

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 – 30th January 2022



This Week's Collect



²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked. ²³ Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'" ²⁴ "Truly I tell you," He continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷ And there were many in Israel with leprosy^[a] in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way. **(Luke 4:21-30).**

God of heaven and earth, whose power is made fully known in your pardoning mercy: ever fill us with your grace, that, entering more fully into your promises, we may come to share in the good things of heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister's Message

Hello everyone,

Today is our Church Anniversary and what better way to celebrate than by re-dedicating our lives to God through the Covenant Service. We have probably broken all our New Year resolutions by now, but there is always the opportunity to begin again with Jesus. Let us hope that we are on the verge of a period when things can open up again, enabling us to spend more time with each other.

God Bless Peter

UPCOMING PREACHERS

Sunday January 30th Revd. Peter Hughes (St James') Revd. John Lansley (phone)

Monday House Group

The Monday House group will meet in Church TOMORROW - 31st January at 2.30pm.
All are welcome as we continue our exploration of Luke's Gospel.

Pictures from Peter

The opportunity to revisit the Trent and Mersey Canal (scene of some of my Sabbatical Adventures) with a friend was not to be missed.

In contrast with last summer, we enjoyed a frosty walk, with the canal frozen over in places. At the end of the walk near Preston Brook Tunnel we found a lovely tea shop with organic homemade cakes. I had a large slice of chocolate orange cake, having burned off all those calories on the walk!



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 February)**

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” (Revd. John Lansley)**
- **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.

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

Thanksgiving for the Life of Gordon Salmon

Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Gordon Salmon to be held on Wednesday February 23rd, 2022, at 2.30 pm. Invitation to everyone who knew Gordon and remembers him with love and affection.

If you would like to attend this service and/or the refreshments in the church hall afterwards, please let Wendy or one of the Stewards know as soon as you can, to help with seating and catering arrangements. Please do not contact Christine or the family direct.

PRAYERS

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.

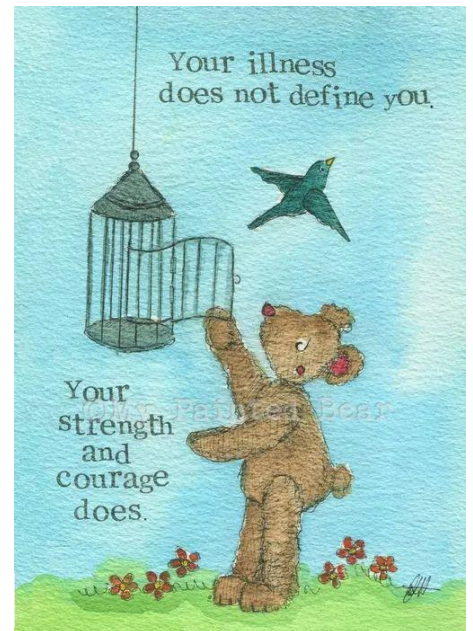
Amen.

We continue to pray for Christine Salmon and her family, Margaret Peacop and her family Ken Kitchen, John and Sylvia Pagan, Mike Hughes, The family of Marion Harvey 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.

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.



Opening Prayer

Lord, I worship you and seek your word. I long to share worship with others but know I can offer you the worship of my heart. Amen.

Hymn: StF 443 "Come let us sing of a wonderful love"

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XCSx7ZZ3-2I>

Come, let us sing of a wonderful love, tender and true;
out of the heart of the Father above, streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel to tell, joyfully came;
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell, sharing their sorrow and shame;
seeking the lost, saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet; why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget; home, weary wanderer, home!
Wonderful love dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love, come and abide,
lifting my life, till it rises above envy and falsehood and pride;
seeking to be lowly and humble, a learner of thee.
Robert Walmsley (1831-1905)

Let us pray together

Lord, I look in wonder at the world you have created a world that sustains life. I thank you for the gift of life and the joy of living in fellowship with others.
I confess that I have failed to live as you would have me live. Yet, even in confession, I know your forgiveness through the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Today's Reading from the Old Testament

Jeremiah 1: 4 - 10

Today's Epistle Reading:

1 Corinthians: 13: 1 – 13

The Song of Simeon (StF 794)

NUNC DIMITTIS (The Song of Simeon)

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.

Amen.

Today's Gospel Reading:

Luke 4: 21 -30

Time to Reflect

The Song of Simeon celebrates his recognition of the baby Jesus as the Messiah.

