quiet place it was once a hive of activity with miners busily at work. The restored chimney and the house with a large clock on the outside wall is evidence of the past. I arrived safely at the end of the walk by just after 2pm and caught the bus back to Aberystwyth.



LOTS OF DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT ALL THESE EVENTS

Please put them in your diary and come and join the fun and fellowship.

Monday November 1st – Afternoon Bible Fellowship Group - 2.30 p.m. in church

Tuesday November 2nd – Worship Consultation – 7.30 p.m. in church

Wednesday November 3rd – Silent Prayer Event 12-2p.m. in church (details below)

Tuesday November 9th – Mission Action Group at 7pm in church

Saturday 20th November –Autumn Fayre and Gift Day (see below)

WORSHIP CONSULTATION

7.30 pm. Tuesday November 2nd (in church).

An open meeting which anyone can attend, to simply listen or contribute ideas and thoughts as we reflect on worship over the last few months and plan for future services. Everyone is welcome; no special skills are needed; if you worship with the church family at any time, you will have a valuable contribution to make to this discussion. Please don't be reluctant to come and join in.

Season of Remembrance - Silent Prayer Event at St James

St James will be open for silent prayer on Wednesday November 3rd 2021 between 12 noon and 2 pm. Come and offer your personal and global concerns quietly to go. Remember loved ones light a candle or leave a prayer on the message board while you are here or leave a prayer request in advance in the prayer box by the main notice board; we will pray for you.

Drop-in for just a few minutes or stay for a while. Everyone welcome

St James Autumn Fayre and Gift Day on Saturday 20th November 2021

This will be a slightly smaller event than our normal Christmas Fair but we hope it will be a time for fellowship and we will still have all your favourites including

- A guest appearance from **Father Christmas in his Grotto** plus the chance to have a photo taken with him
- **Plant stall** – Do you have any house plants, garden plants or shrubs either cuttings or mature plants, potted bulbs like hyacinth or crocus that you are able to donate to sell at the fayre?
- **Fancy goods and gifts** – do you have any new or “as new” unwanted gifts or items that we can sell at the fayre?
- **Home-made cakes, biscuits, sweets and preserves** – have you been busy making, jams, marmalade or chutneys and could spare a few jars for us to sell at the fayre? Home-made cakes and biscuits will be able to be delivered the evening before or on the morning.
- **Fund raising mugs to order** – more details to follow
- **Raffles**
- **Light refreshments**
- **Colouring activities and competition for the children**

If you have any items that we can sell please contact Wendy Doig, Liz Hudson or Pam Bellis and we can arrange collection if needed or Roy and Lynne Barker have kindly offered their porch as a drop off point for any items at 88 Vale Road. Also offers of help in setting up or helping on the day, even for a short while, would be much appreciated

We realise that not everyone will feel they are in a position to come on the day, so if you would prefer to make a donation either by cash, cheque or bank transfer, this would also be gratefully received, if you need further details please speak to the Treasurer Steve Elliott.

Thank You for your help and support

Harvest Gifts 2021

Harvest gifts of NON-PERISHABLE FOOD (tins and packets) will be collected throughout October, starting Sunday October 10th -

- in church on Sunday mornings, OR
- they can be left in Roy and Lynne Barker's porch

Cash donations in lieu can be made

- in church or
- direct to the Treasurer, Steve Elliott.
- By bank transfer as per weekly collection (ref Harvest) Or
- by cheque / post to St James Church, Church Road South, Woolton, Liverpool, L25 7RJ (please mark them 'Harvest' on the back)

All gifts will be shared between local food distribution centres and 'All We Can' (The Methodist Overseas Relief and Development Fund). Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

Monday House group

Our Monday House group will meet this Monday (1st November) at 2.30pm in Church. All are welcome as we will share in an Introduction to Luke's Gospel.

PRAYERS NEEDED

Heavenly Father, we're praying for those in need of Your healing touch for their hurting hearts.

Some of them have received emotional wounds, some of them severe. Help them be willing to let you heal those hurts so they won't become increasingly destructive over time, for You are the Lord who heals.

We come to You with the same spirit of helplessness and dependence that Moses had when he was leading Your people through the desert. They came to water, but it was bitter and the people had nothing to drink. Moses cried out to You, and You showed him a piece of wood; when he threw it into the water, the water became sweet. We're now coming on behalf of these who are carrying emotional pain. In our hearts, we bring the wood of the cross, asking that Christ who heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds, would bring healing to any bitterness He finds in their hearts.

No matter what pain they've suffered, help them not to give into anger, resentment, unforgiveness, or bitterness and become captive to sin. May their hearts not become calloused or hard but refresh them in Christ. May they not lose heart but be inwardly renewed day by day. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

We also pray for Gordon and Christine Salmon, Ken Kitchen, Ann Wells, Andrew McLaren and Pat Fagan.

We continue to pray for all those who need our prayers, especially those who are waiting test results.

Our continual prayers for those who are in care homes and those who are unable to join us in worship at these challenging times.



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! Many thanks. Pam Bellis

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

P	A	R	A	B	L	E		D		W	
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S	I	D	E	S		T		G		I	
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P	L	A	I	N		I		T		E	
	E		L		U	N	T	Y	I	N	G

Across: 1 Parable, 7 Felix, 8 Antioch, 9 Offer, 12 Plea, 14 Sun, 15 Plot, 17 Urn, 18 Ash, 19 Oxen, 21 Rob, 22 Idle, 24 Sides, 27 Bathing, 28 Plain, 29 Untying.

Down: 2 Annul, 3 Animal, 4 Locust, 5 Deaf, 6 Wine, 9 Onyx, 10 Found, 11 Rinse, 12 Prays, 13 Ephod, 16 Ours, 19 Obtain, 20 Eighty, 23 Linen, 25 Isle, 26 Evil.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.com

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Spoke (7)
- 5 Ridicule (4)
- 7 Path (3)
- 8 Religious work (8)
- 9 Adversary (5)
- 10 God's dislike (4)
- 13 Adullam, for one (4)
- 14 Book written by a priest (4)
- 18 Book of Paul's journeys (4)
- 19 May be guiding (5)
- 21 Bearing (8)
- 22 Pledge (3)
- 23 Can't stand (4)
- 24 Number of sheep in the lost sheep parable (7)

Down

- 1 Dirty (8)
- 2 Lydia's home town (8)
- 3 An epistle of Paul (6)
- 4 Book featuring Nebuchadnezzar (6)
- 5 Concerning the Old Testament laws (6)
- 6 Worry (4)
- 11 One who says how to behave (8)
- 12 Granted (8)
- 15 Charge (6)
- 16 Book read by the eunuch (6)
- 17 Wine vessel (6)
- 20 Devout widow (4)

1		2		3		4		5		6	
7				8							
9						10			11		12
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14			15		16		17				
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21										22	
23						24					

by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.com

Call to Worship

The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it. Those who have clean hands and pure hearts will receive blessing from the LORD. Let us worship God together.

Based on Psalm 24, NRSVA

Hymn: 745 – For all the saints

Sing/ read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here [For all the saints who from their labours rest \(StF 745\) \(methodist.org.uk\)](#)

For all the saints who from their labours rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed, thy name, O Jesus, be for ever blest:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might; thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight; thou in the darkness still their one true light:

Alleluia, alleluia!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold, fight as the saints who nobly fought of old, and win, with them, the victor's crown of gold!

Alleluia, alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet all are one in thee, for all are thine:

Alleluia, alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song, and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west; soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest; sweet is the calm of paradise the blest:

Alleluia, alleluia!

But lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day: the saints triumphant rise in bright array; the King of Glory passes on his way!

Alleluia, alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through gates of pearl streams in the countless host, singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:

Alleluia, alleluia!

William Walsham How (1823-1867)

Let us pray together

God of all space and time, you are beyond our human comprehension; your creation never ceases to amaze us; and your measureless love and infinite grace are far more than we deserve.

We have treated your creation badly; we have failed to love our neighbour and chosen not to love you with heart, mind, soul and strength; yet, through the sacrificial love of Christ, you still offer us forgiveness. We give you thanks that, through the grace of Christ, our sins are forgiven and we are set free again to love. Loving God: Father, Son and Spirit: accept our thanks and praise this day as we worship you. **Amen.**

Today's Reading from the New Testament Revelation 21:1-6a

Today's Gospel Reading: Mark 12:28-34

Time to Reflect

All Saints Day does not feature prominently in Methodism. Although there are some exceptions, most of our chapels do not carry the names of saints, yet the idea of sainthood is something that perhaps we should consider.

What does sainthood mean to you?

Rather than those canonized people we regard as saints, I want to think about two definitions of 'Saint'.

1. A very virtuous, kind, or patient person*

During the pandemic, we have all experienced this kind of saint. Immediately springing to mind are doctors and nurses who have treated so many, saving lives and comforting those for whom a cure never came. I am sure you will join me in thanking God for the NHS.

There are so many others who may or may not be Christians, whose work has been essential during the pandemic: HGV drivers, cleaners, teachers, teaching assistants, school dinner staff, shop workers, food producers, IT experts, and those with the skill to create vaccinations. The list is endless! Thank God for their skill, dedication and sacrifice - loving their neighbours as themselves.

2. A Christian believer*

A saint is also any Christian believer, many of whom fall into the earlier category too – motivated by their faith in God to share their skills. Each of them following both of Jesus's commandments in today's gospel passage – to love God and neighbour.

To me, saints are all the people who do Christ's work on earth – the unnamed, unacknowledged everyday folk who do great and wonderful things through their love of God and neighbour.

Growing up at Altofts Methodist Church in West Yorkshire, I was privileged to be surrounded by so many remarkable: Sunday school teachers, members of the congregation and particularly my grandparents who nurtured my faith. I thank God for their love on my Christian journey.

What about you? Who are those who have nurtured your faith and shown you love and encouragement on your journey with Christ? I invite you to give thanks to God for them.

