

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 – 29th November 2020



Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility: that, on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Sunday of Advent

Lord our God, keep us your servants alert and watchful as we await the return of Christ your Son, so that when he comes and knocks at the door he may find us vigilant in prayer, with songs of praise on our lips. 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, I hope you are well. It is Advent again! Even though we have had a long and difficult year, Advent seems to have come around quickly again. I trust and pray that however things have been and are for you, this will be a time when you know God's promise and the wonderful hope that Jesus brings to us. There is also the hope that we may be able to meet for worship at some points during Advent. Further details will be announced when we know what is safe and practical for us. God Bless, Peter.



CHURCH REOPENING

We plan to open on 13th & 20th December but not on Christmas Day or 27th December. This is subject to Circuit and Delegated Church Councils agreement. Details about the booking system will be in next week's newsletter.

Advent Zoom Fellowship Group

You are invited to share in this group, as a way of preparing spiritually during Advent. We hope to meet on Monday 30th November & Monday 14th December at 8.15pm. We will look at two chapters from Isaiah. If you would like to join us, please contact Peter Hughes for details.

MAG GROUP PAGE

Christmas Card Wishes 2020

Christmas!! Yes, I know I'm starting early but I know how organised many of you are!! Since I last wrote my Christmas Cakes are now baked and wrapped in foil maturing nicely for Christmas. Over a number of years at St James' we have had a "Christmas Wish Tree" in church where, instead of exchanging individual cards with all your church friends, instead we have invited you to write a Christmas message, hang it on the tree, and, if you wish, make a donation to give to the charity we had chosen.

Sadly, this year, due to our current circumstances, this will not be possible. However, we have come up with a plan for our church family to share Christmas messages with each other and we need your help. We are hoping to create a St James Family Christmas Card / booklet which will include everybody's greetings. We will then print copies of the card / booklet and distribute a copy to everyone. We feel that this will be a small way of connecting all our Church family members together at a time when we would normally be sharing and enjoying so many Christmas services and events together but will not be able to do so this year.

If you would like to have your greeting included, and you can send a photo too **if you wish**, you can either

- email me at pambellis@hotmail.com or
- you can write to me at 3 Park Cottages, Kinseys Lane, Ince, CH2 4NS. Please write your name clearly so that I know who the wishes are from,
- or you might like to give me a ring instead on 0151 356 7510 and just tell me your message

Also, **if you wish** to make a Christmas donation with your wish, (but this is not required) then this can be done

- by Bank Transfer (Ref. CHRISTMAS WISH) as you would your weekly collection OR
- by post – a cheque payable to St James Church (please write CHRISTMAS WISH on the back) - to (the Treasurer) Mr S Elliott, c/o St James Church, Church Road South, Liverpool, L25 7RJ

The most **important thing** is not the photos or the donations, but **YOUR Christmas wishes** to be shared with **YOUR** St James' Family, so get wishing everyone!!

Closing date – Sunday 13th December.

Many thanks.

Calling All St James' Heart Makers!



Firstly, can I say a HUGE THANK YOU! To everyone who has been knitting, sewing or crocheting hearts for this year's MAG Group Christmas activities.

If you have any finished hearts that are ready for collection you can:

- Leave them in Roy and Lynne's porch – 88 Vale Road, Woolton, L25 7RN
- email me to arrange for them to be collected pambellis@hotmail.com
- ring me to arrange for them to be collected 0151 356 7510 or 07811 406016

Many thanks, Pam Bellis.

ONLINE WORSHIP

Our Methodist Circuit: – Sermon by Rev Peter Hughes

You can dial in and listen to the service by calling 0151 317 9192 [Call charges apply]

Or watch by clicking: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrmGqAipfSRgi767l2srwrQ>
(Or copy and paste into your internet browser)

You can also now watch a **live service** from **Methodist Central Hall**, Westminster: Sundays 11am

This service is **streamed live** at <https://mchw.live/> (Along with a huge amount of other worship material) Or you can still watch on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MCHWevents>

AND FOR YOUNGER PEOPLE... Tash and Andrew, our Children's & Youth Workers have launched a new children & youth ministry YouTube channel this Sunday called 'The Way'.

