

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 – 28th November 2021

This Week's Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility: that, on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



First Sunday of Advent

Lord our God, keep us your servants alert and watchful as we await the return of Christ your Son, so that when he comes and knocks at the door he may find us vigilant in prayer, with songs of praise on our lips. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

UPCOMING PREACHERS

Sunday November 28th Revd. Peter Hughes (St James') Clive Rigby (phone)

PROGRAMMES YOU MAY ENJOY – Sunday 28th November

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. Advent 1: Asking to see God face to face

Marking the start of Advent and looking towards St Andrew's Day from St Andrews University with Rev Dr Donald MacEwan. St Salvator's Chapel Choir directed by Claire Innes-Hopkins.

13.15 BBC 1 Songs of Praise: Young Chorister of the Year - Boys' Semi-Final

Aled Jones presents the boys' semi-final from Salisbury Cathedral, with judges Lesley Garrett, Howard Goodall and David Grant.

WORSHIP AT ST. JAMES'

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

- By booking a place and 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.

**Also from St. James Church: - Invitation to Telephone Worship
(And every Sunday until the end of November)**

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 Pam Bellis

Order of Worship:

- **Welcome and notices:**
- **Opening prayer (Host)**
- **Bible reading** (Steve or Irene Elliott Genesis, chapter 12 vs. 1 - 9)
- **Lord’s Prayer** (Host)
- **Talk or “mini-sermon”** (Clive Rigby)
- **Prayers** (Liz Hudson)
- **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.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT ALL THESE EVENTS

Please put them in your diary and come and join the fun and fellowship.

Fellowship Group

Please note that the Fellowship Group (formerly the Monday House Group) will meet on Monday 6th December at 2pm in Church.

Saturday December 11th – Roy Barker and Friends Christmas Sing-along.

Roy Barker & Friends Christmas Sing-along is on Saturday 11th December at 7.00 pm (doors open at 6.30pm).

Come and join us for some Christmas fun and lots of singing. Wear your Christmas hats and sweaters and bring your voices.

Due to Covid safety restrictions, seating has been reduced so get your ticket now. Tickets adults: £6, children: £1.

Contact Roy and Lynne Barker 0151 421 1218



Christmas baubles

We asked for your help a few weeks ago to knit, crochet or sew Christmas baubles for this year's planned Christmas experience. As we continue our planning it would be helpful to know how many have been made or are in the process of being made so far, so if you get a spare minute, perhaps you could let me know? There is no panic, and plenty of time left to carry on making them too!

Thank you to everyone who has been busy making Christmas baubles. Would you please bring them to church by 28th November or if you need them picking up, please give me a call and I will arrange that for you.

Thanks Pam Bellis

Christmas Services

Advent Sunday: November 28th, 2021 – dedication of donations in lieu of toys and gifts for our Christmas Charities at 10.30 a.m.

Sunday, December 12th, 2021, CHRISTINGLE SERVICE, (all age worship) at 10.30 a.m.

Sunday December 19th Morning Service with Holy Communion at 10.30am AND Carols by Candlelight at 4pm

Friday December 24th, 2021, Christmas Eve Communion at 11.30 pm

All the above services will be led by Revd Peter Hughes

Christmas Day - Morning Worship led by Andrew Gillespie at 10 a.m.

NO SERVICE on Sunday December 26th, 2021.



TOYS AND GIFTS FOR OUR CHRISMAS CHARITIES

On checking with the Charities, we traditionally support at this time of year, e.g., Centre 56, the Women's Refuge and the Action For Children Day Centre, they have respectfully suggested that they would find **cash donations** more practical than actual toys, sweets etc at this time. This helps us a little too, as we are not asking people to go to the shops specially for this purpose.

So, as last year, we will gratefully receive financial gifts either in the gift boxes available at church, OR through the bank (referencing your payment 'Gift Service') OR direct to our Treasurer, Steve Elliott via the Church Hall letter box or 84 Woolacombe Rd, (again marking any cheques 'Gift Service' on the back).

