

**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)  
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Peter's day off is Friday - messages and emails left on Fridays will not be received by him until Saturday.

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY 2023**

**Welcome to our first 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 January 2023:**

Happy New Year to all of you. I hope you had a very happy Christmas and that 2023 is a year of blessings for you.

At a time when all we seem to hear about is crisis - in the NHS, with the cost of living and the situation in Ukraine - it is important to remind ourselves that God is with us. That was the message of Christmas, and it is the truth which gives us hope for the year ahead.

Whilst recognising the seriousness of all the things I have mentioned, we continue to believe that God has plans for us which are good. The difficulties we face will be resolved, and our prayers have a part to play in that.

My hope and prayer is that St James Church will be a place where we come to find the support and fellowship which renew our hope and joy. The season of Epiphany which follows Christmas encourages us to think of God's light being revealed in new ways. As we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit we can have epiphanies each day - moments in which we glimpse God's presence in the ordinary things of life. Jesus came to be one with us in his birth and the risen Jesus continues to be one with us each day of this and every year.

God Bless  
Peter

**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:

*Elvis Presley Jan 8<sup>th</sup>*

*Rod Stewart Jan 10<sup>th</sup>*

*Jeff Bezos Jan 12<sup>th</sup>*

January 2023 also celebrated the 250-year anniversary of Amazing Grace being sung for the first time, written by John Newton. Read more:

[Celebrating 250 Years of Amazing Grace | Museum of the Bible](#)

## Prayers

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

Please remember Mike Hughes, Tony Laverty, Steve Underwood, Billy Lamb, Arthur Evans, Joan Greenall, Ken Kitchen, Ron Swindells, Hilary Hopkin, Heather Hughes, Dave and Madge Tilly in your prayers.



### A prayer for those returning to school:

#### Prayer For Courage

*Heavenly Father, I ask that you give all your children courage while they are at school. Help them to be strong in your mighty power, and give them the courage to do what's right, knowing that they worship a living God who is active, and will help them in times when they need strength. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. For this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we are guided by the churches of Minneapolis as we seek to explore how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all

levels of society. Through this resource, the CTBI writers' group has also focussed our attention on the 30th anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, which we mark in 2023. The work of restoring hope through justice undertaken in Stephen's memory continues to inspire and change lives for the better. As we join with other Christians around the world for the Week of Prayer, we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.

## Monetary Offerings

Your monetary donations are vital to the running and future of St. James Church, please contact Margaret Dee if you would like to change your giving to a Standing Order or join the Weekly Envelope scheme (out now). Also, if you are a UK taxpayer, please consider Gift Aid.

## Church Flowers

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.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

**January 8th:** Revd. Peter Hughes (St James') All Age Worship, (\*Liz Hudson & Wendy Doig)

**January 15th:** Steve Elliot (St James'),

**January 22nd:** Revd. Peter Hughes (St James') Covenant service & Holy Communion  
(\*Pam Alexander and Irene Elliot)

**January 29th:** Tim Meadows (St James') Church Anniversary, (\*Jayne & Andrew McLaren)

**February 5th:** Paul Holt (St James'),

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

**February 19th:** Andy Gillespie (St James'),

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

### Other important dates during January 2023:

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January** – 7.30pm Worship Consultation (all welcome)

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January** – 1.30pm – 2.30pm Quiet prayer at Church

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January** – 9.30am – 11.30pm Coffee Morning

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January** – 10.00am – 12.00pm Coffee Morning and Farmer's market

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January** – 2.30pm Pastoral visitors meeting in Church

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January** – 7.30pm Mission Action group meeting (all welcome)

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January** – 7.30pm Bible Fellowship group

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January** – 9.30am – 11.30pm Coffee Morning

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January** - 2.30pm Monday Fellowship in Church (beginning a new series on the Book of Ephesians)

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January** – 9.30am – 11.30pm Coffee Morning

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January** – 7.45pm Property and Finance meeting

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January** – 7.30pm Steward Elders meeting

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February** – 7.30pm Church Council meeting in Church

### St James' Photo Gallery

Helen and Steve Miller enjoy taking and sharing photos while we are out and about with our dog Toby! If you have any photos you would like to share with us all, please send them in with a little description of where they are of. This week, we went to The Dream Sculpture in Sutton Manor. A great walk with lovely views:

