

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.

NEWSLETTER – 18th December 2022

This Week's Collect

God our Redeemer, you chose the Virgin Mary, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour. Fill us with your grace that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Fourth Sunday of Advent

All-powerful God, let the splendour of your glory rise in our hearts like the dawn, that the darkness of the night may be scattered and the coming of your only Son may reveal us as children of the light. 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.**

Minister's Message –

As we reach the fourth Sunday in Advent the excitement and anticipation (or for some, the dread) of Christmas grows. Some of you, like me, may have had the joy of attending Nativity plays or similar events which are always a wonderful way to prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus.

This Sunday the focus is traditionally on Mary and her wonderful willingness to be the Mother of our Lord.

Our "There is Room" theme is "all ages and genders". Mary was a young woman facing the possible prejudice of society, especially from those older than her. In many ways she challenged the pattern of her day where women were expected to obey men and submit to their authority. Mary's Song, the Magnificat, shows that whilst being humble, she was prepared to challenge the powerful - with God's help.

I hope that at St James' we will truly welcome people of all ages, accepting them as they are with unique gifts which may overturn our expectations and reveal something of Jesus to us.

God Bless Peter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER 2022	
Sunday 18th	10.30 a.m. Morning Communion & Christingle
Thursday 22nd	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Coffee morning
Saturday 24th	11.30 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion led by Revd. Peter Hughes
Sunday 25th	10.00 a.m. Christmas Day - Revd. Peter Hughes - All Age Worship * (no tea and coffee)
JANUARY 2023	
Sunday 1st	11 a.m. - All Age Café-Style Worship to welcome in the New Year with songs, prayers, and hot snacks.

New Year's Day Cafe Worship with Brunch at St James', Woolton

Doors open at 10.45 a.m. for refreshments. Worship begins at 11.15 a.m., for about 45 minutes. Everyone welcome. Advance notice for catering purposes appreciated but not essential.

Sunday Morning Tea and Coffee following worship:

We are pleased to offer this opportunity to chat together over a cuppa following worship on the Sunday mornings following All Age Worship and Holy Communion at morning services. This means there will be usually two Sundays in each month when we can meet and catch up on, renew friendships and welcome visitors.

But please see above for variations over the Christmas and New Year period.

Quiet Prayer Times are held on the **2nd Wednesday of every month, between 1.30 and 2.30 pm.** (See December date above).

Come and offer your personal and global concerns quietly to God. Light a candle or leave a prayer on the message board while you are here or leave a prayer request in advance in the prayer book in the porch or in the 'Say One for Me' box by the main notice board. We will pray for you.

Carol singing – come and join us – don't forget your Christmas attire!

Tuesday 20th December

4.00 – 4.45 p.m. Tesco
5.00 – 5.45 p.m. Sainsburys
5.50 – 6.35 p.m. Refreshments/chippy at St James'
6.45 p.m. Marie Curie (please bring a mask)

Speak to **Roy or Lynne Barker** for more details.

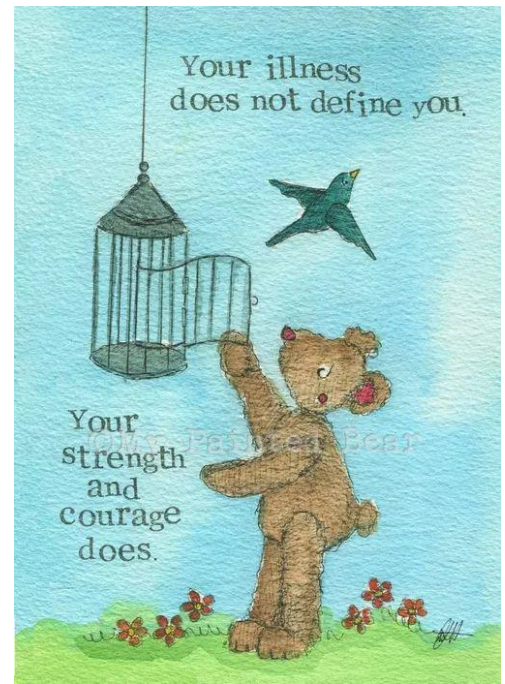
Advance Information

It seems that the Worship at Home Sheets which go out with this newsletter every week may be discontinued from the end of 2022. The content and style of the newsletter will also be reviewed at that time and may change quite noticeably.

However, we will make sure that everyone who currently receives a paper copy of the news notes will continue to do so, for as long as they wish.

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 Billy Lamb, Arthur Evans, Joan Greenall, Ken Kitchen, Ron Swindells, Hilary Hopkin, Ravi Massey, Heather Hughes, Lynne Barker, Jan, Steve and Hannah Underwood and Dave and Madge Tilly.

Clive Rigby

Clive Rigby, Local Preacher, and former Lay Pastor at Princes Park has sadly died. Clive was well loved at all the churches where he led worship and was a valued member of the staff team. He remained encouraging and positive throughout his illness and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.
Please keep Clive's wife Janet, his son, daughters, and grandchildren in your prayers at this sad time.

WORSHIPPING BY PHONE

This Sunday our preacher will be Revd. Peter Hughes

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:

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.

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.**

Pam



Church Flowers

Here at St. James', we're extremely lucky to have Jonquil who excels herself week in, week out by producing wonderful flower displays. She is extremely talented.

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 know 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.

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 Eva Stanford, who will be 9 on Monday 19th December. Love from Mum, Dad and all your family and friends

Happy 19th birthday to Faye McLaren on the 27th of December, hope it's amazing! Love from Mum, Dad and all your family and friends. 2m2c x



This will be the last newsletter of the year. We wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

This will also be the last newsletter that myself and Jayne will be producing. We have had the real pleasure over the last few years of sharing the news from St. James' and God's love.

Starting in the New year, Steve and Helen Miller will be taking over from us. I know that they will enjoy producing the newsletter as much as we did.

God bless Andrew and Jayne McLaren