

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 – 6th March 2022

This Week's Collect



When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Sunday in Lent

Gracious Father, your blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world. Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister's Message

Hello everyone, I hope all is well with you.

This Sunday is the First Sunday of Lent. It seems to come round more quickly each year! Our Lent Cross will be a focus in our Sunday Services and our Fellowship Groups will be meeting more regularly during Lent as we continue to explore Luke's Gospel - you would be welcome to join us on Monday afternoon (2.30pm in Church) or Wednesday Evening (7.30pm in Church).

As we travel with Jesus through the second half of his ministry may we be inspired and challenged. Maybe you are giving something up for Lent, but it is even more positive to take something on – perhaps something to read that will bring you closer to God or reaching out to another person. We can rejoice that this Lent should be very different to the last two when we have been in the midst of lockdowns and restrictions.

God Bless, Peter.

UPCOMING PREACHERS

Sunday 6th March Steve Elliott (St James') Revd. Peter Hughes (phone)

Pictures from Peter

Here are some pictures from Gozo, the sister island of Malta, taken during a Lenten visit there in 2018. The pictures show the Church of T'a Pinu which is a national place of pilgrimage.



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 – Steve Elliott

Either click on this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/5913455610?pwd=aVdZcFpaZVVaMDdsZ1BiR3lhRE1yQTo9>

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.

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:

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.**

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.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 6th March 10.30am Morning Worship

Monday 7th March 7.30pm Steward Elders

Wednesday 9th March to 6th April 7.30pm Lent Groups

Sunday 13th March 10.30am Morning Worship

Monday 14th March to 4th April 2.30pm Lent Groups

Sunday 20th March 10.30am Morning Worship

Monday 21st March 7pm Worship Consultation Meeting

Sunday 27th March 10.30am Morning Worship Mothering Sunday

Thursday 31st March 7.30pm Property & Finance Committee Meeting

Thursday 7th April 7.30pm Mission Action Group Meeting (open to all)



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.

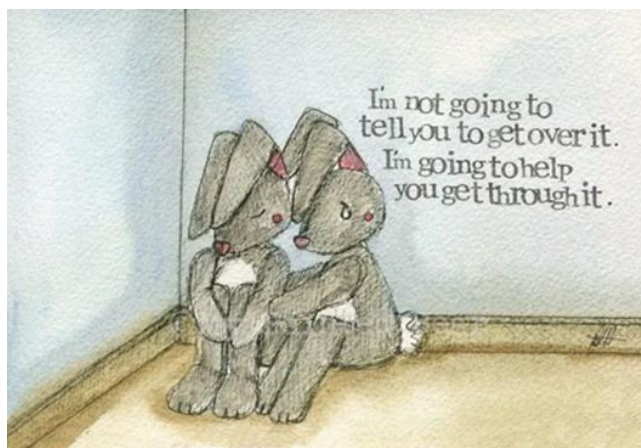
It's not to be missed! Save the date!

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 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 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 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.

Flower provider and delivery in March

Sunday date	Flower provider	Flower delivery
6th March	<i>Andrew & Jayne McLaren In memory of Angela Elliott.</i>	
13th March		
20th March		
27th March	<i>Pam Draper</i>	<i>Wendy Doig</i>



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.

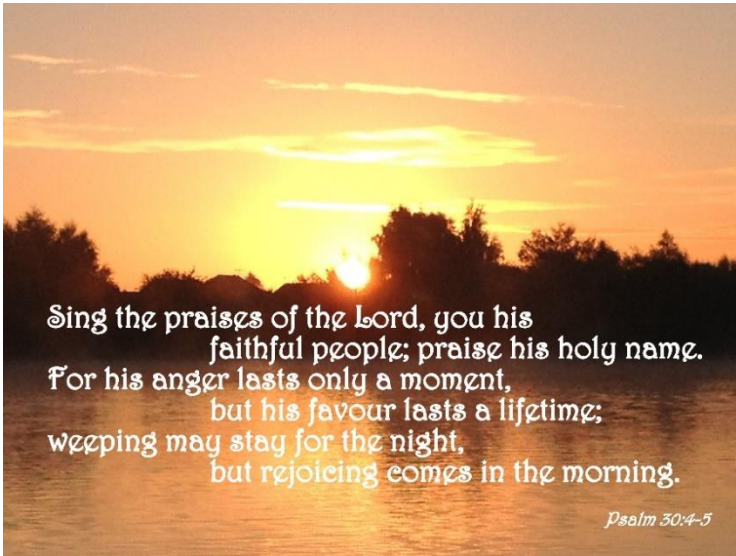
Many thanks for your anticipated support.

