

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 – 29th May 2022

This Week's Collect

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Lord of Hosts, purify our hearts that the King of Glory may come in, even your Son, Jesus our Redeemer; for he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

There are 2 ways in which you can enjoy our Sunday services; either attending St James' or via the telephone.

WORSHIP AT ST. JAMES'

Our preacher for this Sunday's Service of Holy Communion will be Revd. Peter Hughes

BY PHONE

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 Liz Hudson

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 Pam Bellis

Order of Worship:

- **Welcome and notices:**
- **Opening prayer**
- **Bible reading**
- **Lord's Prayer**
- **Talk or "mini-sermon"**
- **Prayers**
- **Grace and dismissal.**

Richard Reece

Revd. Peter Hughes



Minister's Message

From the day I am writing this (Ascension Day, 26th May) until Sunday 5th June we are in the period of time which for the last 6 years has been celebrated as a time to focus on the theme: "Thy Kingdom Come". Since its start in May 2016 God Christians from 172 countries have taken part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness

I hope that you will pray for 5 friends during and beyond this week. When we regularly focus our prayers on people who we know it makes a difference in our relationship with them and has a spiritual effect on their lives. I hope that we can use this short period of time to come closer to God and to those friends who share our lives but as yet may not share our faith in Jesus. May God's Kingdom come in our lives, our relationships, our Church and our world.

God Bless, Peter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ROYAL JUBILEE CELEBRATION ANNOUNCEMENT from the Mission Action Group: We are planning to create a 70-year timeline highlighting events across the Queen's reign.

We are particularly keen to collect any personal connections or memories of that period you may have, e.g., personal stories, memorabilia, photographs etc.

Please contact Lynne Barker or Kate Cook ***as soon as possible*** to let them know what you may be able to contribute. Precious items and photographs will be safely collected nearer the time.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Thursday Morning Coffee Mornings are now in full swing!

We are open from 9.30 until 11.30. Time for chat, sharing of news and meeting new people or just getting to know folk better is a great lift to the spirits. Please come along, think about inviting a friend or neighbour. A warm and sunny welcome awaits.

PLEASE NOTE – WE WILL NOT BE OPEN THIS Thursday Morning – June 2nd

BUT THERE WILL BE A JUBILEE COFFEE MORNING IN CHURCH, ON SATURDAY JUNE 11TH 2022 FROM 10-12 NOON

TEA, COFFEE, BISCUITS, TOASTED TEA-CAKES ETC.

WITH AN EXHIBITION OF ROYAL MEMORABILIA INCLUDING ITEMS LENT BY MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION.



COME AND JOIN THE FUN. EVERYONE WELCOME.



Sunday June 2nd, 2022, at 10.30 a.m.

An All-Age Service of Worship for Pentecost and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee planned and led by the Mission Action Group, Liz Hudson and the Worship Team.

Come and join us for this unique and historic event. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Bible Month 2022: Isaiah

During June we will be sharing in Bible Month at St James'. During Bible Month we focus on a particular book of the Bible.

This year it is Isaiah.

Services on these Sundays will be focused on Isaiah:

Sunday 12th June Preacher Peter Hughes

Sunday 19th June Preacher Robina Murdoch

Sunday 26th June Preacher Peter Hughes

Sunday 10th July Preacher Matthew Dyer

The Monday fellowship Group on 6th June & 4th July will also focus on Isaiah - as will the Wednesday House Group during their meetings. Steve Elliott has copies of the booklet that go with the Isaiah Bible Month. Please ask Steve if you would like a copy.

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 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.

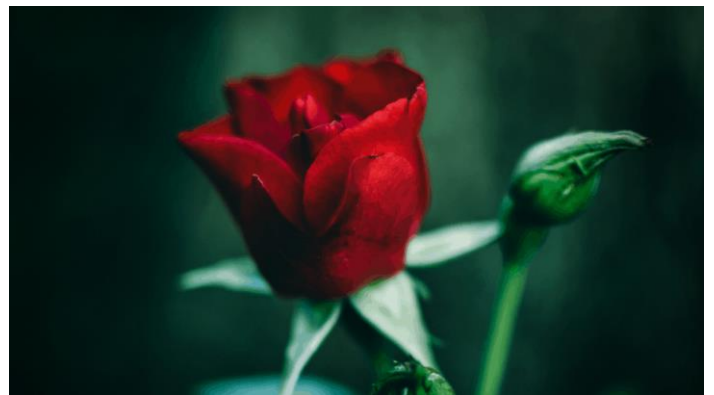
If you know someone who you feel would be blessed by receiving flowers from Church, please speak to **Jonquil** or a steward.

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



These flowers from last Sunday, were kindly donated by Ron Swindells in loving memory of his wife, Beryl, to remember her on her birthday.

This week's flowers have been provided by Jonquil and Dave Dickson to celebrate the 22nd birthday of their daughter, Aurora.



Bible Verses about Roses

The Rose is mentioned in the Bible 48 times and is translated from English to Hebrew as 'Chabatsteleth', which means 'red' and 'bulb'.

Jesus illustrates the rose for its rarity, beauty, and sweet, wonderful fragrance. Its fragrant flowers include a crown in the centre, just like Jesus Christ. He's the fairest of ten thousand, and the rose is a beauty over all flowers combined.



THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS AT ST JAMES'



Windows by Jones & Willis – Maker

Have you ever looked at our stained-glass windows and wondered who put them in? Here's a little history about the company who put in our stained-glass window.

THE GUARDIAN, MARCH 1, 1888.

HASTER PRESENTATIONS, 1889.
JONES & WILLIS
 Church Furnishers
 TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.
 Price Medals: London, 1851, 1862; Paris, 1876; Melbourne, 1888.

ACTUAL MANUFACTURERS OF ALL INTERIOR FITTINGS SUITABLE
 FOR PRESENTATION AT THE ABOVE FESTIVAL.
ART METAL WORKERS.
 LANTERNS, COMMUNION PLATE, ALTAR FURNITURE,
 BRASS, IRON, AND STEEL WORK.
WOOD AND STONE WORKERS.
 PULPITS, FOUNTAINS, BERNARDINI, ALTARS, CHURCH STALLS,
TEXTILE FABRICS AND EMBROIDERY.
 LACE, TISSUES, HANDKERCHIEFS, CARPETS, RUGS, STOLLS,
 AND BATHING, BATHING, &c.
SURPLICES and CASSOCKS.
 A LARGE STOCK ALWAYS KEPT.
STAINED GLASS and DECORATION.
 JONES and WILLIS are giving the benefit of their
 business their most careful attention, and invite their Clients
 to visit the Studio, where work can be seen in execution.
 PATTERNS FOR ALTARS, BERNARDINI, AND PULPITS,
 METAL DECORATIONS.
 CATALOGUE, DESIGNS, PATTERNS, AND ESTIMATES
 SENT ON APPLICATION.

LONDON: 43, GREAT RUSSELL-STREET, W.C. (opposite British Museum).
 (Works: Brompton.)
 BIRMINGHAM: 10, EAST-ED-STREET.
 (Works: Farnham-street.)
 LIVERPOOL: CORNHILL-STREET, BOLD-STREET.

The business, originally Newton, Jones & Willis, was active from the 1840s until the 1930s. and became one of the largest church furnishers in Britain.

This Birmingham company was established around 1847, who manufactured church furnishings. Jones & Willis were one of the biggest firms of this kind in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

They also opened premises in Liverpool and in London. Jones & Willis began to supply stained glass from about 1880, and some of their work in the 1920s and 30s was designed by the architect F.E. Howard.

Does anyone know why all of the windows were not all stained glassed in St. James'? If so, please let us know.

PRAYERS NEEDED

Dear Lord, it is my will to surrender to you everything that I am and everything that I'm striving to be.

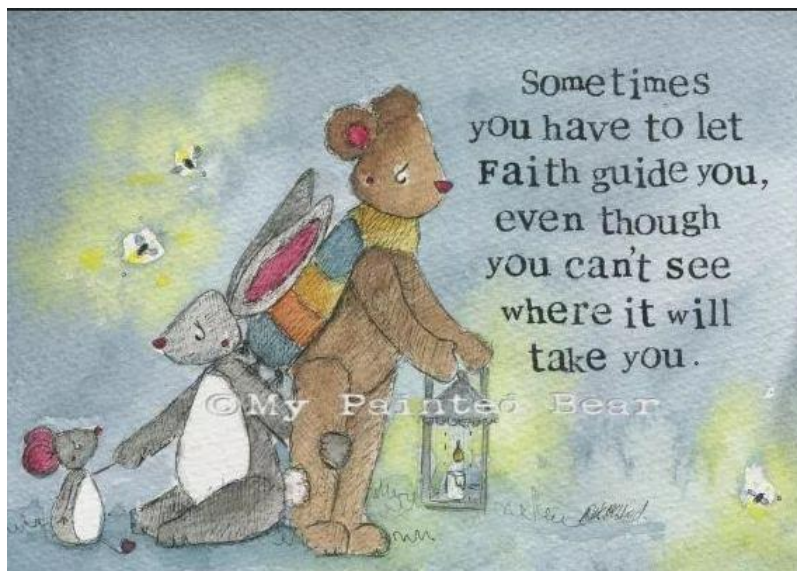
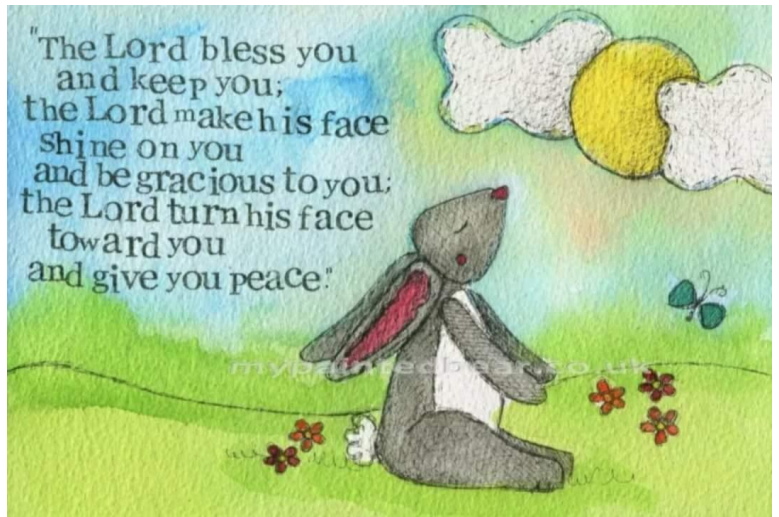
I open the deepest recesses of my heart and invite Your Holy Spirit to dwell inside of me. I offer you my life, heart, mind, body, soul, and spirit.

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.

Please remember those at St. James' who need our prayers this week, we pray for those close to our hearts, for those known to us and for those only you know of. For those due to undergo surgery and for those recovering.

We continue to pray for Ken Kitchen, John and Sylvia Pagan, Ian Taylor, Arthur Evans, Pat Fagan, Pam Draper, Alex and Doreen Banks, Ron Swindells, John Jeffers, Mike Hughes and Wendy Doig.

St James' Show in A Week is back...

We are excited to announce that Show in a Week this year we will be rehearsing & performing **Madagascar JR** . After two years, we are hopefully able to celebrate our tenth year of **Show**

In A Week and look forward to welcoming back returning families and welcoming new families too.

Please share the information and news with any families who you think may be interested in joining us

Dates for this year are Monday 8th to Sunday 14th August with the pre-show workshop and auditions being held on Sunday 26th June.

Please note all children must be able to attend all dates to be involved.

Please email **Amy** for a form or more information. amybates93@aol.co.uk



Benevolent Fund

The Benevolent Fund collection at the holy communion service on Sunday is for The Brain Charity. The Brain Charity. Their mission is to enable all those affected by neurological conditions to live longer, healthier, happier lives. 'We will fight together for an inclusive and just society: a world where stigma, hardship and isolation are replaced by compassion and understanding.'

There are more than 600 different conditions affecting the brain, spine or nervous system. Many are well-known, such as stroke, brain injury, dementia, cluster headaches and ADHD. There are also hundreds of conditions that only affect an unlucky few, such as trigeminal neuralgia, Alice in Wonderland Syndrome and Huntington's disease. The Brain Charity is the only charity in the UK to be here for every single one of them.

