

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 – 7th November 2021



This Week's Collect

Eternal God, in whose perfect realm no sword is drawn but the sword of justice, and no strength known but the strength of love: guide and inspire all who seek your kingdom, that peoples and nations may find their security in the love which casts out fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.



Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

God of peace, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

UPCOMING PREACHERS

Sunday November 7th Liz Hudson (St James') Revd. Peter Hughes (phone)

Sunday November 14th Graham Martin (St James') Liz Hudson (phone)
Parade service

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Hello All,

I hope you have had a good week. We have had the best and the worst of Autumn weather, with torrential rain and wind on Monday and some lovely sunny days later in the week. It was lovely that our Church was open for quiet and prayer on Wednesday. Several people came and spent a good period of time praying, sitting and enjoying the peace and beauty of our Church. I hope you can take some time in the coming week to sit for a while remembering that the loving arms of Jesus are around you, whatever your difficulties and needs may be.

God Bless, Peter

Pictures from Peter's Sabbatical

Today's pictures come from 29th June, day 3 of my walk in Wales. I walked from Nant yr Arian Forestry centre (near Ponterwyd) to Devil's Bridge. This took me past Ystumtuen Chapel, which was a Wesleyan Church built with the help of Cornish miners who had come to work in the mines of mid Wales. I passed some bulls who were very interested in me, thankfully they were beyond a gate so they couldn't get too close. I then entered the beautiful Rheidol Valley, descending to the river and then climbing steeply back up the other side. My friend, Alan, came to pick me up and take me back to where I had parked the car in the morning. On this day I was inspired by the beauty of the scenery and an awareness that all of this was created by God. I had hardly met anyone the whole day and enjoyed the solitude in the midst of the beauty. My evening meal was a delicious pizza and chips, eaten in the car on Aberystwyth promenade. I realised how blessed I was to have this time away.



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.

Tuesday November 9th – Mission Action Group at 7pm in church

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

Harvest Donations

A huge thank you to all the church family for the very generous gifts of food and money made throughout October to share with Princes Park Community Centre and All We Can (the Methodist Home and Overseas Mission Fund). The photograph shows the tins and packets donated along with more than £400.

So many people will benefit from what has been given and the distribution will now be made as soon as possible. May God richly bless all those who have given and those who will receive.

Thank you again.



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).

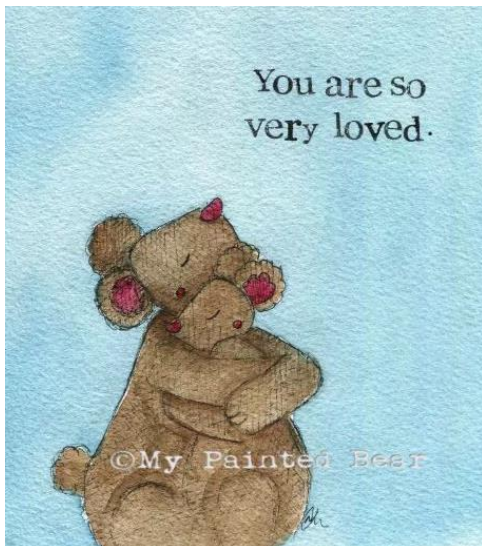
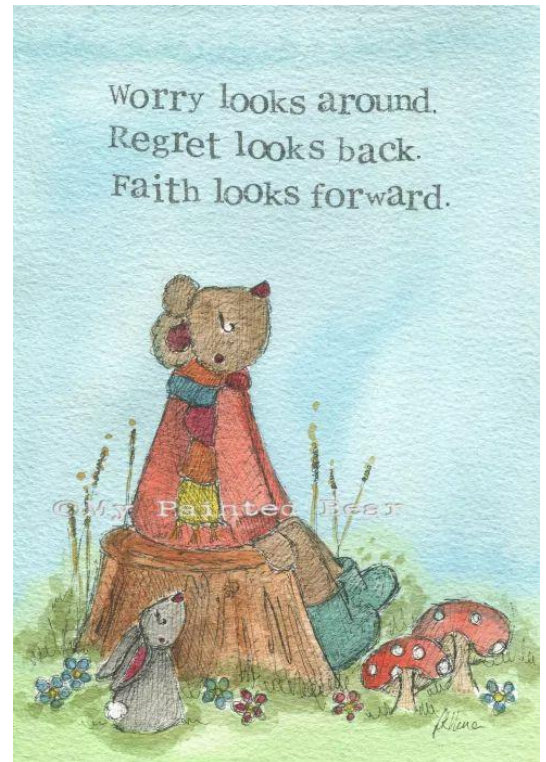
Because the charities will need to do their own shopping and gift wrapping, the dedication of the donations will be made earlier than the usual, at the service on Advent Sunday Morning (November 28th, 2021).

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.

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.

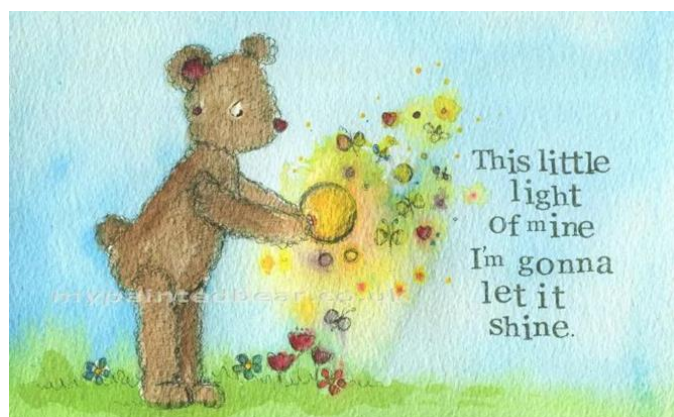
Thank you that you will never waste our pain and suffering.
We love you.

We need you today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

We also pray for Gordon and Christine Salmon, John and Sue Pagan, Ken Kitchen, Ann Wells, Andrew, Jayne & Faye McLaren and Pat Fagan.

We continue to pray for all those who need our prayers, especially those who are waiting test results.

Our continual prayers for those who are in care homes and those who are unable to join us in worship at these challenging times.



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! Many thanks. Pam Bellis

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

U	T	T	E	R	E	D		M	O	C	K
N		H		O		A		O		A	
W	A	Y		M	I	N	I	S	T	R	Y
A		A		A		I		A		E	
S	A	T	A	N		E	V	I	L		B
H		I		S		L		C	A	V	E
E	Z	R	A		I		F		W		S
D		A	C	T	S		L	I	G	H	T
	A		C		A		A		I		O
E	N	D	U	R	I	N	G		V	O	W
	N		S		A		O		E		E
H	A	T	E		H	U	N	D	R	E	D

Across: 1 Uttered, 5 Mock, 7 Way, 8 Ministry, 9 Satan, 10 Evil, 13 Cave, 14 Ezra, 18 Acts, 19 Light, 21 Enduring, 22 Vow, 23 Hate, 24 Hundred.

Down: 1 Unwashed, 2 Thyatira, 3 Romans, 4 Daniel, 5 Mosaic, 6 Care, 11 Lawgiver, 12 Bestowed, 15 Accuse, 16 Isaiah, 17 Flagon, 20 Anna.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.com

