

Web address: <http://stjameswoolton.org>

**MINISTER:** Revd. Peter Hughes [peter.hughes@methodist.org.uk](mailto: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 – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

***This Week's Collect***



God of life and light, your Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death on the cross. Give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to follow him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Sunday before Lent**

Lord God, whose glory shines upon us in the face of Jesus Christ, and whose nature is made known to us in the mystery of the cross: number us, we pray, among his faithful followers for whom nothing matters but the doing of your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Minister's Message**

I hope you have had a good week. Sadly, this has been a very bad week for the world and for peace.

The tragic invasion of Ukraine by Russia is a terrible act of aggression. We pray for the people of Ukraine and long that peace may come to their land.

**You may like to use the Universal Prayer for Peace, which many people pray every day.**

**Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth;  
lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust;  
lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.**

**UPCOMING PREACHERS**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February** **Graham Martin** (St James') **Chris Bolton** (phone)



## Pictures from Peter

On Thursday last week I enjoyed a canal walk from Oriel Road in Bootle to Maghull. It was in the calm before storm Eunice but it wasn't a very bright day. I have included a photo of Fergus, the dog belonging to my walking companion, Andy. The other photos were taken on a brighter day, at Caroline Street Bridge in Bootle and out in open country near Melling.



## ***Benevolent Fund***

### **The Benevolent Fund collection for the Afghanistan Emergency Appeal last week totalled £272.20.**

People are starving in Afghanistan, with more than 8 million on the brink of famine.

Drought, the war in Afghanistan and the Covid-19 pandemic are causing a catastrophic rise in hunger. Children are dying today, and a million more under the age of five are at risk of dying over the next three months. We need to act now to save lives.

Decades of conflict, poverty, and the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic were already taking their toll on the people of Afghanistan.

The recent conflict and change of government, coupled with the worst drought in 27 years, have tipped the country over the edge into humanitarian crisis. Economic collapse has sent food prices soaring. Afghanistan's health care system has reached the brink of collapse.

### **How your support will help**

- provide emergency food and nutrition support for children
- support healthcare facilities
- provide winter kits to help displaced families stay warm
- supply clean drinking water
- protect women and girls

Thank You - your money will help the people of Afghanistan **now**.

### ***DATES FOR YOUR DIARY***

#### ***Jubilee Jamboree!***

Celebrating 50 years of the URC, Mersey Synod is hosting a family fun day at Parkgate and Neston URC on Saturday 16 July 10am-3pm.

Let's get ready to party! Yes, we're celebrating 50 years of the URC!

It's a free family fun day – there'll be an ice cream van, a craft station, a bouncy castle, a labyrinth, parachute games, a children's worker and more.

There's also plenty for adults (and yes, you can go on the bouncy castle too!) with a time of historical reflection, sessions on Muddy Church, interactive Café Jam and even puppet workshops. It's not to be missed! Save the date!

Book now using our booking form which you can find at

<https://www.urcmerseysynod.org.uk/welcome.htm>

Please note:

- a) Each person attending the event needs to fill in their own booking form
- b) The closing date for bookings is Friday 1 July 2022 for catering reasons
- c) Return the booking form to the Synod Office via email [synodoffice@urcmerseysynod.org.uk](mailto:synodoffice@urcmerseysynod.org.uk) or by post to 1 Fingall Road, Wavertree, Liverpool, L15 9JE
- d) Once we have received your booking form, we will send you a confirmation letter/email nearer to the date with an information leaflet about what is planned for the day, in more detail.

### ***The Samaritans challenge***

I'm taking on The Samaritans challenge for March to walk 10,000 steps a day and raise money for them. This March, I will be walking 10,000 steps a day to raise money for The Samaritans. It would be great if you could sponsor me. Every little counts, however small. If not, a word of support will keep me on track. A sponsor form/online details will be available soon. Many thanks for your anticipated support.

**Pam Alexander**



## 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 – Graham Martin**

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.

**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 Liz Hudson**

**Order of Worship:**

- **Welcome and notices:**
- **Opening prayer** (Host)
- **Bible reading** (Pat Fagan: Luke 9 v28-36)
- **Lord’s Prayer** (Host)
- **Talk or “mini-sermon”** (Chris Bolton)
- **Prayers** (Chris Bennett)
- **Grace and dismissal.** (Host)



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.

