

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 – 16th January 2022

This Week's Collect

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Almighty God, by whose grace alone we are accepted and called to your service, strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

UPCOMING PREACHERS

Sunday January 16th Revd. Peter Hughes (St James') Steve Elliott (phone)

PROGRAMMES YOU MAY ENJOY – Sunday 16th January

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.

A service of Choral Matins live from the church of St Mary le Tower, Ipswich, led by the Vicar, The Reverend Tom Mumford.

13.15 BBC 1 Songs of Praise: Bristol

Aled Jones is in Bristol visiting Brunel's ship SS Great Britain and the city's Christian Street art, and Gemma Hunt joins HM Coastguard's first ever chaplain on a mud rescue.

Minister's Message

Hello everyone,

I hope you have had a good week and managed to stay warm! We are still in the season of Epiphany, which reminds us of Jesus, the light of the world, revealed to the Wise Men, Simeon and Anna in the Temple and to the guests at a Wedding in Cana. As I saw the bright sunshine on the cold days this week it felt as if spring was not far away. I even managed to find some primroses to put in the pot outside our front door. Everything looks better in the sunshine and our lives are better when they are illuminated with the light of Jesus. When Jesus is there, we can see events and circumstances in a new and more hopeful light. May Jesus, light of the world shine on, in and through you this week. **God Bless Peter**

Pictures from Peter

Despite the good weather I didn't manage a canal walk this week! The photos are from around this time last year when I walked on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal through Burnley. The Canal passes above Burnley on an embankment known as "The Straight Mile". One side is the town of Burnley, on the other side is Turf Moor football ground and the Lancashire moors. It is on this stretch of the canal that I always feel I am heading for the hills and I feel a sense of adventure. Every day of our lives can be an adventure with God. On the "straight mile" you can see much further ahead than on most stretches of the Canal. In January the year still stretches far ahead of us and our hopes and dreams for the months ahead can energise us.



WORSHIP AT ST. JAMES'

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

- By 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 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 Steve Elliott

Order of Worship:

- **Welcome and notices:**
- **Opening prayer (Host)**
- **Bible reading** (Irene Elliott: John 2 verses 1 - 11)
- **Lord’s Prayer** (Host)
- **Talk or “mini-sermon”** (Steve Elliott)
- **Prayers** (Chris Bolton)
- **Grace and dismissal.** (Host)



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

HARMONY CAFÉ at St James'

Come and join us at 6.30 pm on Sunday 30th January to sing some favourite hymns and worship songs to start the year. Due to Covid safety measures, we won't be able to share refreshments this time, seating will be appropriately distanced and masks will need to be worn for the singing. You will receive a warm welcome though and our voices will be raised together in, slightly quieter, praise! Doors open at 6.00 pm.

Please let Lynne or Roy Barker know if you plan to attend or have any questions on 0151 421 1218 or email: the_barkers_88@hotmail.com

Monday Fellowship - change of date

Dear All

With the Omicron version of Covid spreading so quickly at present and people being advised to work from home I suggest that it would be wise to postpone the Monday Fellowship to the end of the month, when hopefully things will be a bit better. I suggest that we meet on Monday 31st January at 2.30pm in Church.

Many Thanks Peter



Synod

Remember that ANYONE is welcome to attend any of the Synod meetings (although only members can vote). As we're offering them on Zoom it's an easy way of popping into any or all of the sessions. Please share this thought with your congregation contacts.

12 March on Zoom and at Allerton URC.

15 October again on Zoom and in person at Congleton URC.

Cafe Jam

Sunday 13 February, 6.30pm – Waterloo UB church, Crosby Road North Liverpool L22 0LQ

Sunday 13 March, 6.30pm – Formby URC, 111 Church Rd, Formby, Liverpool L37 3ND.

URC 50

Saturday 16 July – regional celebration at Parkgate and Neston URC

Saturday 1 October – London Open House, thanksgiving service and Mersey coach trip.

Eric Peacop – Thanksgiving Service

Thank you to my Church family for the love and prayers which I have received since Eric's death. We felt welcomed here from day one, 11 years ago. We were soon invited to join the House Group at the Manse where we enjoyed the fellowship. Soon afterwards we joined the choir where we privileged to share in leading the singing at services and all also to be part of the productions at Easter etc until Eric couldn't cope any more.

The Thanksgiving Service to celebrate Eric's life will be on 29th January at 2pm to which you will be welcome.

Margaret Peacop.



Welcome

Tracey McNaboe, who recently started as the new Community Engagement & Outreach Worker for Elmwood & St Johns, Warrington, is excited about her new role. She is spending the initial period discovering the needs and engaging with other local groups and the council.



URC 50th Celebrations - Thanksgiving Service

Over half the tickets have now been allocated – please book [here](#) asap for The Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster London, if you're planning on attending.

Coach Trip

Don't forget to also book if you would like to join our coach trip to the Service via the [Synod office](#) or call 0151 722 6590.

Celebrate Together

Copies of [Celebrate Together](#), a new, colourful anniversary booklet by Sam Richards and Ruth White, are available to order from the URC bookshop. The book is **free** so please order as many as you can use.

Local church packs

All churches will receive a pack in the next month containing worship resources, a drama, a quiz, posters and other resources to help with anniversary plans. The resources will also be available to download.

Worship Resources Competition

To celebrate the 50th, choirs, bands, individuals, songwriters, composers, and poets are invited to submit competition entries.

There are four categories:

- traditional hymn/song
- poem
- contemporary hymn/song
- rap

Judges will select a winner from each category. The closing date for entries is **8 April 2022**. The winning entries will be recorded and/or filmed in **July 2022** for sharing online.

For more information go [here](#)

Christmas Gift Donations

THANK YOU to everyone who so kindly donated gifts of money for the charities we have supported now for some years.

You donated £540 and this wonderful amount was shared out between:

Action for Children

Centre 56

The two women's and children Refuge Centres which we support.

I have had thanks expressed by all those caring for and managing these units. As you can imagine Christmas time is difficult when in an abusive, sad, lonely situation. The staff in all these units are amazing in the care they give. For residents to receive gifts and in particular hampers of food which had been made up by staff, made an incredible difference. It is difficult enough to buy toys for their children and often it means that food shopping has to be put further down a priority list. Your donations have helped so much towards making Christmas a happier time for so many families.

We also used some items left from our Christmas Fayre – e.g., toiletries and these were taken to a YMCA centre in Liverpool and Sefton area and the letter received from the support practitioner said, 'Your generosity will make a difference for some of the most vulnerable people in our city.' (YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.)

Thank you so much. Wendy Doig.



Interested in emotional and mental wellbeing and a good listener? **PeerTalk** is looking for volunteer facilitators for its new peer support group for people living with anxiety / depression in Knowsley.

Training Day is on Sat 5th Feb, 10am – 4pm in Manchester (travel costs reimbursed). More details at www.peertalk.org.uk/volunteer-with-us or contact enquiries@peertalk.org.uk Closing date for applications is 28th Jan

PeerTalk is a registered charity, initially funded by the Methodist Church, and is expanding its reach nationally to support people living with mental distress and overwhelm. A brand new peer support group is launching in Huyton. It'll meet every Wednesday morning, 11am – 12.30pm at The Old School House, St John's Road, Huyton, LS36 0UX, starting at the end of February. The need for this kind of support is clearly evident in these difficult times. It is good to see the peer support offering hope to those in a difficult place.

If you can help us spread the word by sharing this opportunity through your networks, church bulletins or through other social media, such as Facebook, that alone would help. You can see our Facebook post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PeerTalk1/posts/2737352446409916>

Thank you in advance for any support you're able to offer.

Kind regards Rosa Trelfa Director of Operations

PHOTOGRAPHS AND FAVOURITE WORDS – have you any to share?

Regulars at church on Sunday mornings may have noticed that the picture slides shown before worship change every few weeks. The words and pictures come from lots of different places and try to fit in with the seasons, or special times in the church year. We are now looking at refreshing them for February / March and April / May.

Do you have photographs which reflect nature in these months or interesting, memorable or important moments in your life in the period up to Easter, which you are willing to share? (You must own the picture and be able to give permission to use it in church in this way).