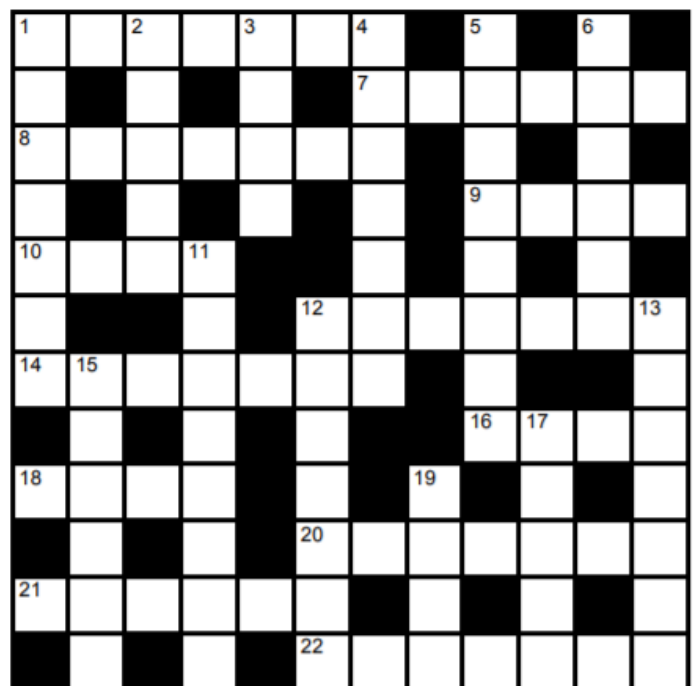
THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Resurrected by Peter (7)
- 7 Paid for (6)
- 8 Criminals (7)
- 9 Burden (4)
- 10 Back of the foot (4)
- 12 Giving 10% (7)
- 14 Brief stay (7)
- 16 It's sown (4)
- 18 Gift bearers (4)
- 20 Oath (7)
- 21 Sheep's coat (6)
- 22 Dealers (7)

Down

- 1 Lights (7)
- 2 Scripture (5)
- 3 Life and knowledge, for example (4)
- 4 Desist (7)
- 5 Fell out of a window (8)
- 6 Rocked (6)
- 11 City where it's neither hot nor cold (8)
- 12 Instrument (7)
- 13 Diana, maybe (7)
- 15 One with a vision (6)
- 17 Cast out (5)
- 19 Tiny quantity (4)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.com

Opening Prayer

Psalm 146.3,5: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men who cannot save;
Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God.

Hymn: STF 331 King of Kings, majesty Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbZMMd99nM8>

King of kings, majesty, God of heaven living in me.
Gentle Saviour, closest Friend, Strong Deliverer,
Beginning and End, all within me falls at your throne.
Your majesty, I can but bow; I lay my all before you now.
In royal robes I don't deserve, I live to serve your majesty.

Earth and heaven worship you,
Love eternal, faithful and true, who bought the nations, ransomed souls,
brought this sinner near to your throne; all within me cries out in praise.
Your majesty, I can but bow; I lay my all before you now.
In royal robes I don't deserve, I live to serve your majesty; I live to serve your majesty.

Jarrold Cooper

Let us pray together

Almighty God,
You are great and wonderful, a mystery beyond our understanding, yet you bend down to us with
your love and care.
For your grace and for the amazing gift of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, we praise your holy
name.
Thank you that you never lose faith in us even though at times we fail to trust in you.
Forgive us when we forget to place our life decisions before you, when we push away your gentle
wisdom and substitute our own misguided judgments.
Forgive us when we listen to others instead of you and fail to open our hearts to your loving
guidance.
When we bring our honest regrets to God and seek his forgiveness, we are blessed with God's
gracious word of mercy and pardon that breathes new life into us, through the power of the Holy
Spirit. **Amen.**

Today's Gospel Reading: Mark 12.38-44

Time to Reflect

Jesus accused the religious leaders of his time of exploiting their position in society for personal
gain. He warned the people not to be taken in by their outward show and their patronising
demeanour; their attitude of entitlement and demands for the most important seats in the
synagogue and the places of honour at banquets. This was all a front, said Jesus, the long pious
prayers a sham that hid avarice and pride. The poor, including vulnerable widows who gave
generously to the leaders out of respect, were in reality being cheated.
The hypocrisy of the religious leaders is contrasted with the genuine sacrifice of the widow who,
despite her dire poverty, gave everything she had in the service of God.

