

**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 – August 16<sup>th</sup> 2020**

God of the nations, to whose table all are invited and in whose kingdom no one is a stranger: hear the cries of the hungry and mercifully extend to all the peoples on earth the joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

To set the earth ablaze, O God, your Son submitted to death on the cross, and from his cup of suffering you call the Church to drink. When we are tempted give us strength to run the race that lies before us, and to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**St James Church buildings remain closed at the moment, but our halls will re-open for Pre-School at the start of September.**

**The Delegated Church Council met on Monday this week and we are working towards re opening our Church for Worship around the middle of September. The date is to be confirmed and is subject to any changes in Government and Local Council advice relating to Covid 19.**

**Please watch out for further announcements over the next few weeks. These will give exact information about when the first services will be held and how you can be part of them.**

**We thank the Delegated Church Council and Steward Elders for all the work they are doing to enable us to return safely to Church.**

**Thank you to everyone who responded to the recent questionnaire. Your responses have guided us in our decision making.**

**MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER**

I hope everyone is surviving the heat and not too frightened by the thunder, lightning and torrential rain we have had the last few nights. We have been enjoying a visit from our Granddaughter, Friday, who is now 19 months old. her favourite activity is being spun round on Granddad's study swivel chair. That's my excuse if I am behind on my work this week. I hope you continue to be blessed by the Services we are sending out and the ones you are watching or listening to on TV, Radio or online. The telephone Service on a Sunday afternoon is a wonderful addition to our opportunities to worship. It is easy to join in - all you need is a phone. Thanks to Andrew and Jayne for the weekly newsletter which is keeping us all in touch, encouraged and entertained. I am using all my detective skills to track down this person called Dotty who keeps hanging out at our empty Church. I followed a mysterious car over the Runcorn Bridge but it sped away before I could pull it over. The prayers on our Church railings have been changed this week, so if you are walking past Church take the time to read them and to say the prayers. Hopefully we will include pictures of them soon in the newsletter. God Bless, Peter.

## STONEMWORK REPAIRS ON THE CHURCH ROOF

I just wanted to let everyone know that we have arranged for some urgent stonework repairs to be carried out to the church roof at both the front and the rear of the building. The work will start on **Monday 3rd August** and we are hoping it will all be completed in two weeks. There will be scaffolding and hoists being used so for health and safety reasons **the church gardens and grounds will be closed to everyone while the work is taking place.** I'm really sorry for any inconvenience this will cause but it is good that this will all be completed ready for when we are able to re-open the church building. Thank you, Pam Bellis.

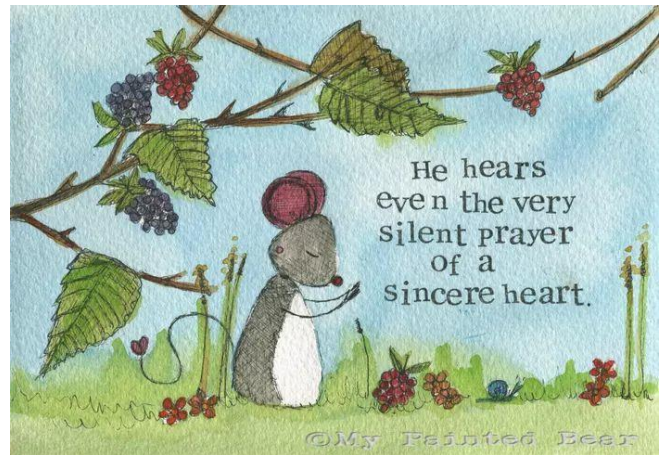
## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

For those who are celebrating a birthday this week, remember age is merely the number of years the world has been enjoying you. Don't forget, 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.

Bill Edwards would like to thank everyone for his birthday wishes, he had a lovely day celebrating with family, he got the best present he could have ever wished for, his son, Shaun got a call on the day from the hospital to say he had had the all clear, it truly was a day of pure celebration. Many thanks for your support and prayers.

## PRAYERS NEEDED

God be with my friend today.  
Their sickness is greater than they feel like they can handle, and their hope seems non-existent. They feel powerless, God, but You are ever powerful.  
I pray that You give them comfort and strength in the knowledge that while they are weak, You are strong.  
There is nothing too big for You to handle.  
You are all the hope they need.  
Thank You for being mighty and ever-present.  
Amen.



We continue to pray for all those in need at this time, especially Clarice Rogers, Isabella and David Meek.