Hand in hand with these everyday folk are, the 'Saints in Light', those everyday Christians who have taught us a thing or two and encouraged, but whose earthly lives have come to an end. We are privileged to be surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

It is in the combined effort of these unsung heroes where we truly see the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through ordinary people like you and me. Through time and space, they are bringing the kingdoms of earth and heaven closer together through love of God and neighbour.

Together we move towards that time when God will wipe every tear from our eyes; a time when death, mourning and pain will be no more. Although you may be reading this alone, you are part of that amazing congregation of God's people through time and space. You are a saint!

To the Glory of God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. **Amen.**

A time of prayer

Let us pray for all people everywhere according to their need.

Silence

We pray for your church; that we may work together to show our love of God and neighbour.

Silence

We pray for your world and all in power; that all may work together for peace and justice.

Silence

We pray for the communities in which we live; that all people may find comfort in their need.

Silence

We pray for all those who suffer and bring before you those on our minds today; that they may find comfort and peace in their troubles.

Silence

We remember those who have died, giving special thanks for that great cloud of witnesses who have lived lives of faith. May we be reunited with them in your eternal kingdom. In the name of Christ we pray. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: 746 – For all the saints who showed your love Sing/ read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here <https://youtu.be/7ECJANNFPo> or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

For all the saints who showed your love in how they lived and where they moved, for mindful women, caring men, accept our gratitude again.

For all the saints who loved your name, whose faith increased the Saviour's fame, who sang your songs and shared your word, accept our gratitude, good Lord.

For all the saints who named your will, and saw your kingdom coming still through selfless protest, prayer and praise, accept the gratitude we raise.

Bless all whose will or name or love reflects the grace of heaven above.

Though unacclaimed by earthly powers, your life through theirs has hallowed ours.

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)

A prayer of blessing

May the blessing of God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and those you love this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

Revelation 21:1-6a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

2 And I saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home[a] of God is among mortals. He will dwell[b] with them; they will be his peoples,[c] and God himself will be with them;[d]

4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.'

6 Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

NRSVA

Mark 12:28-34

28 One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?'

29 Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;

30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."

31 The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'

32 Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other";

33 and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbour as oneself",—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.'

34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question. NRSVA

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=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.

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

This Sunday our preacher will be Chris Bolton

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 Graham Martin

Order of Worship:

- **Welcome and notices:**
- **Opening prayer**
- **Bible reading**
- **Lord’s Prayer**
- **Talk or “mini-sermon”**
- **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.

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.



PROGRAMMES YOU MAY ENJOY – Sunday 31st October

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

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

Radio 4: Sunday Worship. 8:10 a.m. 'Drop, Drop Slow Tears' - Lament and longing in environmental crisis

'Drop, Drop Slow Tears' - Lament and longing in environmental crisis as COP 26 begins. Readings, poems and prayers by Manchester poet Rachel Mann and music by Kantos Chamber Choir.

13.15 BBC 1 Songs of Praise: All Hallows' Eve

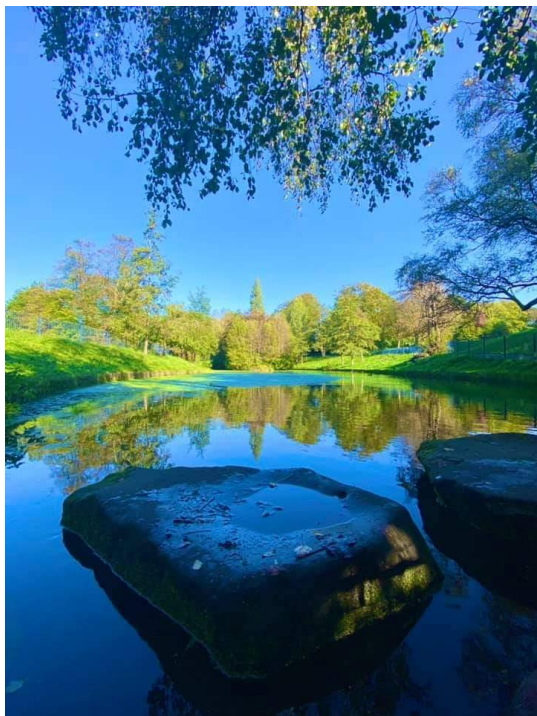
Katherine Jenkins is in Blackpool to discover the Christian tradition of All Hallows' Eve and how faith in the town is reflected in its world-famous illuminations.

CAN YOU HELP?

- Are you good with numbers? St. James is looking for someone to take over the role of church treasurer.
- We are also looking for someone to oversee the property management side of the connected Manse.
- Are you happy to do a reading or prayers of Intercession in a service?
- We have spaces in the Sunday morning service and on the Sunday afternoon telephone worship.

If you can or know someone who can help us, please phone Jayne McLaren on 07859062692 or speak to a Steward Elder. Thank you.

Autumn watch with St. James



This stunning photograph of Sefton Park was taken this week by Andrew McLaren.

If you have any photos that you wish to share please send to us.

Let's share in God's bountiful beauty.

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