Or maybe you have a favourite bible verse – which could be put with the one of the pictures to help everyone reflect and prepare for worship - about 20 words would be ideal.

If you do, please contact Liz on 07866 213330 or e-mail your words and pictures to liz.hudson2@btinternet.com as soon as you can. Then get ready to come to church and see your contributions on screen. In hope, and with love and thanks to you all. Liz

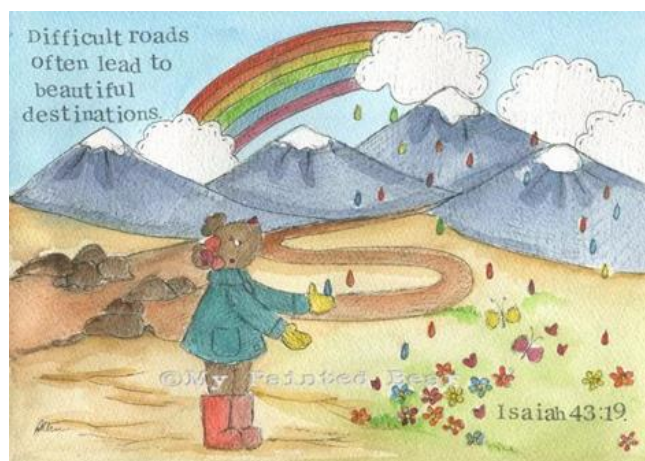
PRAYERS

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

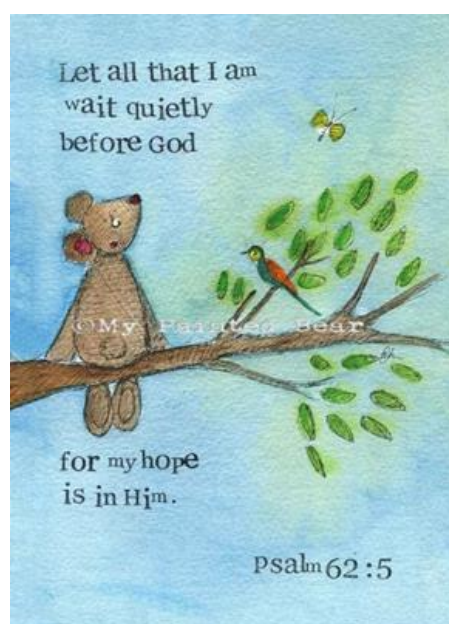
Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence.

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.**



Lord, I come before you today in need of your healing hand.
In you all things are possible.
Hold my heart within yours, and renew my mind, body, and soul.
I am lost, but I am singing.
You gave us life, and you also give us the gift of infinite joy.
Give me the strength to move forward on the path you've laid out for me.
Guide me towards better health and give me the wisdom to identify those you've placed around me to help me get better.
In your name I pray, Amen.

We continue to pray for Christine Salmon and her family, Margaret Peacop and her family Ken Kitchen, John and Sylvia Pagan, Pat Fagan, Alix Bedford and Arthur Evans.

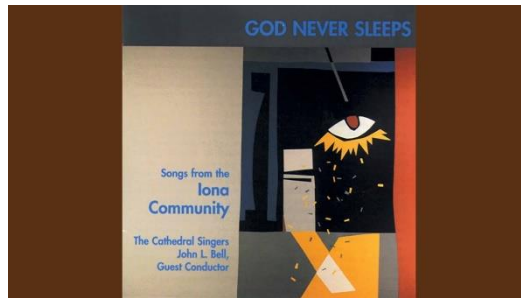
We continue to pray for those who need our prayers at this time due to ill health, struggling with mental health and all difficult situations.

Opening Prayer

As we make our journey from the Feast of the Epiphany to Lent, help us to see the signs of your kingdom in the world around us.

Hymn: 101 Before the world began

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here <https://youtu.be/xt6jygkmSc8>



Before the world began, one Word was there; grounded in God he was, rooted in care;
by him all things were made, in him was love displayed, through him God spoke, and said,
'I am for you.'

Life found in him its source, death found its end; light found in him its course, darkness its friend.
For neither death nor doubt nor darkness can put out the glow of God, the shout,
'I am for you.'

The Word was in the world which from him came; unrecognised he was, unknown by name; one
with all humankind, with the unloved aligned, convincing sight and mind,
'I am for you.'

All who received the Word by God were blessed; sisters and brothers they of earth's fond guest.
So did the Word of grace proclaim in time and space and with a human face,
'I am for you.'

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)

Prayer

As your people, O God, we come to give you thanks and praise. You reveal yourself to us in creation, in the life, death and rising of Jesus and in the continuing work of the Spirit in our lives. We hear and reflect on your self-revelation in the life of Jesus, and of the impact his life had on those around him.

We know that we do not always live up to the challenge of Jesus's story. So, in silence, we reflect on our failings as individuals, on our failings as a church and on our failings as a society.

Silence

We know that in Jesus God says to us 'Your sins are forgiven.'

Living God, in Christ you make all things new.

Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(MWB collect for the day)

Today's Reading from the Old Testament Isaiah 62.1-5

Today's Gospel Reading: John 2.1-11

Time to Reflect

In today's gospel reading Jesus and his disciples find time to join his mother for a celebratory event. When the crisis emerges, he is reluctant to help but the result is, it seems, excellent wine. It is a sign (v11). It is striking that Jesus' first recorded 'sign' in John's gospel is about domestic embarrassment, when others are typically about life-changing conditions (think of Bartimaeus or Lazarus).

This is a story about the way God is revealed in Jesus, a central theme of the Sundays after Epiphany. Here, and elsewhere, a feature of God's self-revelation in Jesus seems to be exuberant generosity.

Perhaps the messages for us include the notion that it is not for us to judge what God can or should do for us. God is not bound by what we think is proper, or for that matter by what we think is fair. We do not and cannot control God. God's good gifts are sometimes unexpected and beyond our comprehension.

Another message could be about responding in the moment to the need we can see. That certainly seems to be what Jesus did at this wedding in Cana. Even though his hour had not yet come (v4), he responded to the host's need and to his mother's plea. What might be our response to God's unexpected generosity?

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Let us pray for the church and the world.

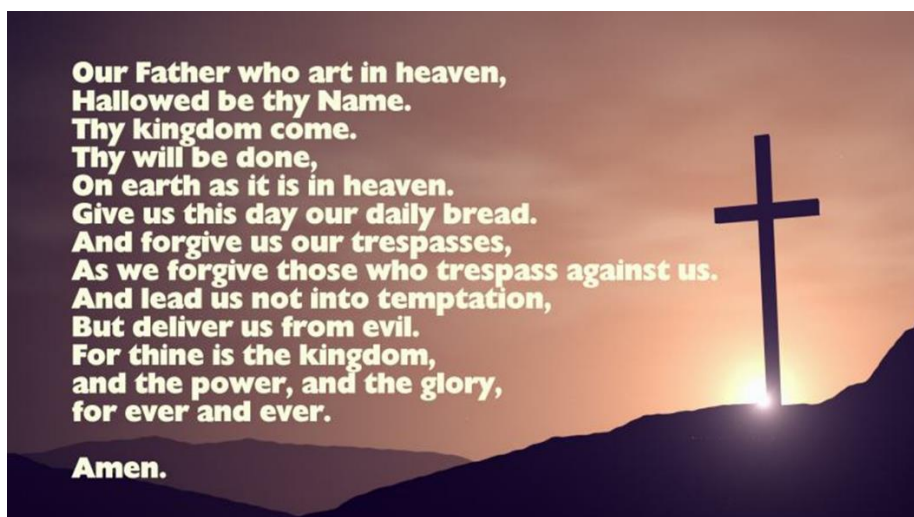
For the church around the world in uncertain times. With the Methodist Prayer Handbook on day 16 especially for the Church of Bangladesh, the Church of Pakistan, and the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka and for the Methodist Church in Ireland. For the congregations we know. That all our words and actions may accord with God's will for us and for all people.

For the world, for all in positions of power and influence, that they may strive for justice and for peace. For our own country and neighbourhood.

For those in need, for those fleeing conflict, for prisoners, for those who are sick or awaiting diagnosis or treatment. For those know to us. Draw near to all in need with your saving love and bring healing and hope.

For ourselves that we may follow the example of all your saints and of those who brought us to faith. Bring us with them into the fullness of your eternal joy.

The Lord's Prayer



Hymn: Listen to this version of StF 35 from the author

<https://grahamkendrick.co.uk/songs/graham-kendrick-songs/make-way-for-the-cross-let-the-flame-burn-brighter/the-feast-is-ready-the-trumpets-sound>

The trumpets sound, the angels sing, the feast is ready to begin; the gates of heaven are open wide, and Jesus welcomes you inside.

Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight, come and revel in heaven's love and light; take your place at the table of the King, the feast is ready to begin, the feast is ready to begin.

Tables are laden with good things, O taste the peace and joy he brings; he'll fill you up with love divine, he'll turn your water into wine.

The hungry heart he satisfies, offers the poor his paradise; now hear all heaven and earth applaud the amazing goodness of the Lord.

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

A prayer of blessing

May Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill us with his grace to trust his promises and may the blessing of God, Spirit, Son and Father, be with us and those for whom we pray, this day and always. **Amen.**

Readings

Isaiah 62.1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

2 The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.

3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

4 You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married.

5 For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

John 2.1-11

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.'

4 And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.'

5 His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

6 Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

7 Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim.

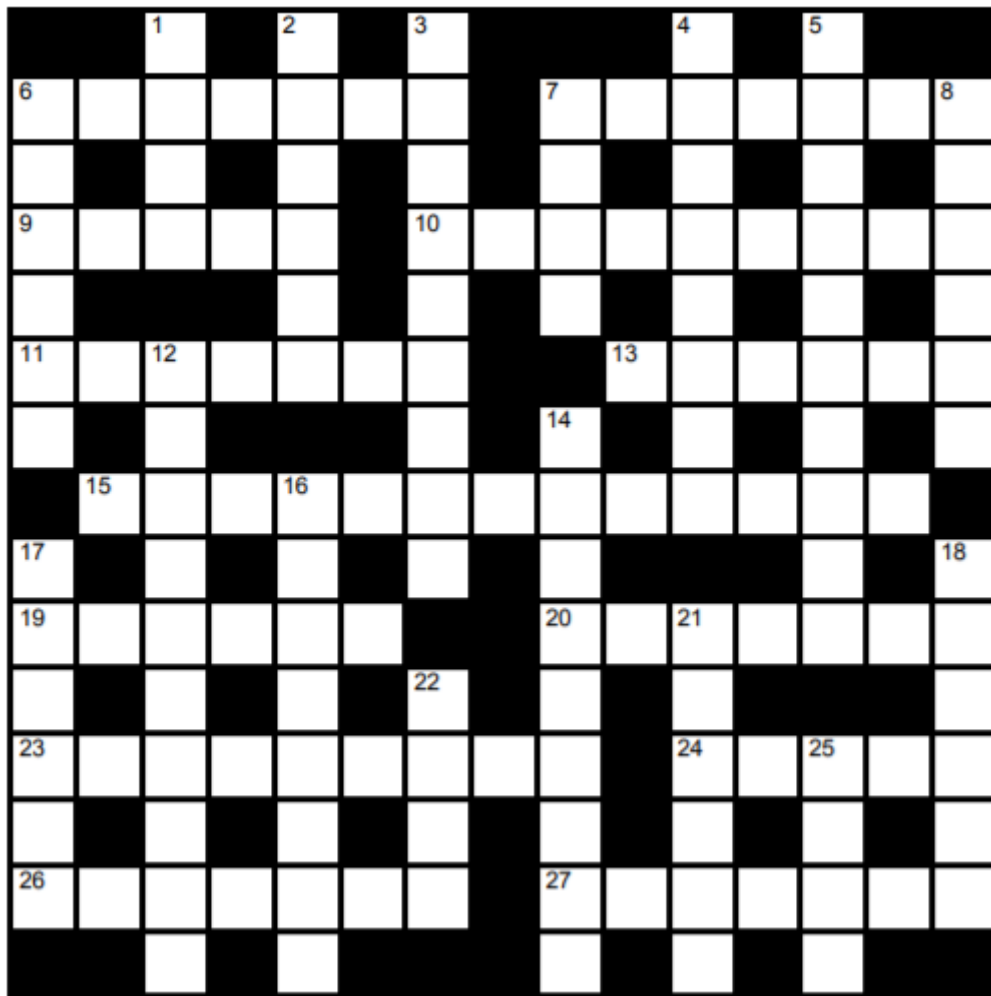
8 He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So, they took it.

9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him.

10 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.'

11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD



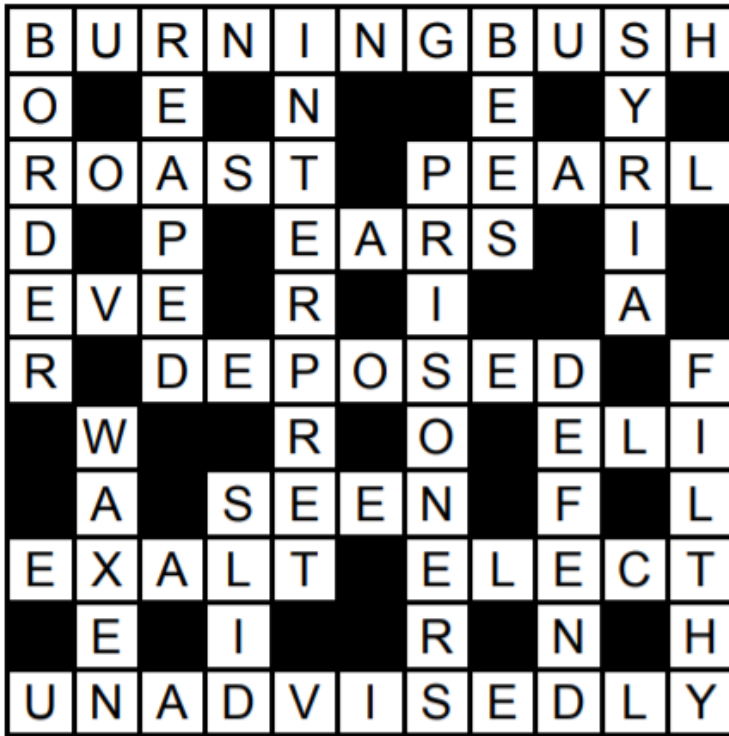
Across

- 6 Rejoice briefly with hot mysterious city (7)
- 7 Harp found in backing music for river (7)
- 9 Destroy a stew! (5)
- 10 Pay for course prints (9)
- 11 Goes through experiences (7)
- 13 Prevents poor harvest with Hosea's leader exiled (6)
- 15 Sacrifice of a ring finger is messy (5,8)
- 19 Improve church after ire returned around noon (6)
- 20 Some weekend lessons can be like God's kingdom (7)
- 23 Write note estimating expenditure for festival (9)
- 24 Teacher provides endless prattle (5)
- 26 Doctor bearing Sunday School education is ready to go (7)
- 27 Remove zirconium from potential biohazard for prophet (7)

Down

- 1 Weapons harm Samaritan prisoners (4)
- 2 Saint against them losing time within church strategy (6)
- 3 A merger of convicts seen at Babel? (9)
- 4 Disregard festival (8)
- 5 Look for pear in novel canapé (10)
- 6 In Paris, I desire to be like Mark or John (6)
- 7 Return to record plan (4)
- 8 Take again without second protest (6)
- 12 Up front messenger like John the Baptist (10)
- 14 Fondness for very loud Egyptian leader in action (9)
- 16 Comfort after wearing crown is swell (8)
- 17 Gathered red mushy pea inside (6)
- 18 Book one has returned with first class content (6)
- 21 Cord woven by a small seamstress (6)
- 22 Sounds like praise for God (4)
- 25 Balm or injection? Leg initially becomes sore (4)

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Across: 1 Burning bush, 6 Roast, 7 Pearl, 8 Ears, 9 Eve, 10 Deposed, 14 Eli, 15 Seen, 16 Exalt, 17 Elect, 18 Unadvisedly.

Down: 1 Border, 2 Reaped, 3 Interpret, 4 Bees, 5 Syria, 7 Prisoners, 11 Defend, 12 Filthy, 13 Waxen, 15 Slid.

Bible Crossword by 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