

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

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

MINISTER: Rev. 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 – 20th & 27th December 2020



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 for ever. 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Hello Everyone, the waiting is almost over and Christmas is only days away. I very much hope that you will be able to celebrate in some way, even though we have to work within what is safe this year. The Christmas message is just as true as it is every year. God loves us so much that he sent his Son to save us.

Many of us have been pleased to receive the Church Christmas Card and a knitted heart reminding us of God's love. We can give our hearts to Jesus as we show love to each other. These hearts have gone far and wide, including to the young people of our Church, our local Primary School and St James Pre School.

Thanks to everyone who has worked to make the cards and hearts and to deliver them.

May we truly know the heart-warming truth of God's love as we celebrate this Christmas.

God Bless, Peter.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

For those who are celebrating a birthday this week, remember, count not the candles...see the lights they give. Count not the years, but the life you live. Wishing you a wonderful time ahead. Everyone at St. James' wishes you a happy birthday and enjoy your day.

Happy 30th birthday Kieran for the 18th December. Enjoy much love always Mum, Dad, Frazer, Aurora, Tina & Humphrey too.

Happy 17th birthday to Faye McLaren on the 27th December, hope it's amazing! Love from Mum, Dad and all your family and friends.

Congratulations to Amy Bates on celebrating her birthday this week with receiving the keys to her own home, just in time for Christmas. May it bring with it lots of happy times.

Alan and Shelley would like to send their love and God's blessing this Christmas Time to all their friends at St. James'

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Please read the information below so that we are all aware how we can behave safely and protect each other.

We plan to hold our services as follows:

Sunday 20th December 10.30am

Sunday 3rd January 10.30am and then every Sunday (unless we need to stop again for safety reasons).

We will not be holding Services on Christmas Day or Sunday 27th December.

Once again, you will need to book in advance to attend a Service. This is because the capacity of our Church has been much reduced by the need to observe social distance.

You will need to book in each week. Booking will be by telephone only.

Please contact **Jayne McLaren** on **07859 062 692** or email jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk

These are the booking times:

For Sunday 3rd January book from 6pm on Wednesday 30th December

Places will be given on a first come first served basis.

If we can't book you in for the coming Sunday, we will put you on the list for the following Sunday.

If you wish to sit as part of a family group, please tell us at the time of booking so that we can arrange seats together for you. If you book and then find that you can't come to a Service, please let us know as it will create space for others to come.

Please don't "turn up" at Church if you haven't booked for that Service as it will be frustrating for you to have to go home.

It is essential that you do not come to Church if you are showing symptoms of Covid 19 or have recently come into contact with someone who is suspected of or confirmed to be infected.

For all of us, including those who show no symptoms, getting a test (if available) in the week before coming to Church will help us to know we are safe when we have contact with others.

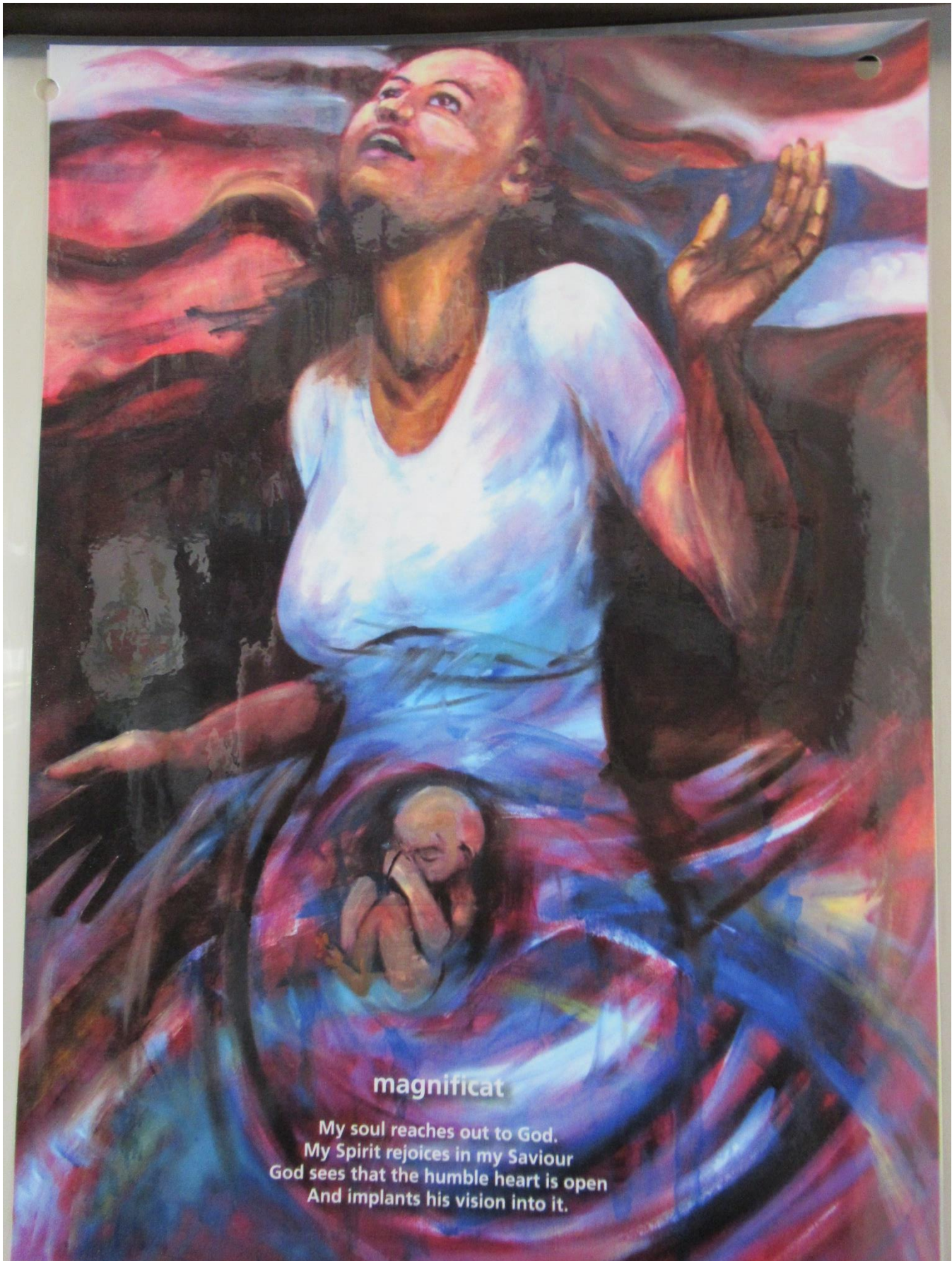
Please do come when it is safe for you to do so. If you are in a vulnerable group please think carefully about whether it is safe for you to attend.

We have prepared the Church by cleaning and other measures.



Picture from the Church Railings

Today's picture from our Church railings reminds us of Mary. Mary was happy to accept God's plan and become the Mother of Jesus. In her song of praise, the Magnificat, she speaks of God lifting up the humble. May we be lifted up this Christmas as we humbly welcome Jesus into our hearts anew.



Telephone Worship – 2.20 for 2.30pm on Sunday

Dial In Instructions: 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 invited to say your name and will then be admitted to the Worship Session.

Order of Worship:

- Welcome and notices:
- Opening prayer (Host)
- Bible reading (Pat Fagan) Genesis 1 v 1-5; John 1 vs 1-5; 14, 16-18
- Lord's Prayer (Host)
- Talk or “mini-sermon” (Liz Hudson) – Including Christingle
- Prayers (Dave Dickson)
- Grace and dismissal. (Host)

COST: - 0333 numbers cost the same to dial as ordinary UK numbers – if you have “free minutes” from your telephone supplier then there will be no cost.

Everyone is more than welcome to join us for "After Worship Coffee and Chat" on Zoom, Sunday's at noon.

There will also be a coffee and chat zoom session on NEW YEARS DAY at noon to wish each other a happy new year

(chocolate and tea drinkers also welcome!)

Jayne is hosting, and joining details are: By computer or tablet... Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81823449612?pwd=UHK5ZlhxYmVab3dxc1VlakNrYlJWUT09>

or use following via the Zoom "App":

Meeting ID: 818 2344 9612

Passcode: 828715

Or dial in from your phone to 0203 481 5240 or 0203 901 7895

Then enter Meeting ID and Passcode as above when asked

If you have a smart phone, iPad or PC you can join in, phone me for details.

Jayne McLaren 07859062692

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

B	A	T	T	L	E		S	P	E	A	R
O			W		N		E		V		I
R		W	I	L	D	E	R	N	E	S	S
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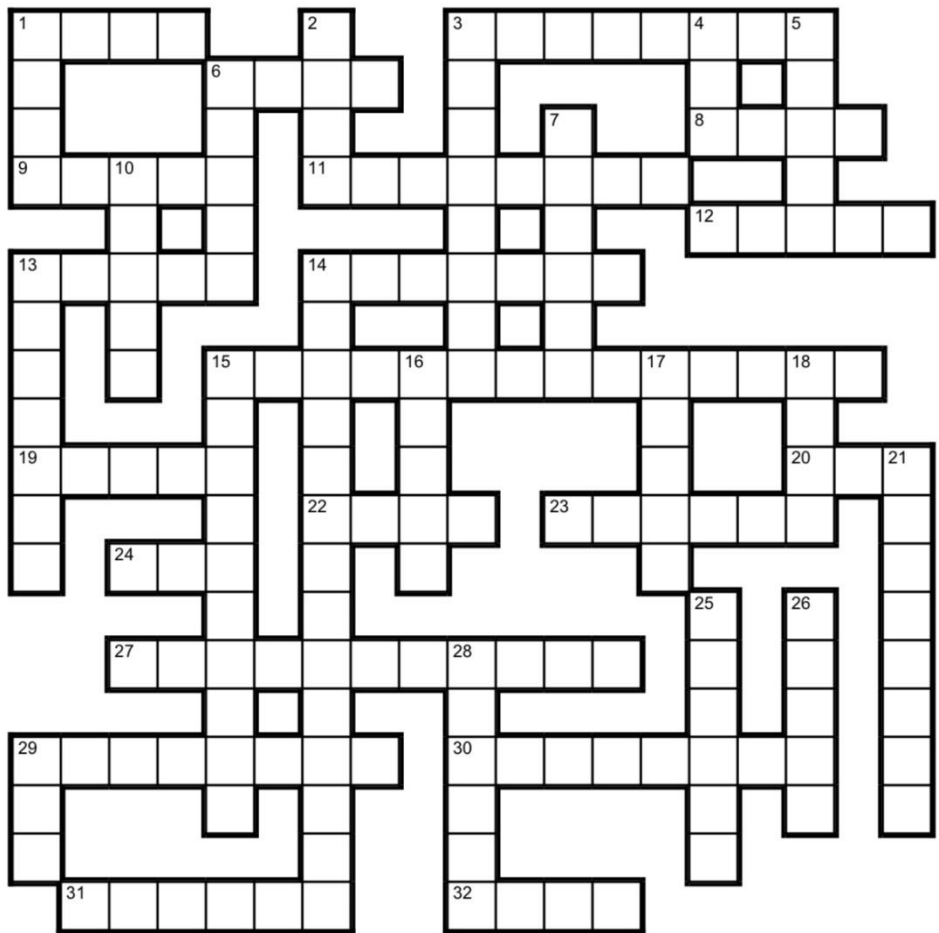
Across: 1 Battle, 4 Spear, 7 Wilderness, 8 Rain, 9 Eaten, 11 Witness, 13 Scatter, 15 Cured, 17 Rend, 18 Miraculous, 20 Lowly, 21 Tongue.

Down: 1 Borrow, 2 Twin, 3 Endless, 4 Serve, 5 Eve, 6 Risen, 7 Winter, 10 Tithes, 12 Scarlet, 14 Riddle, 15 Camel, 16 Decay, 17 Ruin, 19 Raw.

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Transportation for going over snow (4)
- 3 Mixture of seasoned ingredients (8)
- 6 Baby's bed (4)
- 8 Period from December 24th to January 6th (4)
- 9 Red-breasted bird (5)
- 11 Twelve days after Christmas (8)
- 12 Alcoholic drink normally served in a bowl (5)
- 13 Jolly (5)
- 14 News (7)
- 15 Goes with the turkey (9,5)
- 19 A type of tree used at Christmas (5)
- 20 The colour of Santa's hat (3)
- 22 ____ log; traditonally burned at Christmas (4)
- 23 Sanctified (6)
- 24 Cured leg of pork (3)
- 27 Christmas song (6,5)
- 29 Found under the Christmas tree? (8)
- 30 Grace (8)
- 31 Snow falls in this season (6)
- 32 Given at Christmas (4)



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Down

- 1 Bright celestial body (4)
- 2 Christmas tree type (4)
- 3 Take aback (8)
- 4 No room here! (3)
- 5 Elvish colour (5)
- 6 Sweets; flavoured sugar (5)
- 7 Container usually found in a stable (6)
- 10 Beginning of life (5)
- 13 Amazing event (7)
- 14 Written after Christmas? (5,3,6)
- 15 Formal events (10)
- 16 Ring out from churches (5)
- 17 Accompaniment for food (5)
- 18 Printed or written greeting (4)
- 21 Month in which Christmas falls (8)
- 25 Nature of God (6)
- 26 One was born in Bethlehem (5)
- 28 Sweetened milk drink, with eggs and alcohol (6)
- 29 Pastry dish (3)

CHRISTRMAS PRAYERS

Christmas Eve

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Christmas Day

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin. Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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.

PRAYERS

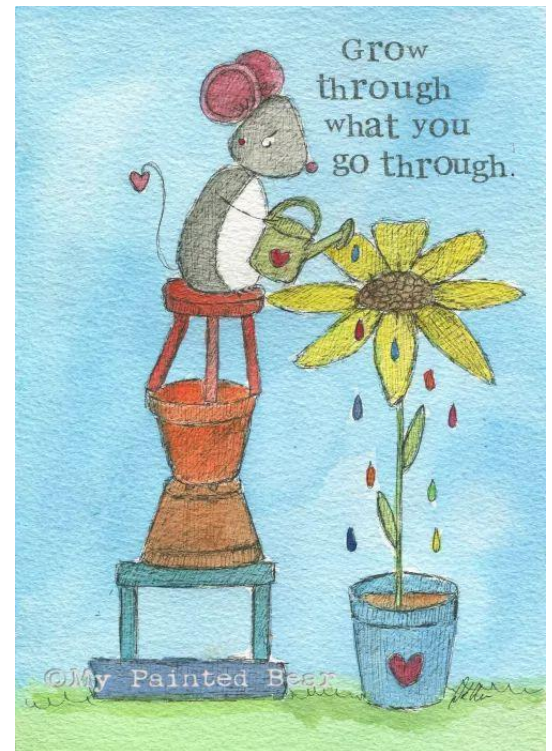
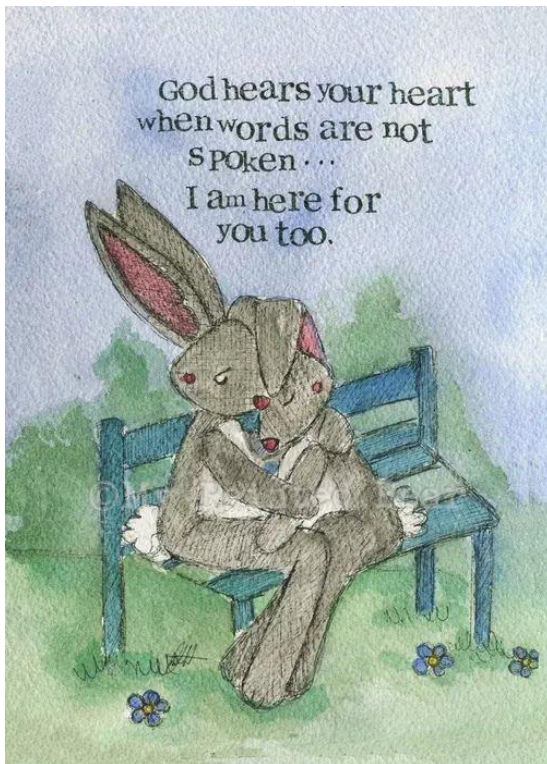
O' Holy Spirit please come like a dove Shield and protect now the one that I love.

Cover their wounds with Your grace feathered wings, Shield them from sorrow, breathe hope songs within.

Tend with Your goodness the pain that they bear Heal now their sickness with miracle care.

Carry them high far above till they see Your rainbow of promise, real hope lies ahead.

I love them so dearly, so help me to be All that you, Jesus, would give out through me.



We keep in our prayers over this Christmas time those who are struggling with the season and all it brings. For those who are unable to be with loved ones, whether they are no longer with us, in hospital or unable to be together at this time. We pray for your strength Lord to be with us and support us in our sadness and find comfort in our memories.

We pray for our Church Family.

For Jordan, Jill Gudgeon and family, for Jordan's future treatment.

For Alan Smith as he is in hospital undergoing tests.

For Doreen and Alex Banks as Doreen puts in place the next step of Alex's care.

For Doreen Parker as her fractured arm continues to heal.

For Teresa Melia who has shingles and has had a fall.

Lord, bless us and keep us, Amen.

Let there be bread shared among us



As many of you will know, I have been making bread for our friends at St James' whilst we can't be together. I have written an article about it which can be found at

<https://www.urcmerseysynod.org.uk/sharinglovethroughbaking.htm>

I don't have everybody's details so my apologies if you haven't received bread yet (and live in the local area!), but don't be shy, please do get in touch with me on 0151 421 1218 if you would like some fresh home-baked bread.



There is no charge, it's simply a sort of hug from the Barkers to you. You will recognise some of the smiling recipients and their bread in the photo.

Roy and Lynne Barker



Each delivery is accompanied by a little note based on one of St James' favourite worship songs *Let there be bread shared among us, let there be love*; there is always a generous sprinkling of love in home-baked bread.



BIBLE READING

Psalm 89 A maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite.

- ¹ I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.
- ² I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.
- ³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant,
- ⁴ 'I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.'"
- ¹⁹ Once you spoke in a vision, to your faithful people you said:
"I have bestowed strength on a warrior; I have raised up a young man from among the people.
- ²⁰ I have found David my servant; with my sacred oil I have anointed him.
- ²¹ My hand will sustain him; surely my arm will strengthen him.
- ²² The enemy will not get the better of him; the wicked will not oppress him.
- ²³ I will crush his foes before him and strike down his adversaries.
- ²⁴ My faithful love will be with him, and through my name his horn will be exalted.
- ²⁵ I will set his hand over the sea, his right hand over the rivers.
- ²⁶ He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Saviour.'
- ²⁷ And I will appoint him to be my firstborn, the most exalted of the kings of the earth.
- ²⁸ I will maintain my love to him forever, and my covenant with him will never fail.
- ²⁹ I will establish his line forever, his throne as long as the heavens endure.

NEWSLETTER NOTICES FOR THE WEEK AFTER NEXT



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

