

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 – 27th November 2022

This Week's Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility: that, on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



First Sunday of Advent

Lord our God, keep us your servants alert and watchful as we await the return of Christ your Son, so that when he comes and knocks at the door he may find us vigilant in prayer, with songs of praise on our lips. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Minister's Message - Advent Sunday 2022

As Advent begins again many of us wonder where the year has gone! This Advent the Methodist Church is focusing on the theme of "There IS Room" - a contrast to the experience of Mary and Joseph who were told that there was no room for them in the Inn at Bethlehem.

As individuals and families we enjoy making room for those who come to visit us at this time of year. We are challenged to also make room for the strangers who come from around the world to our country and our city. There is room in God's love for them so we must make room in our hearts and lives as well.

As a Church we seek to be welcoming to all who come, and it is a positive experience when we can make room for the ideas and insights that newcomers bring with them. At a time when we are more aware of the diversity of people in many ways, including gender and sexuality, the Methodist and United Reformed Churches are known to be denominations which are open to all.

Above all, our Advent preparations and Christmas celebrations can enable us to make room for more of Jesus in our hearts. As we hear familiar words and sing favourite carols, may we truly make room for Jesus and all that he gives to us.

God bless. Revd. Peter Hughes

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>NOVEMBER 2022</i>	
Thursday 24th	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Coffee morning
Sunday 27th	10.30 a.m. Morning Worship – Revd. Peter Hughes (Holy Communion) Followed by tea and coffee. Advent.
<i>DECEMBER 2022</i>	
Thursday 1st	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Coffee morning
Saturday 3rd	7 p.m. Christmas Sing-along
Sunday 4th	10.30 a.m. Morning Worship – Matthew Dyer
Monday 5th	2.30 p.m. Bible Fellowship
	7.30 p.m. Steward Elders meeting
Thursday 8th	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Coffee morning
Saturday 10th	10 a.m. – 12 noon Coffee morning (Carol singing in village)
Sunday 11th	10.30 a.m. Morning Worship - All Age Worship & Gift service – Liz Hudson NB no coffee after this service due to set up for:
	4 p.m. Carol Service - Revd Peter Hughes Followed by tea, coffee, and mince pies
Monday 12th	7.30 p.m. Steward Elders
Wednesday 14th	1.30 - 2.30 p.m. Prayer Hour
	7.30 p.m. House Group
Thursday 15th	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Coffee morning
Sunday 18th	10.30 a.m. Morning Communion & Christingle
Thursday 22nd	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Coffee morning
Saturday 24th	11.30 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion led by Revd. Peter Hughes
Sunday 25th	10.00 a.m. Christmas Day - Revd. Peter Hughes - All Age Worship * (no tea and coffee)
Thursday 29th	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Coffee morning
<i>JANUARY 2023</i>	
Sunday 1st	11 a.m. - All Age Café-Style Worship to welcome in the New Year with songs, prayers and hot snacks.

Sunday Morning Tea and Coffee following worship:

We are pleased to offer this opportunity to chat together over a cuppa following worship on the Sunday mornings following All Age Worship and Holy Communion at morning services. This means there will be usually two Sundays in each month when we can meet and catch up on, renew friendships and welcome visitors.

But please see above for variations over the Christmas and New Year period.

Quiet Prayer Times are held on the **2nd Wednesday of every month, between 1.30 and 2.30 pm.** (See December date above). Come and offer your personal and global concerns quietly to God. Light a candle or leave a prayer on the message board while you are here or leave a prayer request in advance in the prayer book in the porch or in the 'Say One for Me' box by the main notice board. We will pray for you.

Drop-in for just a few minutes or stay for a while. Everyone welcome.

News from the Local Preachers Meeting

The Circuit Local Preachers Meeting, which took place at St James this week, was happy to agree to the proposal by Rev Peter Hughes that Kieran Bohan be given a note to preach. This means that Kieran will begin the process of training as a Local Preacher, under the guidance of a mentor. Members of the meeting were privileged to hear Kieran's testimony, sharing his vocation and faith which have developed and grown over many years in different Churches and places. We congratulate Kieran on this significant step in exploring his vocation and look forward to him leading worship at St James in the near future.

Church Flowers

Here at St. James', we're extremely lucky to have Jonquil who excels herself week in, week out by producing wonderful flower displays. She is extremely talented.

If you would like to donate money for flowers on a particular Sunday - perhaps in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a happy event - please speak to **Jonquil Dickson** who can add you to the calendar for the months ahead.

Also, if you would simply like to donate for flowers so that we can make sure all Sundays are covered, please speak to Jonquil. At present, we have many dates available.

We know have a box at the back of church for any donations or small change. All donations are gratefully received. We will then deliver those flowers to people after the Service.

If you know someone who you feel would be blessed by receiving flowers from Church, please speak to **Jonquil** or a steward.

We will also need some more volunteers to take flowers out to people.

DONATION BOX FOR CHURCH FLOWERS.

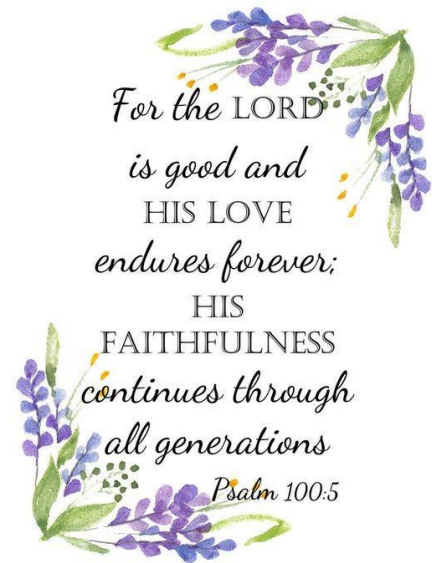
We are collecting any donations and loose change towards our beautiful arrangements.

Would you like to have a special occasion celebrated by sponsoring our church flowers for yourself or a loved one?

Do you feel able to help with our flower delivery to those at home and would like to join the rota?

Please speak to Jonquil or a Steward.

Thank you



Winter Fayre

Our Winter Fayre on Saturday 19th November raised an amazing £1327.00. The money raised from this event has traditionally been for the general maintenance of our two beautiful buildings. Many thanks to those of you who helped run the stalls. To the Guiding groups who built the Grotto and helped Santa to chat with a great number of children and to give them all a small present. We are grateful for the support of so many of you who visited on the day and helped to make it a very happy event. Hope to see you next year – the third Saturday of November. Santa has already booked us into his diary!!!

The Saturday Coffee Morning on the 12th of November raised £102.00. Hope to see you on Saturday 10th December for Coffee and Mince Pies. Our carol singers will be out and about in the village that morning and may even give us a Festive rendition when they pop in for a cuppa.

WORSHIPPING BY PHONE

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:

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.

The Host for this service is Liz Hudson

Order of Worship:

- **Welcome and notices**
- **Opening prayer**
- **Bible reading:**
- **Lord's Prayer**
- **Talk or "mini sermon"**
- **Prayers**
- **Grace and dismissal.**

Pam Bellis



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.



Benevolent Fund Collection

In the month of Remembrance, the benevolent fund collection at the communion service on Sunday, 27 November, will be for The Royal British Legion. The Legion supports members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, veterans, and their families.

They work hard to support the most vulnerable in our society, be it older veterans that they care for, those who suffer from social isolation, or those who are simply overwhelmed by the challenges associated with the cost-of-living crisis. Their support is a lifeline for thousands of serving and ex-serving personnel and their families.



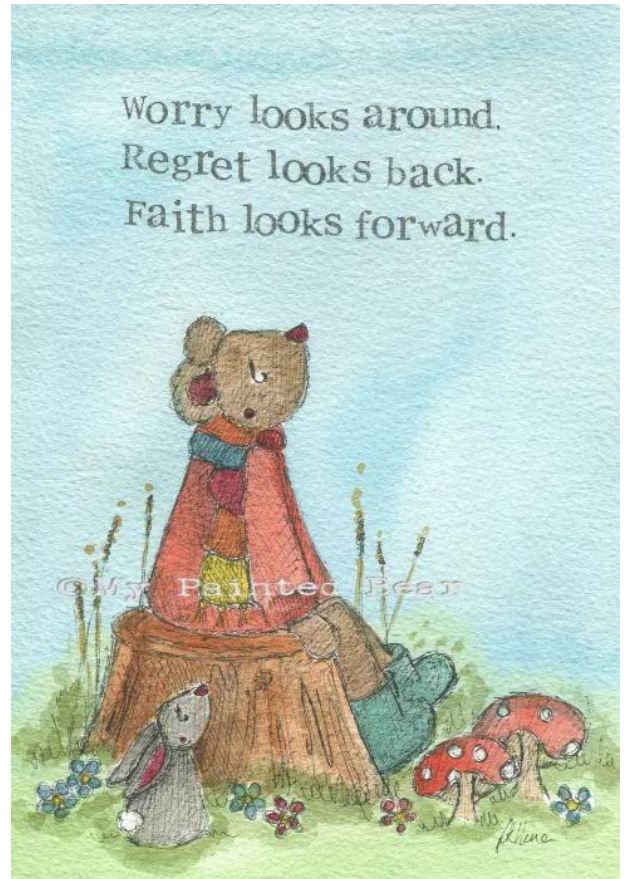
Christmas Wishes Tree

We just wanted to give you plenty of notice that we will once again be having a Christmas Wish Tree in Church where you can share a Christmas Wish and hang it on the tree instead of writing individual cards for church friends.

If you wish you will also be able to donate to charity in lieu of buying cards. The charity we are supporting this year is "Steps to Work" which runs at Strawberry Field. Many thanks.

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.**



Roy Barker & Friends Christmas Sing-along

Roy Barker & Friends Christmas Sing-along is on Saturday 3rd December at 7.00 pm
(doors open at 6.30pm).

Come and join us for some Christmas fun and lots of singing. Wear your Christmas hats and sweaters and bring your voices.

Proceeds will be split between St James' Church Development Fund and The Alder Centre at Alder Hey Hospital, who provide various types of support and education for anyone affected by the death of a child.



**Get your tickets now: adults: £6,
children: £1.**

**Contact Roy and Lynne Barker
0151 421 1218**



Engagement

Congratulations to Heather who was proposed to on the 18th of November by her now fiancé, Paul
With love from Mum, (Gill McIntyre) and all your friends at St James'.

Celebrating Christmas with Strawberry Field Featuring Music by the Salvation Army and Special Guests



Strawberry Field invites you to an evening of seasonal music, carols and readings to celebrate Christmas at The Auditorium at M&S Bank Arena.

Proceeds will help keep our gates open for the good of our trainees and the wider community.

Featuring;

Asa Murphy, vocalist, and entertainer

Liverpool Signing Choir

Sale Salvation Army Songsters

Liverpool Walton Salvation Army Band

Compere: Paul Beesley, BBC Radio Merseyside

Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult.

ST JAMES CHRISTMAS GIFT SERVICE – SUNDAY DECEMBER 11TH 2022 AT 10.30 A.M.

The family-based charities we traditionally support at this time of year (Centre 56, the Women's Refuge and the Action For Children Day Centre,) have respectfully asked if we would again consider replacing gifts of toys with

- Monetary donations that can be converted into gift vouchers for the families to buy the most appropriate treats for their children
- Christmas food treats – puddings, chocolates, biscuits etc that can be put into gift hampers for each family, and
- toiletries for teenagers and adults.

Christmas food treats will also be distributed amongst the 700 families across the city of Liverpool who are currently being supported by the Whitechapel Centre.

We hope that gifts of these kinds can be received *no later than* the Gift Service of Blessing on December 11th, to ensure they can be distributed in time. If you cannot be in church that morning your gift will also be gratefully received before that date by

- bringing toiletries and Christmas Food items to church any Sunday and handing them to a Steward Elder.
- dropping food items in the porch at Roy and Lynne's house,
- contacting Wendy or Liz to have them picked up from you direct,
- placing financial gifts either in the gift boxes available at church on December 4th and 11th, or
- making a cash donation 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).

Anything you are able to share at this special season will be greatly appreciated as all our charities have expressed deep concern at the levels of hardship and anxiety, they are encountering in the run up to Christmas 2022. Thank you so much for your help and support to spread love and caring in the name of Jesus.

Carol singing – come and join us – don't forget your Christmas attire!

Saturday 26th November

St James' have been invited to sing at *Woolton Primary School Christmas Fair* as people arrive. Meet at **11.15 a.m.** in the Out Lane Reception area, we'll sing outdoors for 30 – 40 minutes.

Saturday 10th December

We'll gather in Woolton Village at **10.30 a.m.** to sing with the other churches at the Farmers Market until about **11.00 a.m.**, then back to church for refreshments at the Coffee Morning.

Tuesday 20th December

4.00 – 4.45 p.m. Tesco
5.00 – 5.45 p.m. Sainsburys
5.50 – 6.35 p.m. Refreshments/chippy at St James'
6.45 p.m. Marie Curie (please bring a mask)

If you'd like to help decorate the church, come, and join us from **2.00 p.m.** on **Monday 28th November.**

Speak to **Roy or Lynne Barker** for more details.

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

Therefore, stay awake!
For you do not know on which day
your Lord will come.

MATTHEW 24:42





in aid of

St. James' Church Development Fund

and



The Alder Centre

FOR ANYONE AFFECTED BY THE DEATH OF A CHILD

Saturday, 3rd December 2022
at 7.00 p.m.

ROY BARKER'S

CHRISTMAS
SING-A-LONG

25 years of singing-a-long with Roy



Tickets: Adults £6.00 Children £1.00

Venue: St. James' Church, Church Road South, Woolton, Liverpool L25 7RJ

Call Roy on 0151 421 1218 for tickets



Doors open at 6.30 p.m.