

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 – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022**



### ***This Week's Collect***

#### **Love for Enemies**

27 "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.



God of infinite mercy, grant that we who know your pity may rejoice in your forgiveness and gladly forgive others, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

### ***Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time***

God of pardon and deliverance, your forgiving love, revealed in Christ, has brought to birth a new creation. Raise us from our sins to walk in your ways, that we may witness to your power which makes all things new, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***Minister's Message***

As I write this, we are awaiting the arrival of Storm Eunice. I hope and pray you will be safe and warm. As you know I lived for some years in Aberystwyth where there are often spectacular waves splashing over the Promenade during storms. There is a hymn tune called "Aberystwyth" which is used for the Charles Wesley hymn "Jesu, lover of my soul". The hymn has the memorable lines: "Hide me, O my Saviour, hide, Till the storm of life is past; safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last". It is wonderful to know that whatever storms of life blow over us, we are held safe in the loving arms of Jesus who watched over our bodies, minds and spirits. May you know the peace of Jesus this week, whatever storms you face.

**God Bless**

## **UPCOMING PREACHERS**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February** **Revd. Peter Hughes (St James')** **Liz Hudson (phone)**

### **Church Council Meeting**

**THIS TUESDAY 22nd February at 7.30pm**

Would all members of the Church Council please note the meeting this week and make every effort to attend. The meeting is also open to anyone who may wish to attend - you are very welcome to come, even though only Church Council Members can vote on major decisions.

### **Benevolent Fund**

This Sunday we are resuming the taking up of a collection for the Benevolent Fund as a part of our holy communion services.

Today's collection will be devoted to the Afghanistan Emergency Appeal. Please gift aid your contribution if you can. **Many thanks Revd. Peter Hughes**

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

The Monday Fellowship Group will meet tomorrow, Monday 14th February at 2.30pm in Church. We will be looking at Luke chapter 5 verse 17 to chapter 6 verse 11. All are welcome.

### **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.

### **Church Flowers**

We are hoping to resume the regular pattern of flowers in Church each Sunday.

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 will be drawing up a 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 are also hoping to resume delivering 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. We will also need some more volunteers to take flowers out to people.

### ***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**

### ***Thanksgiving for the Life of Gordon Salmon***

Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Gordon Salmon to be held on Wednesday February 23rd, 2022, at 2.30 pm. Invitation to everyone who knew Gordon and remembers him with love and affection. If you would like to attend this service and/or the refreshments in the church hall afterwards, please let Wendy or one of the Stewards know as soon as you can, to help with seating and catering arrangements. Please do not contact Christine or the family direct.

### ***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.

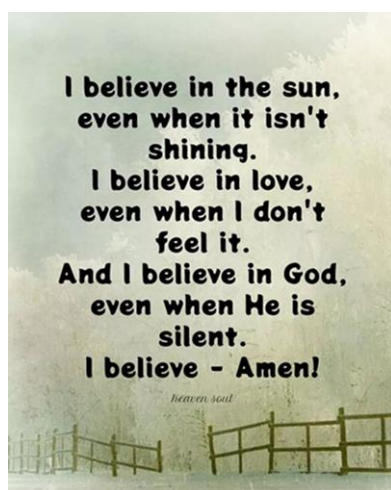
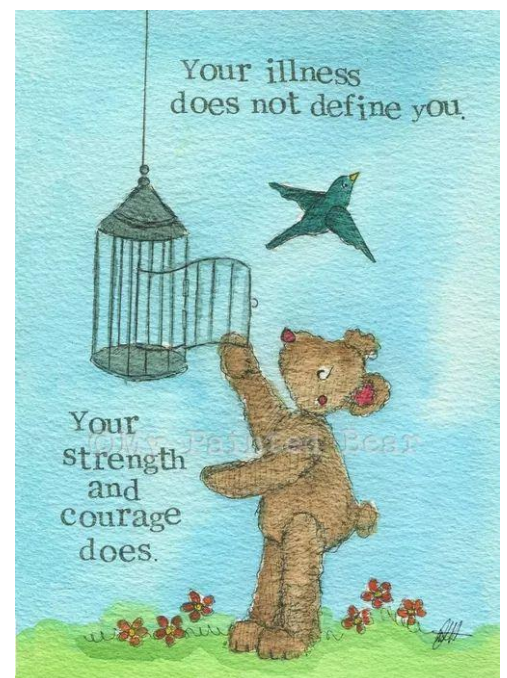
Open my heart to commune with You more deeply.

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 those who need our prayers at this time due to ill health, struggling with mental health and all difficult situations. We continue to pray for Ken Kitchen, John and Sylvia Pagan, Ian Taylor and Mike Hughes.

Please can we also pray for our dear Arthur Evans. He was discharged a few days ago but had a fall within hours and was taken back into Aintree, where he's not well at all.

Pray that he will be aware of the love of God surrounding and holding him close, and that he will be comfortable and free from pain.

Pray too for his family and friends especially Peter and Geraldine who had visited him recently.

### ***A message from Ian Taylor***

What an amazing church you are at St James. I want to thank you for your prayers and cards during the recent weeks as I underwent heart bypass surgery.

It's a slow road to recovery, but I have a wonderful nurse who is keeping me in order. Our spirits have been lifted by your prayers. We miss you all very much. **Blessings, Ian and Pauline.**

## Pictures from Peter

Someone who knew all about storms was St Paul. He tells the Corinthians that he was shipwrecked 3 times ( 2 Corinthians 11 verse 25). One of those times was when he was shipwrecked in Malta.

During February the Maltese celebrate the Feast of St Paul Shipwrecked. Anne and I were there for that festival 2 years ago.

This week's pictures include some views in Valletta during the Festival. Another one shows a statue of St. Paul (surrounded by green trees) at a place where he was reputed to have preached so powerfully that the people on the neighbouring island of Gozo were converted to Christianity! May we be enabled to show such grace in the storms of life that others are convinced of the love of Jesus.



## 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 – Revd. Peter Hughes**

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.

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

**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:

**The Host for this service is Graham Martin**

### Order of Worship:

- **Welcome and notices:**
- **Opening prayer** (Host)
- **Bible reading** (Pat Fagan: 1 Corinthians. 15: 35-38 and 42-50)
- **Lord’s Prayer** (Host)
- **Talk or “mini-sermon”** (Liz Hudson)
- **Prayers** (Kate Cook)
- **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**

*You may like to be still, light a candle, or listen to a calming piece of music as you prepare to worship.*

Holy God, as we come to worship you, help us to remember, that we belong to your church, your people, your world, we are not alone. Draw us together by your Spirit as we worship. **Amen.**

### **Hymn: In the wonder of creation (StF 110)**

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-DTvof3xiM>

In the wonder of creation, when all nature shares one song, showing God's imagination, all may see his love goes on.

Through the Holy Story spoken, of God's people called as one, gathered, exiled, saved and broken, this we learn: his love goes on.

In the Christ who died to save us; in God's risen, living Son; through the Spirit, whom he gave us; this we know: his love goes on.

In the telling of the gospel Matthew, Mark and Luke and John join the Church in testifying through the years: his love goes on.

From the perfect days of gladness when the sun has brightly shone, to the slog of working madness, all the while his love goes on.

Through the times of harsh temptation, seeking strength but finding none, in our human desperation, mercy comes: his love goes on.

In the joys of celebration, of new birth or victory won, in the deep peace of salvation, tell the world his love goes on!

Through the dark days of depression, when all sign of faith is gone, hope may find no fresh expression, but we trust his love goes on.

Through the hopes of our tomorrows, and the things we've left undone -- future joys and present sorrows -- through all time, his love goes on.

In our Kingdom-shaped endeavour when God's glorious work is done, to the promise of forever, God is here: his love goes on.

*Andrew T. Murphy (b. 1981)*

### **Let us pray together**

Holy God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, you are the source of life, and love, and hope. In love you sent your Son to live among your people, to enter the frailty of human flesh. Befriending the 'wrong' sort of people, Jesus, powerfully proclaimed your message, demonstrating the depth and breadth of your great love, love too strong to be bound and held by death, love that burst forth from a tomb with the rising sun.

Holy Spirit of God, ignite your spark of love within each of us that we may love and serve our neighbours, our communities and above all, you.