### **Opening Prayer**

Transforming God, come to us now in this time of worship we pray. May we know your hand upon us and your arm around us . **Amen.**

### **Hymn: StF 503 Love divine all loves excelling**

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPbD2G3i-7Y>

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesu, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, never more thy  
temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee, without  
ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation, perfectly  
restored in thee:

changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

### **Let us pray together**

From the highest peak to the lowest valley, from the crowded city to the most remote of shorelines,  
may your name be praised O God!

You are the one who is far beyond our imaginings and yet you are as close to us as life and breath  
itself, you our creator, redeemer and Sustainer.

We ask that you open our eyes so that we might behold your glory, open our ears so that we might  
hear your word for us and, above all, open our hearts to your transforming love so that we might  
know your eternal presence and peace.

**Amen.**

### **Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 9:28-36**

#### **Time to Reflect**

In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John with him into the remoteness of the  
mountains to pray and, as he does so, Jesus is transfigured and shines with God's glory.

In that moment, Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (representing the Prophets) suddenly  
appear alongside Jesus testifying to who he is.

Let us not forget that both Moses and Elijah themselves went high into the mountains and hills to  
pray and to meet God; to find direction for the future. As Jesus stands side by side with these  
iconic figures from the Old Testament, the past and the future are brought together and there is an  
extraordinary breakthrough of the divine into time and space.

It is not just that the veil between earth and heaven seems very thin; it is actually drawn aside.  
God's glory is revealed, and the future comes into the present.

By their very nature, mountain-top experiences are fleeting and rare and often come out of the  
blue - yet when they happen their impact and effect upon us last far longer than the actual moment  
itself.

As we reflect upon this passage from Luke's Gospel in the context of our own lives, I wonder about our mountain-top experiences. Have we had any? If so, how did we react and what was our response? Looking back upon them, were they seminal moments in our lives?

Writing in the Guardian, some years ago now, Oliver Burkeman spoke of 'thin places', "a Celtic Christian term for 'those rare locales where the distance between heaven and Earth collapses', to quote Eric Weiner."

It seems to me that those 'thin place' moments and mountain-top experiences are speaking about the very same thing. Those times when we suddenly become aware of the sense and presence of the divine and we know that God is with us.

As we ready ourselves once more for our Lenten journey setting off into the rugged wilderness, may we be both attentive to and aware of those thin places and mountain-top moments and allow them to transform us as God continues to change us 'from glory into glory'!

### **Take time to sit quietly**

#### **A time of prayer**

Loving God,

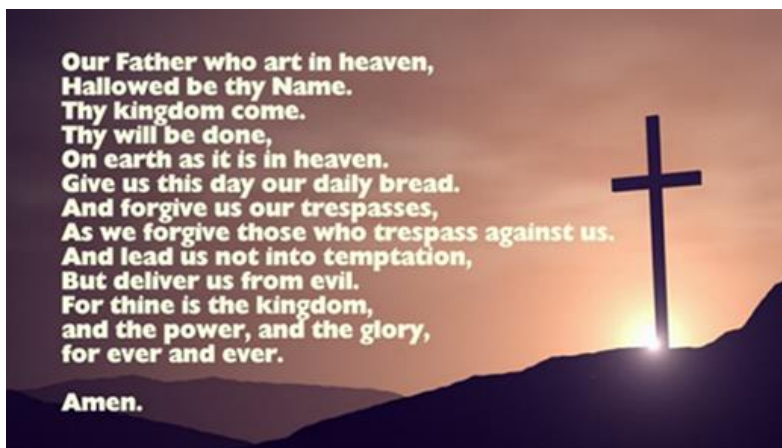
In these confusing and uncertain times, may your love, truth and power bring light to where there is darkness peace to where there is violence love to where there is hatred understanding to where there is confusion trust to where there is suspicion dignity to where there is shame healing to where there is disease justice to where there is oppression and freedom to where there is captivity. Transform your people, your world and your church we pray, for we ask these things in and through the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord and Saviour.