This recognition contrasts starkly with the rejection Jesus experiences in the synagogue in Nazareth about 30 years later as told in our Gospel reading.

In a similar way Jeremiah writes confidently at the start of his work “Now the word of the Lord came to me”, yet when, following God’s word, he took the message to God’s people he, and God’s word, were initially met with rejection.

When we hear God’s word do, we accept it or reject it? This is not an easy question, as we must first ask if it is really God’s word. Jesus himself warns us to beware of false prophets. So, we cannot simply accept any notion that occurs to us, or message we are given, as being the word of God. At this time our ability to ask if this is the Word of God may be limited if we cannot attend our normal worship and have only limited contact with others.

We can, however, start by asking of the word we have received, be that directly by God speaking to us or through the witness of a fellow Christian, does it reflect the loving God we know? Paul helps us answer that question with his explanation of the love of God in 1 Corinthians 13. This may not be the end of our journey but may be a very good beginning.

Once we know if it is the word of God, can we follow it and proclaim it as Simeon and Jeremiah?

Take a time to sit quietly A time of prayer

I thank you Lord for the gift of your Son: for his life, sufferings and death and for his Resurrection and Ascension, for the witness, salvation and hope he gives. I thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit to those who follow you, and especially for the gift of that Spirit in your Church. I rejoice in the work and witness of your Church and pray that it may continue to strive to fulfil your work and proclaim your Love.

I pray for the needs of the world, thinking especially for all those suffering in any way. Especially be with..... (people known to me or personal concerns). I give thanks for those who seek to help and comfort those in need.

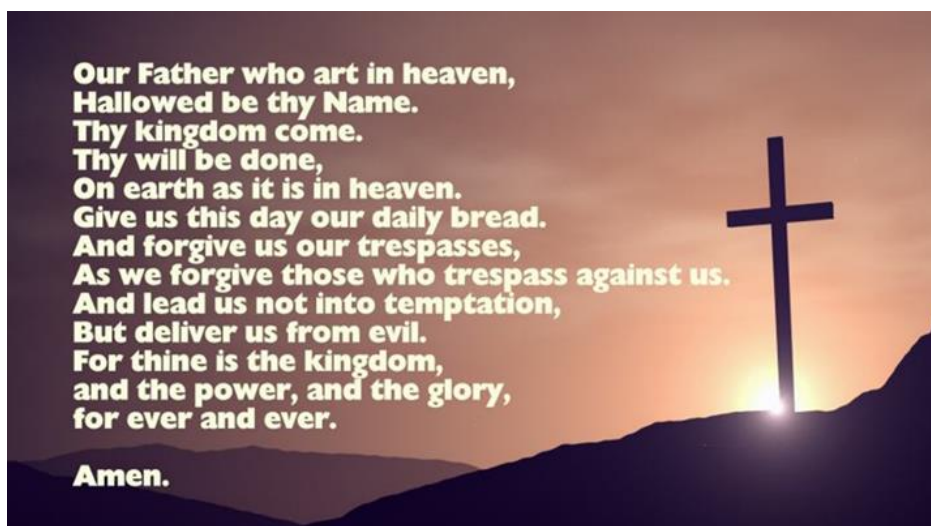
Be with those whose lives impact others: leaders in government or the workplace, health care and emergency workers, teachers and all those on whom people depend. Grant them the wisdom and the strength to know and to follow your way.

I pray that, in my own life, I might better know your Love in Jesus, and may be strengthened by your Spirit to follow you.

Amen

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father



Hymn: Listen to “Have you heard God’s voice?” (StF 662)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLeBah4tflg>

Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred?
Are you still prepared to follow?
Have you made a choice to remain and serve, though the way be rough and narrow?

***Will you walk the path that will cost you much
and embrace the pain and sorrow?***

***Will you trust in One who entrusts to you
the disciples of tomorrow?***

Will you use your voice; will you not sit down when the multitudes are silent?
Will you make a choice to stand your ground when the crowds are turning violent?
In your city streets will you be God's heart?
Will you listen to the voiceless?
Will you stop and eat, and when friendships start, will you share your faith with the faithless?

Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith and believe it could be different?
Will you share your views using words of grace?
Will you leave a thoughtful imprint?

We will walk the path that will cost us much and embrace the pain and sorrow.
We will trust in One who entrusts to us the disciples of tomorrow.
Jacqueline G. Jones

A prayer of blessing

May God be gracious to us and bless us.
May God’s face shine upon us.
May God’s ways be known upon earth,
his saving power among the nations.
May the blessing of God
the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with us all, this day and always.

***Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 1: 4 – 10
Jeremiah’s Call and Commission***

4 Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
5 ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and
before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you
a prophet to the nations.’
6 Then I said, ‘Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to
speak, for I am only a boy.’
7 But the Lord said to me, ‘Do not say, “I am only a boy”;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall
speak whatever I command you.
8 Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.’
9 Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth;
and the Lord said to me,
‘Now I have put my words in your mouth.
10 See, today I appoint you over nations and over
kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and
to overthrow, to build and to plant.’



Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians: 13: 1 – 13

The Gift of Love

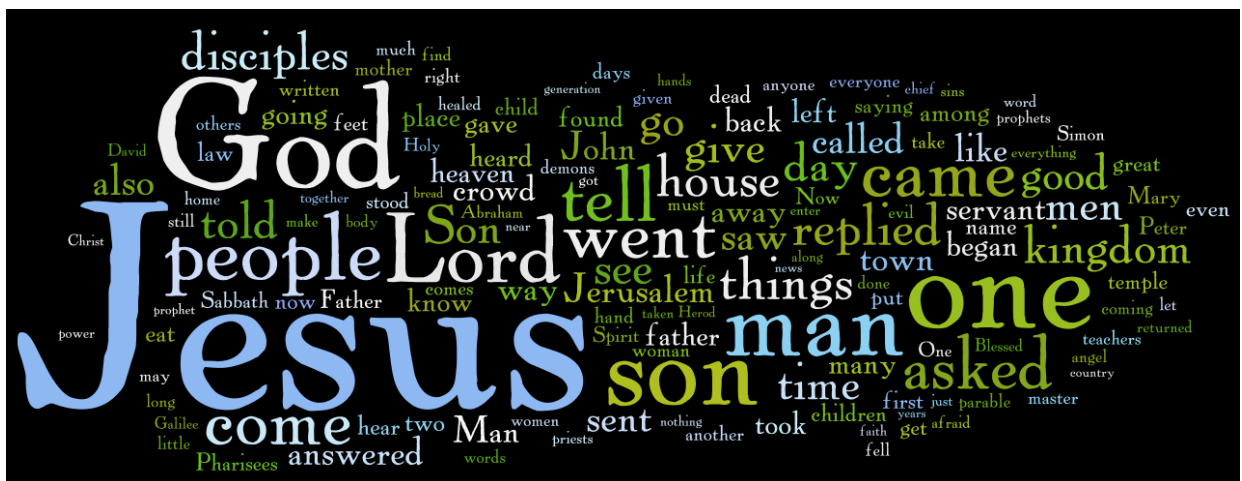
1 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
3 If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.
4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant
5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful.
6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth.
7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.
9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part.
10 but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.
11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.
12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.
13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The Song of Simeon (StF 794)

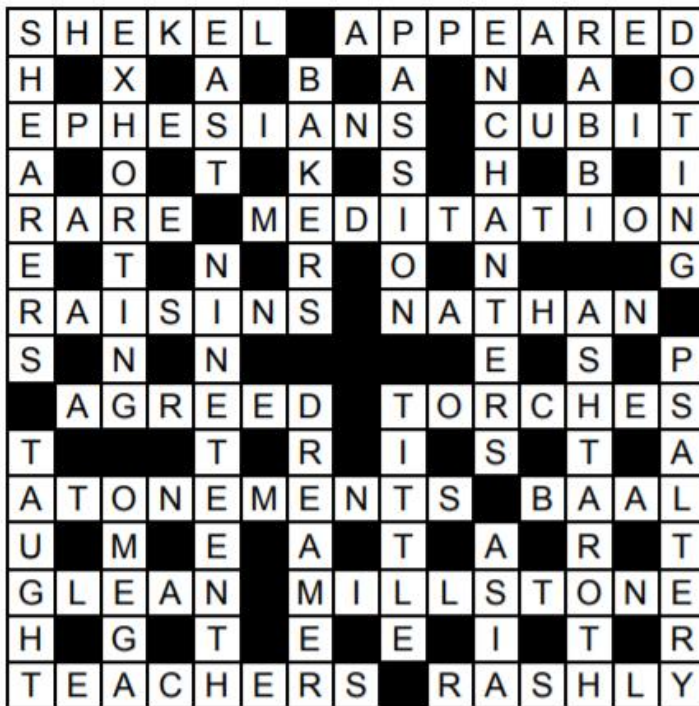
Gospel Reading: Luke 4: 21 -30

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

21 Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'
22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?'
23 He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum."'
24 And he said, 'Truly I tell you; no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town.
25 But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land.
26 yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.
27 There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.'
28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.
29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff.
30 But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