## BRENDA MOLYNEUX

I am sorry to have to tell you that Brenda Molyneux, one of the lovely ladies who joined us from Childwall Valley Church, has died.

Brenda had been ill for many months before the Crisis and shared with me a few weeks ago that she was terminally ill. We thank God for Brenda's time with us at St James.

Personally, I will remember her for her courage during her illness and her positive attitude, arising from her deep faith in God.

God Bless. Peter

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

## ***DOTTY'S DIARY***



Once upon a time she walked on a cliff top, thrilled by the view. God was clearly in his heaven and all was right with the world. Below the cliff, friends were picnic-ing on the beach (carefully avoiding the old joke about sand-wiches). God was in his heaven and all was right with the world.

Then without warning she found herself perched awkwardly on a ledge half way down the cliff (or half way up ?) not quite knowing what to do next, grieving for the view from the top and the companionship on the beach. But miraculously, God was still in his heaven, because from this new vantage point she could see tiny flowers growing in cracks in the rock and insects scurrying about their life-work. A totally different, unexpected view but not all bad by a long chalk. (Chalk / cliff ? Oh never mind!!)

Church feels a bit like that just now. Nothing like it was before, and bound to be awkward-surprising in the near future. But God is with us all, and wherever God is feels like heaven to me.

Am hoping that God is with the person who removed the praying hands from the font in the church garden last weekend. WHY ?!!?

Speaking of different views - experimenting with vertical perspex screens in the church this week produced this picture - of colours not visible to the human eye at the time the shutter clicked.

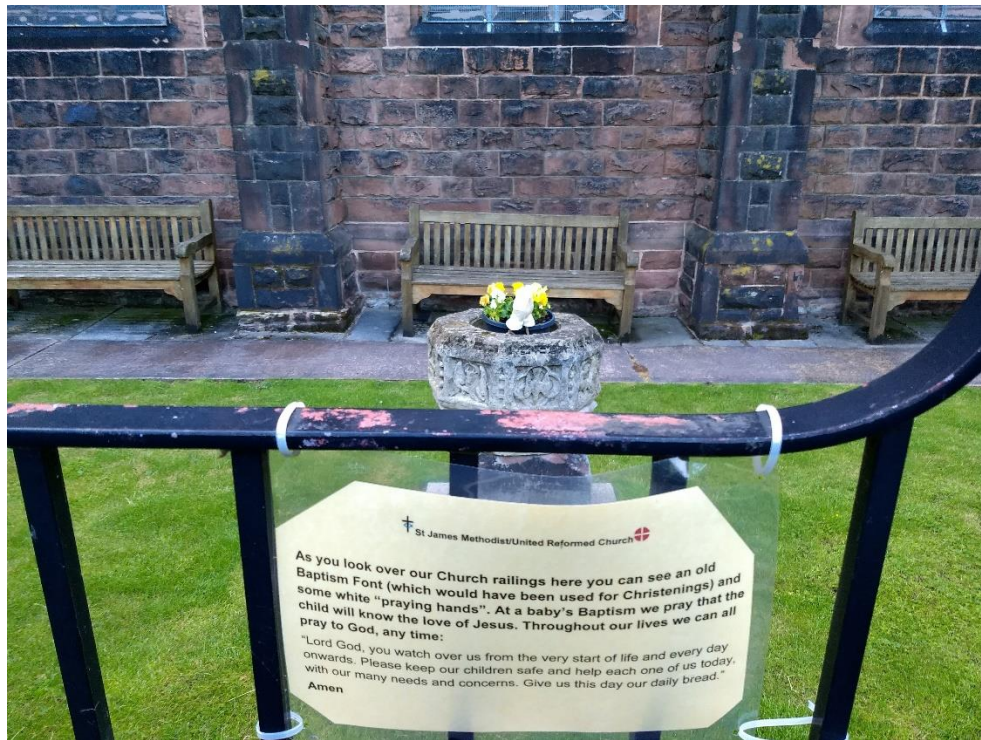
*STOP PRESS:* Jimmy is now expecting..... a little friend who is coming to keep him company one day very soon. Look out for new wonders of creation in a garden close to home!



## ***PRAYERS ON OUR RAILINGS***







Jimmy loving the sun this week.  
What does the bible say about horses in the bible?

Throughout the course of Biblical history, horses were the mounts of kings, princes, conquerors, and soldiers.

To ride a horse implied war, doom and victory. Men of peace did not typically ride horses but rode donkeys, mules, camels and drove oxen carts as these animals did not herald threats of war.