Because the charities will need to do their own shopping and gift wrapping, the dedication of the donations will be made earlier than the usual, at the service on Advent Sunday Morning (November 28th, 2021).

They will be passed on immediately after that to give the organisations time to make their own preparations and distribution before they close for the Christmas holiday.

Many thanks for your help and support to spread love and caring over the Christmas period.

St James' Christmas Card

We are going to send a St James Christmas card to all our members and friends of the church again this year. If you would like to send a greeting, please either speak to me in person, email me at pambellis@hotmail.com or give me a call on 0151 356 7510 to give me your greeting and who it is from. If you wish to make a charitable donation in lieu of sending cards we will be donating to Christian Aid.

Thanks, Pam Bellis.

PRAYERS

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.

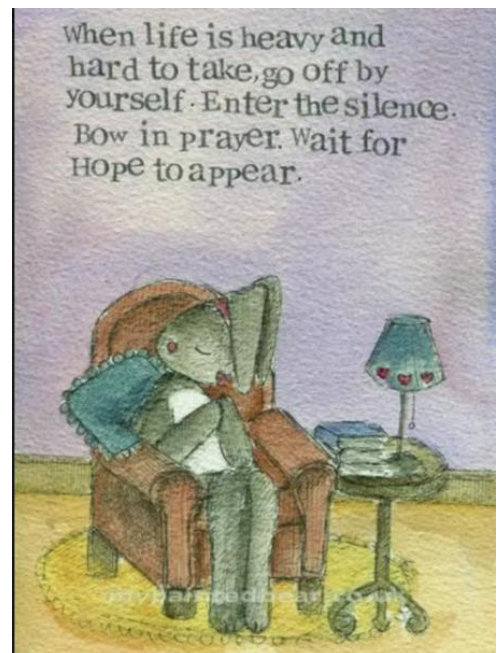
Open my heart to commune with You more deeply.

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 Gordon and Christine Salmon, Ken Kitchen, Ann Wells, Peter Hughes, John and Sylvia Pagan, Alan Smith, Mike Hughes and Arthur Evans.

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.

Opening Prayer

Advent 1 – the Advent hope

Jesus said, 'Keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. **Amen.**

Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The first candle is lit, and this response is used

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

Advent 1 <https://youtu.be/pocZG6dvWlY>

We sing: Advent candles tell their story as we watch and pray, longing for the Day of Glory, 'Come, Lord, soon,' we say. Pain and sorrow, tears, and sadness, changed for gladness on that Day. @Copyright Words © Mark Earey Performance © 2020 Joy and Ruth Everingham

Call to worship -Psalm 25:1-2,4-5

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. O my God, in you I trust. Do not let me be put to shame. Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.

Prayers of confession

For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness. For the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us.

Holy God, hear our prayer

We seek forgiveness for the sin we have allowed to persist, for the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us. We pray for the courage to admit our faults, the strength to amend our actions, and the hope that your grace awaits us. Through Christ we pray. **Amen**

Hymn: StF 172; Hills of the north, rejoice

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYi6pKL4i50>

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

Hills of the north, rejoice, river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice; valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love, he brings salvation from above.

Isles of the southern seas, sing to the listening earth;
carry on every breeze hope of a world's new birth: in Christ shall all be made anew;
his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the east, arise!

He is your brightest morn; greet him with joyous eyes, let praise his path adorn:
your seers have longed to know their Lord; to you he comes, the final Word.

Shores of the utmost west, lands of the setting sun, welcome the heavenly guest in whom the dawn
has come: he brings a never-ending light, who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey on; songs be in every mouth!

Lo, from the north they come, from east and west and south: in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.

Time to Reflect

Luke 21:25-36

Jesus employs a momentous image that suggests effects on the cosmic order expressing an embodiment of threat to humanity, hence calling for immediate response and action. The climate crisis at present is a huge global justice issue the world faces. God's people are called upon in these opening verses of Luke chapter 21 to stand up and lift their heads up. Their voices need to be heard. There is an urgent need for a collective joint action.