Through this teaching, Jesus asks us to examine our own Christian lives and patterns of giving. Do we go to church to worship God or because we are regarded as “pillars of the congregation” and wish to preserve that status? Are we holding back some of our resources from God for our own benefit instead of wholeheartedly giving our lives, talents and all that we have to his service?

Take a time to sit quietly
A time of prayer

We pray for the church, for the world and for ourselves.

Lord, we pray for a strengthening of integrity, wisdom and faith for all Christian leaders; for resilience and courage for Christians who are persecuted, and for the fresh inspiration of the Holy Spirit to be poured out on all believers so that through their witness all the world will come to know the saving love of Jesus Christ.

Hear our prayers for national leaders, politicians and community leaders and all those who have any power or influence over the lives of others. May they act with compassion, justice and honesty, always putting the needs of the most vulnerable first.

Where there is conflict or war, we pray for the Holy Spirit to turn hard hearts towards peace and dialogue instead of violence. Hear our prayers for hope and restoration for the people of Afghanistan, Yemen, Lebanon and other areas around the world where there is economic breakdown, food poverty and lack of education provision.

We pray for comfort and courage for all who suffer injury, loss and hardship, for those who are displaced from their homes, and for those who are so desperate they risk their lives on dangerous journeys to reach safety. May God protect and guide them. We give thanks for aid workers who struggle in difficult situations to bring food, shelter and medicines to those in most need.

We ask for the healing touch of Jesus on the lives of people who are ill, in pain, anxious or trapped in addiction. We name in our hearts those known to us and to Jesus who are in need of our prayers and God’s love at this time. May they know the peace of mind and heart that only Jesus can give.

Loving God, thank you that you know us through and through, our hopes and dreams, our joys and sorrows. May we continue to know your loving acceptance and blessing in our lives, in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to STF 254 Seek ye first the kingdom of God [Seek ye first the kingdom of God \(StF 254\) \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://www.methodist.org.uk) or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you;

Allelu-, alleluia: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
allelu-, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto to you;
Allelu-, alleluia:

but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord;
Allelu-, alleluia:
Karen Lafferty (b. 1948)

A prayer of blessing

Follow Jesus in all that you do and say, showing kindness and respect to all and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit remain with you and those whom you love, today and forever more. **Amen.**

Jesus Denounces the Scribes

As he taught, he said, 'Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.'



The Widow's Offering

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'



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 – Liz Hudson

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 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.

PROGRAMMES YOU MAY ENJOY – Sunday 7th 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. 8:10 a.m. A service for COP26

Live from the Memorial Chapel of Glasgow University; led by Revd Dr Carolyn Kelly with Revd Dr Doug Gay; Preacher Revd James Bhagwan - General Secretary of Pacific Conference of Churches

13.15 BBC 1 Songs of Praise: God's Planet

As the COP26 Conference takes place in Glasgow Clare McCollum meets Christians raising awareness of climate change and Yolanda Brown joins young campaigning pilgrims.

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.

Fundraising Mug Design Challenge

The Scout Sections would like to help raise some much-needed monies by sponsoring a commemorative mug. We are asking for design ideas. We suggest they will be along similar lines to the ones we made last year to celebrate that we didn't stop scouting.

It will be based on a white "builders" mug. Bold simple, primary coloured (no photos) designs work best. Design area can be up to 70mm high and 90mm long – different design elements on each side.

We have kit necessary to transfer the design onto the mugs, plus we will provide them free for sale by Church friends at £5 each. We will make batches of 20 to gauge interest and not have too much stock.

Please let us have your ideas sent either to me thehowards@talk21.com or ben.elman@meinbox.com. Somehow, we will find someone to select the best and hopefully we will have mugs available before the Christmas Fair.

Colin/Skip.

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