In fact, horses were such a symbol of army strength in Bible times that God charged the Israelite kings not to keep many horses. The Lord did not want the Israelites to trust in their resources of strength, but He wanted them to rely on Himself for deliverance and victory from their enemies.

#### **Exodus 14:9**

The Egyptians—all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.

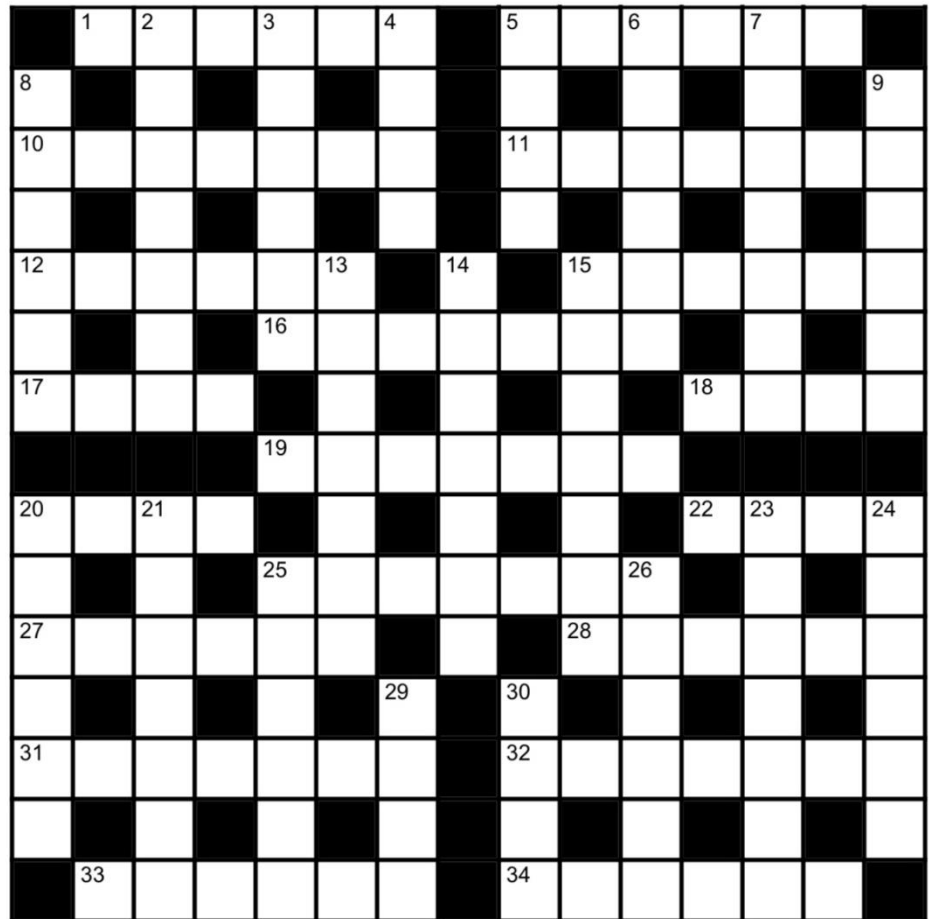
## THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 Air (6)  
 5 Town where Timothy lived (6)  
 10 Sets up shelter (7)  
 11 Promised one (7)  
 12 Welcome season (6)  
 15 Aaron, for example (6)  
 16 Site of scrolls (4,3)  
 17 Flower (4)  
 18 Magi guide (4)  
 19 Roman army divisions (7)  
 20 Way (4)  
 22 Blemish (4)  
 25 The resurrected boy did this seven times (7)  
 27 Old Testament prophet (6)  
 28 Female relative (6)  
 31 Storm (7)  
 32 Insanity (7)  
 33 Follow closely (6)  
 34 Distant (6)

### Down

- 2 Writes down (7)  
 3 Nut (6)  
 4 Multitude (4)



by Philologus

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- 5 Light (4)  
 6 Jabin's army captain (6)  
 7 Clothing (7)  
 8 Thurable (6)  
 9 More towards spotless (6)  
 13 Place of torment (7)  
 14 Counsellor (7)  
 15 Coins (7)  
 20 Enough (6)  
 21 Victory (7)  
 23 Long-suffering (7)  
 24 Remove the chaff (6)  
 25 Soldier's guard (6)  
 26 Crown (6)  
 29 One-pot meal (4)  
 30 One-tenth of an ephah (4)



## LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

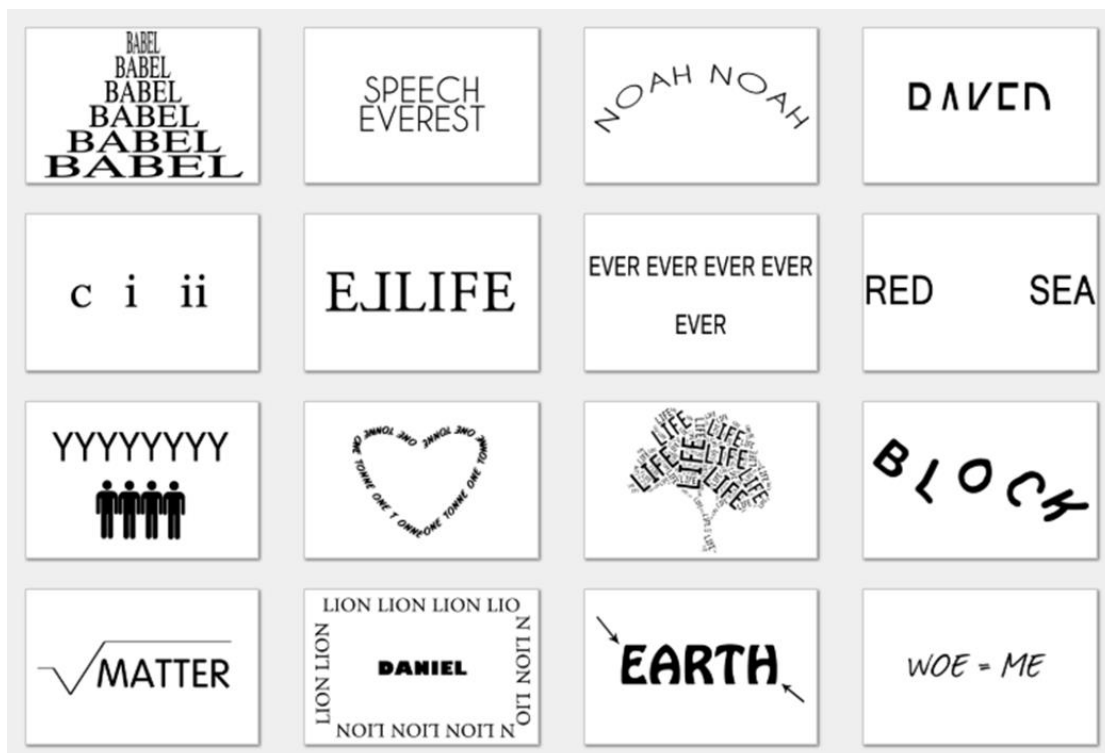


Across: 1 Israel, 5 Master, 10 Epistle, 11 Lintels, 12 Strong, 15 Behind, 16 Defiled, 17 Side, 18 Aged, 19 Certain, 20 Cush, 22 Left, 25 Captive, 27 Azriel, 28 Estate, 31 Contain, 32 Chariot, 33 Feasts, 34 Sheber.

Down: 2 Stirred, 3 Attend, 4 Lies, 5 Milk, 6 Sinned, 7 Evening, 8 Beasts, 9 Ashdod, 13 General, 14 Hittite, 15 Believe, 20 Chance, 21 Strange, 23 Examine, 24 Twenty, 25 Cedars, 26 Escape, 29 Ends, 30 Acts.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk


## ST JAMES' DINGBATS – Last week's answers (working across)



- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tower of Babel</li> <li>2. Sermon on the Mount</li> <li>3. Noah's Ark</li> <li>4. Half baked</li> <li>5. See eye to eye</li> <li>6. Eternal life</li> <li>7. Forever and ever</li> <li>8. Parting of the Red Sea</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Wise men</li> <li>10. Heavy heart</li> <li>11. The Tree of Life</li> <li>12. Stumbling block</li> <li>13. The root of the matter</li> <li>14. Daniel in the lion's den</li> <li>15. The ends of the Earth</li> <li>16. Woe is me</li> </ol> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## ST JAMES' DINGBATS

The say what you see puzzle. Work your way across each row. Answers next week. Enjoy!

WORL	SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP	CALF	BRING HOUSE
CRYSTAL	CHEEK X CHEEK	PRIDETUMBLE	PROPHETS → PROPHETS
	SPIRIT	AM ☆	GOD FAITH
CCCCCCCR	SUPPER SUPPER SUPPER SUPPER ←	HASPARROWND = BU2SH	BAFLYLM

## LAST WEEK'S GUESS WHO?



Were you correct? Thanks for the updated picture Rob. You haven't aged a bit!!