Holy God, we come also to ask your forgiveness... (Time of quiet prayer)

Our liberating God of love, hope and peace, forgives us in Christ, renews, inspires, and enables us through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 6: 27-38

### Time to Reflect

*'Do to others as you would have them do to you.'*

In our gospel reading today we find Jesus offering some typically challenging words. Jesus calls us, his followers, to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, to bless those who curse us, to offer the other cheek if someone strikes us. These words are challenging because they are in themselves demanding. They are also challenging because they can so easily be taken out of context and become unhelpful if applied literally and without nuance, especially where matters of violence or abuse are concerned.

In this passage, Christ reminds his followers that discipleship is costly - 'if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?' Perhaps this is a word of challenge for us in all aspects of our lives, in our homes, our communities, our churches. What might it mean to love, to withhold judgement, to pray for those whom we find difficult? We know that sometimes in our lives as disciples we will be asked to do things that make us uncomfortable. Christ continues to call us to stand against systems of injustice, prejudice and hurt rather than colluding with them.

This passage raises questions for our own reflections. How do we treat those we disagree with, struggle with, even, dare I say, hate? Are we too quick to judge others or make assumptions? Where do the bounds of our love cease? What steps might we take as disciples to continue to live out Jesus' words of love?

One of my favourite TV programmes is *Call the Midwife* and this beautiful quote appeared on an episode a few series ago. "And there was love, because love grows where nothing else is certain - changing its shape to fit the space required." As we reflect on the ever-challenging prophetic words of Jesus, I pray that our love may grow when nothing else is certain - always changing its shape to fit the space required. Jesus' love for us is never-ending. How might we reflect that love more fully in the world?

### A time of prayer

*Fill in the spaces within these prayers with your own words or times of silence.*

Holy God, we come to you today with our prayers:

We pray for our world...

Your kingdom come. Your will be done.

We pray for the Church...

Your kingdom come. Your will be done.

We pray for all those striving for truth and justice...

Your kingdom come. Your will be done.

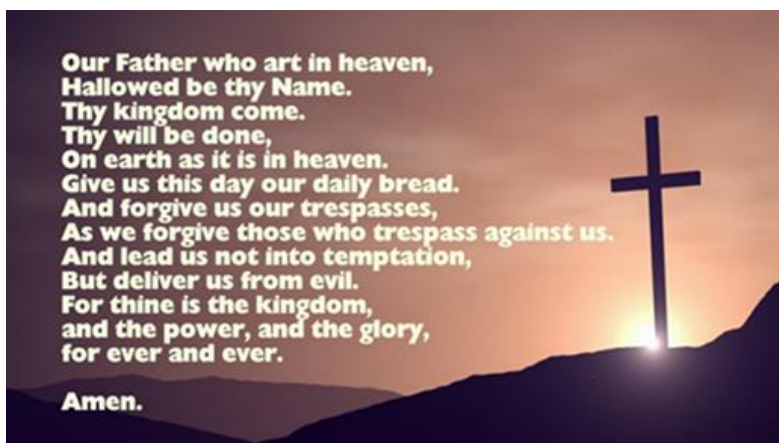
We pray for those we know and love who need our prayers...

Your kingdom come. Your will be done.

We offer all our prayers in and through the name of our living Lord Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father .....*

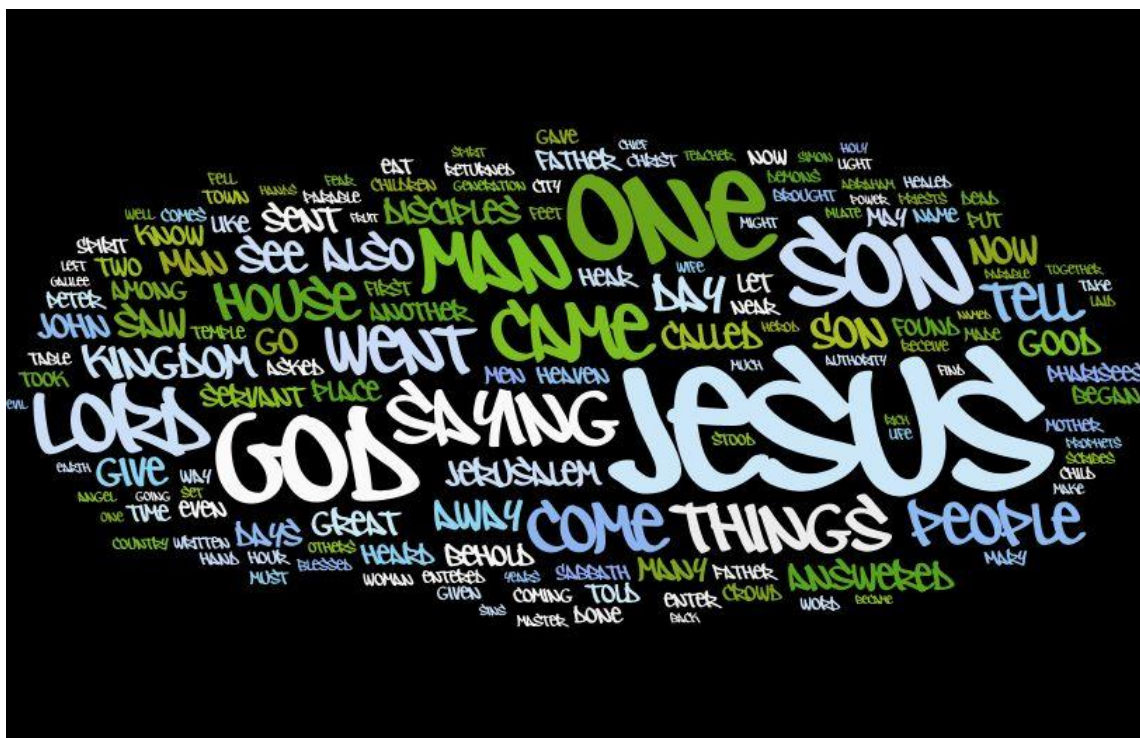


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfRSaFyfQP8>

‘The peace of the earth be with you,  
the peace of the heavens too;  
the peace of the rivers be with you,  
the peace of the oceans too.  
Deep peace falling over you.  
God’s peace growing in you.



27 'But I say to you that listen, **Love your enemies**, do good to those who hate you,  
28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.  
29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.  
30 Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again.  
31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.  
32 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.  
33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.  
34 If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.  
35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.  
36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.  
37 'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven;  
38 give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'



## 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.



### LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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

Across: 1 Bemoan, 4 Foreknew, 9 Equity, 10 Senators, 12 Detained, 13 Thrice, 15 Heir, 16 Revelation, 19 Messengers, 20 Stir, 23 Ribbon, 25 Tomorrow, 27 Assuaged, 28 Usurer, 29 Numbered, 30 Plates.

Down: 1 Breadth, 2 Mountains, 3 Attain, 5 Open, 6 Epaphras, 7 Naomi, 8 Western, 11 Revenge, 14 Reproof, 17 Interpret, 18 Desolate, 19 Murrain, 21 Rewards, 22 Morsel, 24 Bosom, 26 Here.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

### ST JAMES' DINGBATS – Last week's answers (working across)

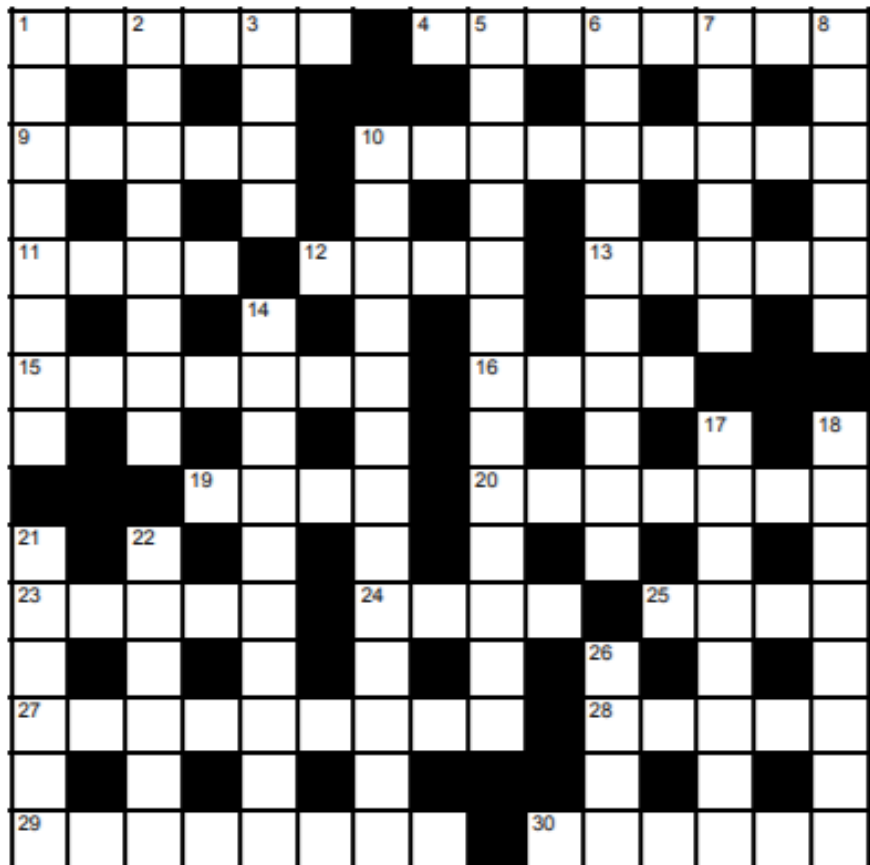

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|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Multitude of sins</li> <li>2. A soft answer turns away wrath</li> <li>3. Many are called but few are chosen</li> <li>4. Noel</li> <li>5. To everything there is a season</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Burning bush</li> <li>7. Daily bread</li> <li>8. The four corners of the Earth</li> <li>9. Philemon</li> </ol> |
|---|--|

## THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 Silenced (6)  
 4 Allocated (8)  
 9 Kingdoms or domains (5)  
 10 Babylonians (9)  
 11 Left behind when Peter and Andrew followed Jesus (4)  
 12 Lame man's entrance to the house where Jesus healed him (4)  
 13 Depart (5)  
 15 Stamens of a crocus (7)  
 16 New thought (4)  
 19 Unhearing (4)

- 20 Absconded (7)  
 23 Enticed (5)  
 24 The coldest of the ten plagues (4)  
 25 Insult rendering the giver in danger of hell fire (4)  
 27 First visitors to the baby Jesus (9)  
 28 Twinkle (5)  
 29 Sin (8)  
 30 Physical state after absence of food (6)



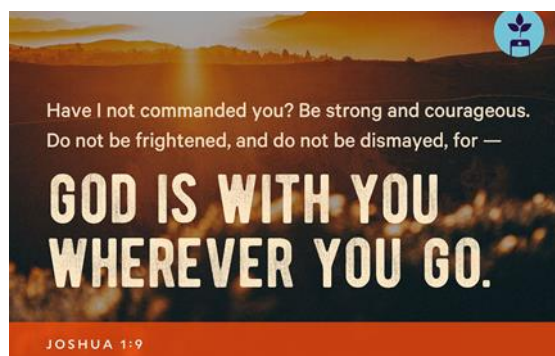
by Philologus

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### Down

- 1 Written on the Priest's headband (8)  
 2 To set apart for sacred use (8)  
 3 Wise men's domain (4)  
 5 Location where Jesus met the disciples for breakfast (3,2,8)  
 6 Greediness (10)  
 7 Cured of leprosy by washing in the River Jordan (6)  
 8 Crockery (6)

- 10 Worn by Jesus on the cross (5,2,6)  
 14 Amity between David and Jonathan (10)  
 17 Against (8)  
 18 Forbidden in the seventh commandment (8)  
 21 A place to pray (6)  
 22 Country visited by Paul (6)  
 26 Hairy Old Testament hunter (4)



## ***PROGRAMMES YOU MAY ENJOY – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February***

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

Kevin Duala sits in. The Sunday magazine reflecting Merseyside's worlds of faith.

### **8.10 a.m. Radio 4: Sunday Worship - God is our Refuge and Strength**

From Cornerstone Church Nottingham, a service reflecting on the courage and hope that Christians can have, even amidst trials, because God is a refuge and strength.

### **11.20 BBC 1 Songs of Praise: Edinburgh**

Claire McCollum goes on a Christian heritage tour of Edinburgh and discovers the faith of Scottish sporting hero Eric Liddell. With hymns and songs from across Scotland.



### **Psalm 34:4–5, 8**

I sought the LORD, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

### ***NEWSLETTER NOTICES FOR NEXT WEEK***



If you would like to share anything during lockdown 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)**