More importantly it's worth noting that a few months ago there were extreme weather conditions resulting in many communities around the world being displaced by water or living in severe drought. In some instances, lives have been lost and homes and farms destroyed. According to the Methodist global relationship news, there are several people who continue to be pushed back into poverty and the 'damage on creation is accelerating'. There are many other parts of the world affected by conflict, war and use of biological chemical weapons that severely affect the environment, threatening food security and the health of those communities.

The gospel of Luke welcomes us to contemplate on these emerging threats but with hope and joyful expectation in preparedness for our redemption in Christ's return. Christ loves creation that is restored and in peace. The prayer is then to live in the words of the hymn, "when you come with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!

The central message for this advent is to be watchful and in continuous prayer. When times decide to be tough and perilous, we are encouraged to surrender to the will of the almighty. In the words of the hymn, will your Anchor hold....

Advent is a time of hope, mixed with joyful expectation. The invite in Verse 27 demonstrates a momentous period of staring up into the gaze of the messianic coming, for liberation which humanity has been waiting for.! There will be no secret for the return of Christ. His arrival will be witnessed by the world at large. The things that have happened that have brought about several anxieties will be overshadowed by the joy of advent. God's children will be able to hold their heads up high. I guess that is why Jesus introduces the parable of the fig tree in Verses 29-30 which in my opinion is a powerful theological image of a new world in line with Christ's messianic reign in this fragile world of our time. In such a distressful times Jesus draws our attention to offer us an opportunity to enter more deeply into the joyful mystery that lies at its heart: God becoming human in the birth of Jesus Christ. It is in waiting and in prayer, that we can enter God's presence and ask Him to prepare our hearts the way He prepared all of history to receive the gift of His Son. Ask the father to use this time during Advent to cut away the distractions and make your life a place of warmth and openness, a ray for openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Pray for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and the humility to extend grace to others. Pray for a passion to pursue justice.

Amen.

Begin with the End in Mind

(Luke 21:25-36)



Hymn: There is a hope that burns within my heart
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_yv5yGZnBc

There is a hope that burns within my heart,
That gives me strength for every passing day.
A glimpse of glory now revealed in meagre part,
Yet drives all doubt away:
I stand in Christ, with sins forgiven.
And Christ in me, the hope of heaven!
My highest calling and my deepest joy,
To make His will my home.

There is a hope that lifts my weary head,
A consolation strong against despair,
That when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit,
I find the Saviour there!
Through present sufferings, future's fear,
He whispers 'courage' in my ear.
For I am safe in everlasting arms,
And they will lead me home.

There is a hope that stands the test of time,
That lifts my eyes beyond the beckoning grave,
To see the matchless beauty of a day divine
When I behold His face!
When sufferings cease and sorrows die,
And every longing satisfied.
Then joy unspeakable will flood my soul,
For I am truly home.

Take a time to sit quietly.

A time of prayer

Lord, in a season when every heart should be happy but many are struggling with the heaviness of life, Jesus, we need your peace. When wondering about loss of jobs and worried about the forthcoming bills to be paid, give us peace. When wondering about drug prescription, give us peace. When worried about our children's education and challenges of Covid in schools, give us peace. When worried about the resettlement of the refugees, and the best ways to help, grant us wisdom in our mission engagement. When worried about the future of the work of God and our ministry, Lord give us a new vision and passion. When wondering when conflict and terror will end and we will find a solution to climate change, Lord hear our prayer. As believers, help us to treat our roles in your Kingdom as crucial and not secondary. As the salt of the earth and its component that keeps it being salt, may we too be the salt and your light in sharing the message of your love. Now as you have promised in your holy word to give rest for the weary, peace for the anxious, and acceptance for the broken hearted, we know that peace on earth can only come when our hearts find peace with You. Amen.

