

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 – 10th October 2021



This Week's Collect

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lord, in your goodness, open our eyes to your light, and so fill our hearts with your glory that we may always acknowledge Jesus as Saviour, and hold fast to his word in sincerity and truth. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



God of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish in us all goodness and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

UPCOMING PREACHERS

Sunday October 10th Matthew Dyer (St James') Revd. John Lansley (phone)

Harvest Festival Service

Sunday October 17th Revd. Peter Hughes (St James') Andrew Gillespie (phone)

LAST MINUTE REMINDER:

Our Church Council Meeting is tomorrow (Monday 11th) at 7.30pm in Church.
All are welcome - including those not on the Church Council, who are welcome to give their views (although they will be unable to vote). One of our discussion points will be whether St James should register to be able to host same sex marriage ceremonies.
Please join us. Peter

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Hello Everyone and a Happy Harvest festival to you all.

Despite the current issues with the "supply chain" we are very fortunate that most of our cupboards, fridges and tables continue to be full of the harvest of God's good creation. We pray that as we celebrate Harvest this year our plenty will overflow into generous giving to help others. There is the opportunity to support All We Can's harvest project in Zimbabwe and to give non-perishable food to help families locally. At this time of year, we agree with the hymn writer who declared "Yes, God is Good".

God Bless you all.

This week's pictures

This week I have chosen two photographs taken on 21st June when I walked on the Peak Forest Canal with Marie-Anne, a former colleague from Southport. We started at Marple locks, one of which you can see in the first picture. Soon afterwards we crossed Marple Aqueduct which runs parallel with the Railway Viaduct - an amazing sight! After a while the canal and railway line part company. In our lives we have the gift of people who we walk alongside for a time. Let us give thanks for those who share our journey and think of those who have now travelled elsewhere – whether in this world or to God's loving care in heaven.



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

You are invited to come to our Family Film Night at St James Church, Woolton

Sing along Mary Poppins – the original 1964 version

Running time 2 hours and 24 minutes

Saturday 16th October 2021 at 6pm – doors open at 5:30pm

Come and join us and bring the family for a good sing song to one of our favourite films.

There will be a tuck shop available with sweets and drinks.

You are encouraged to join in the fun and come in costume of one of the characters in the film.

There will be a prize for the best child's costume and for the best adult's costume.

Entry is by donation and paid at the door on the night.

We will still be practising careful Covid19 arrangements in church.

There will be sanitiser available on entry to the church and we would prefer that you wear a mask when moving about the church and while singing.

If you are planning to come it would help us to have an idea of numbers, so if you are able, please pass your name and the numbers attending to one of our stewards / church members, but don't worry if you can't, just come on the night

Thank you and hope to see you there!



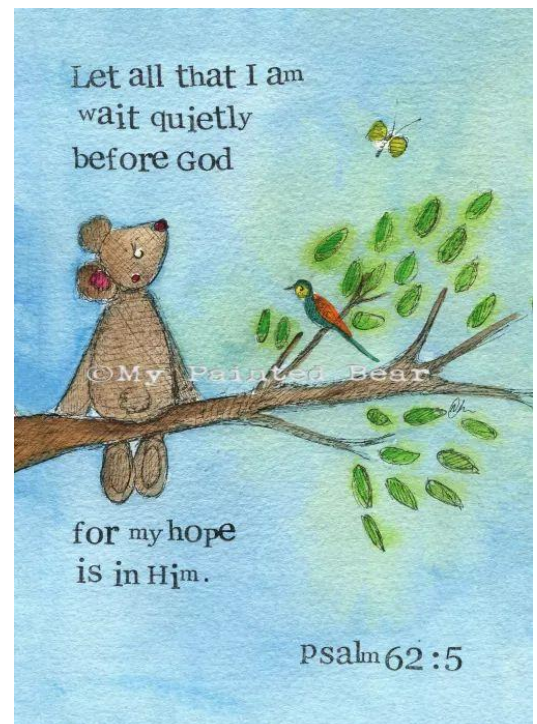
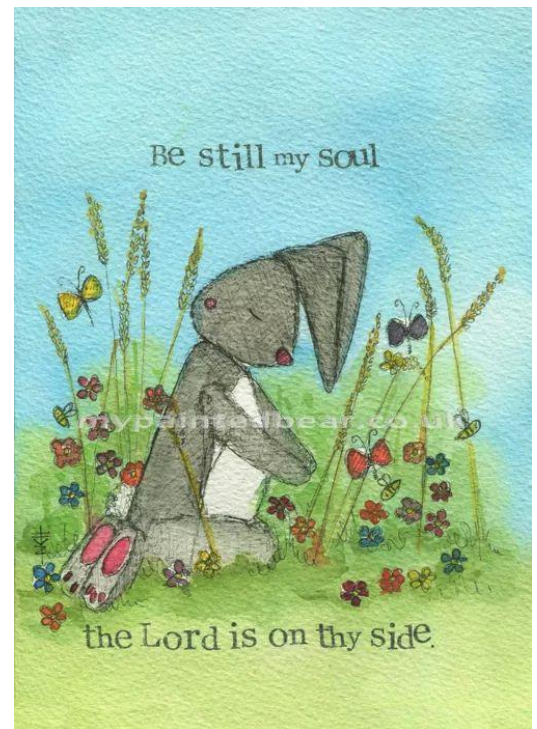
PRAYERS NEEDED