**Amen**



#### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father .....*



**Hymn: Listen to** Transfiguration form Hillsong Worship

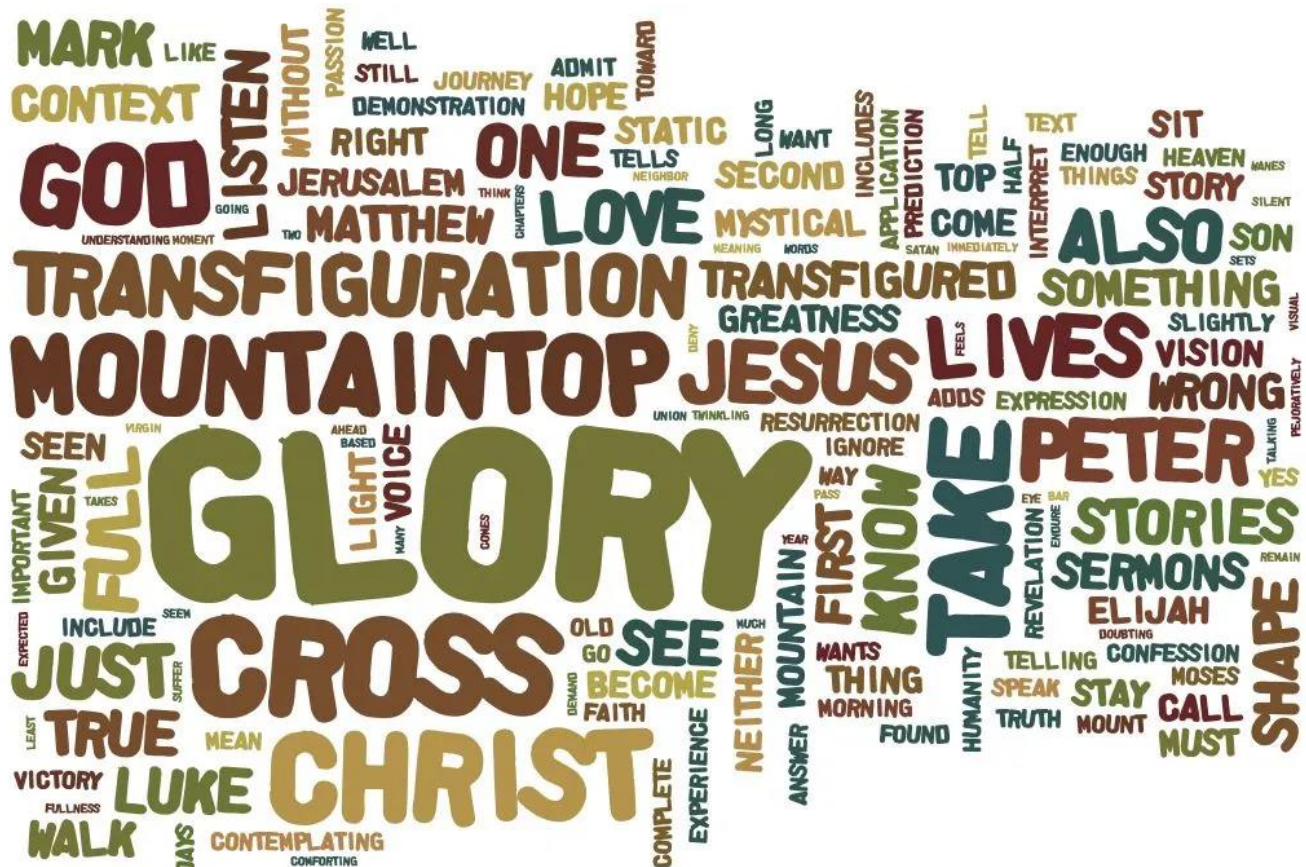
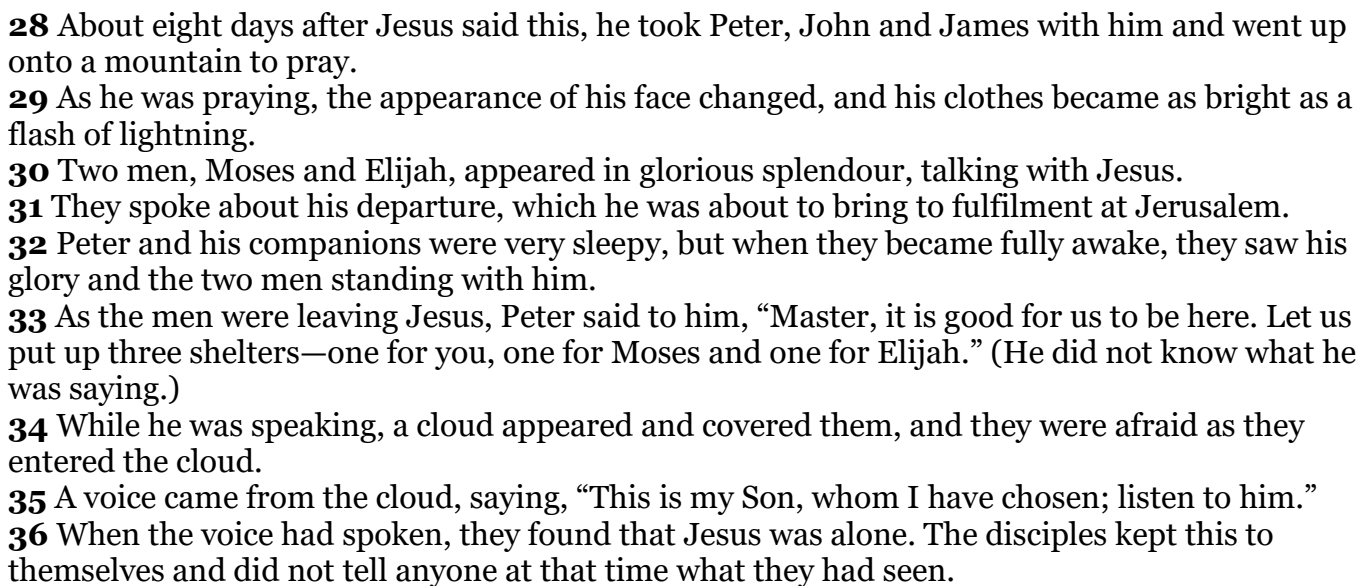
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pri10SRoBPc>

