

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

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 – 17th April 2022



This Week's Collect

Good Friday

Gracious and eternal God, look with mercy on this your family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy Saturday

Grant, Lord, that we who are baptized into the death of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ may continually put to death our evil desires and be buried with him; that through the grave and gate of death we may pass to our joyful resurrection; through the merits of him who died and was buried and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Easter Day

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

Minister's Message

After 2 years when we couldn't celebrate Holy Week and Easter in Church, it is great to be able to join together and share this precious time of year. I would like to invite all of you to join us on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday - especially if you haven't been back to Church yet.

The events which we remember take us to the heart of our Christian faith. We believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again to give us new life and hope. Jesus left us with the gift of bread and wine to help us remember Him and to enable us to receive his life into our lives. We pray that the suffering and resurrection of Jesus will give comfort and hope to the people of Ukraine at this time of devastation and cruel invasion.

May we all hear the voice of the risen Jesus speaking to us the words "Peace be with you".

God Bless Peter

UPCOMING SERVICES & PREACHERS

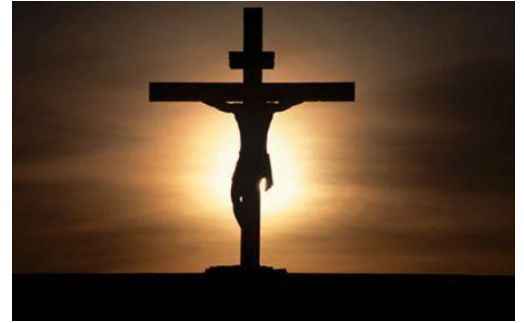
Maundy Thursday April 14th 7 p.m. **Revd. Peter Hughes** (St. James') **(Communion)**

Good Friday April 15th – 11 a.m. **Graham Martin** (St James')

Easter Sunday April 17th – **Revd. Peter Hughes** (St James') **(Holy Communion)**
& **Clive Rigby** (phone)

Pictures for Good Friday and Easter

The pictures I have chosen this week come from the Stations of the Cross on the island of Gozo. They show the grief of Mary and the other women as they take Jesus down from the cross. This grief is turned to joy as Mary Magdalene meets Jesus in the Garden on Easter Sunday morning.



WORSHIP AT ST. JAMES'

There are now 3 ways in which you can enjoy our Sunday morning services.

- By 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=aVdZcFpaZVVaMDdsZ1BiR3lhRE1yQTo9>

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.

This Sunday our preacher will be Clive Rigby

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.