Dear Lord, You are the Just judge, Holy and True.
You are the Most-High God. You give us life.
You hold all power in your hands.
You are the Mighty one from God who carries the world and is ruler over all the earth.
You Oh Most Blessed One are the giver of life. In you are only good things.
In you is mercy and love. In you is healing of the nations.
In you is freedom of worry and freedom of pain.
Lord Almighty, You loved us so much. You were sent from your Father,
sent to save us from destruction.
We truly can never make it to Heaven without the help of Jesus the Son, who was sent to earth to help us.
You, Lord are full of mercy and grace, please forgive us for our faults.
Lord Jesus, in you all healing is performed. You Lord are the miracle worker.
In your Spirit, your gift of healing is alive. In you Lord we can put our trust that you can heal us,
and protect us from the enemy, and death of our soul.
You, Lord are miracle worker for the sick, and for the lost souls.
You, Lord forgive us and save us from condemnation.
You cleanse us and make us born again new.
You give us a clean heart full of peace.
You Lord are the Light.
In You is all truth. Your way Lord is the way to Heavenly Hope.
Your hands Lord created the universe. You Lord are the True giver of Life.
Every child is a miracle of Life. Life rests in Your Hands.
Wrap us as a close-knit family, draw us near to you Lord, and bind us with your Loving Hands.
Let us be drawn closer to You. You are the Vine; dear Lord and we are the branches.
You carry all knowledge and all power. You Lord are our medicine. Your Words Lord are Truth and Life.
Help us put our trust in You. You Lord are the greatest physician.
You heal, You protect, You care, You love, You are kind, You are patient,
You are thoughtful, You are strength. You Lord are our Creator.
You know our thoughts, our sighing's and our crying's and every hair on our head.
You are Wonderful and make all good things for us. Heal us Lord if it be Your will.

Amen

We continue to pray for Gordon and Christine Salmon, Ken Kitchen, Ann Wells, Dave Bedford and Pat Fagan.

We also pray for all those who need our prayers.



Special Achievements of our St James' family



Here's a photo of Oliver with his trophy.

His team is Woolton Milan and they have won the Merseyside and Halewood Junior Football League Cup 2020/21 (should have played it last season but postponed due to covid).

They won 3-2 against Huyton Mags so it was close unfortunately Oliver didn't score in the final but his injury time goal against Halewood Town got them to the final.

Well done, Oliver. What an amazing achievement.

Good luck with the new season.

Hilary Hopkin Queen's Award Winner



Volunteers who help asylum seekers have been awarded the prestigious **Queen's Award**. Queen Elizabeth II has bestowed the highest accolade possible to volunteer groups in the United Kingdom on Merseyside Asylum Seekers.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service was given to Asylum Link Merseyside, situated in Wavertree, for their outstanding contributions serving the Merseyside Refugee community. To be eligible for nomination, a volunteer group should do work that provides a service and meets the needs of the local community, is supported and respected by said community and is run by local people. Winners are chosen by the National Award Committee, who make recommendations for the award to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport which then sends a list of winners to the Queen for final approval.

Asylum Link Merseyside is a welcoming environment where asylum seekers and refugees may meet, relax, and mingle with the local population.

They provide services based on an ideal of equality and compassion, assisting Asylum Seekers in overcoming modern-day challenges.

Asylum Link Merseyside is made up of people from every region of the globe and from every background imaginable: film directors from Pakistan, car dealers from Syria, goldsmiths from Iran, and physicians from Uganda.

It's a location where worlds clash, and each day swings from destitution to old friends being granted permission to stay after years of waiting.

At the heart of it all are the volunteers who help to make this a haven of hope and, as often as possible, pleasure.

One of the 400 Asylum Link Merseyside volunteers who won the award is our very own **Hilary Hopkin** who has volunteered for the last 5 years, teaching English. What an unbelievable achievement and honour. Everyone at St. James' is extremely proud of you.



Opening Words

Wonderful creator, we come into your company to listen to your word, to hear your voice and know your grace in this place and in our lives.

Amen

Hymn: Be Thou my Vision (Singing the Faith 545)

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/hymns/be-thou-my-vision-o-lord-of-my-heart-stf-545/>

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

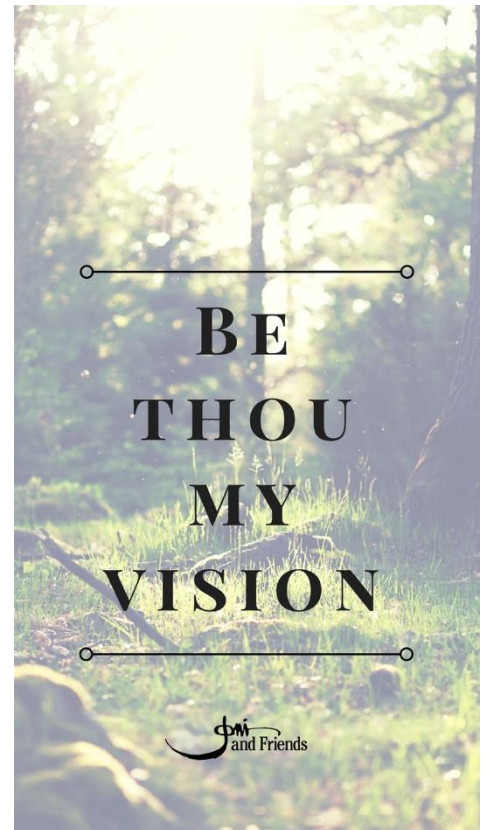
Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father, thy child let me be;
be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance now and always;
be thou and thou only the first in my heart:
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Irish, 8th century translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931) versified by Eleanor Henrietta Hull (1860-1935) (alt.)



Collect for the day

God of all power and might the author and giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish in us all goodness and of your great mercy keep us in the same, through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

Let us pray together our prayer of adoration

Loving God, we lift our praise to you who shaped this world and filled it with such beauty for us to explore in wonder

It is to you, Lord, that we lift our praises, from the beginning you had a plan for us and we are held in your hand.

We lift our praises to you, compassionate Father. It is you who grants us freedom from the burden of sin and, as a shepherd, brings us safely back to you.

Amen.

Let us pray together our prayer of confession

Forgive us, Lord, when our faith is too small and we struggle to believe that you can help us, when we cry out in despair not expecting an answer.

Forgive us when others try to persuade us that you do not exist or when the words of others lead us to doubt.

Forgive us, Lord, when the journey of faith is hard and we are tempted to wander, when we do not use wisely the gifts that you have given us.

Forgive us, Lord and rekindle the flame that once shone within our hearts.

Amen.

Hebrews 4: 12-16

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:17-31

Reflection

When reading a bible passage one of the things I sometimes do is to try and put myself in the reading, imaging what is happening around and what the feelings are of those mentioned in the passage.

In today's gospel reading, we hear of a man, described as the rich man, running up to Jesus to seek answers. I imagine that something in his life must have caused him to run to Jesus, kneel down and ask his question. The rich man has a desperation behind his question; a desire to know the answer, a desire to find out the answers from the teacher.

Many of us have had times in our lives when we have asked the same kinds of questions. The type of question I find myself asking in the middle of a sleepless night or in the middle of the day when I find myself longing to know all the answers, it's an in the moment kind of question about life, that moment in time, what do I need to do to receive God's grace and live a life filled with his plans for me.