Pam Alexander

LENT 2022

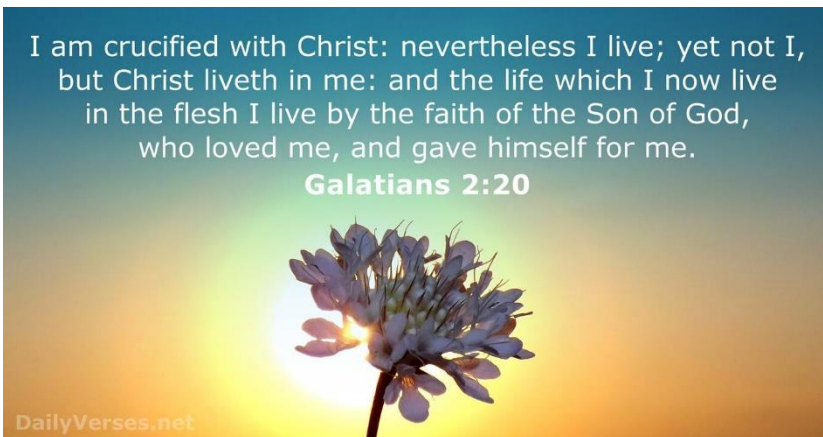
Each week we will be sharing a poem with you. Treat this as a Sabbath Day – read them slowly, soaking in the words and asking God to speak to you through them.

A new light arrives



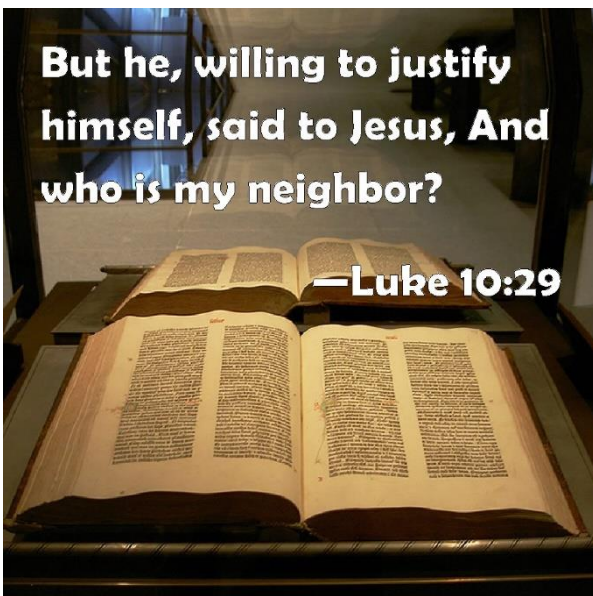
Buried in the night;
anxious thoughts crowded darkly
around me.
The last thing I expect
is a miracle;
the last thing I anticipate is God
riding the dawn.
But then,
like the only answer we ever need,
a new light arrives,
splashing grace-paint
on the worn-out canvas of my heart,
and all of a sudden
hope is running along the tops of the
trees
wild-eyed and rampant.