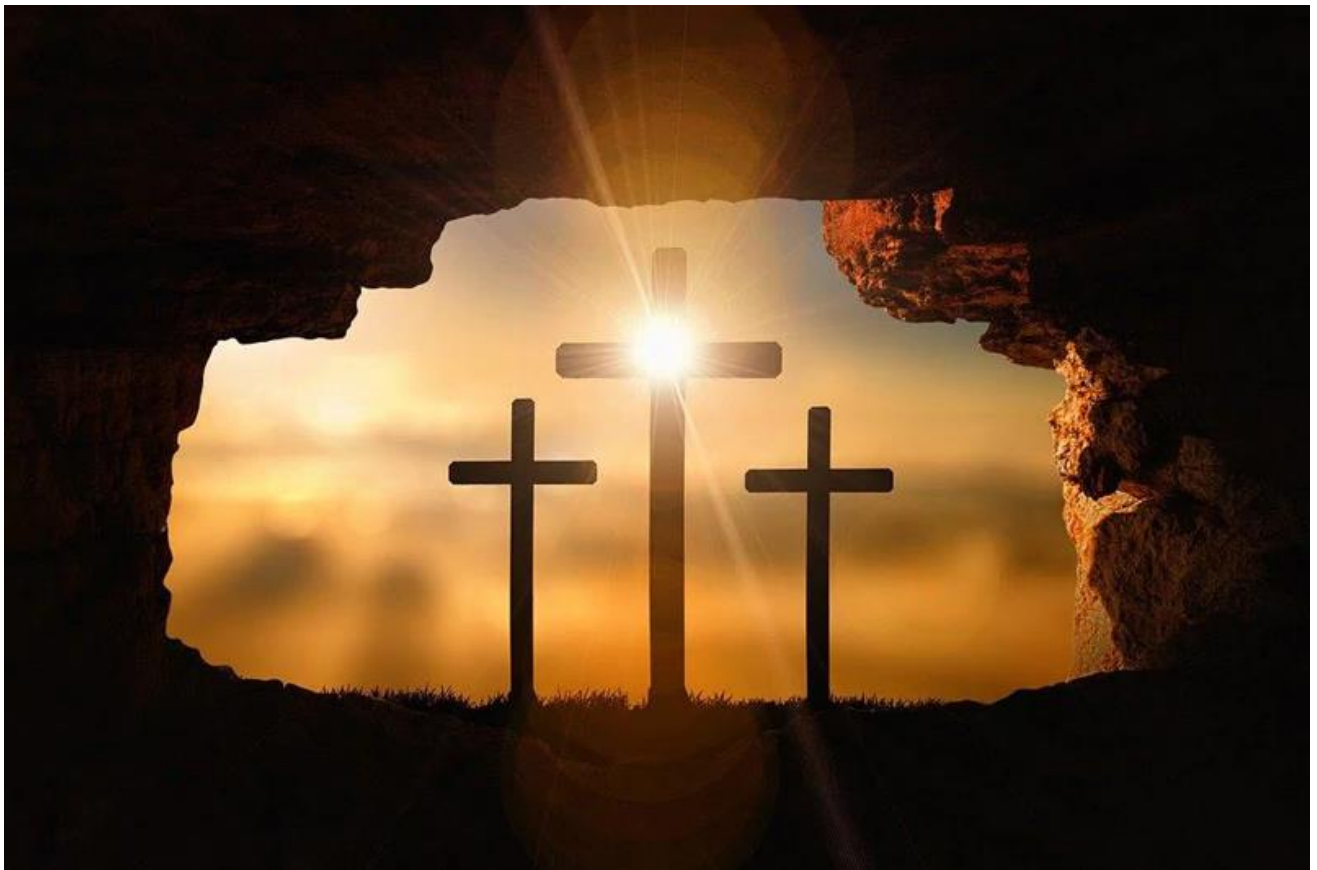
God Bless Graham Martin

Communications officer (and local preacher) St. James Church

[Call me on 0151-222-5832 or 07712-525239 if you have any questions.



He is risen



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Queen's Jubilee Celebration

Mission Action Group have been considering ways in which St James' might mark the Queen's Jubilee. There will be a one-off planning meeting on **Monday 25 April at 7.30pm in Church** – everyone who would like to contribute is very welcome to join us, just turn up. Our first thought was that we might produce a timeline of the 70 years of the Queen's reign, showing reminiscences or events in the lives of our congregation/Woolton intermingled with broader landmark events. Don't be shy, come and give us your ideas!

Lynne Barker

Christian Aid week is the 15th-22nd May.

We have a stall with St Peters at the farmers market on 14th May and they are organising a quiz night on 20th May.

On Saturday 21st May, we are hoping to organise a **Star for a Night** at St James'.

This will be a fantastic opportunity for any talented individuals to perform.

It will be a night of fun and togetherness (and raise money too). More details and tickets to follow.

If anyone would like to sing, play music, tell jokes, dance or show any other talent please email

Jane Laverty janelaverty5@gmail.com

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 Tax payer, please consider Gift Aid, as the Church is able to claim 25% from the Government at no addition cost to you (for example, for every £10 the Church would receive £2.50).

We thank you for your continued support. Contact Margaret Dee (428 3356).

St James' Garden

Now that the weather is improving and so are the weeds; we would be grateful if anyone could help out maintaining our church garden. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact **Margaret Dee** (428 3356).

Recycling at St. James'

Recycling of batteries, ink cartridges and spectacles: We will no longer be offering donation boxes for these items. All large supermarkets now have used battery collection tubs and some also take ink cartridges. Spectacles can be taken to Boots, Specsavers, Vision Express and some independent opticians will also take them. We will however continue to collect used stamps.

Thank you.

Church Flowers

We have recently resumed our beautiful flower displays in Church each week. 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. At present, we have many dates available.

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.

We will also need some more volunteers to take flowers out to people.

BIRTHDAYS

For those who are celebrating a birthday this week, wishing you a wonderful time ahead.

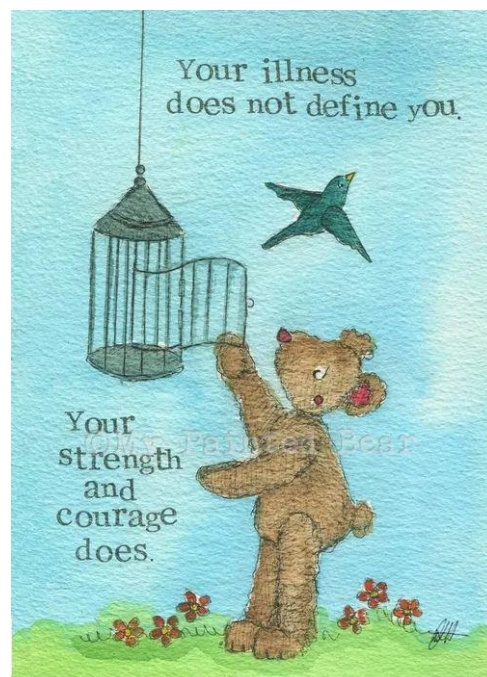
Happy, happy birthday,
That's my birthday wish for you,
I hope your day brings you joy,
Whatever you plan to do.
Live each moment to the fullest,
Every single moment is dear,
This is the time to remember,
You only get one birthday a year.



A happy birthday to Jayne McLaren, who celebrated her special day this week. Lots of love from Drew and family x 2m2c x

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.



