

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

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

**MINISTER:** Rev. 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 – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021**



God our Redeemer, through Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in Baptism have made us one in him. Deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in Christ; for he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Eternal Father, at the Baptism of Jesus you revealed him to be your Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful to their calling as your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER**

Dear Friends,

This has been a challenging week for all of us, and particularly as a Church at St James'. I had been looking forward to January being the month when regular weekly services would begin again. However, the situation with the virus and the advice of both United Reformed and Methodist Churches makes it clear that it was right to cease worship for now and avoid the risks that gathering for worship might have involved. All the ways of keeping in touch and providing Worship resources will continue. Each Sunday we will be aiming to have a live Service on Zoom and we will also provide material to each Church member and friend via either email or in printed form, according to what each person prefers. Please let us know if you are not receiving these resources or would like to receive them in a different way. I know that we will help and support each other through this time. God Bless you all  
Peter.

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

Dear All,

Sadly, we have needed to close our church building again, so....

**This Sunday for the first time we are going to hold our morning service on "Zoom".** This will be our annual (Methodist) Covenant Service. Joining details are below, with instructions for first time users. The words for the service are attached and can be printed out if you wish. Joining details for our Telephone Worship (2.30pm in the afternoon) are underneath the Zoom morning worship details.

## **FOR First Time Zoom Users:**

**If you have never joined a Zoom Meeting before** - and you have received this email – it is very likely that you can join by clicking the link below.

(But please only join if your device - phone, computer or tablet – has a speaker, or you won't be able to hear the service)

For people to be able to see you your device (phone, computer, tablet) will need a camera (and you will need to click or tap the “camera” icon).

For people to be able to hear you your device (phone, computer, tablet) will need a microphone (and you will need to click or tap the “microphone” icon).

If this is the first time you are using Zoom you can practice before the service – if you click on the link and follow instructions you should get to a screen which says “The Host knows you are waiting and will let you in soon”. If you are just practicing leave/close the meeting at this stage, and you will know you can get to the service on Sunday...

## **St James Sunday Worship on Zoom: Opens at 10.45am, service starts at 11am (followed by “after worship” chat)**

**Preacher: Rev. Peter Hughes**

**Either** click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5913455610?pwd=R3RFV1RWU2NpKzJ1cTM1VFJ2STk4UT09>

**Or** if you have a Zoom “App” click “join meeting, then enter following details:

**Meeting ID:** 591 345 5610

**Passcode:** 6WbLRw

**Or on a smart phone** just tap one of the links below:

One tap mobile

+441314601196 5913455610# \*944121# United Kingdom

+442030512874 5913455610# \*944121# United Kingdom

Or if you cannot do any of the above and want to join in you can use your telephone to dial **any** of the following numbers, then enter the “Meeting ID” and “Passcode” numbers below when asked.

You will be able to hear the service. [From experience you may have to try 2 or 3 times to get in by phone. Do keep trying]

0131 460 1196 United Kingdom 0203 051 2874 United Kingdom 0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

0203 481 5240 United Kingdom 0203 901 7895 United Kingdom

**Meeting ID:** 591 345 5610

**Passcode:** 944121

In the afternoon we have:

**Telephone Worship –**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2.20 for 2.30pm**

## **Dial In Instructions: Between 2.20pm for 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 (Wendy Doig) Luke 2 vs 21-40
- Lord's Prayer (Host)
- Talk or “mini-sermon” (Liz Hudson)
- Prayers (Dave Dickson)
- Grace and dismissal. (Host)

Many thanks, and God Bless

**Graham Martin Communications Officer, St. James Church.**

[Call me on 0151-222-5832 or 07712-525239 if you have any questions.

## CHURCH CLOSURE

As you know, our Church has decided to close for worship for the moment. Please read the attached statements from representatives of the Methodist Church and the URC which support the decision which has been made. God Bless and stay safe. Peter

Guidance from the URC Synod Moderators on closing church buildings for public worship.

Since our last guidance was issued (October 2020), it is clear that the new variant of the virus has caused a rapid and alarming increase in Coronavirus infections.

In light of this, the Synod Moderators strongly recommend that churches should cease to meet for in-person worship and move exclusively to on-line or paper-based worship material.

