

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 27th 2020



Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding. Pour into our hearts such love towards you that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary

O God, surer than the breaking of the day, in the morning, fill us with your love, and in the evening, as the dew falls, refresh us with your mercy that we may live according to your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Hello Everyone, It is great that more people are beginning to attend worship. We will fit in as many as we safely can, but please don't be upset if you try to book a place and are asked to come the week after. Everyone who wants to come will be given the opportunity to attend.

This week we have removed chairs that were stacked at the back of Church and this has created some more spaces.

Many of you may have felt downhearted at the Prime Minister's new restrictions introduced on Tuesday. He said that we face a hard winter. However, we know that God is with us and will help us through the next few months just as he has in the period since March. Together we can help and support each other.

Your Church is here for you and we will continue to offer you love, prayers, pastoral support and worship resources whether in person, online, by telephone or letter. God's message to us is "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you" (Isaiah chapter 43 verses 1 & 2)
God Bless. Peter

This week's preacher will be Graham Martin. Next week will be the Rev. Peter Hughes.

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 OCTOBER 4TH 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 20th.

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).

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

This Sunday our preacher will be Chris Bolton.

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.



PRAYERS NEEDED

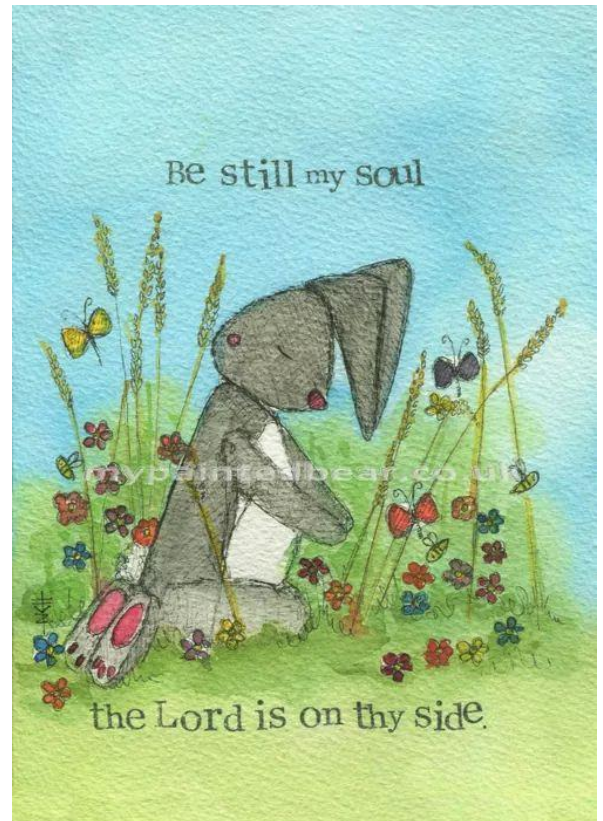
Dear Lord, it is my will to surrender to you everything that I am and everything that I'm striving to be. I open the deepest recesses of my heart and invite Your Holy Spirit to dwell inside of me.

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 all those in need at this time.



A Harvest Notice from Mission Action Group :

Although church is beginning to meet again on Sunday mornings, we are unlikely to be able to hold a Harvest Festival in the traditional way this year, so are considering alternative ways to engage with and benefit the whole community at this special time.

The morning service on Sunday October 11th will have a harvest theme and in the time between now and then it is hoped that we can organise a modified collection of tinned and packaged goods, or financial donations, which can be sent to a local foodbank, and maybe some of the other groups we have been able to share with in the past. The details of how to do this safely and effectively are still being finalised, but Roy and Lynne have already offered their porch at 88 Vale Road as a drop-off point – no personal contact need be involved – and if anyone else has church people living around them, and a porch they would like to make similarly available, please email

[The Barkers 88@hotmail.com](mailto:The_Barkers_88@hotmail.com) or call Liz Hudson on 0151 428 7252. Other collection alternatives might be a deposit box outside church on Sundays or a church garden collection on a Saturday morning before the 11th so watch this space and please be ready to respond in any way you can.