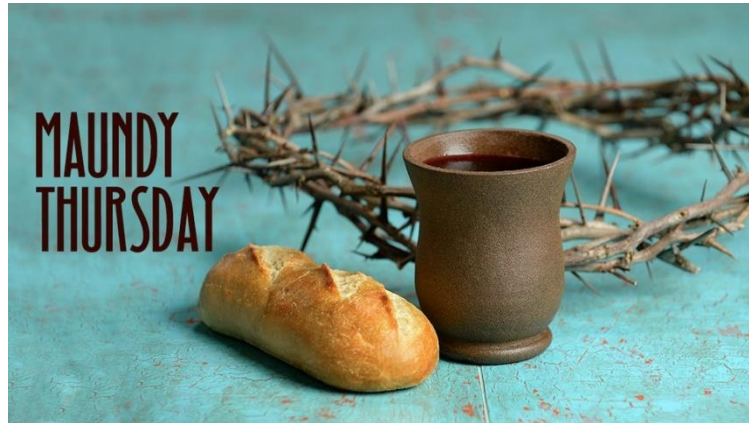
We also pray for Ken Kitchen, John and Sylvia Pagan, Ian Taylor, Arthur Evans, Helen and Fred Stanford, Pat Fagan, Pam Draper, Alex and Doreen Banks, Ron Swindells and Mike Hughes.

NEWS ON ARTHUR EVANS

Just to let you know that Arthur Evans moved into his new care home, Oak Springs, last Thursday. He is getting used to his new surroundings and settling in.
Both Linda and I are sure he would benefit from seeing a few familiar faces from St. James'.
If anyone wants to see Arthur in his new abode, he would really appreciate it.
His new address is Oak Springs Care Home, 37 Church Road, Liverpool L15 9ED. The telephone number is 0151 305 9010.
You need to book your visits in advance, but other than that the Covid protocols are pretty relaxed. They will ask you to don a face mask and polythene apron (both provided) on arrival at reception.
Best wishes, Anthony and Linda.



Maundy Thursday 14th April



Opening Prayer

Servant King, as we remember that night you washed the disciples' feet, may we always be ready to serve you. As we remember what happened on night you were betrayed, may we always be ready to trust and follow you. As we remember the night you came together with your friends, help us to know that you are always with us, no matter where we are. Amen.

Hymn: From Heaven you came, helpless babe (StF 272)

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4963QPHAIM>

From heaven you came, helpless babe, entered our world, your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve and give your life that we might live.

This is our God, the Servant King, he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.

There in the garden of tears my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn, 'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

Come see his hands and his feet, the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space to cruel nails surrendered.

So let us learn how to serve and in our lives enthrone him,
each other's needs to prefer, for it is Christ we're serving.

Let us pray together

Loving God,

Thank you for showing us the way to live unselfishly and unreservedly, thank you for showing us the way of self-sacrificial love, which reaches out with compassion to all who need it. On this day where we remember your last supper with your disciples, help us to remember that whatever we do in your name for any of our brothers and sisters, we do for you. Help us to honour you with every part of ourselves, and every part of our lives. We are sorry for the times that we get it wrong, or lose sight of what is important, or left things undone, and we ask your forgiveness, that we might be transformed in to what you created us to be.

This is Christ's gracious word:

'Your sins are forgiven'.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Today's Reading from the Old Testament Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Today's Gospel Reading: John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Time to Reflect

I have experienced Maundy Thursday in various ways over the years, but perhaps the most significant was the year I was in Jerusalem on this day, as part of an interfaith study trip with students and staff from my university. We had travelled all over the Holy Land, stopping and praying in some of the places named in the Bible as places that Jesus visited, like the desert, and the sea of Galilee. On Maundy Thursday, when the sun went down, we sat quietly in the Garden of Gethsemane. We were joined by members of the community, and when everyone was gathered, we sang hymns quietly together. This was a moving experience which led most of us to tears. We remembered together that night that Jesus shared his last meal with his close friends, the disciples, and thinking ahead to what was to come. That night, Jesus served his disciples through washing their feet, and by serving them a simple meal, urging them to remember what he was about to do. The Methodist Diaconal order is represented by the symbol of the bowl and towel, reminding Deacons of the ministry of service to others. This is a ministry that isn't limited just to Deacons but one which we are all called to in various ways, be it phoning someone who is lonely, serving refreshments at chapel, going out on the streets as Street Pastors do and serving the needy. Each of us has a specific gift given to us by God, and a choice about how to use this. I wonder what your gift of service is.

Take some time to sit quietly before God and hold your gifts before God, rededicating yourself on this day of remembering. If you would find it helpful, reflect on this image.



A time of prayer

Christ, as you knelt and washed your disciples' feet, you taught us how to humble ourselves and serve others. Help us to recognise our gifts, that they may be used to serve others.

Christ, as you broke bread, and shared it with your disciples, help us to remember those who are hungry and in need. May we hunger for justice and find ways to end poverty throughout the earth.

Christ, as you took the cup, and shared with your friends, help us to thirst for unity in the church, and help us to show your unconditional welcome to all.

Christ, as you were betrayed by one closest to you, we pray for those situations where hurt and pain have been caused. We pray your healing love in to these situations. We pray for our nation, and for those in authority, that they may pursue goodness and mercy.

Christ, as you knelt in the garden and wept, we pray for those who are broken hearted and despairing, that your peace and love may be known. We pray for those who are dying or bereaved, that your presence may be felt closely. We long for the day where peace rules and every tear is wiped away. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father



Hymn: Listen to A New Commandment I give unto you (StF 242)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2X8mgtVRo_Y or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this the world shall know that you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another.
By this the world shall know that you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another.