The rich man knew the answer to the question that he asked Jesus but he still felt the need to ask "...what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

When things go wrong or not in the direction, we thought they would, we'd often like to turn back time, to long for something different but unless we're a time traveller, Dr Who or Doc and Marty McFly, that won't be happening to us.

The rich man is wanting a different quality of life, a second chance and Jesus' words may sound like a challenge, a list of things he has to do or a list of things he has to accomplish before he will inherit eternal life.

What if, instead of thinking of the list as challenges, we think of them as words of hope and words of recovery. I'm not thinking of rescue and needs as a prize; but as an alternative; the gift of being able to start again with God in our lives.

Jesus offers us hope and salvation in the grace of God. To receive God's grace, we may need to let go of the things that are holding us back. This may be our riches or the things we are doing in our lives that don't lead us in the direction that God intended. We need to invest in what God is offering us and take up his offer.

Like the rich man we may grieve for what we have to give up, for what we need to change, for the things we are asked by God to do differently. The rich man may have appeared to turn away from what he was being asked to do but we don't know this for sure, we don't know what he did after he left. He may have gone home and immediately changed his life, he may not have done it immediately, it may have been weeks, months or years later. We don't need to know what the rich man did; we need to think about our response, how we respond to God's call on our lives.

What is God asking you to do? Where do you need God's guidance and direction in your life? Are you living a life filled with God's grace or are there things you need to let go of, things you need to do more of? Do you see the hope that comes with having the Holy Spirit as your guide and Jesus in your life?

There is so much on offer if we just listen to God's call.

Take time to sit quietly.

A time of prayer

God, you are there in our hours of activity and hours of rest. You heal us and forgive us. God, you are there when we pray and reach out to you. It is through you we find blessing. Receive our thanks and praise.

In this time of prayer, almighty God, we bring our anxieties, worries and troubles to you in prayer. We pray for the people and situations close to home. May our eyes be open to the needs of our family and friends and the community around us. May we use the gifts you give us to meet their needs.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for your world. We bring before you our concerns about situations in places in our news such as Afghanistan, and in other places which may not currently be in the news headlines but are no less important. We pray for the families who have been forced to leave their homes to seek security and peace. We pray for those in positions of influence. May they make the right decisions as they work for justice and peace.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We remember in our prayers those who are in poor physical or mental health and give thanks to those who look after them. We remember those suffering in other ways, especially those who mourn the deaths of family members and friends. And we pray for ourselves. We pray that we may hear your voice in the midst of our busy lives.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn: Will you come and follow me (Singing the Faith 673) <https://youtu.be/S-Bq1YtpQL8>

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

A prayer of blessing

May you hear God's voice, know his plans for you and feel the support his loving arms give. May you walk with God today, tomorrow and the days ahead.

Amen.

Hebrews 4:12-16 (New Revised Standard Version)

12 Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

13 And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

14 Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Mark 10: 17-31 (New Revised Standard Version)

17 As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

18 Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.

19 You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.'"

20 He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth."

21 Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

22 When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"

24 And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!

25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

26 They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?"

27 Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

28 Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you."

29 Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news,

30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.

31 But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."



Harvest Gifts 2021

Harvest gifts of NON-PERISHABLE FOOD (tins and packets) will be collected throughout October, starting Sunday October 10th -

- in church on Sunday mornings, OR
- they can be left in Roy and Lynne Barker's porch

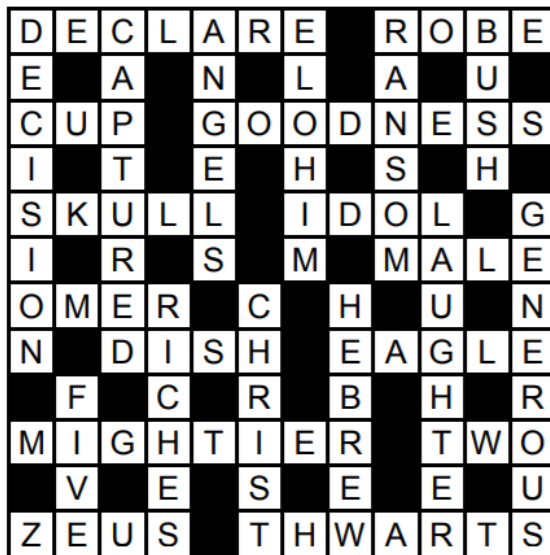
Cash donations in lieu can be made

- in church or
- direct to the Treasurer, Steve Elliott.
- By bank transfer as per weekly collection (ref Harvest) Or
- by cheque / post to St James Church, Church Road South, Woolton, Liverpool, L25 7RJ (please mark them 'Harvest' on the back)

All gifts will be share between local food distribution centres and 'All We Can' (The Methodist Overseas Relief and Development Fund).

Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Across: 1 Declare, 5 Robe, 7 Cup, 8 Goodness, 9 Skull, 10 Idol, 13 Male, 14 Omer, 18 Dish, 19 Eagle, 21 Mightier, 22 Two, 23 Zeus, 24 Thwarts.

Down: 1 Decision, 2 Captured, 3 Angels, 4 Elohim, 5 Ransom, 6 Bush, 11 Laughter, 12 Generous, 15 Riches, 16 Christ, 17 Hebrew, 20 Five.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

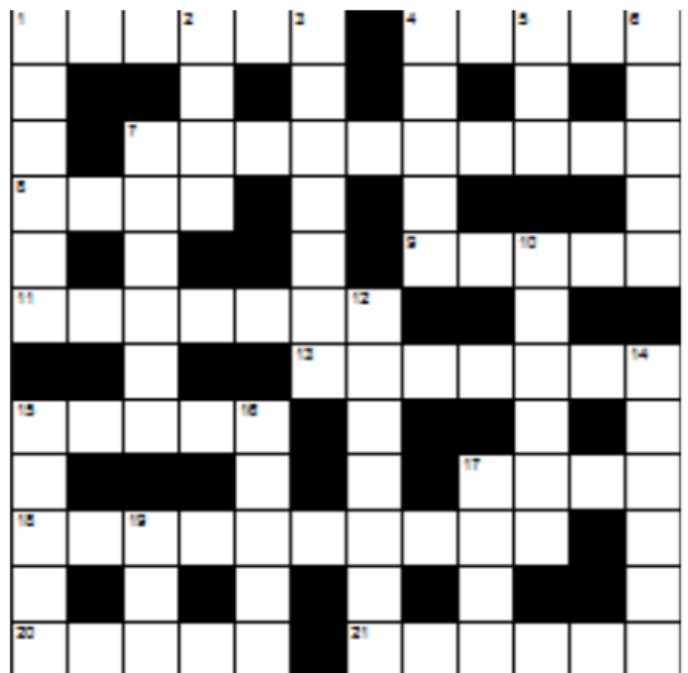
Across

- 1 Chariot pullers (6)
- 4 Flung (5)
- 7 Backbiters (10)
- 8 Used in the healing of a blind man (4)
- 9 Place of sacrifice (5)
- 11 Gift (7)
- 13 Area where disciples were from (7)
- 15 Cymbal player (5)
- 17 Covetousness (4)
- 18 Aaron, for example (4,6)
- 20 Reddish (5)
- 21 Misgivings (6)

Down

- 1 Aromatic herb (6)
- 2 Food seasoner (4)

- 3 The sound of a choir (7)
- 4 Between eta and iota (5)
- 5 Regret (3)
- 6 More like Solomon (5)
- 7 Jael's victim (6)
- 10 A unit of measure (6)
- 12 Lingered (7)
- 14 Blinded false prophet (6)
- 15 Son of Jacob (5)
- 16 Elated (5)
- 17 Lost his father's blessing to Jacob (4)
- 19 The Almighty (3)



by Philologus

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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 – Matthew Dyer

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. John Lansley

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 10th October

6.00 – 9.30 a.m. Radio Merseyside: Daybreak

Ngunan Adamu sits in and brings you the Sunday magazine reflecting Merseyside's worlds of faith.

8.10 a.m. Radio 4: Sunday Worship. Search me O God and know my heart

A service for World Mental Health Day, with counsellor and psychotherapist Major Richard Gaudion and the International Staff Songsters of the Salvation Army.

13.15 BBC 1 Songs of Praise: Faith in Coventry

Claire McCollum is in Coventry, this year's UK City of Culture and host of Faith, a 24-hour event bringing together the city's different religions.

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

"What's your best
discovery? asked
the mole



"That I'm enough as I am"
said the boy

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