Monday 7th March **The difference**



*Christ our Lord, thank you for
the sacrifice you made so that
we are never apart from you.
We pray that people around the
world who are affected by
disasters will know this love too.
Amen.*

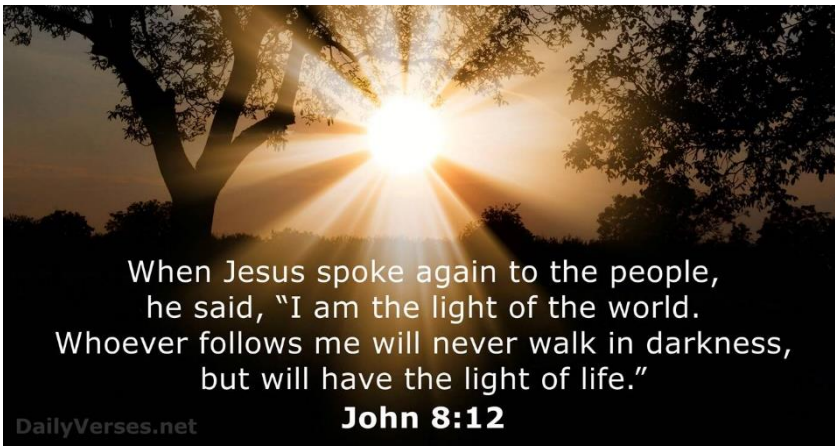
Tuesday 8th March **The faces of Christ**



*Christ over all, thank you for the diversity of
your creation. Help us to embrace and
celebrate it. And open our eyes so that we can
see you in all things. Amen.*



Wednesday 9th March **What the light illuminates**



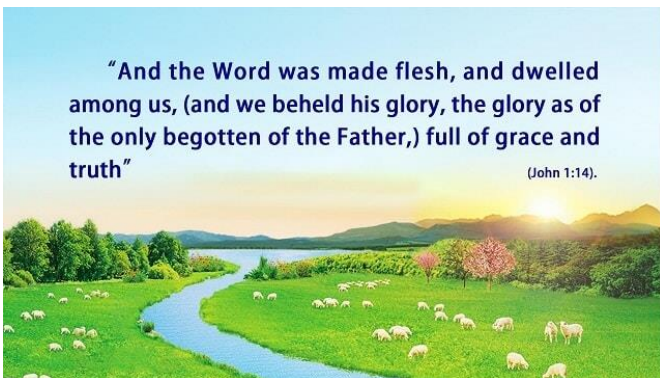
Today, as soon as possible, step outside and seek out that light. Even if it's cold and dreary (you can look through a window too), take some time to become aware of that gift of 'the light of life'. You are coated in light; notice how it makes you feel. Notice what the light illuminates in front of you. Now, say thank you to Jesus, the light of life itself.

Thursday 10th March **Union**



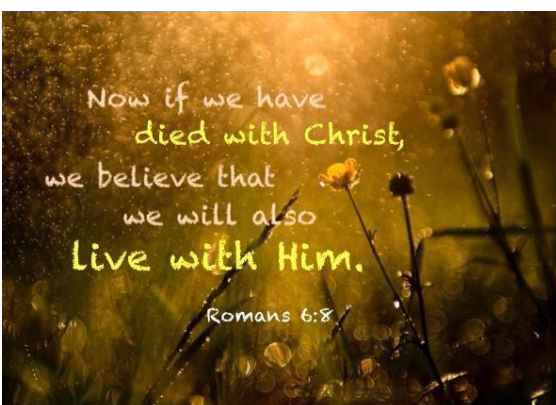
Lord, thank you for the ways in which you transform us. Help us to perceive and embrace the new things that you are doing in and around us. Please make us aware of that which you want to do through us, so that we can be a blessing to others. Amen.

Friday 11th March **The everyday divine**



Thank you, Jesus, for being both God and human. Help me to serve and love my local and global neighbours. May our governments create policies that show kindness and mercy towards the marginalised. Amen.

Saturday 12th March **Alive with Christ**



Christ Jesus, you are the Lord of my body. You who inhabited this same flesh, know what it is to grow and move and change, to be both healed and wounded, to feel alive. In this space in which I live, in each breath, each cell, each feeling nerve, in this gifted skin where your Spirit dwells with me, I carry the joy and power of your resurrected life along with the sorrow of advancing death, through which I will come to you. Wherever I go, you are with me, whatever the world has for me, there you are active

through my life, long past the end. Give me the gift of becoming more aware of you of, feeling your holy presence in the death and life of my body, of knowing hope beyond my experience – because you have looked out of eyes like mine and, gloriously wounded but forever alive, you call me on. Amen.