A prayer of blessing

Loving Lord, you show us the way of loving service, help us to live our lives for you, that we may serve others in all that we say and all that we do. We ask this in your name, knowing that you hear our prayers. **Amen.**

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

The First Passover Instituted

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason, he said, 'Not all of you are clean.' After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.'

The New Commandment

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now, I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

<https://bible.oremus.org/>

Good Friday 15th April



Opening Prayer

Loving God

We stand at the foot of the cross and remember what happened when your son was crucified for us. In this act of worship may we know your presence with us. **Amen.**

Hymn: StF 287 When I survey

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ne-kTyAnDsE&list=PLfJKMN-CtuWCeWWWKYxMLY_81soj1dufJ&index=4

When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

His dying crimson, like a robe, spreads o'er his body on the tree;
then am I dead to all the globe, and all the globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Let us pray together

Gracious God, today we remember the sacrifice your son made by his death upon the cross. We thank you that he was willing to suffer and die for us. As we remember, we recognise that we have often nailed Jesus to the cross. We have not always acted in ways that show others your love. And for this we are sorry. Through the cross, we know ourselves forgiven. As we turn from this place, we again commit ourselves to sharing your love with all we meet. We offer these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Today's Reading from the Old Testament Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Today's Gospel Reading: John 19:17-42

Time to Reflect

Today is Good Friday. Some people may ask why call it Good Friday when it wasn't really a good day because of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. For those first disciples it certainly didn't feel like it was at all, indeed for them it was probably better described as 'Black Friday' as they saw their friend and teacher die on the cross and all their hopes and dreams for the future die with him. Or so they thought. But I am jumping too far ahead here. On Good Friday we remember the day when the sky turned black and the Son of God was crucified.

A few years ago, I had the privilege of being a part of a town-wide passion play which took place on Easter Saturday. I was one of the team working backstage. One powerful moment for me was during the dress rehearsal the day before on Good Friday itself. Just as the light was starting to fade, we reached the crucifixion scene. Our director would have probably told me off for this but I came down from the steps at the side of the stage and on to the square to watch the scene since I wouldn't see it properly the following day. The atmosphere in that square by that point had completely changed. A few people had stopped to watch. It was that quiet that you could hear a pin drop. It isn't easy to put into words how powerful that scene was on Good Friday but I certainly felt as though I was at the foot of the cross 2000 and odd years ago watching Jesus die for us all. The cross suggested that everything was over. But we know that it wasn't. For we know now that Easter Sunday is coming. But before then we recall and remember Jesus' suffering on the cross and all that he endured for us. He didn't have to but he did. Why? Because he loves us so much that he was prepared to die for each and every one of us. So, although right now it can seem like all is dark and hopeless, we need to remember that over 2000 years ago Jesus was nailed to the cross to bring us peace and hope although it can feel that hope and peace are far away from us right now. He was nailed to the cross that we might know God's love for each and every one of us. So, as we remember and reflect on the events of that first Good Friday over 2000 years ago, we remember the love for us that was shown upon that cross.

***Take a time to sit quietly
A time of prayer***

As we remember all that happened on that first Good Friday, we bring our concerns and prayers and lay them down at the foot of the cross.

Lord Jesus Christ, on this day you sacrificed your life, upon the cross, for each and every one of us. You suffered unimaginable pain. You could have chosen not to go through with it but you did not. In doing so you showed God's love for the world. We bring to the foot of your cross our concerns and prayers for the world in which we live. We pray for those areas of the world where there is suffering, violence and conflict. We pray for peace across the world. May the world know the love for them that you demonstrated upon the cross.

We pray Lord for the church. As the world continues to adjust to the coronavirus pandemic it needs the church more than ever. Help your church to share your love and to offer hope everywhere. Give us your guidance that your church may be equipped and strengthened for the work to which you have called it.

We bring to the foot of your cross those facing challenging times. So many people in our world are suffering. We offer our prayers for those we know who need our prayers. We place their names at the foot of the cross and ask that they may be aware of your love and strength at this difficult time.

We bring to the foot of your cross those who have died. We bring them to you in the knowledge that they are with you and that you have gathered them into your loving arms. We ask that those who mourn are comforted, knowing that their loved ones are with you and are at peace.

We kneel at the foot of your cross. We remember Lord Jesus how you showed your love for the world. Equip us to share that message with others. Guide us in the right direction and help us to face whatever challenges lie before us. As we stand and look from the cross to your tomb and all that awaits in a few days' time remind us again of the hope and good news that we can share with others.

We ask these and all our prayers in your name. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to StF 270 Come and see
or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gizXMaQ7Y5o>

Come and see, come and see, come and see the King of love;
see the purple robe and crown of thorns he wears.
Soldiers mock, rulers sneer as he lifts the cruel cross;
lone and friendless now, he climbs towards the hill.

We worship at your feet, where wrath and mercy meet, and a guilty world is washed by love's pure stream.

For us he was made sin -- oh, help me take it in.
Deep wounds of love cry out 'Father, forgive.'
I worship, I worship the Lamb who was slain.