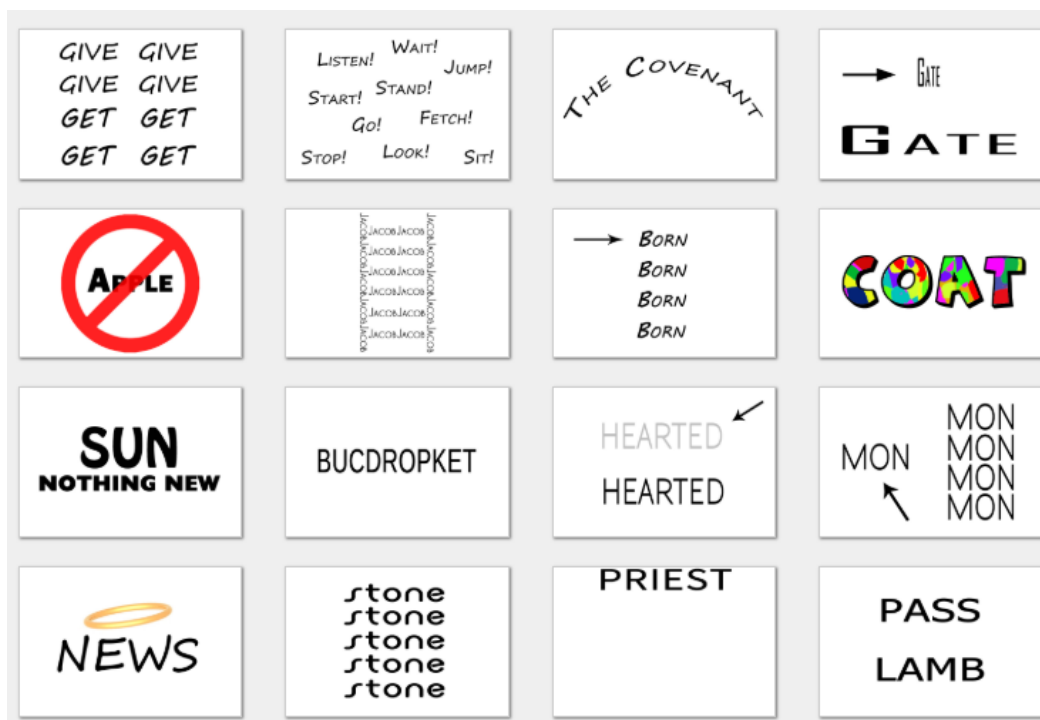


Across: 1 Shekel, 4 Appeared, 10 Ephesians, 11 Cubit, 12 Rare, 13 Meditation, 15 Raisins, 16 Nathan, 19 Agreed, 21 Torches, 23 Atonements, 25 Baal, 27 Glean, 28 Millstone, 29 Teachers, 30 Rashly.

Down: 1 Shearers, 2 Exhorting, 3 East, 5 Passion, 6 Enchanters, 7 Rabbi, 8 Doting, 9 Bakers, 14 Nineteenth, 17 Ashtaroth, 18 Psalter, 20 Dreamer, 21 Tittle, 22 Taught, 24 Omega, 26 Asia.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

ST JAMES' DINGBATS – Last week's answers (working across)

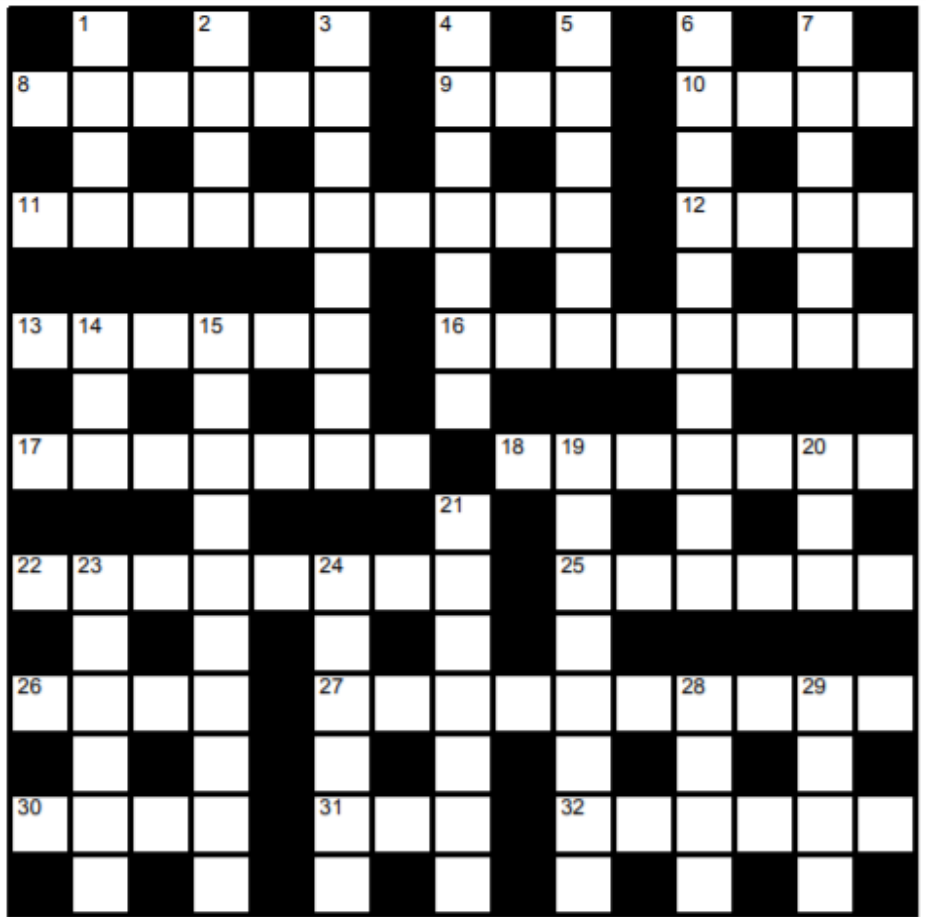


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|----|-------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| 1. | Forgive and forget | 9. | Nothing new under the sun |
| 2. | The Ten Commandments | 10. | A drop in the bucket |
| 3. | The Ark of the Covenant | 11. | Faint hearted |
| 4. | The Narrow Gate | 12. | Solomon |
| 5. | Forbidden fruit | 13. | Good news |
| 6. | Jacob's ladder | 14. | Five smooth stones |
| 7. | First born | 15. | High priest |
| 8. | Coat of many colours | 16. | Passover lamb |

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 8 Religious service (6)
- 9 Vessel (3)
- 10 Drive forcibly (4)
- 11 Christ does this for us (10)
- 12 Bethesda was the name of this (4)
- 13 Servant of a prophet (6)
- 16 One who leaves the straight and narrow path (8)
- 17 Check the money (7)
- 18 Fragrant offering; make angry (7)
- 22 Come out from among them (8)

by *Philologus*

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 25 Works with clay (6)
- 26 Main part of text (4)
- 27 Chucked it too far (10)
- 30 Treachery sealed with this (4)
- 31 Simon washed his (3)
- 32 Migratory grasshopper (6)

- 2 Brother of James;
Hardy book (4)
- 3 Choice by vote (8)
- 4 Evening glow (7)
- 5 All sing the tune (6)
- 6 To reduce
deficiency (10)
- 7 Take no notice of (6)
- 14 Look at (3)
- 15 Alternative
Revelation (10)

- 20 The blind will (3)
- 21 Regrets; Serpent
(anag) (7)
- 23 Angels by another
name (6)
- 24 Decorates (6)
- 28 Say it and you will
be in danger of the
council (4)
- 29 Cleanse (4)

Down

- 1 Standard for the tribe
of Judah (4)



ST JAMES' BIBLE DINGBATS

The say what you see puzzle. Work your way across each row. Answers next week. Enjoy!



PROGRAMMES YOU MAY ENJOY – Sunday 30th 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: Chinese Christianity

A service for Chinese New Year from the Manchester Chinese Christian Church - reflecting on what the Chinese New Year means to members of the Christian Community in Manchester.

13.15 BBC 1 Songs of Praise: Gospel Singer of the Year

Mark De-Lisser hosts the semi-final of the Gospel Singer of the Year competition. Who will amaze the judges, Mica Paris, Carrie Grant and CalledOut Music, and make it to the final?

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