Thinking about morning worship on October 11th, if anyone has a photograph or picture which could be included in a Harvest PowerPoint meditation, please can you call Liz or email it to her (liz.hudson2@btinternet.com) and if anyone of any age would like to create any kind of harvest / seasonal picture to be displayed in the hall windows (now the rainbows have faded), that would be brilliant too.

St James may be operating on a slightly lower key than we would like but, together, there are lots of ways we can show our neighbourhood that Church is open and ready to celebrate with thankfulness God's creation and blessing at the end of a difficult Summer.

MESSAGE FROM JENNIFER LONG

A reminder for those who wish to contact her via email, that her email address is now long.jennifera37@gmail.com

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

For those who are celebrating a birthday this week, remember, you are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. Everyone at St. James' wishes a happy birthday and enjoy your special day.

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL READINGS

Ezekiel 18:1-4 New International Version – UK

The One Who Sins Will Die

18 The word of the Lord came to me: ² “What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel:

“‘The parents eat sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on edge’?”

³ “As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. ⁴ For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.

Ezekiel 18:25-32

²⁵ “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? ²⁶ If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. ²⁷ But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. ²⁸ Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. ²⁹ Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?

³⁰ “Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. ³¹ Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? ³² For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

Philippians 2:1-11 New Life Version

A Christian Should Not Be Proud

2 Are you strong because you belong to Christ? Does His love comfort you? Do you have joy by being as one in sharing the Holy Spirit? Do you have loving-kindness and pity for each other? ² Then give me true joy by thinking the same thoughts. Keep having the same love. Be as one in thoughts and actions. ³ Nothing should be done because of pride or thinking about yourself. Think of other people as more important than yourself. ⁴ Do not always be thinking about your own plans only. Be happy to know what other people are doing.

Christ Was Not Proud

⁵ Think as Christ Jesus thought. ⁶ Jesus has always been as God is. But He did not hold to His rights as God. ⁷ He put aside everything that belonged to Him and made Himself the same as a servant who is owned by someone. He became human by being born as a man. ⁸ After He became a man, He gave up His important place and obeyed by dying on a cross. ⁹ Because of this, God lifted Jesus high above everything else. He gave Him a name that is greater than any other name. ¹⁰ So when the name of Jesus is spoken, everyone in heaven and on earth and under the earth will bow down before Him. ¹¹ And every tongue will say Jesus Christ is Lord. Everyone will give honour to God the Father.

DOTTY'S DIARY



I met some confused, unhappy people this week beginning with the whole company of God's people journeying in the Wilderness. "On the 15th day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt the whole community grumbled against [their leaders]". (Exodus 16:2).



'It didn't take *them* long', I thought, as Spike reared his unwelcome head and ushered in new restrictions. I know this second coming was predicted by our scientific prophets, and familiarity should make our hostile environment more manageable, but for many the renewed uncertainty is even more deeply distressing than its genesis 6 months ago.

My personal mood seesaw dipped further remembering the length of the journey to the Promised Land but started to rise again remembering that there really was a Land, and it was Promised and the Promise was kept. Encouraged by that I will travel on, in hope, with those around me and hopefully supporting each other as we go along.



Meanwhile, always look on the bright side of life, e.g.:

- the alpaca in the news this week which follows its amateur football team keenly from a neighbouring field and having strayed onto the pitch displayed such speed and clever manoeuvres in avoiding opposition the manager is trying to sign it up.
- most of the scaffolding at the back of church is coming down - (in practice 'dropping the scaffolding' appears to be less of a technical term and more of a literal one).
- Methodist 'Head Office' says low-key Harvest Thanksgivings are OK. (*Roll on October 11th*)
- and stacked chairs are being moved out of church to create more space for usable seats, as we were close to a full house on our second Sunday back in church.



We will come through this, together 😊 oh yes, we will!!

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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

Across: 1 Scripture, 6 Chasm, 9 Deborah, 10 Deliver, 11 Noose, 12 Zealously, 13 Thirty-Two, 15 Ridge, 16 Empty, 18 Strongest, 20 Whitewash, 23 Alpha, 25 Leisure, 26 Sukkoth, 27 Egypt, 28 Thaddaeus.