Opening Verses as a Prayer

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

1 You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, 2 will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.” 9 Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, 10 no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. 11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. 12 On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. 13 You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion, and the serpent you will trample under foot. 14 Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. 15 When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honour them. 16 With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation.

Prayer

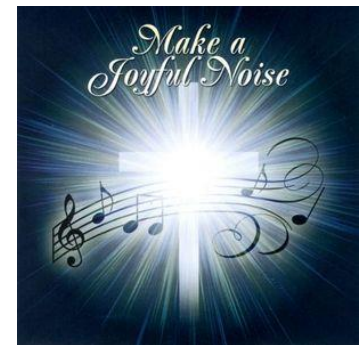
You, Lord are our refuge and fortress. We are safe with You. You look after us and make certain that no-one harms us. When we call out to you – you hear us. You will answer our deepest cries, rescue us from trouble, and will keep us safe our whole life through. Thank you for your loving kindness. **Amen.**

Hymn: StF 66, The Steadfast love of the Lord never ceases

<https://youtu.be/JYkGipgrqmg>

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning,
new every morning, great is thy faithfulness,
O Lord, great is thy faithfulness.

Edith McNeil



Let us pray together

Lord, you are steadfast in your love and infinite in your mercy, you welcome sinners and invite them to be your guests. We confess our sins, trusting in you to forgive us.
We have yielded to temptation and sinned: Lord, have mercy.
We have turned from our neighbours in their need: Christ, have mercy.
Almighty God has granted us mercy, forgiven our sins and kept us in eternal life for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ.
We accept His forgiveness. **Amen.**

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 4:1-13

Full of the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan, and for forty days he wandered in the wilderness, led by the Spirit, and tempted by the devil.



Time to Reflect

If something is said to be 'beyond a shadow of a doubt' the speaker is certain that it is true, with no possibility of ambiguity. Jesus has just been baptised by his cousin, John. The heavens have opened, and the Holy Spirit has descended on him like a dove. The Father's voice comes from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; in you I delight' (Luke 3:22). There is no doubt of the identity of Jesus! Beyond a shadow of a doubt indicates that something is not merely without doubt but without even the smallest, most insubstantial scrap of doubt. Have you ever been so sure of something and then someone casts a shadow of doubt over the surety? There are times when a person can be so convincing that we even begin to doubt in what was otherwise a strong belief. Jesus is full of the Holy Spirit, but the devil approaches him as He is wandering in the wilderness, hungry and tired. Just over a month before, Jesus heard His Father's voice. Now another voice was emerging out of the wilderness, trying to penetrate Jesus' core. Two times, the devil uses the phrase, 'If you are the Son of God?' Deep down, Jesus knows that He is the Son of God and because He knows that He is the Son of God, He would be able to turn the stone into bread and throw himself down from the parapet of the temple. But this is a power play situation. Jesus has the power, but it's not God whose asking Him to display His power. In fact, the glory would not go to God but to the tempter if Jesus succumbed. Jesus knows that temptation does not come from God, the Father (James 1:13-15). He stands firm and replies with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. The devil wants the glory and the worship. Jesus knows that worship belongs to God alone. I like that the Revised English Bible has Jesus referring to 'the Lord your God' when speaking with the devil. Because the devil's power is limited, and the Lord God is omnipresent (everywhere present), omniscient (all knowing), and omnipotent (all powerful).

There is a verse in Isaiah that I have always appreciated. It is this, "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him" (Is. 59:19b). As believers in Jesus Christ, we have an enemy, and he is the same enemy that confronted Jesus in the wilderness. But Jesus defeated the enemy with the words of Holy Scripture and finally the greater victor at the cross when Jesus lay down His life for you and me. I believe the standard lifted up against the devil was and is the perfect Son of God.

When you feel in danger of giving in to the lies of the devil, for he is called the 'father of lies' and he 'comes to steal, to kill, and to destroy.' When you feel in danger of giving in, stand firm and ask for wisdom from the Holy Spirit. In CS Lewis's, *The Screwtape Letters*, we find these words, "Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts..."

However, for the believer in Christ, we have a signpost. We have a standard and we have an example. Hebrews 2:18 in the New Living Translation puts it this way, "Since (Jesus) he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested." As yourself when you have been tempted or tested lately. How have you dealt with this? When you feel that you might doubt yourself or doubt the goodness of God, remember that without a shadow of a doubt, Jesus is the Son of God and Jesus set the example of how to reply in wisdom when doubts crowd in. Remember the devil was up to his old tricks' way back in the Garden of Eden, "Did God really say?" (Genesis 3.1a). The devil is all about tempting us to doubt. Doubt God. Doubt the Bible. Doubt Jesus. And if all else fails ... he wants you to doubt your faith.

Let us pray

Loving God, when I am tempted, fill me with Your Spirit. When I am doubting, assure me of Your love. When I am questioning, teach me Your truth. When life is hard and even when it's not, help me to seek you first to see what you want for me, one day at a time. **Amen.**

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer



Intercessions

Lord, we pray for this broken world that groans through years of abuse and bad stewardship. We know that we have not looked after the earth's resources properly. We have not cared for this planet. Lord forgive us. We worship you alone.

Lord, we pray for broken people. Those who have been hurt and damaged through no fault of their own. We pray for those who have suffered much at the hands of others. Lord forgive us. We worship you alone.

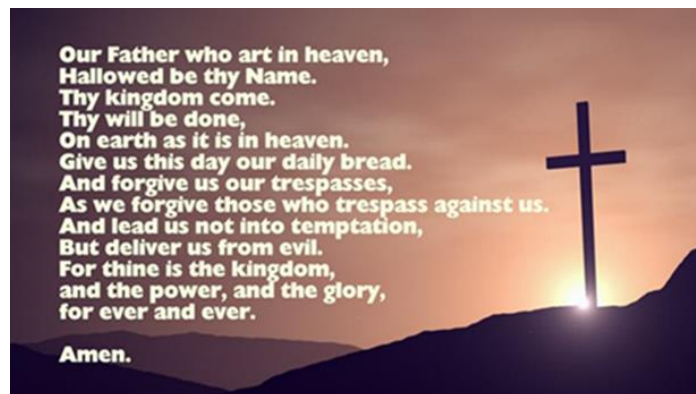
We recall the materialism and greed of our society. As individuals we have so much, yet we take it for granted. We even worship material things, technology, phones, televisions, and cars. Our worship extends to celebrities. Lord forgive us. We worship you alone.

We pray that we might show forth fruits that are worthy of you and your name. We pray that we will understand fully when you say that we do not live on bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Lord forgive us. We worship you alone.

We ask that your Holy Spirit work in our lives until we meet You face to face. We ask for your strength to resist evil and to follow the Spirit of Love. Lord forgive us. We worship you alone.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father



Hymn: Listen to

[Create in Me a Clean, Clean Heart w/ Lyrics \(Rend Collective\) - YouTube](#)



A prayer of blessing

We go in the assurance that Jesus has won the victory over the enemy. We go knowing that we do not live on bread alone, and all the glory goes to God. **Amen.**

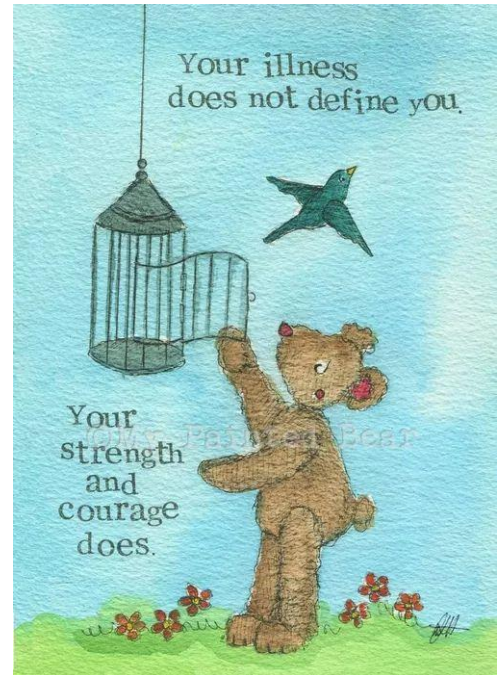
The Temptation of Jesus

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, **2** where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. **3** The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” **4** Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” **5** Then the devil[a] led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. **6** And the devil[b] said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. **7** If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” **8** Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” **9** Then the devil[c] took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, **10** for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ **11** and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” **12** Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” **13** When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.



PRAVERS

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 and their loved ones who are sometimes overlooked but need our prayers too.

We also pray for **Ken Kitchen, John and Sylvia Pagan, Ian Taylor, Arthur Evans, Helen and Fred Stanford, Pat Fagan, Pam Draper and Mike Hughes.**

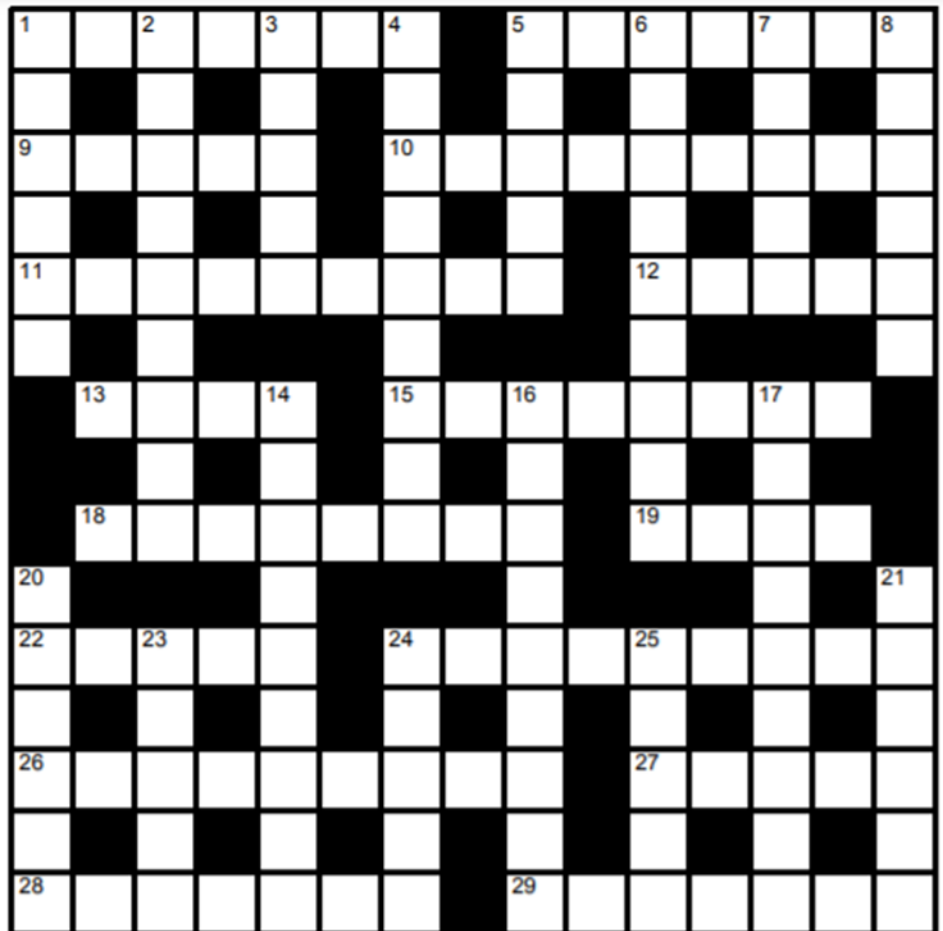
THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Wife of Isaac (7)
 5 Resplendencies (7)
 9 Stories (5)
 10 Judges, elders, tax collectors, for example (9)
 11 Catastrophies (9)
 12 Father of Ahiam (5)
 13 Hades (4)
 15 Eunuch from here was baptised by Philip (8)
 18 A sound of joy (8)
 19 Vessel (4)
 22 Up on high (5)
 24 First meal of the day (9)
 26 Hard (9)
 27 Solomon made a throne out of this (5)
 28 Furious (7)
 29 Decorated (7)

Down

- 1 Repair (6)
 2 David committed adultery with her (9)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

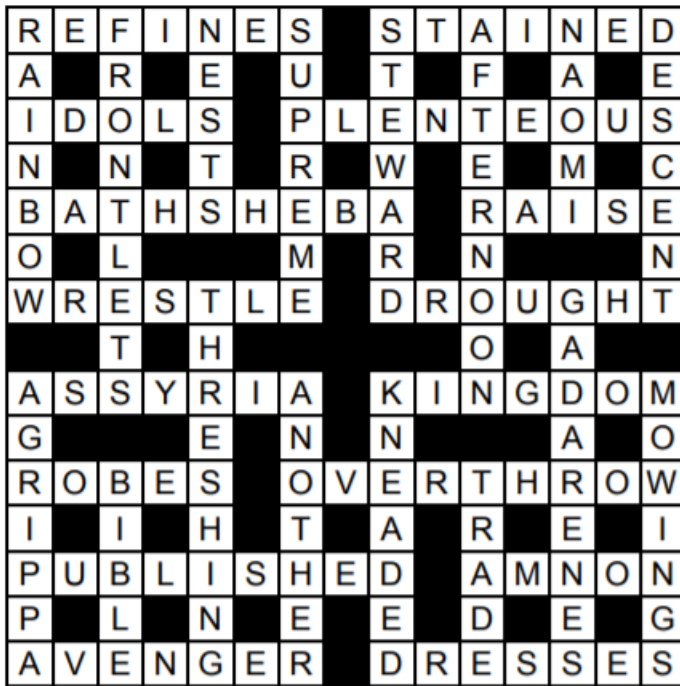
- 3 Barrels (5)
 4 Propitiation (9)
 5 Jesus was given three as a child (5)
 6 Times (9)
 7 Father of Esau and Jacob (5)
 8 Killed by Jael (6)
 14 Heavenly flash (9)
 16 Reaped (9)
 17 Copycats (9)
 20 Horse rider's seat (6)
 21 Remained (6)
 23 Tender (5)
 24 Tied (5)
 25 Abraham was going to kill his son with this (5)

TEACH ME YOUR WAY, LORD, THAT I MAY
 RELY ON YOUR FAITHFULNESS; GIVE ME AN
 UNDIVIDED HEART, THAT I MAY FEAR
 YOUR NAME.

(PSALM 86:11)

A Bible

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Across: 1 Refines, 5 Stained, 9 Idols, 10 Plenteous, 11 Bathsheba, 12 Raise, 13 Wrestle, 15 Drought, 17 Assyria, 19 Kingdom, 21 Robes, 23 Overthrow, 25 Published, 26 Amnon, 27 Avenger, 28 Dresses.

Down: 1 Rainbow, 2 Frontlets, 3 Nests, 4 Supreme, 5 Steward, 6 Afternoon, 7 Naomi, 8 Descent, 14 Threshing, 16 Gadarenes, 17 Agrippa, 18 Another, 19 Kneaded, 20 Mowings, 22 Bible, 24 Trade.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

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 6th birthday to Ella Ashelby (4th March). Many happy returns!

PROGRAMMES YOU MAY ENJOY – Sunday 6th March

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

Helen Jones brings you the Sunday magazine reflecting Merseyside's worlds of faith.

8.10 a.m. Radio 4: Sunday Worship – A Passion for Hospitality

Dr Krish Kandiah launches a Lent series from Bath Abbey, 'A Passion for Hospitality.' How can the disciplines of Lent benefit neighbour, friend and stranger alike?

13.15 BBC 1 Songs of Praise: Sunderland's Sacred Glass

Claire McCollum visits Sunderland to discover how the city's Christian links to the glassmaking industry stretch back over 1,300 years.

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