#### **A prayer of blessing.**

Transforming God, as we begin this new week, may we know that you travel with us and all those for who we have prayed, now and forever more. **Amen**



## The Transfiguration



## ***News from the Church Council***

Our Church Council met on Tuesday evening (22nd). Here are some things the Council wanted to share with the Church:

We warmly thanked **Ron Swindells** for over 40 years of Service to the Finance & Property Committee - Ron is now standing down to enjoy a well-earned rest.

We were delighted to note that **Roger & Melanie Phillips** have transferred their membership to St James' Church. The Council were also pleased that **Melanie Phillips** is now sharing in playing the organ for our services and officially appointed Melanie as one of our Church Organists, alongside **Peter Bounds**.

The Church Council agreed to admit **Andrew McLaren** as a Church Member; **Andrew** will be received into membership by Confirmation on Easter Sunday.

The Meeting appointed **Claire Igglesden** and **Pam Alexander** as Baptism Secretaries.

The Church Council agreed that St James' should proceed with applying to the Charity Commission for the Church to be a Registered Charity. At present the Church is covered under the charitable status of the Methodist and United Reformed Church but being a charity in our own right will help with grant applications and in other ways.

The Meeting discussed the **Legacy of Slavery materials** from the United Reformed Church and supported the proposal that the URC General Assembly should make a formal **Apology and Confession**.

The Church Council agreed that the Annual General Church Meeting will take place as part of the Morning Service on Sunday 15th May.

### ***DATES TO NOTE***

**Worship Consultation Meeting Monday 21st March 7pm**

**Property & Finance Committee Meeting Thursday 31st March 7.30pm**

**Mission Action Group Meeting (open to all) Thursday 7th April 7.30pm**





## LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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

Across: 1 Hushed, 4 Assigned, 9 Lands, 10 Chaldeans, 11 Nets, 12 Roof, 13 Leave, 15 Saffron, 16 Idea, 19 Deaf, 20 Escaped, 23 Lured, 24 Hail, 25 Fool, 27 Shepherds, 28 Shine, 29 Trespass, 30 Hungry.

Down: 1 Holiness, 2 Sanctify, 3 East, 5 Sea of Tiberias, 6 Indulgence, 7 Naaman, 8 Dishes, 10 Crown of thorns, 14 Friendship, 17 Opposing, 18 Adultery, 21 Closet, 22 Greece, 26 Esau.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

## PRAYERS

We confess our need for you today. We need your healing and your grace. We need hope restored. We need to be reminded that you work on behalf of those you love, constantly, powerfully, completely. Forgive us for trying to fix our situations all on our own. Forgive us for running all different directions and spinning our wheels to find help when true help and healing must be found first in You. Forgive us for forgetting how much we need you, above everyone and everything else.