Down: 1 Sidon, 2 Rabboni, 3 Perfectly, 4 Uphaz, 5 Endeavour, 6 Calno, 7 Advised, 8 Mercy Seat, 13 The Twelve, 14 Testament, 15 Ransacked, 17 Privily, 19 Explore, 21 Exult, 22 Hosea, 24 Ashes.

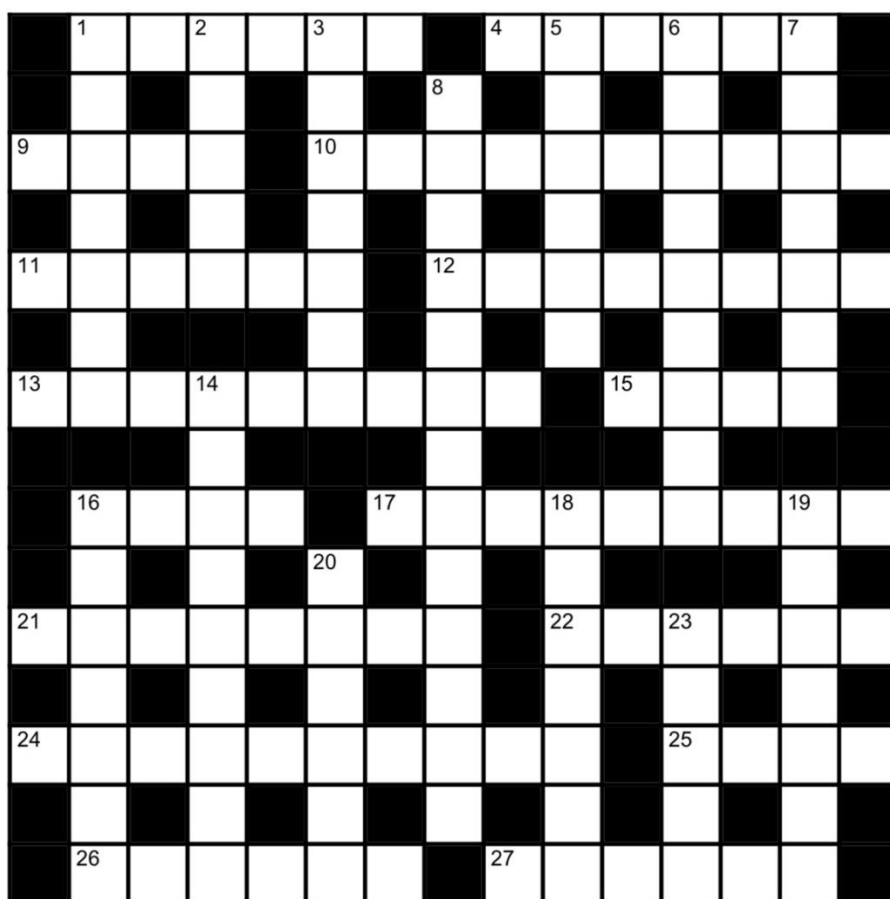
THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 These were not to be multiplied by kings (6)
 4 Immersed (6)
 9 Implore (4)
 10 Revelation (10)
 11 A son of Bebai (6)
 12 Courteous (8)
 13 Like the sower's seed (9)
 15 Number of virgins who were wise (4)
 16 Chores (4)
 17 Woodworker (9)
 21 A city of Macedonia (8)
 22 Grownups (6)
 24 Inhabitants of an important Syrian city (10)
 25 Perfect (4)
 26 Truthful (6)
 27 Loved deeply (6)

Down

- 1 Nonconformist (7)
 2 Relating to kings and queens (5)
 3 Test (7)
 5 Prophet (6)
 6 Luke's profession (9)
 7 Conflict (7)
 8 Gatherings (13)
 14 A forger of brass and iron (5-4)



by Philologus

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- 16 Very young king (7)
 18 Worshipped (7)
 19 Went into (7)
 20 Aromatic substances (6)
 23 Like the room used for the last supper (5)

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