Here is the link: please share and subscribe!!!! (They are brilliant!)

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCryJZotipDp-j_bxONkxiXA

Circuit Nativity Service - Sunday 6th December 10.20am for 10.30am on Zoom

A lot of effort has gone into organising the Circuit Nativity Service, and everyone is invited! Especially families with children!!

It will take place **Sunday 6th of December** at 10.30am (but please join at 10.20am so everyone can be safely admitted). As this is an online Zoom service, we need to know in advance who is coming. So, if you plan to attend PLEASE let us know - either by replying directly to this email, or sending a request for the joining details to: St James' Church

Communications: stjameswoolton@gmail.com or to our Senior Steward, Jayne McLaren at jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk Joining details will be sent on Friday 4th, and please not to be shared! - (If others want to come, they should ask directly). Hope to see you there.

You are also invited to join:

Telephone Worship – 2.20 for 2.30pm on Sunday – Preacher Rev John Lansley

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: [Please note we are starting to get visitors from other churches interested in setting up telephone worship]

- Welcome and opening prayer (Host)
- Bible reading (Jayne McLaren) Isaiah Chapter 7: vs10-14
- Lord's Prayer (Host)
- Talk or "mini-sermon" (Rev John Lansley)
- Prayers (Liz Hudson)
- 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.

There will be an "After Worship Coffee Chat" on Zoom this Sunday (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. Possible reward for anyone actually managing to dial in - feedback is that it is "possible but challenging"

God Bless Everyone,

Graham Martin. St. James' Communications Officer

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

FELLOWSHIP (BIBLE STUDY) GROUP

Dear All. Thank you to everyone who responded to the enquiry about meeting on Zoom for a Fellowship Group. From the answers I thought it would be worth trying two meetings with an Advent theme on Mondays 30th November & **14th December**.

They will run from 8.15pm for about an hour. The late start time is to include everyone who responded, some have family duties which prevent an earlier start. I know that Advent is a busy time, but probably not as busy this year as many of the activities we would normally doing won't be taking place.

EVERYONE is welcome to join us, whether you answered the original e mail or not. If anyone is not sure about Zoom, you could ask a family member who is in your bubble to help you. Also, Graham Martin has offered to help people over the phone. If you would like to join us please let me know and I will let you have Zoom details nearer the time. Depending on how things go we may continue with a group in the New Year. Best wishes, Peter.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS NOTICE

Our Christmas Gift Service will be one of many 'special' services which we have been unable to hold this year and all of these services for worship have been very much missed. However, the love and generosity of our members and friends when asked for help has, as ever, been truly amazing and received with so much gratitude by those receiving the help and support through financial gifts.

The Harvest food donations were taken to Garston Food Bank and Food vouchers were purchased and given to Centre 56 and to the two Women's and Children's centres which we support. We hope to be able to support this Christmas: Centre 56 – a day nursery and after school club for children living in poverty and who are living with or fleeing domestic abuse, two Refuge accommodation centres who support mothers and children fleeing from domestic violence and abuse, and the Action for Children centre at Ellergreen Community Centre, L11.

This year we will not be collecting or delivering toys or gifts but would ask you to consider making a donation in lieu, BEFORE THE 11TH DECEMBER, so that staff at these centres can buy the gifts according to the children they are looking after at this time and also supply gifts for the children to give to their mums. The staff know the circumstances of each child and family and therefore can purchase appropriate gifts in time for Christmas giving.

It may not be possible for everyone to include another family in their virtual Christmas shopping, but if you can, please send gift donations in one of the ways that is now becoming familiar i.e.