Come and weep, come and mourn for your sin that pierced him there, so much deeper than the wounds of thorn and nail.
All our pride, all our greed, all our fallenness and shame; and the Lord has laid the punishment on him.

Man of heaven, born to earth to restore us to your heaven.
Here we bow in awe beneath your searching eyes.
From your tears comes our joy, from your death our life shall spring; by your resurrection power we shall rise.

A prayer of blessing

Loving God

We step away from the cross and look towards the tomb in which your son was laid and from which he was raised. As we journey away from the cross towards the tomb and onward to resurrection, we go in the knowledge that you are with us every step of the way. **Amen.**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

The Suffering Servant

13 See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up and shall be very high.
14 Just as there were many who were astonished at him —so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—
15 so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.
53 Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
3 He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

John 19:17-42

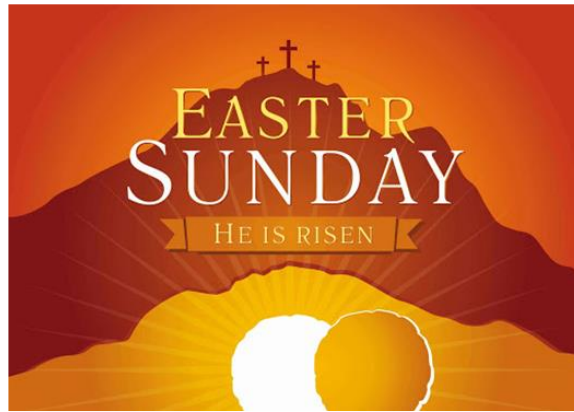
17 and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. 18 There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. 19 Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' 20 Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. 21 Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."' 22 Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.' 23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. 24 So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.' 25 And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' 27 Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. 28 After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' 29 A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So, they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. **Jesus' Side Is Pierced** 31 Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So, they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. 32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. 35 (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) 36 These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' 37 And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

The Burial of Jesus

38 After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so, he came and removed his body. 39 Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. 40 They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. 41 Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden, there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. 42 And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.



Easter Sunday – Sunday 17th April 2022



Opening Prayer

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

As we come to worship, may we, like the women at the empty tomb, celebrate and share the joyous news of your rising, of love, hope, forgiveness, and freedom.
Risen Christ, draw close as we worship. **Amen.**

Hymn: StF 298 Christ the Lord is risen today
Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRmDIB_w5BY

Christ the Lord is risen today; **Alleluia!**

All creation joins to say: **Alleluia!**

Raise your joys and triumphs high; **Alleluia!**

Sing, you heavens; let earth, reply: **Alleluia!**

Love's redeeming work is done, **Alleluia!**

Fought the fight, the battle won; **Alleluia!**

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; **Alleluia!**

Christ has burst the gates of hell: **Alleluia!**

Lives again our glorious King; **Alleluia!**

Where, O death, is now your sting? **Alleluia!**

Once he died our souls to save; **Alleluia!**

Where's your victory, boasting grave? **Alleluia!**

Soar we now where Christ has led, **Alleluia!**

Following our exalted Head; **Alleluia!**

Made like him, like him we rise; **Alleluia!**

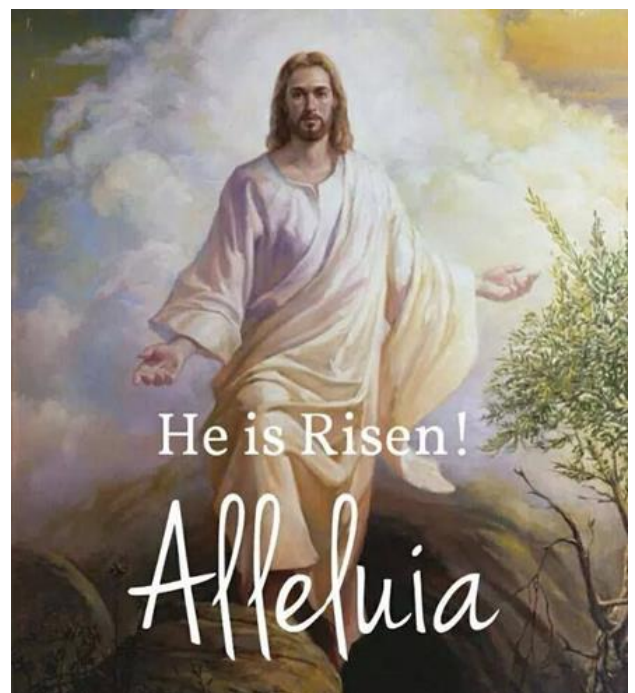
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies: **Alleluia!**

King of Glory! Soul of bliss! **Alleluia!**

Everlasting life is this, **Alleluia!**

You to know, your power to prove, **Alleluia!**

Thus to sing, and thus to love: **Alleluia!**



Let us pray together

Glory to you, O God: you raised Jesus from the grave, bringing us victory over death and giving us eternal life.

Glory to you, O Christ: for us and for our salvation you overcame death and opened the gate to everlasting life.

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit: you lead us into the truth and breathe new life into us.

Glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Today's Reading from the Old Testament Isaiah 25:6-9

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 24:1-12

Time to Reflect

'Why do you look for the living among the dead, he is not here, but has risen...remember how he told you.' How could the women at the empty tomb remember? With weeping and sorrow, they had shared his agony on that Friday, witnessing him cry 'it is finished' and the last breath of their beloved as he hung on a cross. So, they run back and tell the disciples, who think this is an idle tale, or as one translation puts it, 'nonsense'.

Today we celebrate that 'nonsense' or idle tale, beyond human imagining. We celebrate the message of resurrection, forgiveness, and abundant grace beyond measure. Our lives are touched by hope, astounded by the love of Christ. Love that bore nails hammered through flesh and bone. Love that was rejected, betrayed and abandoned. Love that was too strong to be bound and held by death. Love that burst forth from a tomb with the rising sun.

The joy of Easter is perhaps not only that God has raised Christ from the dead. Easter joy is also about the possibility and the promise that, regardless of what our lives are like now, new life is available to each one of us today. Nothing is the same, everything has changed, of most significance as we celebrate Easter, is perhaps not what we do today, but what we do tomorrow, the day after, and the day after that. How will we now live differently in the light of the resurrection? Jesus did not die and rise again so that we might continue life as usual. If this new life and freedom do not change us, perhaps, we might as well put the stone back over the entrance to the tomb and let the women's story remain an idle tale.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

In our time of prayer there is an opportunity to bring before God the things on our hearts and minds using the following themes:

Holy God,

we come to you today with our prayers:

We pray for our world...

We pray for the Church...

We pray for all those striving for justice...

We pray for those who are unwell...

We pray for those grieving the loss of loved ones... **(Time of silence)**

We offer all our prayers in and through the name of the risen Christ, **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father...

Hymn: Singing the Faith 313 Thine be the glory
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tjz4yXUJrgU>

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay:

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:



A prayer of blessing

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen us to walk with him in his risen life; and may almighty God bless us, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Bible Readings

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 25: 6-9

6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

7 And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations;

8 he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

9 It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Gospel Reading – Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared.

2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

3 but when they went in, they did not find the body.

4 While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them.

5 The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

6 Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee,

7 that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.'

8 Then they remembered his words,

9 and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

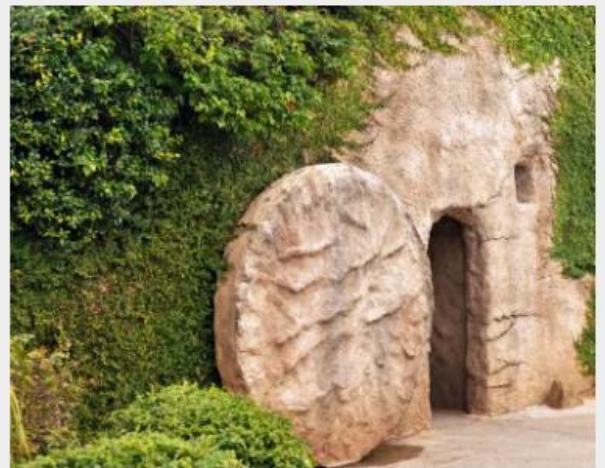
10 Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles.

11 But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

12 But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

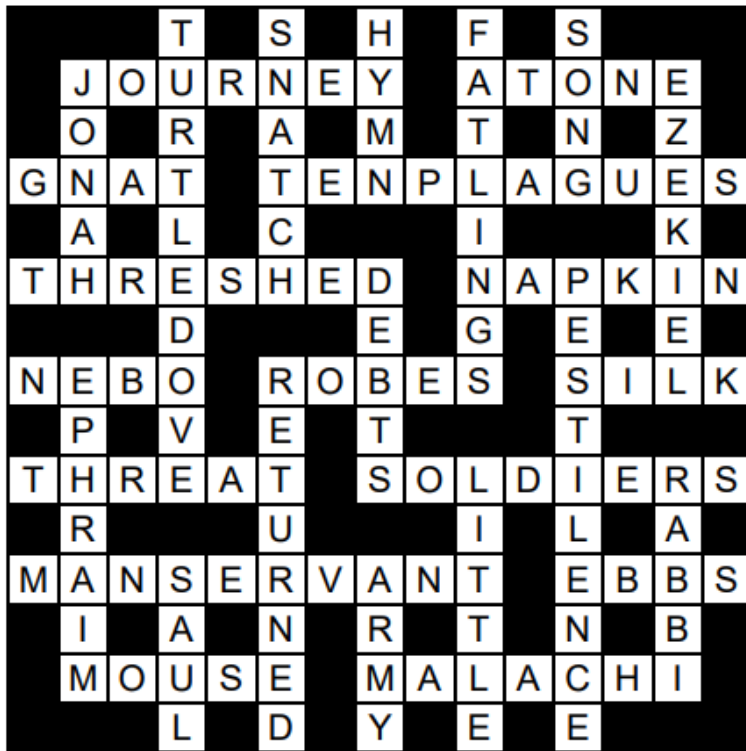
Easter Bible Quiz (answers next week)