Each year, they provide practical help, emotional support, and social activities to thousands of people from all over the UK. They support anyone based in the UK who has a neurological condition, and their family, friends, and carers too.



The Brain Charity



Christian Aid week

Thank you to all those who supported Christian Aid week. To everyone who took part, donated, offered prayers and joined us for Star for a night another big thanks.

What a great night of fun, laughter and entertainment. We raised £ 300 from the envelopes in Church, £125 on the e-envelope and £682 at the Star for a night.

The total amount was **£1,107**. This is a fantastic amount and will make a significant difference to the community Christian Aid supports.

Kind regards Jane x

May we take this opportunity to thank all the hard work put in by both Jane and Tony Laverty for organising Star for a Night! It was a tremendous success.

PROGRAMMES YOU MAY ENJOY – Sunday 29th May

6:00 – 10:00 a.m. Radio Merseyside: Daybreak

Paul Beesley sits in. The Sunday magazine reflecting Merseyside's worlds of faith.

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

An Elim Pentecostal service from City Church Cardiff, exploring the theme of 'waiting', led by Dominic and Catherine De Souza, with reflections from Chris Cartwright.

13.15 BBC 1 Songs of Praise: Snowdonia

Sean Fletcher is in the stunning setting of Snowdonia National Park to discover the roots of Welsh Christianity and the stories that have shaped its rich and historic landscape.

SPRINGWATCH WITH MIKE HUGHES



Another wonderful photo taken by Mike Hughes. The wonderful Laburnum tunnel at Allerton Towers.

Praise be to God.

Historical background

Allerton Tower Park was part of the Manor of Allerton until 1849 when Hardman Earle acquired the estate and introduced the eponymous mansion based on a design by Harvey Lonsdale Elmes, the famed architect of St George's Hall. The house was of classic Italianate design with an attractive tower providing views across the surrounding countryside.

The estate was acquired by Liverpool Corporation in 1924, opening as a park three years later however sadly, by 1937 the Tower had become seriously affected by dry rot and was demolished.

The park today

The lodge, stables, former laundry and part of the orangery of Allerton Tower remain along with a partially walled garden adding seasonal interest to one of Liverpool's attractive former park estates in the Allerton-Woolton 'green wedge'.



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.



To **Aurora**

Happy 22nd Birthday for the 28th of May, many happy returns of your day congratulations enjoy much love Mum, Dad and family ❤️❤️❤️❌❌

Happy birthday to **Alan Smith** on 28th May, who will be 88.
Love all your family and friends.

Also, a happy birthday to **Paul Holt**, who celebrates his special day on Sunday 29th May.

NEW MEMBERS TO OUR ST. JAMES' FAMILY



As a small boy growing up in a village in Berkshire many years ago, I was taken to Sunday School at Scotland Hill Methodist church in Sandhurst. I can still remember the warmth and kindness of everyone there and heard about the love of Jesus for the first time. I remember how we used to sing a hymn which forever encapsulates this experience and I believe has set me up for life. The first verse goes like this (you probably know it).

***I love to hear the story
which angel voices tell,
how once the King of Glory
came down on earth to dwell.
I am both weak and sinful,
but this I surely know,
the Lord came down to save me,
because He loved me so.***

Life moved on as it always does. When I was twelve my parents became Anglicans, and so began for me a 56-year connection with the Church of England. In due course I studied for the Ministry and was ordained in 1977 and spent the next 17 years as a parish priest. For complex reasons, I decided to leave whilst in my forties. Leaving professional ministry is daunting, but God was completely present to me although I could hardly discern Him. I began a new role as a residential social worker amongst ex-offenders. I felt this was my niche, so I was able to go back to university and qualify as a probation officer. It was a promotion in this field of work that brought me north to Liverpool, and I retired in 2013 having spent 17 fabulous years in the probation service, most of it here in Merseyside.

I have developed a ministry in Christian communication. I've written a book about prayer, preached the occasional sermons, and been a podcaster.

I am also a musician – I play bassoon and sing. I'm married to Claire, and we have a 16-year-old son. In my spare time I run a charity that provides an 18-bed probation approved premises for women ex-offenders in Edge Lane – Adelaide House.

Why have I felt the need to return to my Methodist roots just now? There are many reasons, but chief amongst them is that I am fortunate to have many good friends in the LGBTQIA community, and it's become increasingly clear how much pain the current Anglican position causes amongst faithful gay, lesbian, trans and inter-sex people. So it was with huge joy that I learnt of Conference decision that Methodism should come alongside the URC and be fully affirming, along with the church locally here at St James. I'd also been lucky enough to meet Margaret Dee through our musical connection, so knew that I would find a big welcome here – as I have. So, I have returned to my Methodist roots, to be part of God's universal welcome, be part of a community that shows God's delight in all His human creation, just as we are. Thank you for welcoming me.

Paul Holt

Thank you for your welcome and hospitality, it's great to be getting to know you. I'm originally from an Irish Catholic family and went to Catholic schools until I went to university. There I became involved in the chaplaincy, and began working with Christians of other traditions, and people of other faiths, for the first time.

After university I became a primary school teacher, then got half way through training for priesthood, though I was not ordained.

I moved to south Liverpool almost 20 years ago, and have been involved with several churches, including Liverpool City Centre Methodist Church, better known as 'Somewhere Else', or the Bread Church. I was involved there from 2005 to 2011, and received much support from their former minister, Revd Dr Barbara Glasson. After Barbara left, my work situation changed, and I was no longer able to join them during the week for prayer and lunch after bread making. So I found a new spiritual home in St Bride's Liverpool, near the Anglican Cathedral, in 2011, as part of the Sunday morning community.

St Bride's was a church in decline until 2007 until it relaunched as a 'creative, progressive, inclusive' church, and piloted several 'fresh expressions' of church on Sunday evenings. One of these, called [Open Table](#), was inspired by the Methodist understanding that members and non-members are welcome to Communion. Open Table began in June 2008 as a group of six Christians from four different traditions who shared two things in common: the practice of Communion, that central act of hospitality of our faith, and their identities as lesbian, gay, bi and trans (LGBT) people who had not always been welcome and included in their church traditions. I was one of the founding members of the first Open Table community in Liverpool, attending its monthly Communion service. I later became part of its leadership team, which led me into the wider church community and leadership team at St Bride's.

Ten years ago this month, in May 2012, my husband Warren and I became [the first couple to register a civil partnership in a place of worship in the UK](#).

In 2015, other churches started asking about how they might also host an Open Table community, and we began to become a network, a dispersed community of communities. In the last seven years the network has grown from one community in Liverpool to six across Merseyside, and 18 more across England and Wales, hosted by churches in five different traditions, including Methodist and URC. I've also spoken to more than 100 other churches about how they might make their church more welcoming, inclusive and affirming for LGBT people.

In 2018 I began coordinating the Open Table Network part-time while working as a chaplain at several YMCA hostels across Merseyside. In 2020 the network received funding to enable me to take on the role of Coordinator full-time, and in 2021 we became a charity, with Barbara Glasson

as one of our Patrons, along with Revd Dr John Bradbury, General Secretary of the URC. Three of our eight trustees are also from the URC.

They are among the reasons I am here. I have been following the conversations in the URC, Methodist and Anglican churches around identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage for many years. I have been impressed by the grace, humility and integrity of these conversations in the URC and Methodist Churches - the Church of England has much to learn from you. When the Methodist Conference last summer voted in favour of allowing same-sex couple to marry in churches which support this, against so-called 'conversion therapy' which tries to change people's orientation and identity, and for using more inclusive language in its governance, I was impressed.

Since then, I have felt called to explore a new direction in my ministry within the Methodist Church - becoming a member here today is one small step in seeing where this new direction might lead.

My work for the Open Table Network often takes me away to other churches around the country at weekends, so I won't be here every Sunday, but I take comfort in knowing I have a new spiritual home to return to when I am in Liverpool. Thank you!

Kieran Bohan

Boys' and Girls' Brigade Jubilee Party

This week saw both Brigades celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. They were surprised to see that the party met with a Royal seal of approval. The Queen had a fantastic time too! A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the party. It was lovely to see so many family members turn up to enjoy the vast amount of cakes on offer.



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