- by Bank Transfer (Ref. GIFT SERVICE) as you would your weekly collection – i.e.
- (HSBC - Sort Code 40-29-39 Account 11060856 St James Methodist /United Reform Church).
- OR by post – a cheque payable to St James Church (please write GIFT SERVICE on the back) – to (the Treasurer) Mr S Elliott, c/o St James Church, Church Road South, Liverpool, L25 7RJ
- OR leave an envelope with The Barkers at 88 Vale Road,
- OR ring Wendy on 07867 795179 to arrange a Covid-safe pick-up

Many thanks to you all for everything you do to help St James to support our community family.

ST. JAMES' RAILINGS

Our Church Railings now have pictures relating to Advent and Christmas.

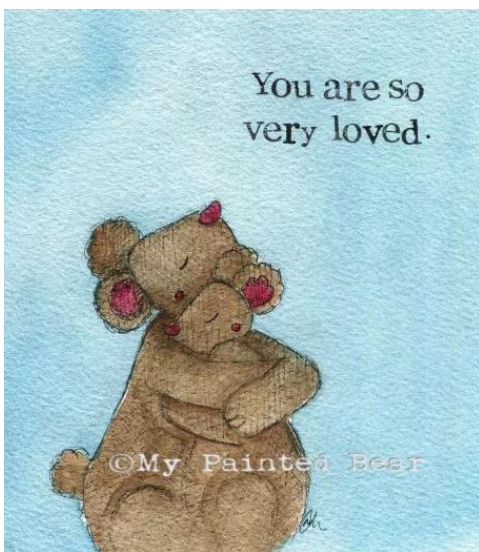
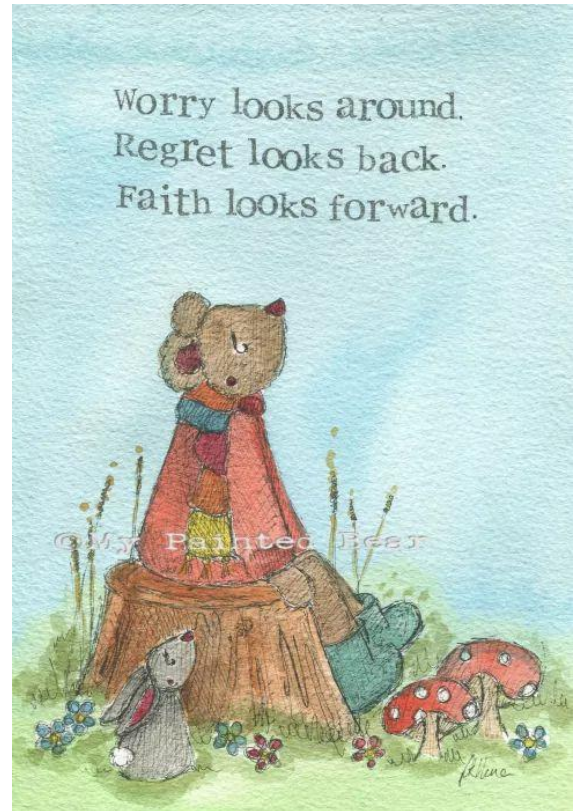
If it is safe and you are able, you might like to take an Advent Pilgrimage past the Church and use the pictures to guide you in thought and prayer.

In the first picture we ask that God will be with us through Advent, bringing us light, justice, joy and new birth.



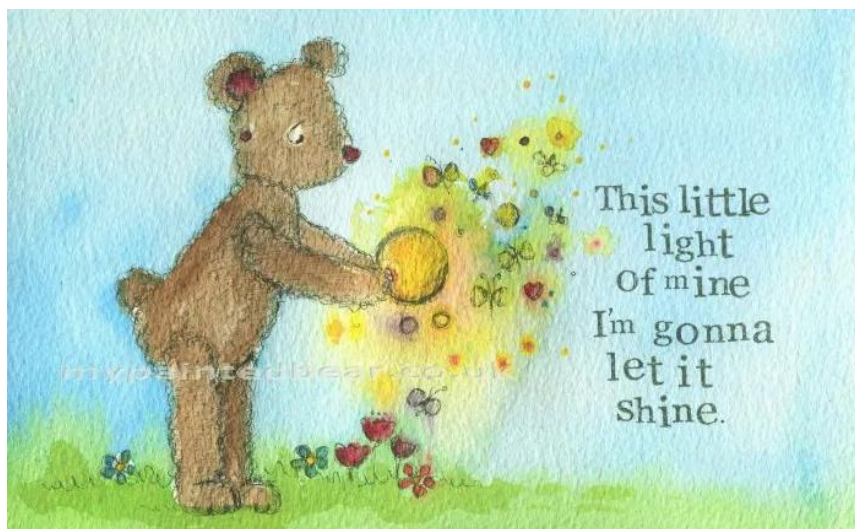
PRAYERS NEEDED

Dear God,
We confess our need for you today.
We need your healing and your grace.
We need hope restored.
We need to be reminded that you work on behalf of those you love, constantly, powerfully, completely.
Forgive us for trying to fix our situations all on our own.
Forgive us for running all different directions and spinning our wheels to find help, when true help and healing must be found first in You.
Forgive us for forgetting how much we need you, above everyone and everything else.
We come to you and bring you the places we are hurting. You see where no one else is able to fully see or understand.
You know the pain we've carried.
The burdens. The cares.
You know where we need to be set free.
We ask for your healing and grace to cover every broken place.
Every wound. Every heartache.



Thank you that you are Able to do far more than we could ever imagine.
Thank you for your Mighty Power that acts on behalf of your children.
We reach out to you and know that you are restoring and redeeming every place of difficulty, every battle, for your greater glory.
Thank you that you will never waste our pain and suffering.
We love you. We need you today.
In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Please keep Doreen Parker, Alex and Doreen Banks and Nan Street in your prayers. Also, those who are in need of our prayers at this time due to ill health, struggling with mental health and all difficult situations.



BIBLE READING

Isaiah 7:10-14 NIV

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz,

¹¹ "Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."

¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test."

¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also?"

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

B	A	P	T	I	S	M		J	U	S	T
R		E		M		A		O		E	
E	A	R		A	R	R	E	S	T	E	D
A		G		G		T		I		D	
T	R	A	D	E		H	E	A	D		W
H		M		S		A		H	A	I	R
E	H	U	D		P		E		U		I
D		M	A	R	A		L	I	G	H	T
	W		N		L		A		H		I
M	E	R	C	H	A	N	T		T	E	N
	L		E		C		E		E		G
G	L	A	D		E	N	D	U	R	E	S

Across: 1 Baptism, 5 Just, 7 Ear, 8 Arrested, 9 Trade, 10 Head, 13 Hair, 14 Ehud, 18 Mara, 19 Light, 21 Merchant, 22 Ten, 23 Glad, 24 Endures.

Down: 1 Breathed, 2 Pergamum, 3 Images, 4 Martha, 5 Josiah, 6 Seed, 11 Daughter, 12 Writings, 15 Danced, 16 Palace, 17 Elated, 20 Well.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

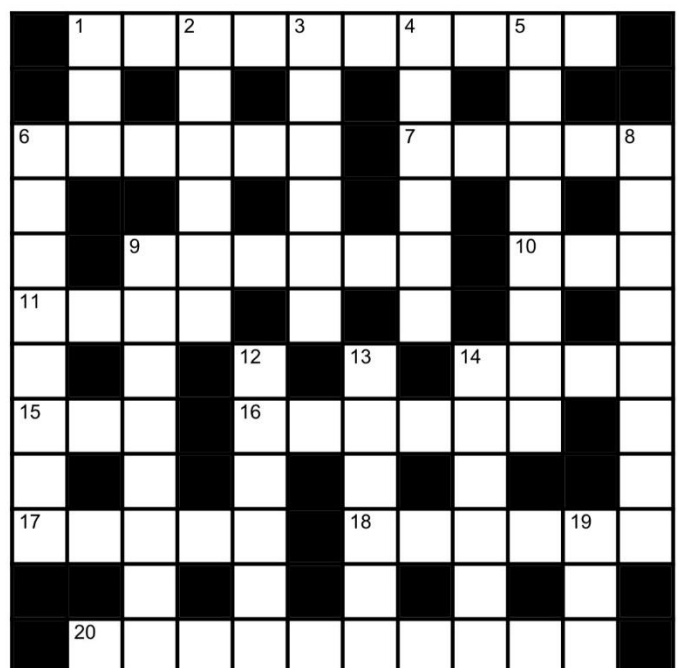
THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Shout of praise (10)
- 6 Direction of heaven (6)
- 7 Jericho survivor (5)
- 9 Banquets (6)
- 10 Abraham's nephew (3)
- 11 Wheat feature (4)
- 14 Run (4)
- 15 Frozen water (3)
- 16 One of David's worthies (6)
- 17 Complete confidence (5)
- 18 Place of Paul's stoning (6)
- 20 Cursed (10)

Down

- 1 Joint (3)
- 2 Served with fish (6)
- 3 Firstborn (6)
- 4 Turmoil (6)
- 5 Murderous queen (8)
- 6 Atheist's trait (8)
- 8 Pool by the Sheep Gate (8)
- 9 Ability to choose (8)
- 12 Wealth (6)
- 13 Where Eli died (6)
- 14 Price of redemption (6)
- 19 Ruddy (3)



by Philologus

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WINTER SNAPSHOTS

These lovely snaps were taken by Helen Miller and Jill Gudgeon, respectively. If you would like to share your winter photographs, please send them to Jayne and we will add them to our newsletter.



BIBLE QUIZ – THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

1) How did the celebration of Christmas begin?

- a. The apostle Paul initiated the celebration of Christ's birth in the Church at Jerusalem.
- b. The Church began Christmas as a feast day for Christ in 336 A.D.
- c. Pope Nicholas II began the Christmas tradition by giving gifts to children in 1059 A.D.
- d. English merchant Sir Joseph Prestwich convinced the people of London to give gifts to celebrate Christ's birthday.

2) When was the celebration of Christmas outlawed in England?

- a. The 10th century
- b. The 12th century
- c. The 17th century
- d. The 19th century

3) Who wrote the famous book, *A Christmas Carol*, that tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge?

- a. Lewis Carroll
- b. Charles Dickens
- c. William Shakespeare
- d. Upton Sinclair

4) Where did the modern Christmas tree originate?

- a. Canada
- b. Czechoslovakia
- c. Germany
- d. The United States

5) When was the Christmas carol, *Silent Night, Holy Night*, composed?

- a. 10th century
- b. 14th century
- c. 19th century
- d. 20th century



CHRISTMAS PJ APPEAL WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Merseyside Junior Mentoring Project believe that every child should go to bed on Christmas Eve in cosy **new** Pyjamas.

With your help and generosity we are hoping to reach as many families as possible.

We would love for donations of Brand New Pyjamas, Slippers & Dressing Gowns with sizes ranging between Newborn to Adults.

If you would prefer to give a donation to help with this appeal, please use the contact details below.

DROP OFF POINT: Ellergreen Community Centre, L11 2RY

COLLECTION AVAILABLE

Please donate on or before Friday 11th December 2020, all donations are greatly appreciated!

For more information:

Email: Renee.obrien@actionforchildren.org.uk

Eleanor.hacking@actionforchildren.org.uk





**STRAWBERRY
FIELD**

An Hour of Hygge

Friday, 8pm-9pm via Zoom

Join us for a women's hour of 'hygge' on Zoom. 'Hygge' is a Danish word, pronounced "hoo-ga". It's a lovely word which translates into English as 'cosiness'. Hygge is about creating a warm atmosphere and enjoying the simple things in life.

Join us for an evening of Hygge each Friday between 8pm-9pm on Zoom. Light some candles, get a cuppa and get yourself comfy. We will share conversations, stories, and the simple things in life; even though we cannot meet in person.

Zoom details: **840 2465 3338** Passcode: **656366**

The Salvation Army is a Church and registered Charity in England (214779), Wales (214779), Scotland (SC009359) and the Republic of Ireland (CHY6399)



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