- 1. What was the Jewish feast which was being celebrated the week Christ was crucified?**
- 2. When Jesus entered Jerusalem during what is known as His Triumphal Entry, what animal was He riding on?**
- 3. Why is the Sunday before the resurrection called Palm Sunday?**
- 4. Which disciple cut off the ear of the high priest's servant in an attempt to protect Jesus from being taken as a prisoner?**
- 5. What was the name of the high priest's servant who had his ear cut off by the disciple and subsequently reattached by Jesus?**
- 6. How many times did Peter deny Christ after he abandoned the Lord?**
- 7. How many pieces of silver did Judas trade the life of Jesus for?**
- 8. How did Judas identify Jesus to the soldiers?**
- 9. In repentance Judas returned the money to the priests that he was given as the price of betrayal of the Lord and then did what?**
- 10. The priests took the money that Judas had returned to them and did what with it?**
- 11. Who was surprisingly released before Pontius Pilate sentenced Jesus to death?**
- 12. What did Pilate's wife counsel him to do concerning Jesus?**
- 13. A man named Simon was compelled to carry the cross of Jesus. In Mark 15 we are told the names of Simon's two sons. What were their names?**
- 14. What was the inscription above the cross?**
- 15. Can you quote 4 of the 7 statements recorded in the Bible that Christ said from the cross?**
- 16. Following the statements of Jesus on the cross, there was a statement by a Roman soldier concerning Christ. What was it?**
- 17. What happened in the Temple as a sign that the death of Jesus had made way for the individual believer to approach God?**
- 18. When Jesus died there was darkness in the land. How long did it last?**
- 19. In John 19 two men helped prepare the body of Christ for burial. One is said to have been a secret disciple and another secretly came to Jesus early in His ministry to ask question. Who were these men?**
- 20. Who was the first person to see the risen Christ?**



He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. (Matthew 28:6)

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Across: 6 Journey, 7 Atone, 9 Gnat, 10 Ten Plagues, 11 Threshed, 13 Napkin, 15 Nebo, 17 Robes, 18 Silk, 19 Threat, 20 Soldiers, 23 Manservant, 26 Ebbs, 27 Mouse, 28 Malachi.

Down: 1 Turtledove, 2 Snatch, 3 Hymn, 4 Fatlings, 5 Song, 6 Jonah, 8 Ezekiel, 12 Debts, 14 Pestilence, 16 Ephraim, 17 Returned, 21 Little, 22 Rabbi, 24 Saul, 25 Army.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.com

PROGRAMMES YOU MAY ENJOY – Sunday 17th April

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

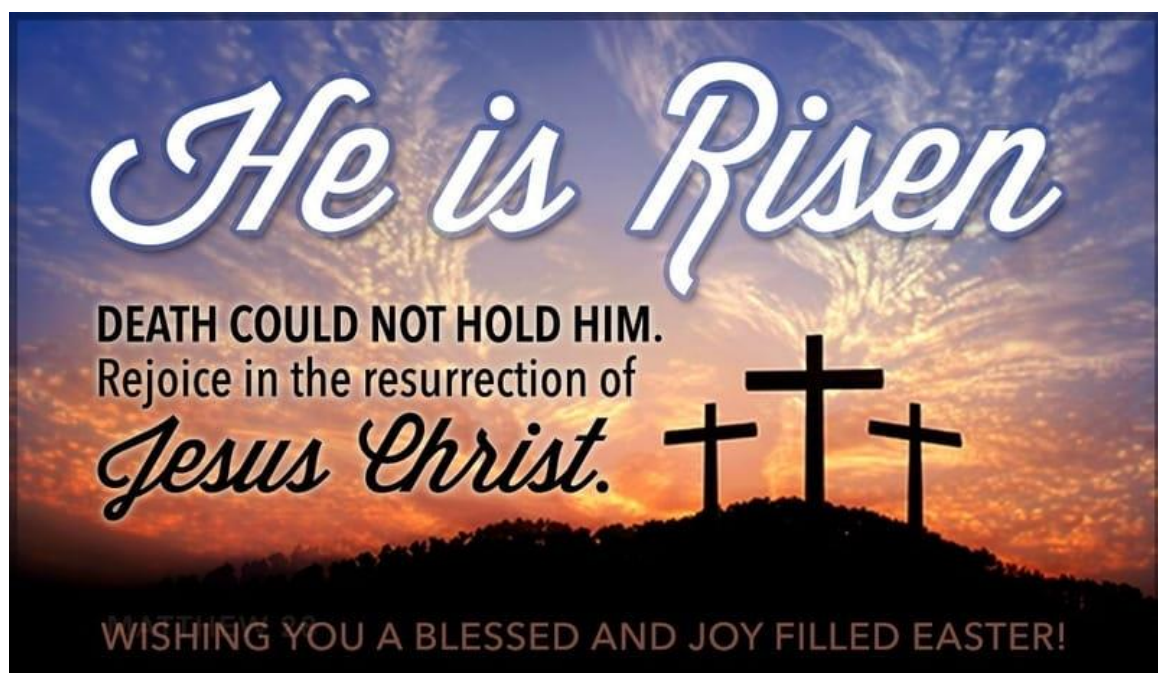
Helen Jones brings you the Sunday magazine reflecting Merseyside's worlds of faith.

8.10 a.m. Radio 4: Sunday Worship – Easter Sunday

A celebration of the Eucharist with the Archbishop of Canterbury's Easter Message.

13.15 BBC 1 Songs of Praise: Easter on Holy Island

Sean Fletcher follows in the footsteps of saints and pilgrims to celebrate Easter on the Holy Island - Lindisfarne in Northumberland.



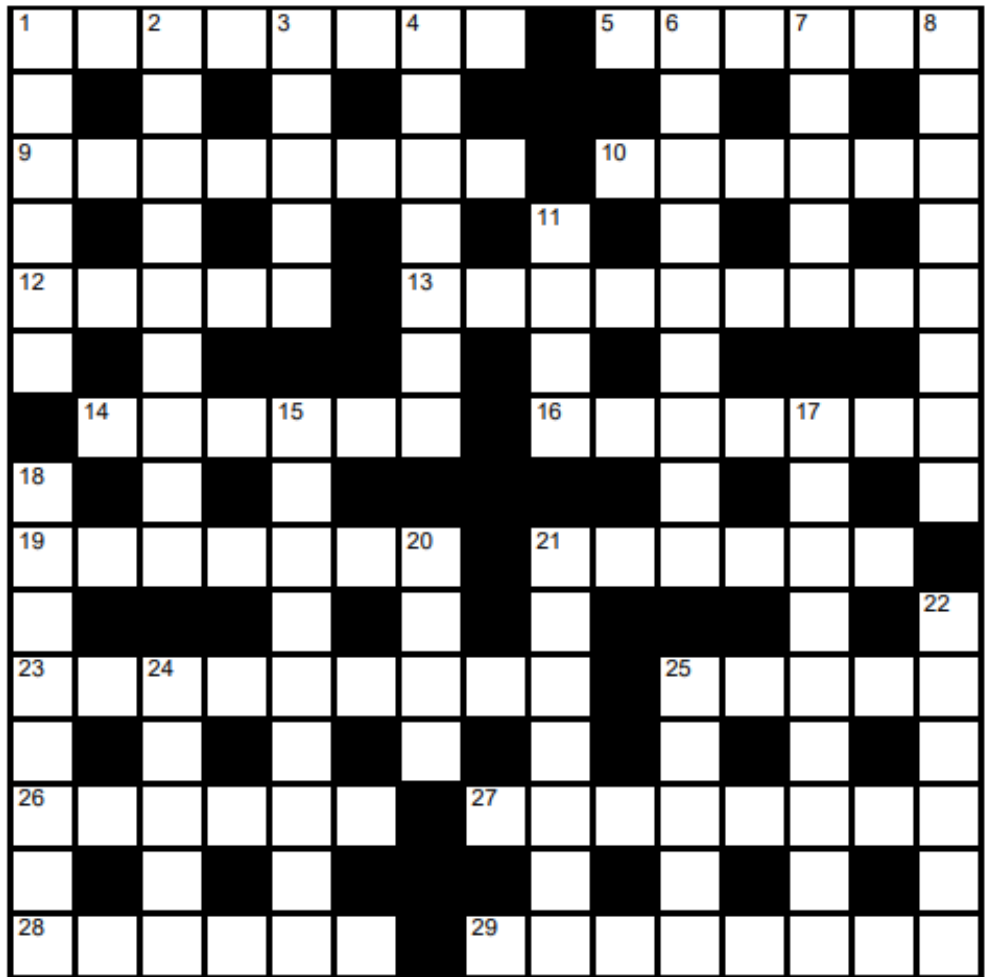
THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Bag for carrying provisions (8)
 5 Uncovered (6)
 9 Expressing mirth (8)
 10 Silkworm's casing (6)
 12 Consumed (5)
 13 Wailing (9)
 14 Collections of families (6)
 16 Musical instrument (7)
 19 Loads (7)
 21 Grumbled (6)
 23 Grain beating (9)
 25 Temple offering (5)
 26 A Roman one was found in Philippi (6)
 27 Preach (8)
 28 This son would receive a double portion (6)
 29 Where Peter saw his vision (8)

Down

- 1 Murdered (6)
 2 Breaker of 7th commandment (9)
 3 King of the Amorites (5)
 4 Lightsources (7)



by Philologus

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6 Tyre and Sidon were of this land (9)

7 Ruth's mother-in-law (5)

8 Doorway of the waste (4,4)

11 Visionary herdsman (4)

15 Thanksgivings (9)

17 Meal shared on the shore with the risen Jesus (9)

18 Don't put this in someone's way! (8)

20 Waterborne transport (4)

21 Ancient city of Canaan (7)

22 Like Eutychus, as he fell (6)

24 Governed (5)

25 Crucifixion device (5)

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

Telephone 07490 572 344

www.wooltoncommunitylife.org.uk



Woolton Community Life, the Befriending Charity, has been working to alleviate loneliness and social isolation in our Community here in Woolton, since 2014.

We are currently working with the other Community organizations in Woolton to buy a Mini bus with disabled access to transport 'housebound' residents to the Village so that they can participate in activities and to improve their health and wellbeing.

Please write to us your views on this?