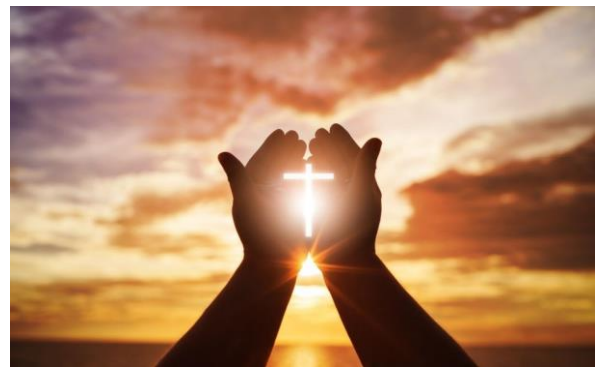
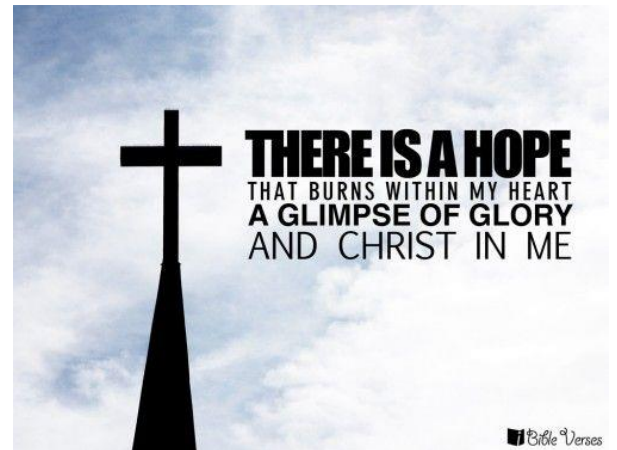
The Lord's Prayer: *Our Father*

Listen to the worship song: *Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me of Glory* (by CityAlight :

<https://youtu.be/zundjUFazfg> or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

A prayer of blessing

May the words we have heard and prayed and shared echo in our minds, stay in our hearts and re-shape our lives. May we know the Living Word of God with us now and always. **Amen**



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

A		A		G	E	M		H	E	I	R	
G	E	R	A	R		A		L		I		
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M	A	G	D	A	L	E	N	E		G		
A			I		O			A	R	R	O	W
M	A	N	A	S	S	E	H		A		I	
R		O			E			U	N	I	O	N
E	V	E	N			R	A	M		N		D

Across: 3 Gem, 5 Heir, 8 Gerar, 9 Ephesian, 11 Grape, 14 Innocence, 16 Lots, 18 Torn, 19 Magdalene, 21 Arrow, 24 Manasseh, 26 Union, 27 Even, 28 Ram.

Down: 1 Agag, 2 Area, 3 Green, 4 Mahlon, 6 Eli, 7 Rinse, 10 Sweeter, 12 Rhoda, 13 Pisidia, 15 Cargo, 17 Closer, 19 Mamre, 20 Nahum, 22 Rain, 23 Wind, 25 Noe.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.com

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Candle sight (5)
- 4 Product of farming (6)
- 8 Lois for example (11)
- 13 Serpent for example (7)
- 14 Nephilim, Rephaim etc. (6)
- 16 Land of milk and honey (6)
- 17 Considers (7)
- 20 Sect in Revelation (11)
- 21 Shrub (6)
- 22 Talks to God (5)

Down

- 2 Ancient harp (4)
- 3 Herb (4)
- 5 One of the Herods (7)
- 6 Malchus lost his (3)
- 7 Hebrew measures (5)
- 9 Miracle worker (6)
- 10 Water holes (5)
- 11 Greek gathering place (5)
- 12 Old prophet (6)
- 15 Commotion (7)
- 16 A promised son and heir (5)
- 18 Heavenly body (4)
- 19 It's a sin (4)
- 20 Negative (3)

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21								22			

by Philologus

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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