We come to you and bring you the places we are hurting. You see where no one else is able to fully see or understand. You know the pain we've carried.

The burdens. The cares. You know where we need to be set free.

We ask for your healing and grace to cover every broken place.

Every wound. Every heartache.

Thank you that you are Able to do far more than we could ever imagine. Thank you for your Mighty Power that acts on behalf of your children. We reach out to you and know that you are restoring and redeeming every place of difficulty, every battle, for your greater glory.

Thank you that you will never waste our pain and suffering.

We love you. We need you today.

In Jesus' Name, **Amen.**



We continue to pray for those who need our prayers at this time due to ill health, struggling with mental health and all difficult situations and their loved ones who are sometimes overlooked but need our prayers too.

We also pray for Ken Kitchen, John and Sylvia Pagan, Ian Taylor, Arthur Evans, Helen and Fred Stanford and Mike Hughes.

## THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

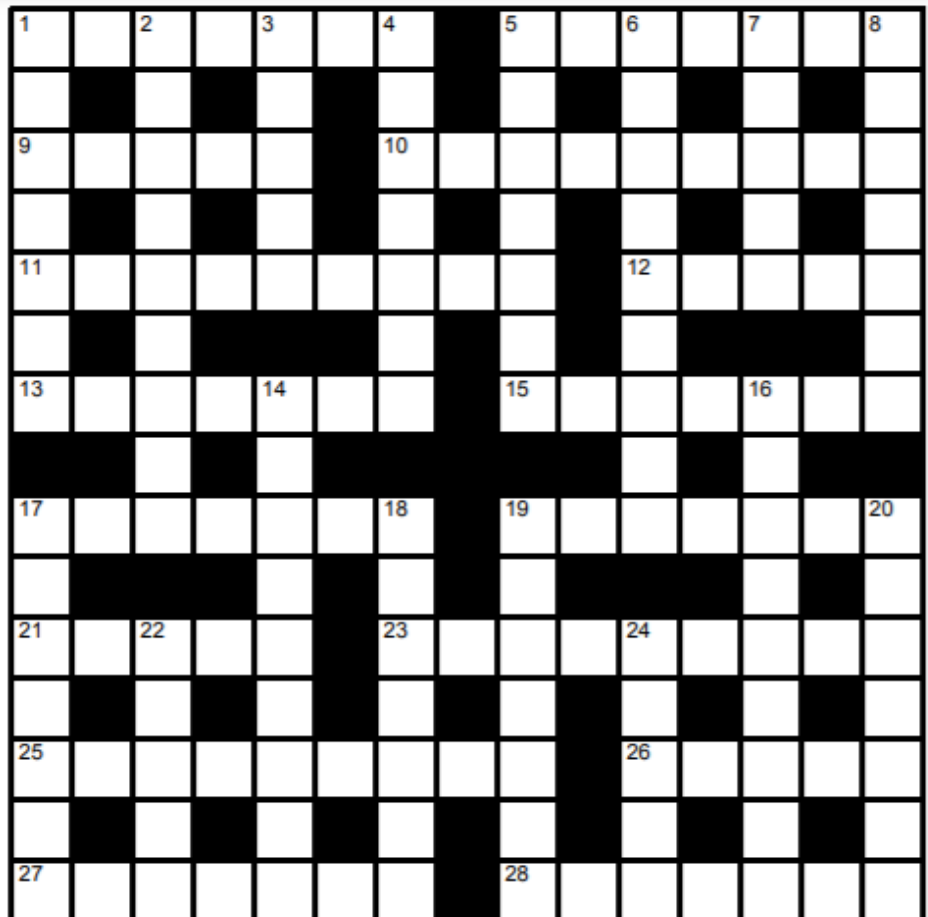
### Across

- 1 Purifies (7)  
 5 Tainted (7)  
 9 Forbidden objects of worship (5)  
 10 Abundant (9)  
 11 Wife of David (9)  
 12 Lift up (5)  
 13 Grapple (7)  
 15 Lack of rain (7)  
 17 Sennacherib's realm (7)  
 19 Domain (7)  
 21 Biblical clothing (5)  
 23 Supplant (9)  
 25 Announced (9)  
 26 Tamar's brother (5)  
 27 Person seeking redress for wrong (7)  
 28 Decorates (7)

### Down

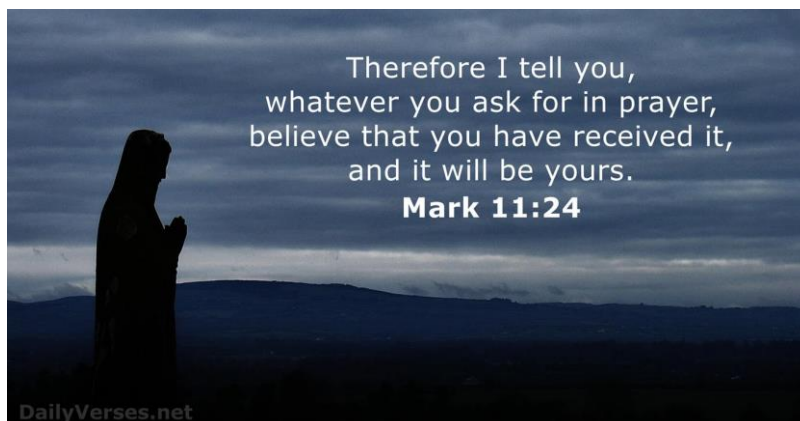
- 1 Colourful arc seen after the flood (7)  
 2 Forehead ornaments (9)  
 3 Bird homes (5)  
 4 Greatest in status (7)  
 5 Servant (7)  
 6 Time of day (9)  
 7 Ruth's mother in law (5)  
 8 Lineage (7)  
 14 Separating wheat from chaff (9)

- 16 Legion's people (9)  
 17 King who was almost persuaded to be a Christian (7)  
 18 One more (7)  
 19 Pummelled bread (7)  
 20 Grass clippings (7)  
 22 Holy book (5)  
 24 Barter (5)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk



Therefore I tell you,  
 whatever you ask for in prayer,  
 believe that you have received it,  
 and it will be yours.

**Mark 11:24**

## ***PROGRAMMES YOU MAY ENJOY – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February***

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

Ngunan Adamu sits in with the Sunday magazine reflecting Merseyside's worlds of faith.

### **8.10 a.m. Radio 4: Sunday Worship – St. David's Day**

A service for St David's Day from St Illtud's in Llantwit Major, the ancient place in which one medieval saint offered a radical hospitality that still echoes today.

### **13.15 BBC 1 Songs of Praise: St. David's Day**

Katherine Jenkins visits St David's College, where higher education began in Wales, and James Lusted hears why some people wear a leek rather than a daffodil on St David's Day.

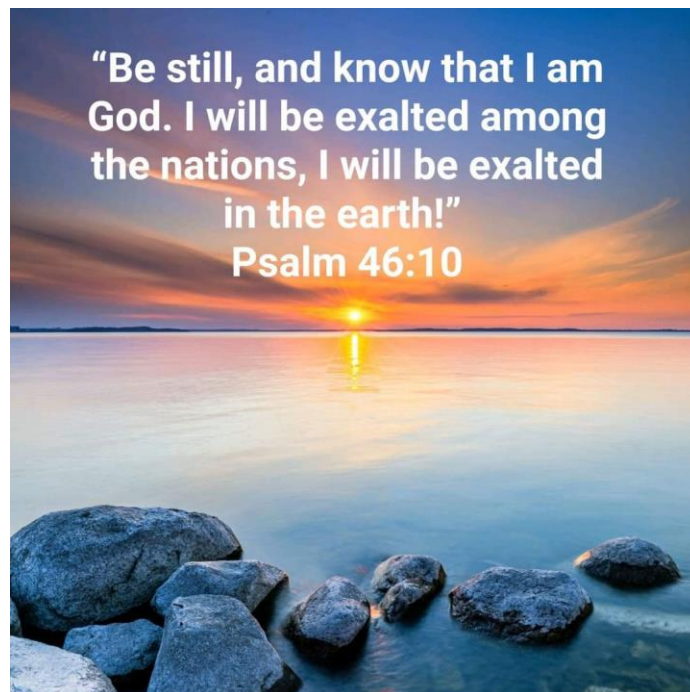
## ***BIRTHDAYS***

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.



Happy birthday to Roy Barker who celebrated his special day this week (24<sup>th</sup> February).



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