

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

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

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



**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
March 2023**

Welcome to our March newsletter. We hope you find this information interesting and useful. As the months go on, the more you share, the more we can add to this newsletter.

Email Helen Miller: newsletter@stjameswoolton.org with anything you wish to include or have any suggestions.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE March 2023:

Dear Friends,

We are aware of the difficult situations around the world and in our own country at present. The earthquake in Turkey and Syria, the first anniversary of the start of war in Ukraine and the continuing struggles people in the UK are having with food and fuel prices are just some of the things which trouble us.

However, as we discussed some of these things at the Monday Fellowship, we were drawn back to the words of St Paul (in Ephesians chapter 1) that God placed all things under the authority of Christ who is far above all rule, authority, power and dominion on earth. God has a plan to bring hope to all the situations I have mentioned. Included in that plan, says Paul, is the Church, Christ's body.

During February, St James' Church raised money to help in Syria and Turkey, we focused on persecuted Christians around the world and gave to Open Doors. At least three individuals within our Church are walking/running/climbing to raise money for good causes that will change the lives of others; members of St James will be supporting them through our giving.

God is working his purpose out through us and his people around the world!

God Bless, Peter

If you missed the guest speaker, Kathy Till from Open Doors on 26th February, you can read all about their work clicking the link here:

[Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide - World Watch List - Open Doors UK & Ireland](#)

Pastoral Visitors - Job Vacancies

Our Church Pastoral visitors to an amazing job of offering care to all members of our Church and congregation. However, several have had to retire recently and we are in URGENT need of more people to join our team.

Pastoral Visitors are each allocated a group of people who they keep in touch with, offering spiritual support in times of joy and sorrow. We work together as a team and training is provided on a regular basis.

Pastoral visitors can be male or female. If you would like to find out more about the role of Pastoral Visitors, please speak to Irene Elliott or Peter Hughes. As with all the roles in our Church, Pastoral Visitors will now be safely recruited which will include the need to provide referees, have a DBS check and attend Safeguarding Training.



Lent Prayer for Strength and Guidance

Lord God Almighty, shaper and ruler of all creatures, we pray for your great mercy, that you guide us towards you, for we cannot find our way.

And guide us to your will, to the need of our soul, for we cannot do it ourselves. And make our mind steadfast in your will and aware of our soul's need.

Strengthen us against the temptations of the devil, and remove from us all lust and every unrighteousness, and shield us against our foes, seen and unseen.

Teach us to do your will, that we may inwardly love you before all things with a pure mind.

For you are our maker and our redeemer, our help, our comfort, our trust, our hope; praise and glory be to you now and forever.

Source: Alfred the Great, 9th century

These were the beautiful church flowers on Feb 26th. If you would like to donate money for flowers on a particular Sunday - perhaps in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a happy event - please speak to **Jonquil Dickson** who can add you to the calendar for the months ahead. Also, if you would simply like to donate for flowers so that we can make sure all Sundays are covered, please speak to Jonquil. We now have a box at the back of church for any donations or small change. All donations are gratefully received. We will then deliver those flowers to people after the Service. If you know someone who you feel would be blessed by receiving flowers from Church, please speak to **Jonquil** or a steward.





Happy birthday to:

Ella Ashelby who will be 7 years old on the 4th of March.

Debbie Stanford for her birthday on 28th of March.

We all hope you have fantastic birthdays.

Harmony Café

Sunday 12th March, arrivals from 3.45pm, singing from 4.15pm

You are warmly invited to join us to sing (or listen to) songs people have suggested that are favourites from School Assemblies or Sunday School. Come and join us **for tea/coffee and cake** in a relaxed atmosphere from 3.45 pm for a 4.15 pm start – please note the new earlier start time. Cakes to share with our visitors would be much appreciated please, you can drop them off the day before at the March Coffee morning or at that morning's service. All are welcome - why not invite a friend!

Roy and Lynne Barker

Monday Fellowship Group

The March meeting of the Monday Fellowship Group will be at looking at Chapter 2 of Ephesians, on Monday 13th March at 2.30pm at Pam Draper's house.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Future Services this month at St James':

March 5th: Revd. Dr Sheryl Anderson 2nd service in Lent (* *after service tea and coffee*)

March 12th: Revd. Peter Hughes, 3rd service in Lent & All Age Worship

March 19th: Revd. Patrick Evans 4th service in Lent, Mothering Sunday & Holy Communion

March 26th: Stuart Radcliffe

Other important dates during March 2023:

Wednesday 8th March – 1.30pm – 2.30pm Quiet prayer at Church

Wednesday 8th March – 7.30pm – 9.00pm Wednesday Fellowship Group (In Church)

Thursday 9th March - 9.30am – 11.30pm Coffee Morning

Saturday 11th March – 10.00am – 12.00pm Coffee morning and Farmers Market

Sunday 12th March - arrivals from 3.45pm, singing from 4.15pm Harmony Café

Monday 13th March – 2.30pm Monday Fellowship meeting (Pam Drapers house)

Monday 13th March – 7.30pm Steward / Elders meeting

Wednesday 15th March – 7.30pm Circuit meeting

Wednesday 15th March – 7.30pm – 9.00pm Wednesday Fellowship Group (In Church)

Thursday 16th March - 9.30am – 11.30pm Coffee Morning

Wednesday 22nd March – 7.30pm – 9.00pm Wednesday Fellowship Group (In Church)

Thursday 23rd March - 9.30am – 11.30pm Coffee Morning

Wednesday 29th March – 7.30pm – 9.00pm Wednesday Fellowship Group (In Church)

Thursday 30th March - 9.30am – 11.30pm Coffee Morning

Fundraising & St James' Photo Gallery

I have now finished my 'Walk 56 Miles in February for Refuge' sponsored walk. I completed the 56 miles on 15th February but carried in walking. By 28th February I had walked 100 miles. The total amount of money I raised was £420. I did this challenge with five friends from my Slimming World Group. Together we managed to raise over £1000. A huge thanks to everyone who has supported the Refuge charity through your generous donations. You will have helped change the lives of women fleeing domestic violence. Thanks again. **Pam Alexander x**



Half marathon challenge for Parkinson's UK. My half-marathon challenge took an unexpected twist this week after I received a date for surgery on my foot...so, there was only one thing for it, I ran the half-marathon a month earlier than planned! I made sure that 4 miles of it were along Otterspool prom and completed the 13.1 mile course in 2 hours 9 minutes! Thank you so much to everyone who has sponsored me and offered words of encouragement, my fundraising total has hit £200 for Parkinson's UK, with donations still coming in. Thank you again, it means a lot to me and my family. **Debbie Stanford**



Next time.... We'll hear all about Faye and Danny Laverty's fundraising event up Kilimanjaro!

Just for fun

Season of Lent Wordsearch

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

Palm Sunday	Lent	Jesus	Good Friday
Crucifix	Barabbas	Tomb	Resurrection
Peter	Jerusalem	God	Eucharist
Cross	Ash Wednesday	Wine	Last Supper
Pontius Pilate	Pentecost	Mary Magdalene	Judas
INRI	Gethsemane	Easter	Christianity
Apostles			