You are reminded that the URC, through the Daily Devotions team, continue to produce Sunday services which can be listened to online and followed on paper, in addition to any local worship provision. Whilst it is vital (literally, life-giving) to maintain our habits of worship, this cannot depend on meeting in a church building.

The Synod Moderators remind the United Reformed Church of our previous advice: because something is allowed does not necessarily make it wise; it is better to do the right thing.

In The Message, Micah 6:8 is rendered in this way:

***“But he’s already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women.***

***It’s quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbour, be compassionate and loyal in your love”.***

No church wishes its building to be the site of a spreading event, which puts lives at risk.

Consequently, our advice is now that even when permitted in law during a time of National Lockdown and at the appropriate level 4 of restrictions, our churches should close for public worship.

Weddings/Civil Partnerships and Funerals may continue, subject to legislative restrictions.

This recommendation also permits the minimum number reasonably possible to meet in the church building to allow recording/broadcasting by internet or telephone an act of worship, provided that they continue to follow the regulations to maintain a Covid-secure building and as long as it doesn’t conflict with any legal restrictions against this when the law takes precedence over our advice.

If, despite this advice, an Elders’ Meeting (or equivalent) decides that they should continue to offer in-person worship within the relevant legislation, they must review their Risk Assessment and rigorously apply it in order to maximise the protection afforded to those who will attend.

A failure to do this may result in a breach of Health & Safety law. The Elders will need to record their decision and the reasons that lead them to that decision. They may well find that Ministers, Lay Preachers and others are not willing to lead worship in-person while the risk of infection is high, and the Elders must be ready to make alternative arrangements.

The refusal to lead in-person worship because of the risk to a Minister and others would not be considered a disciplinary issue by any Synod Moderator.

We also want to remind you that the work of the church will not cease even if we are not meeting for in-person worship. We encourage all churches to think about how to care for their community, and support people who may be dealing with mental health issues or facing domestic abuse, whilst minimising the risk of spreading Coronavirus. This period is also a missional opportunity.

We rejoice at the speed of development and deployment of the Covid vaccines. We pray that our current situation will be temporary although we cannot know for how much longer we will have to be very cautious. We believe that we will end 2021 in a much stronger place than we entered into this new year. Until that point, we urge churches to continue to show love to one another and treat others gently.

The URC Synod Moderators. 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021





### ***Picture from the Church Railings***

This week our Christmas themed pictures were taken down from the Church railings and a new set of pictures reflecting new year and new beginnings was put up. When it is safe, please take the time to walk past the Church and hall and look at the words and pictures. For those who can't do this we will be offering a picture each week. This week's picture with the words from the book of Hebrews feels very appropriate with the call for perseverance in the journey of faith. The battle with Covid 19 is proving to be a long one, so we pray that God will give us the gift of perseverance knowing that he is helping us to keep going in his strength.





## CHRISTMAS GIFT DONATIONS

Many, many thanks for your generous and caring donations towards our centres nominated for gifts during the Christmas season this year. As we could not hold our usual Gift Service, we asked for financial donations and are delighted to say in total we received £695.00. This total includes donations handed to me separately after the deadline for gifts to be given to our treasurer.

With this amazing amount we have been able to send:

£100 to Action for Children for their appeal to buy new pyjamas for children to wear on Christmas Eve. The local centre we support works from Ellergreen Community Centre in Norris Green.

£100 each was given to Centre 56 who provide Nursery and After School care for children in the Kirkdale area of Liverpool who are in home situations suffering from domestic and financial abuse. Two Refuge centres, one in the North of the City and one close to us in the South. These centres offer refuge to women and children fleeing from domestic abuse. The money was used to provide presents for the children in the centres at Christmas time.

£295 was given to The Whitechapel Centre who provide and support families in distress at the Belvidere Centre. There were 50 children in the centre over the Christmas period who will have benefitted from your help. We have received a letter of thanks from the Whitechapel centre thanking us for our help and support.

Thank you once again for your generosity and kindness which helped all these centres provide toys, toiletries, sweets! and many other goodies to the children in need.

Wendy Doig.

## PRAYERS

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

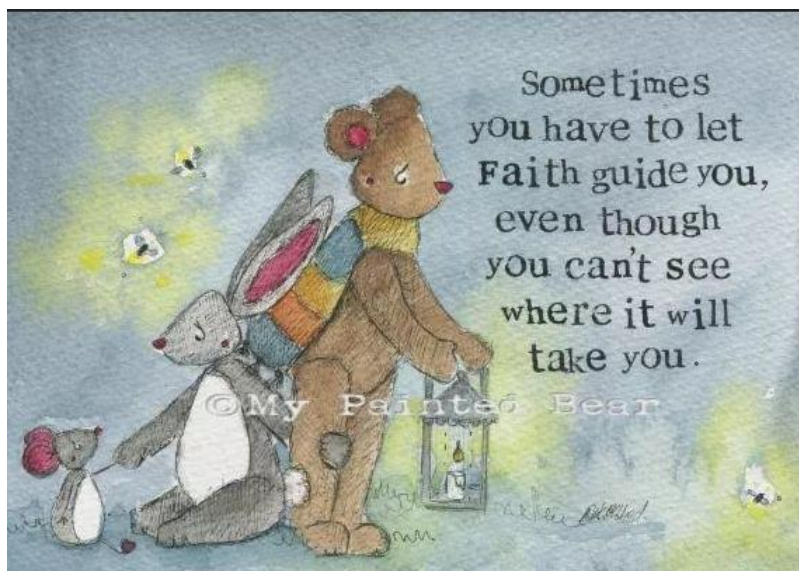
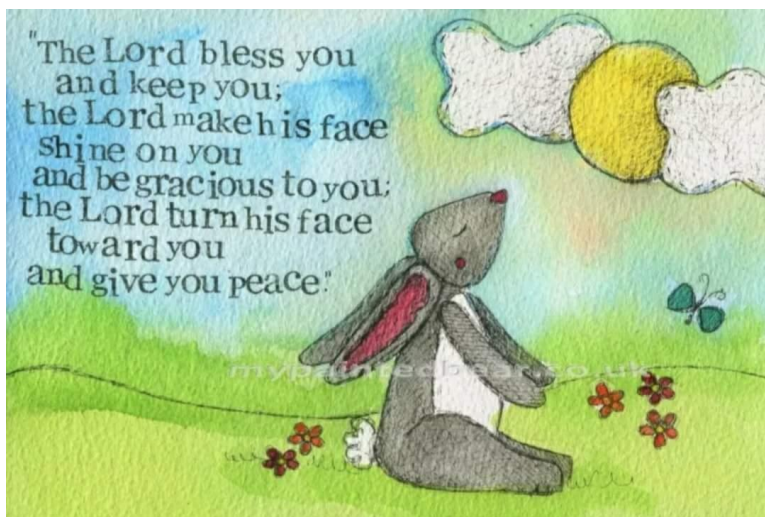
I open the deepest recesses of my heart and invite Your Holy Spirit to dwell inside of me. I offer you my life, heart, mind, body, soul, and spirit.

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.

## LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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

Across: 1 Antipas, 7 Ashore, 8 Curtain, 9 Deer, 10 Slew, 12 Pleased, 14 Debtors, 16 Half, 18 Fish, 20 Ishmael, 21 Lepers, 22 Emerald.

Down: 1 Accused, 2 Three, 3 Pray, 4 Sandals, 5 Shadrach, 6 Greece, 11 Watchmen, 12 Promise, 13 Defiled, 15 Exiles, 17 Abana, 19 Shoe.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

## THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 Orders (7)
- 5 Sidon's prophetic partner (4)
- 7 Be indebted to (3)
- 8 Follower of Christ (8)
- 9 Water walker (5)
- 10 Always (4)
- 13 Salty expanses (4)
- 14 Blemish (4)
- 18 Mount from where Moses saw the Promised Land (4)
- 19 Take (5)
- 21 Wife of Moses (8)
- 22 Bind (3)
- 23 Old harp (4)
- 24 Temporal (7)

### Down

- 1 Sprinkled with blood at the first Passover (8)
- 2 Genesis (8)
- 3 Persist (6)
- 4 Miriam, to Aaron (6)
- 5 Judah, Issachar, for example (6)
- 6 Reign (4)
- 11 Turned away (8)
- 12 Stringed instrument (8)
- 15 Place of worship (6)
- 16 Sadness (6)
- 17 Queen (6)
- 20 Feel for (4)

1		2		3		4		5		6	
7				8							
9						10			11		12
								13			
14				15		16		17			
								19			
		18									
		20									
21									22		
23						24					

by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

## 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](mailto:jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk)