

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 – 12th September 2021



This Week's Collect

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

God our Redeemer, who called your Church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love that all who hear it may be reconciled to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Gracious God, like a mother you give us new life, and make us your children in Jesus Christ. Look on us in your love, and bring us to the inheritance which you promised. Grant this through Jesus Christ, your Son. **Amen.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Special Projects Group - have planned the following events.

Please put the date in your diaries and cross your fingers that Covid does not rain on our parade!

Saturday 16th October – Film Evening in the Church

Saturday 20th November – We are planning a Christmas Fair event

UPCOMING PREACHERS

Sunday September 12th *Revd. Peter Hughes* (St James') *Paul Wilson* (phone)

This will be a Christening service for Riley Cunliffe and all seats have now been allocated. Thanks to those who continue to book.

Sunday September 19th *Obeth Thevanesan* (St James') *Revd. Peter Hughes* (phone)

Sunday September 26th - This service will include a seated, distanced Communion.

Anyone wanting to receive the Communion after the service, please contact, either your pastoral visitor, Irene Elliott or Margaret Dee.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Hello Everyone, it is good to be back from Sabbatical and to be leading worship this Sunday at St James'. I have had a very fulfilling Sabbatical. Thank you to all who made this possible and for your support. I am looking forward to seeing you all and gradually catching up. If there is anything you feel I need to know, or anyone you are concerned about please let me know.

I spent a lot of time walking as part of my Sabbatical, exploring pilgrimage. God was definitely leading me, speaking to me and keeping me safe.

The picture was taken near Preston Brook, on the first day of my Sabbatical, 17th May. The Trent and Mersey Canal was like an open road inviting me to explore and discover. Today, Jesus calls all of us to follow him. As we look at the open road ahead, we know that he will be with us.

God Bless Peter



Christening service for Riley Cunliffe

May this Holy occasion bring with it lots of joy and happy memories. Wishing the entire family all the best on this special and momentous day. May it bring with lots of love, joy and happiness. All the very best from everyone at St. James'.

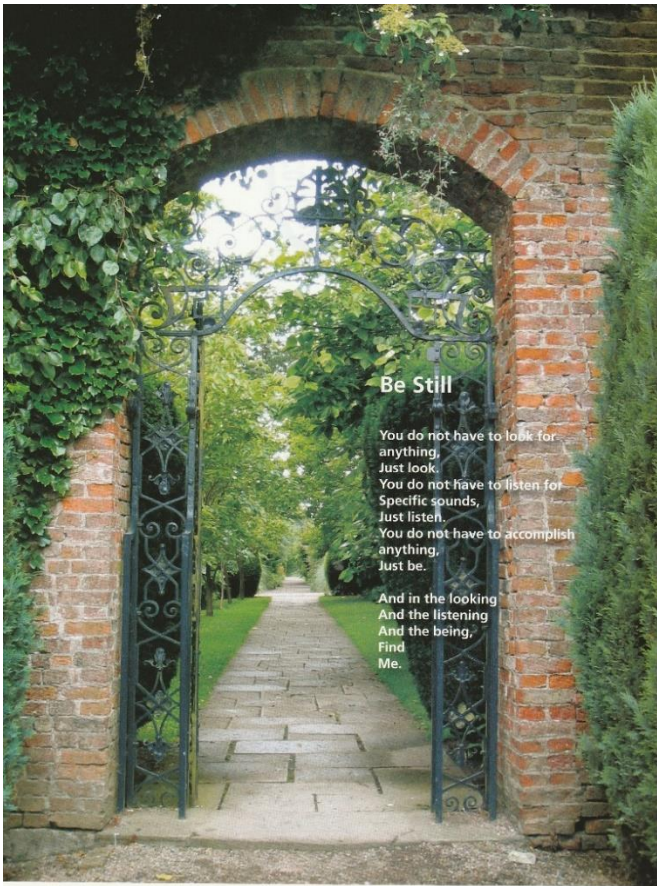


Because you are his child you not only need him, but he needs you.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

For you are God's masterpiece created in Christ to do good works which God prepared in advance for you to do.

Summer Pictures from the Railings



All the signs are that Summer 2021 is drawing to a close. The calendar says so; the weather says so; and many diaries and schedules say so, as the young ones return to school and college and an increasing number of adults return to their places of work, in person – with all the commuting, packing of lunch boxes, juggling timetables etc. that goes with those things.

And church is no less in the mood with a new cycle of seasonal meetings and some of the year's most special services to prepare for.

So let's take a moment now - make one if we have to - to look at the picture and breathe peace in and out of all the busyness of our days.

The words say:

Be still.

You do not have to look for anything, just look.

You do not have to listen for specific sounds, just listen. You do not have to accomplish anything, just be.

And in the looking and the listening and the being... Find..... Me.

Seek and find and know you are blessed whatever you are doing this week.

A warm welcome (back) to Merseyside to Revd Geoffrey Felton, newly inducted Moderator of the Mersey Synod of the United Reformed Church on Saturday September 4th at Blundell Sands and Crosby Church.

The number of people able to attend the welcome service was restricted to one per local church for Covid-safety, and circumstances combined to make me the lucky representative for St James LEP. Revd Geoff lived in Wirral till he was in his mid-teens and has now returned, with his wife and 3 sons, to lead and guide the URC congregations in the Mersey Synod area. I believe St James will be truly blessed if we are able to invite him to lead worship with us at some time in the future.

The first hymn was 'Amazing Grace' and the main address was given by an Anglican Canon, who began by saying Christians are called to base their lives on a mystery and proclaim it at all times; a mystery which is not so much a cloud of unknowing but a truth beyond human discovery revealed by God in Jesus. He went on to give John Wesley some really good press and offered us a memorable quote: 'I didn't realise Jesus was all I needed, till I realised Jesus was all I had.'

Later, in reply to the welcome, Revd Geoff told of how small the two Liverpool cathedrals had looked from his childhood home across the river, but how much bigger and more complex they were when he saw them up close; with so much to explore and discover. He then gave us all a free gift – a little magnifying glass – a reminder to keep exploring and discovering more about the greatness of the God we worship.

If I've misquoted either the Canon or Revd Geoff, or distorted their wisdom, I apologise, and hope I've managed to catch the sense of their message if not the actual words. But I wanted to share some of the things I will remember about this new beginning.

Liz Hudson.

PS Anyone can borrow 'our' magnifying glass, but a word of warning: *it's pink!!*

Prayer Event at St James'

In response to requests and concerns from members of the Church family, St James will be open for silent prayer on Thursday, September 30th, 2021, between 12 noon and 2 pm.

More details will follow in the next couple of weeks, but please put this time in your diary as a reminder if you would find it helpful to come along. Everyone is welcome to this drop-in event.

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.



When you look back over 90 years, I hope that your memories are warm ones.
When you celebrate today, I hope that your heart is filled with love and joy.
When you look forward to the future, I hope that all your dreams and wishes come true.
As the wind whistles through the pines, we are reminded that life is ever moving forward.
We celebrate you on this magnificent occasion – your 90th birthday.
May you continue to hear the wind, see the trees, and rise above the passage of time.
The moments you live are beyond measure.

Wishing **Margaret Peacop** a happy birthday on 7th September.
Enjoy your special day.

Walking for Eric Peacop and Hope.

Eric is a man who has lived life and loved well. He is devoted to his wife of 68 years, 4 children, 16 grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren. You would always find him busy in his workshop making or fixing things. He loved to walk and sing. His faith is so important to him and he has served the church most of his life.

Alzheimer's Disease has robbed him of all this. He no longer recognises his family and needs full care. He has been in a specialist care home for over 4 years. Alzheimer's disease has robbed us of our husband, father and grandfather. That is why we are walking.

As a family we want to honour Dad and raise as much as we can for research into the cause and cure of this cruel disease. Please help if you can. The Just Giving page is below.



https://www.justgiving.com/team/ForLoveofEric?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=team&utm_content=ForLoveofEric&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=078e3a56f19a430894c842291e4ac052&fbclid=IwARoomt-D6SBMl5IxFazRnEx4RSVXN1pDNVMir78Igx_ROqsaL4crr_05uHE

Thank you from all Eric's family

Opening Prayer

Wherever we are, you are with us, Lord. Make us aware of your loving presence with us now. Grant us your peace and fill us with wonder and joy. **AMEN**

Hymn: StF 357 Jesus – the name high over all
Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here
<https://youtu.be/vTYRFT34dAc>

Jesus -- the name high overall,
in hell, or earth, or sky!
Angel's revere, and nations fall,
and devils fear and fly.

Jesus -- the name to sinners dear,
the name to sinners given!
It scatters all their guilty fear,
it turns their hell to heaven.

Jesus -- the prisoner's fetters breaks,
and bruises Satan's head;
power into strengthless souls it speaks,
and life into the dead.

O that the world might taste and see
the riches of his grace!
The arms of love that compass me
would all the earth embrace.

His only righteousness I show,
his saving grace proclaim;
'tis all my business here below
to cry: 'Behold the Lamb!'

Happy if with my latest breath
I might but gasp his name.
preach him to all, and cry in death:
'Behold, behold the Lamb!'
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)



Let us pray together

Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, with all your people on earth, with all the company of heaven and with all creation, we praise and adore you.

You are the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, and yet you come to us and invite us to approach you as our loving Father.

We acknowledge our failure to love you as we should, the weakness of our faith and the half-heartedness of our service, but we recognise that, through Christ, we are forgiven and made welcome.

So we come in his name to worship you and pray your Holy Spirit will guide us and empower us to become the people you created us to be. **AMEN**

Today's Gospel Reading: Mark 8: 27-38

Time to Reflect

According to the Gospel writers, Jesus asked many questions; many more, in fact, than he answered! This was one of the things that made him an effective teacher. Rather than giving people simple answers that required no further thought, he asked questions that made them think for themselves. Not only did this help them find the answers to their own questions, it made them reflect more deeply about their relationship with God.

In our reading today, Jesus asked his disciples two questions. The first one was easy to answer: "Who do people say that I am?" The disciples must have had many conversations with folk they met who had their own ideas about Jesus. They were able to report that people thought perhaps he was John the Baptist reincarnated, or Elijah, or one of the prophets.

The second question was much more challenging: "But who do you say that I am?" The answer to this question required faith and commitment. Peter was the first to answer: "You are the Messiah", that is, the anointed one sent by God to save his people. Peter had perceived the truth about Jesus, but still had much to learn about its implications, as we see in the following verses.

"Who do you say that I am?" is a question all of us need to consider. The answer we give will have an impact on everything else in our lives.

A time of prayer

Think of people and situations, near or far, that particularly need our prayers today, as we use this intercession from the Methodist Worship Book Covenant Service:

Loving God, hear us as we pray for your holy catholic Church: make us all one, that the world may believe.

Inspire and lead all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world: establish justice and peace among all people.

Have compassion on all who suffer from any sickness, grief or trouble: deliver them from their distress.

We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory: bring us all to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Lord our God, you have helped us by your grace to make these prayers, and you have promised through Christ our Lord that when two or three agree in his name you will grant what they ask. Answer now your servants' prayers according to their needs; in this world grant that we may truly know you, and in the world to come graciously give us eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father



Hymn: Listen to StF 348 He is Lord **or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind**

[He is Lord, he is Lord \(StF 348\) \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

He is Lord, he is Lord;
he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord;
every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

He is King, he is King;
he will draw all nations to him, he is King;
and the time shall be when the world shall sing
that Jesus Christ is King.



He is love, he is love;
he has shown us by his life that he is love;
all his people sing with one voice of joy
that Jesus Christ is love.

He is life, he is life;
he has died to set us free and he is life;
and he calls us all to live evermore,
for Jesus Christ is life.

Anonymous



A prayer of blessing

May the love of the Lord Jesus draw us to himself; may the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen us in his service; may the joy of the Lord Jesus fill our souls; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be with you and abide with you always.

AMEN

(Words by William Temple, 1881 – 1944)

Mark 9: 27 – 38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist, and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any want to be my disciples, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”



PRAYERS NEEDED

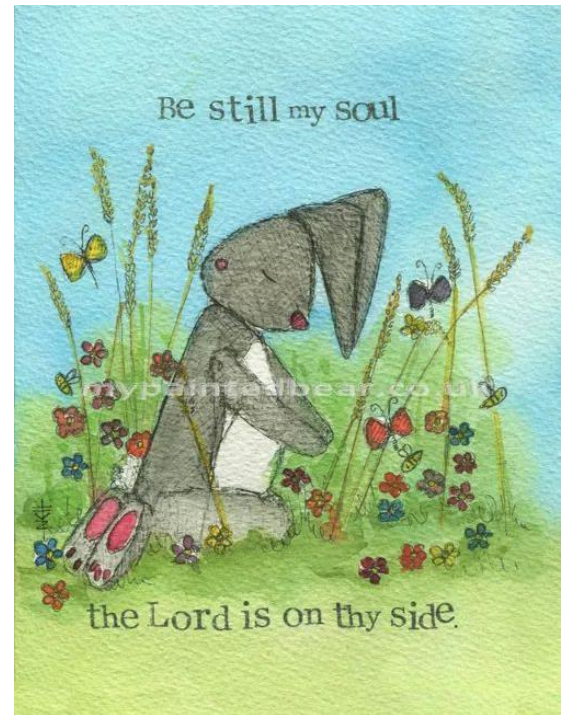
Dear Lord, it is my will to surrender to you everything that I am and everything that I'm striving to be.
I open the deepest recesses of my heart and invite Your Holy Spirit to dwell inside of me.

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 Delilah Morris and family, Gordon and Christine Salmon, Ken Kitchen, Ron Swindells, Joyce Massey, the Elliott family and all those who are close to us.



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | C | R | E | E | S | | T | Y | R | E |
| O | | R | | N | | I | | R | | U | |
| O | W | E | | D | I | S | C | I | P | L | E |
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| S | P | O | T | | S | | E | | J | | A |
| T | | N | E | B | O | | S | T | E | A | L |
| | P | | M | | R | | T | | C | | T |
| Z | I | P | P | O | R | A | H | | T | I | E |
| | T | | L | | O | | E | | E | | R |
| L | Y | R | E | | W | O | R | L | D | L | Y |

Across: 1 Decrees, 5 Tyre, 7 Owe, 8 Disciple, 9 Peter, 10 Ever, 13 Seas, 14 Spot, 18 Nebo, 19 Steal, 21 Zipporah, 22 Tie, 23 Lyre, 24 Worldly.

Down: 1 Doorpost, 2 Creation, 3 Endure, 4 Sister, 5 Tribes, 6 Rule, 11 Rejected, 12 Psalter, 15 Temple, 16 Sorrow, 17 Esther, 20 Pity.

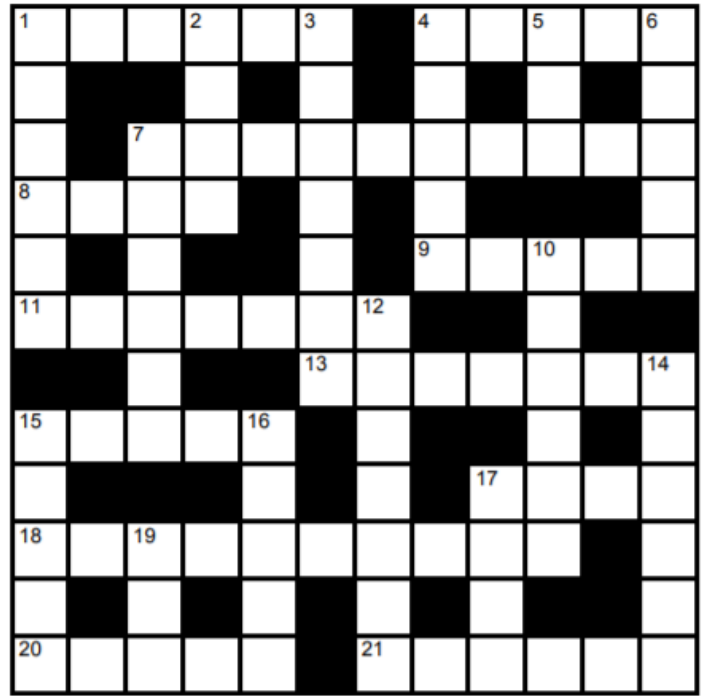
THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1 Exultant (6) | 2 Sustenance (4) |
| 4 Verity (5) | 3 Sparing the rod (7) |
| 7 Something to build on (10) | 4 Drops of sadness (5) |
| 8 Path (4) | 5 Son of Hur (3) |
| 9 Feeling regret (5) | 6 Subject of Samson's riddle (5) |
| 11 Leftover (7) | 7 Husbandman (6) |
| 13 Urim's partner (7) | 10 Paul's longest letter (6) |
| 15 Place for change (5) | 12 They take things the wrong way (7) |
| 17 Prophetess (4) | 14 Daughter of Absalom (6) |
| 18 Bestowers (10) | 15 One of 150 (5) |
| 20 Surrounded (5) | 16 Minimum age in days for a sacrificial lamb (5) |
| 21 Seek (6) | |

Down

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1 Mocker (6) | 17 Region (4) |
| | 19 Angry (3) |



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

ANAGRAM - Books of the Bible

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| SOCIAL SONS | COLOSSIANS | SINE PHASE | EPHESIANS |
| VIOLENT ERA | REVELATION | AH! CLAIM | MALACHI |
| SEE SIGN | GENESIS | WE HERBS | HEBREWS |
| EVIL IS CUT | LEVITICUS | BORE RSVP | PROVERBS |
| SMOG FOOLS NOON | SONG OF SOLOMON | ONE MORE DUTY | DEUTERONOMY |
| LAST AGAIN | GALATIANS | WHET MAT | MATTHEW |
| NO RAMS | ROMANS | NATIONAL STEM | LAMENTATIONS |
| USED OX | EXODUS | HOP IN ELM | PHILEMON |
| AID A HOB | OBADIAH | HA! HE MINE! | NEHEMIAH |
| I SELECT CASES | ECCLESIASTES | CBURNS ME | NUMBERS |



STRAWBERRY FIELD



Interfaith Prayer Gathering

Saturday 18th September 2021 at midday, Reynolds Park, Woolton - Meet outside the Walled Garden

Great Big Green Week will take place 18 - 26 September 2021, and will be the largest event for climate and nature ever seen in the UK. Christian churches celebrate the Season of Creation from 1st September to 4th October.

We want to help raise the environmental awareness of our whole community. Therefore we welcome you to an Interfaith Prayer Gathering to unite in prayer for our environment.


Mahatma Ghandi once said, "Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening."

Thich Nhat Hanh, the Buddhist spiritual leader affirms, "that we all carry Mother Earth inside of us and she is not just our environment."

**THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK**



**SEASON OF
CREATION**

 /StrawberryFieldLiverpool
 @strawberryfield
 @strawberryfieldliverpooluk
www.strawberryfieldliverpool.com



The Salvation Army is a Church and registered Charity in England (214779), Wales (214779), Scotland (SC009359) and the Republic of Ireland (C016399)

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. Peter Hughes

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 Paul Wilson

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 (Host)

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.]



FOLLOWING THE EASING OF COVID RESTRICTIONS IN ENGLAND ON JULY 19TH 2021 - please read the following:

REVISED SAFETY INFORMATION FOR WORSHIP AT ST JAMES CHURCH - so that we can continue to worship safely and protect each other.

For as long as Covid infection rates remain in our area:

Bookings:

Please continue to book in advance to attend a Service.

Seating can then be arranged to respect family groups and social distancing as well as providing Track and Trace information if it is needed.

To book, contact **Jayne McLaren on 07859 062 692** (jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk) from 4pm on the Sunday afternoon for the following Sunday's Service.

The front and vestry doors will open 30 minutes before a service begins.

Face Coverings Still Preferred:

Many enclosed public places and spaces are keeping this safety measure while infection rates are high. Those on duty at church will be wearing face coverings for everyone's protection. We really hope you will too, especially while you are moving about or talking to others.

Hand Sanitising:

Please continue to sanitise your hands on the way in and also on leaving. If there is a queue for any reason, remember the importance of social distancing – respect other people's need for space.

Attending church:

Please do not come if you are

- showing symptoms,
- have recently come into contact with someone who is self-isolating or confirmed to Covid, or
- if you are feeling generally unwell.

Please only come to church when you feel it is safe for you to do so, especially if you are in a vulnerable group. Getting a test in the week before coming to Church will help you to know you are not a risk to others.

Meanwhile:

- The Church's Covid-safe cleaning routines will continue, and
- If you would like help setting up to receive worship via Zoom at home, please contact Jayne McLaren (**07859062692**) and we can arrange for someone to do that with you.

Ventilation:

Some church doors will still remain open to ensure good air circulation; please be prepared for it to be a bit draughty on occasions and bring something warm to wear.

During Worship:

- In order to minimise the risk of transmission, Services will still be shorter than previously.
- **Indoor Singing & Prayer Responses** – preferably quietly, and preferably while wearing a mask - are now allowed.
- **Offerings** should still be left in the boxes near the doors and will be blessed during the worship.
- **Intercession Prayer requests** should still be made via a Steward Elder.
- At the end of the service it is still safer if conversations are held outside.

Children & Families:

Children, young people and families are really welcome at church but, sadly, separate Junior Church cannot resume yet. However, it is hoped to re-introduce a regular all-age element to the first part of worship over the coming weeks. Meanwhile we hope the children will continue to bring drawing /writing materials of their own plus the weekly colouring sheets to complete for display on the railings. But not toys - yet.

Parents:

Thank you for helping your young ones to respect other's space so far; it can be very demanding! Please keep up the good work a bit longer.

Go Safely and come back soon.

PROGRAMMES YOU MAY ENJOY – Sunday 12th September

6.00 – 10.00 a.m. Radio Merseyside: Daybreak

Ngunan Adamu sits in with the Sunday magazine reflecting Merseyside's worlds of faith.

8.10 a.m. Radio 4: Sunday Worship

13.45 BBC 1 Songs of Praise:

Pendle Radicals

Sean Fletcher climbs Pendle Hill in Lancashire to learn how the area has inspired radical Christians from the past. James Lusted meets a local pastor continuing the tradition.

The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse - Inspirational Quote of The Week:



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