

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

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 – 21st November 2021



This Week's Collect

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Sunday before Advent

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that they, bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be richly rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

UPCOMING PREACHERS

Sunday November 21st Revd. David Frudd (St James') Graham Martin (phone)

Sunday November 28th (St James') (phone)

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Hello Everyone,

Today is Christ the King Sunday - the Sunday before Advent. On this day we remember that after all he had achieved in his life death, resurrection and Ascension, Jesus took his place in heaven at God's right hand, from where he reigns as King. Jesus Christ our King understands the needs of his people and he rules with mercy and love. Our King prays for us and watches over us, leading our world to that time when his Kingdom will come to fulfilment. Next Sunday we will focus on the second coming of Jesus the King and start to remember the promises and preparation for Jesus's birth as a baby. May we know the reign of Jesus in our hearts and lives this week.

Pictures from Peter's Sabbatical

Today's pictures are from my 5th and final day of my walk in Wales. I set out on a slightly misty morning and passed through some extremely lonely countryside. At one stage I was barked at and chased by some annoying little dogs, but as I gave a mighty roar and ran towards them, they fled to a safe distance and barked in a somewhat deflated way!

At one stage I nearly got lost in a bog (possibly payback for shouting at the dogs) but then found the way again. I can't describe the feeling of happiness as I glimpsed my destination, Strata Florida Abbey, in the distance. As I arrived and sat in the grounds, I felt thankful for my journey and knew that God had been with me all the way. It was now warm and sunny.



WORSHIP AT ST. JAMES'

There are now 3 ways in which you can enjoy our Sunday morning services.

- By booking a place and 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. David Frudd

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.

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

This Sunday our preacher will be Graham Martin

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

- **Welcome and notices:**
- **Opening prayer (Host)**
- **Bible reading**
- **Lord’s Prayer**
- **Talk or mini-sermon** **Graham Martin**
- **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

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT ALL THESE EVENTS

Please put them in your diary and come and join the fun and fellowship.

Saturday 20th November –Autumn Fayre and Gift Day (see below)

Saturday December 11th – Roy Barker and Friends Christmas Sing-along; time tbc.

St James Autumn Fayre and Gift Day on Saturday 20th November 2021

This will be a slightly smaller event than our normal Christmas Fair but we hope it will be a time for fellowship and we will still have all your favourites including

- A guest appearance from **Father Christmas in his Grotto** plus the chance to have a photo taken with him
- **Plant stall** – Do you have any house plants, garden plants or shrubs either cuttings or mature plants, potted bulbs like hyacinth or crocus that you are able to donate to sell at the fayre?
- **Fancy goods and gifts** – do you have any new or “as new” unwanted gifts or items that we can sell at the fayre?
- **Home-made cakes, biscuits, sweets and preserves** – have you been busy making, jams, marmalade or chutneys and could spare a few jars for us to sell at the fayre? Home-made cakes and biscuits will be able to be delivered the evening before or on the morning.
- **Fund raising mugs to order** – more details to follow
- **Raffles**
- **Light refreshments**
- **Colouring activities and competition for the children**

If you have any items that we can sell please contact Wendy Doig, Liz Hudson or Pam Bellis and we can arrange collection if needed or Roy and Lynne Barker have kindly offered their porch as a drop off point for any items at 88 Vale Road. Also offers of help in setting up or helping on the day, even for a short while, would be much appreciated.

We realise that not everyone will feel they are in a position to come on the day, so if you would prefer to donate either by cash, cheque, or bank transfer, this would also be gratefully received, if you need further details, please speak to the Treasurer Steve Elliott.

Thank You for your help and support.

Winter Fayre - Saturday 20th November 10:00am - 1:00pm

Help setting up from 2pm Friday - if you can help with setting up tables, chairs etc, the hall will be open from 2pm, please come along

Gifts of items for the stalls - please drop off any items for the stalls at the church hall any time from 2pm on Friday 19th. If you need any items collecting from you, please contact Wendy Doig, Liz Hudson or Pam Bellis

Christmas baubles

We asked for your help a few weeks ago to knit, crochet or sew Christmas baubles for this year's planned Christmas experience. As we continue our planning it would be helpful to know how many have been made or are in the process of being made so far, so if you get a spare minute, perhaps you could let me know? There is no panic, and plenty of time left to carry on making them too!

Thank you to everyone who has been busy making Christmas baubles. Would you please bring them to church by 28th November or if you need them picking up, please give me a call and I will arrange that for you.

Thanks Pam Bellis

Christmas Services

Advent Sunday: November 28th, 2021 – dedication of donations in lieu of toys and gifts for our Christmas Charities at 10.30 a.m.

Sunday, December 12th, 2021, CHRISTINGLE SERVICE, (all age worship) at 10.30 a.m.

Sunday December 19th Morning Service with
Holy Communion at 10.30am AND
Carols by Candlelight at 4pm

Friday December 24th, 2021, Christmas Eve
Communion at 11.30 pm

All the above services will be led by Revd Peter
Hughes

Christmas Day - Morning Worship led by Andrew
Gillespie at 10 a.m.

NO SERVICE on Sunday December 26th, 2021.



TOYS AND GIFTS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS CHARITIES

On checking with the Charities, we traditionally support at this time of year, e.g., Centre 56, the Women's Refuge and the Action For Children Day Centre, they have respectfully suggested that they would find **cash donations** more practical than actual toys, sweets etc at this time. This helps us a little too, as we are not asking people to go to the shops specially for this purpose.

So, as last year, we will gratefully receive financial gifts either in the gift boxes available at church, OR through the bank (referencing your payment 'Gift Service') OR direct to our Treasurer, Steve Elliott via the Church Hall letter box or 84 Woolacombe Rd, (again marking any cheques 'Gift Service' on the back).

Because the charities will need to do their own shopping and gift wrapping, the dedication of the donations will be made earlier than the usual, at the service on Advent Sunday Morning (November 28th, 2021).

They will be passed on immediately after that to give the organisations time to make their own preparations and distribution before they close for the Christmas holiday.

Many thanks for your help and support to spread love and caring over the Christmas period.

St James' Christmas Card

We are going to send a St James Christmas card to all our members and friends of the church again this year. If you would like to send a greeting, please either speak to me in person, email me at pambellis@hotmail.com or give me a call on 0151 356 7510 to give me your greeting and who it is from. If you wish to make a charitable donation in lieu of sending cards we will be donating to Christian Aid.

Thanks, Pam Bellis.

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we acknowledge you as our Saviour and King, as we worship you this day help us to understand a little more of what that means, so that we may live our lives in fullness of joy and in a way that is pleasing to you. Amen.

Hymn: At the name of Jesus (Singing the Faith 317) Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here: [At the name of Jesus \(StF 317i\) \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/stf/317)

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, every tongue confess him King of Glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord, who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season, to receive a name from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last, brought it back victorious when from death he passed:

Bore it up triumphant with its human light, through all ranks of creatures to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast; filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue all that is not holy, all that is not true;
crown him as your captain in temptation's hour: let his will enfold you in its light and power.

For this same Lord Jesus shall return again, with his Father's glory, with his angel train;
all the wreaths of empire meet upon his brow, and our hearts confess him King of Glory now.

Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877)

Let us pray together

Jesus, while we acknowledge you as King, we know that you are a king unlike any earthly king. A king unlike any that we could imagine, for when we think of kings we think of power and privilege, trumpets and fanfare, palaces, and riches. And yet you left heaven to meet us your creation on earth. Choose a stable over a palace. And a cross in death.

You are a king who invites all to come as they are whether rich or poor; busy and hassled; lonely and bored; happy and joyful. You are always happy to see us even in our reluctance, always anxious to speak to us to remind us of your great love for us.

And knowing that you love us we bring our confessions to you,
For the times we have placed ourselves above others and above you,
For the times we have abused our positions and bent the rules to suit ourselves,
For the times we have looked down on others,
We are truly sorry and ask for your forgiveness.

Even during difficult times, God is with us, loving and forgiving us. Let us receive that love and forgiveness now. **Amen.**

Today's Readings from the Old and New Testament

2 Samuel 23:1-7 and Revelation 1:4-8

Today's Gospel Reading: John 18:33-37

Time to Reflect

We come to the Sunday, which is the last in our lectionary year, the day we might know as “Christ the King Sunday”. Next week, the 1st of Advent, we begin a brand-new lectionary year, as we make our preparations for Christmas and the coming of Jesus whom we call the King of Kings. What comes to mind when you think of a king? What do you picture? What things do kings have and how do they act?

Did you picture a man dressed in fine clothes, a robe around his shoulders, seated on a throne, a crown on his head, and servants in attendance? A castle and riches? Did you picture someone in charge giving orders and instructions, perhaps a little bossy? Today we are remembering Jesus as King but Jesus’ life on this earth was very unlike that of what we imagine when we think of a king. It’s very different from what our children play when they play kings and queens or dress up as them.

My children are all now young adults but when they were little, they loved the series of touchy-feely board books that all start “That’s not my...” And finish with the sentence “That’s my... it’s ... is so...”, you have probably seen them.

I wonder if we wrote one about Jesus being our King how it would go?

Perhaps something like this...

That’s not my king his robe is too glittery

That’s not my king his crown is too hard

That’s not my king his sceptre is too short

That’s not my king his throne is too smooth

That’s not my king his treasure is too rough

That’s my King his smile is so loving...

Maybe have a go at writing your own thoughts.

Today, as the people of Jesus, surely part of our responsibility is to support the vision of the one, we call King. To live it out in reflection of our king’s values.

Jesus consistently reached out to serve the underserved, the neglected, the oppressed and the hurting. He is the king who fed the hungry and healed the broken. As members of his kingdom, we are surely called to do the same.

To think further on: What kind of King is Jesus and how are we to help bring his Kingdom to this Earth?

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Father God,

As we have thought about kings, we think of those who rule and have power and influence. We pray for our Queen and government, for politicians and those in big business. May they make wise and just decisions and remember that they are responsible to others and to you.

We pray for those who are rich and famous that they may keep in touch with reality and use their fame and wealth both for others as themselves.

We pray for those people who are our role models, whom we look up to and admire, we thank you for those people who have helped us make wise decisions. May they know your love and support. We pray for all who feel that they are nobody – maybe because of lack of wealth, status, or due to an illness or disability. Let them know your healing and love, through our words and actions, for everyone is of worth to you.

We pray for ourselves, for we too will be special to others, stars in their eyes, we pray that we may live up to the best that we are able with your help, depending on your grace and strength day by day.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to StF286 What kind of love is this

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTsfZnOlReo> or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

What kind of love is this that gave itself for me?
I am the guilty one, yet I go free.
What kind of love is this, a love I've never known;
I didn't even know his name -- what kind of love is this?

What kind of man is this, that died in agony?
He who had done no wrong was crucified for me.
What kind of man is this, who laid aside his throne
that I may know the love of God -- what kind of man is this?

By grace I have been saved; it is the gift of God.
He destined me to be his own such is his love.
No eye has ever seen, no ear has ever heard,
nor has the human heart conceived what kind of love is this?

A prayer of blessing

As we go into this next week may we know God's love, strength, and guidance. **Amen.**

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2 Samuel 23:1-7

The Last Words of David

Now these are the last words of David:

The oracle of David, son of Jesse, the oracle of the man whom God exalted, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the favourite of the Strong One of Israel:

The spirit of the LORD speaks through me, his word is upon my tongue.
The God of Israel has spoken, the Rock of Israel has said to me:

One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, is like the light of morning,
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

Is not my house like this with God?
For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure.
Will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire?

But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away; for they cannot be picked up with the hand; to touch them one uses an iron bar or the shaft of a spear.

And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

Revelation 1:4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

‘I am the Alpha and the Omega’, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

John 18: 33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ Jesus answered, ‘Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?’ Pilate replied, ‘I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?’ Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.’ Pilate asked him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.’

PRAYERS

Father of goodness of love,

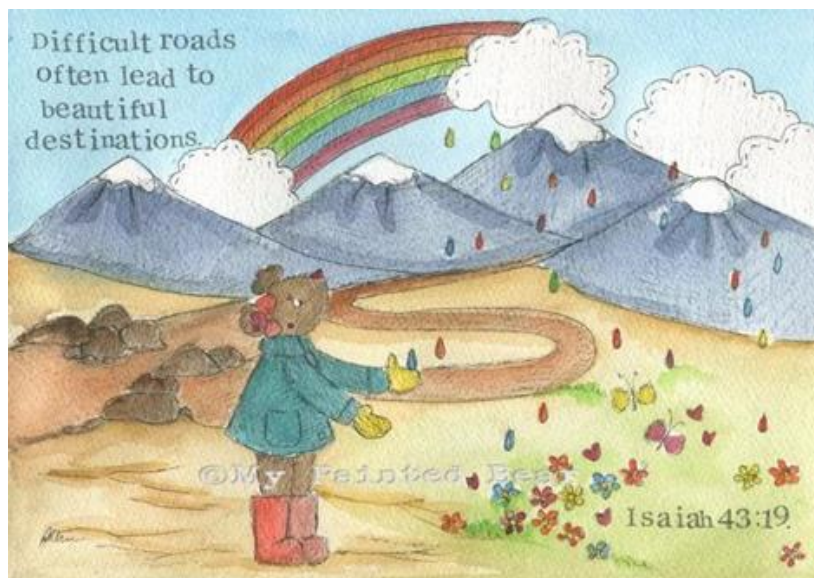
Hear our prayers for the sick members of our church family and for all who are in need.

Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence.

Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits.

May these special people find lasting health and deliverance and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts.

We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed. **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.

PROGRAMMES YOU MAY ENJOY – Sunday 21st November

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. Hope in the Winter Garden

Baptist minister the Revd Richard Littledale seeks out the heart of the Winter Garden and finds it to be a 'thin' place, where hope and faith may be found in the short, cold days and the dormant soil.

13.15 BBC 1 Songs of Praise: Young Chorister of the Year - Girls' Semi-Final

Aled Jones presents the girls' semi-final of the BBC Young Chorister of the Year competition with judges Lesley Garrett, Howard Goodall and David Grant.

Church Toilets and lift for the disabled

I just wanted to update you that, following on-going discussions I have been having with the Structural Engineer currently undertaking the assessment of the church extension and loft roof area, he has been able to agree that some temporary structural support work can be undertaken to enable us to re-open the toilet area. I am pleased to advise that the work has been carried out and the toilets are back in use. I would also just point out that the loft area remains closed to everyone and that nobody should attempt to go up there.

Unfortunately, the lift continues to be out of use at the moment. The lift had developed a fault prior to us closing the area for health and safety reasons. As we expect this repair to be quite costly and we have disability access with the ramp at the rear of the church, we did not immediately pursue the repairs as we were unsure how long the area would remain closed. The Property and Finance committee will discuss this at their next meeting.

I just want to thank everyone for their patience and support in helping us manage this situation.

Pam Bellis, Chair of Property and Finance Committee

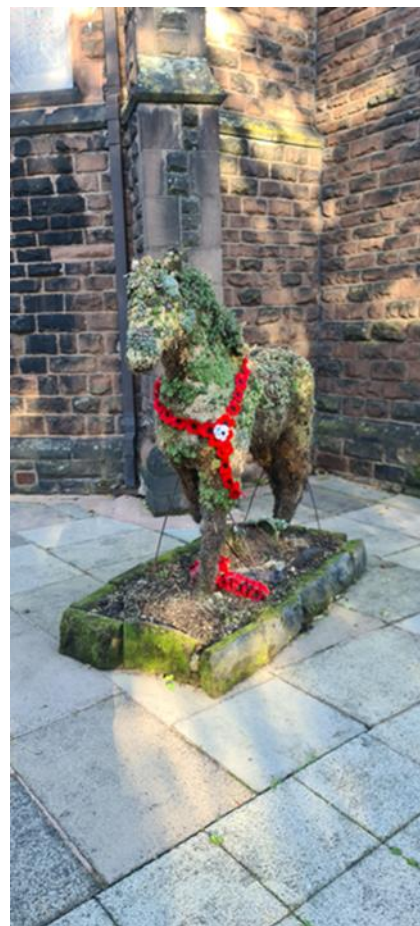
CAN YOU HELP?

- Are you good with numbers? St. James is looking for someone to take over the role of church treasurer.
- We are also looking for someone to oversee the property management side of the connected Manse.
- Are you happy to do a reading or prayers of Intercession in a service?
- We have spaces in the Sunday morning service and on the Sunday afternoon telephone worship.

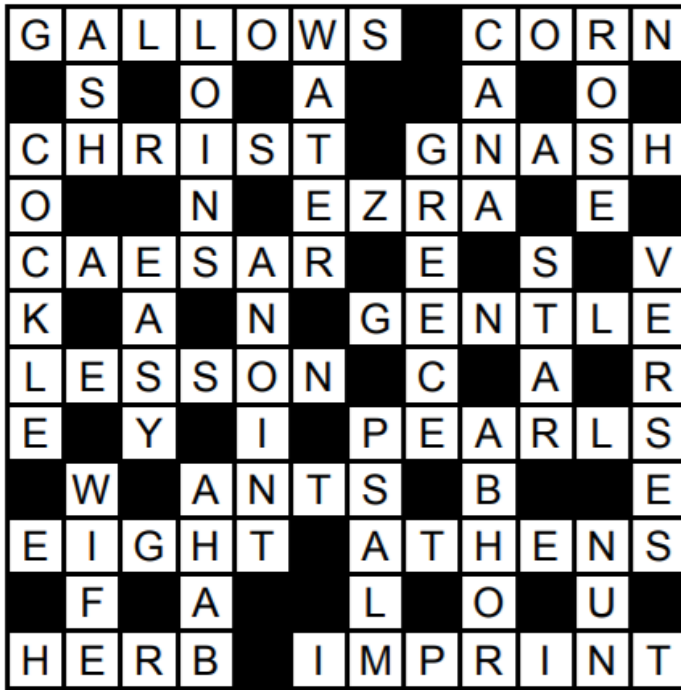
If you can or know someone who can help us, please phone Jayne McLaren on 07859062692 or speak to a Steward Elder. Thank you.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AT ST JAMES'



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Across: 1 Gallows, 5 Corn, 7 Christ, 8 Gnash, 9 Ezra, 10 Caesar, 15 Gentle, 16 Lesson, 17 Pearls, 20 Ants, 21 Eight, 22 Athens, 24 Herb, 25 Imprint.

Down: 2 Ash, 3 Loins, 4 Water, 5 Cana, 6 Rose, 7 Cockle, 8 Greece, 11 Easy, 12 Anoint, 13 Star, 14 Verses, 17 Psalm, 18 Abhor, 19 Wife, 20 Ahab, 23 Nun.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.com

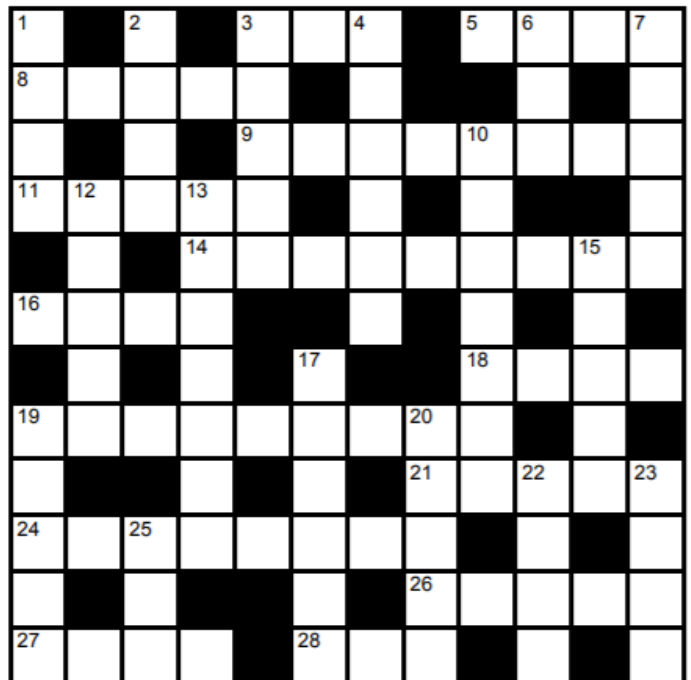
THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 3 Jewel (3)
- 5 Birthright owner (4)
- 8 City of the Philistines (5)
- 9 Like Trophimus (8)
- 11 Fruit of the vine (5)
- 14 Purity (9)
- 16 Cast to make decisions (4)
- 18 Like the curtain of the temple (4)
- 19 A Mary present at the crucifixion (9)
- 21 Hunting weapon (5)
- 24 Tribe from the line of Joseph (8)
- 26 Marriage (5)
- 27 Latter part of the day (4)
- 28 Male sheep (3)

Down

- 1 King of the Amalekites (4)
- 2 Region (4)
- 3 Vegetation colour (5)
- 4 Husband of Ruth (6)
- 6 Judge of Israel (3)
- 7 Wash lightly (5)
- 10 Part of Samson's riddle (7)
- 12 Maid in Mary's house (5)
- 13 Province in Asia visited by Paul (7)
- 15 Ship's freight (5)
- 17 Nearer (6)
- 19 Plain near Hebron (5)
- 20 Prophet foretelling the destruction of Nineveh (5)
- 22 Weather experienced by Noah (4)
- 23 This drove away the plague of locusts (4)
- 25 Noah, alternative spelling (3)



by Philologus

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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