## RON SWINDELLS

Ron has finally moved home after a long lockdown delay and the good news is he is still in Woolton. His land line phone number, which should by now be working, has changed again but his mobile phone is never far away.

He will be notifying friends / contacts at St James of his new address and Jayne McLaren can supply his new number and details if requested.

He thanks all those who have sent good wishes and cards and is looking forward to making new friends and seeing old ones too in his new surroundings.

## ***A MESSAGE FROM HOWARD AND PAM SHARP***

Hello to the good folk of St James'. I was due to preach with you this weekend but lockdown and church worship restrictions have made this impossible but instead Peter invited me to share a few thoughts with you online or on paper!

One of the Biblical verses I've been thinking about recently is recorded in Acts when Paul is in Athens and he quotes a Greek philosopher who said God is "the one in whom we live and move and have our being". The technical term for this is panentheism (everything in God) as opposed to pantheism which is God in everything. If this is true, the various things flow from it.

Firstly, we are all connected. We are all given life by the same force which we call God. Not just humans, but the whole created order. But let's focus on humanity. Whatever race, colour, creed, geographical location, social status, intellectual ability - all connected.

This reminds me of a true story I heard about 2 Hawaiian policemen, on duty near a local beauty spot, high in the hills overlooking a ravine. As they drove past, they noticed a rather agitated young woman near the edge. They stopped and approached cautiously. When they got within about a yard she jumped. The first officer dived and caught her legs and the second one dived and caught his colleague's legs and was just able to pull them both back. They then took her in their car to the nearest hospital. When interviewed the officer was asked why he'd reacted like that, forgotten about his wife and children and risked his own life. He replied, "I could do no other". At that point one commentator said, "That was the moment that the metaphysical reality that I and the other are one broke into real time."

That's a bit of a mouthful but you can get the drift - there is an underlying unity that transcends superficial difference. So, the first thing this quotation from St Paul affirms is the connectedness of all humanity.

Secondly, it may say something about other faiths. All the great religions, despite very real differences, speak of love, compassion, forgiveness, self-denial and social justice as ways of understanding the divine, all values that Christ lived and died for. When we look at other faiths it is relatively easy for us to pick out and ridicule the worst aspects and examples, but we would hope that when others look at Christianity, they might see our best side. When Mahatma Gandhi was asked what he thought about Christianity he said "It is a good idea."

Perhaps we should recognise that God's spirit has not been absent from these other expressions of seeking after truth and understanding in the world and perhaps we should respect them and even learn from them, whilst holding onto the truth we have discovered in encountering and following Jesus.

The third thing that this short verse raises in my mind is what we think we are doing when we pray specifically when we pray for others and ourselves. It is not as if we're asking God to be with people in their situations because God is already present if God is the one in whom we all live and move. Yes, we may be moved by concern, compassion and love for those for whom we pray, but God is already there, doing and being what God does and is. Perhaps, rather, the prayer we offer becomes a motivation for we who pray to act in positive ways to bring wholeness, healing and hope in those situations where we can make a difference. Some of you may know Brian Wren's hymn "This we can do for justice and for peace", and one of the verses ends with these words: "This we can do for justice and for peace, we can pray, And work to answer prayers that other people pray. This we can do in faith and see it through For Jesus is alive today."

Neville Ward, a Methodist minister writing in the 1970s wrote, "Prayer that is request without self-offering is not prayer in Jesus' name and isn't worth the time it takes to pray."

So, three simple points - we are all connected, part of the same "family", perhaps it is time to respect and even learn from other seekers after God and truth, rather than dismiss them or see them as dangerous and finally let us use our motivation to pray to make a difference in the places where we are situated. This is what I may have preached had I been with you, but at greater length and with a few more examples! Peter has invited me to preach next August when Pam and I would be delighted to share in worship with you. I leave you with this thought, from a former bishop of Salisbury, John Austin Baker, "The moment we come to faith in Christ is not the moment we enter God's family. Rather it is the moment we realise we already are part of God's family."

Best wishes from both of us,  
Howard & Pam Sharp



***THIS WEEK'S GUESS WHO?***



**Who is this adorable baby?**

**Would like to take part?**

Send a photo in for others to guess, to Jayne at  
07859062692 or [jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk)

**THE LORD**  
bless you & keep you;

**THE LORD**  
make His face shine upon  
you & be gracious to you;

**THE LORD**  
lift up His countenance upon  
you & give you peace.

(NUMBERS 26)

***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](mailto:jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk)