

**ST JAMES' METHODIST & UNITED REFORMED CHURCH WOOLTON L25 7RJ**

Web address: <http://stjameswoolton.org>

**MINISTER:** Rev. Peter Hughes [peter.hughes@methodist.org.uk](mailto: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 – September 20<sup>th</sup> 2020**



God our Redeemer, who called your Church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love that all who hear it may be reconciled to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary**

Gracious God, like a mother you give us new life, and make us your children in Jesus Christ. Look on us in your love, and bring us to the inheritance which you promised. Grant this through Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.

**MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER**

Last Sunday was a milestone in the life of St James when about 25 of us met for Worship in Church for the first time in 6 months. Although we couldn't do all the things we normally would, it was lovely to be together. We missed and remembered those of you who weren't able to join us, and those who had died over the past months.

Many people who came said that they felt safer at Church than anywhere else they had been since lockdown. I hope that this will encourage others to feel safe in returning to worship in the Church building. This reflects the careful planning and hard work by our Delegated Church Council, Steward Elders and others. A big thank you to all who made last Sunday a possibility.

Worship continues this Sunday for those of you who have booked in with Jayne. As we adjust to the rule of 6 in our daily lives I hope and pray that we will all stay safe and well. We are aware that it is a difficult time for our city as infections have been rising. This makes it even more important that we follow the guidelines wherever we go, including Church.

We rejoice in the faithfulness of God who is helping us through this time; drawing us closer to himself and each other. God bless, Peter.

**This week's preacher will be Matthew Dyer. Next week will be Graham Martin.**

**STONEMWORK REPAIRS ON THE CHURCH ROOF**

The urgent stonework repairs at the front of the church roof have now been completed. Work at the back is still going on so the church gardens and grounds must remain closed for a little longer while the workmen are on site.

I'm really sorry for any inconvenience this will cause but we hope that this will all be finished in the near future. Thank you, Pam Bellis.

## **BOOKING INFORMATION FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> AT 10.30 AM**

If you would like to attend this service, please call

**Jayne McLaren on 07859062692**

**or**

**Email: jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk**

**AFTER 3.30 PM on Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Bookings will be taken in order of their arrival time but any calls or emails before 3.30pm cannot be registered, so please do not make contact earlier.

Places will be given on a first come first served basis. You can book for family members to sit together, but please do be certain of the numbers.

If we can't fit you in at the service, we'll start a waiting list for the current week and / or allocate you first place at the next week's service.

Please don't "turn up" at Church if you haven't booked for that service; we may not be able to accommodate you and we wouldn't like to disappoint.

We also rely on you to let us know if your plans change after you have booked, so others can be allocated your seat(s).

### **Telephone Worship at St. James – 2.20pm for 2.30 pm every Sunday in September**

This Sunday our preacher will be Rev John Lansley.

To join in a short (15-20 minutes) Act of Worship :

Between 2.20pm and 2.30pm on Sunday:

From your normal "landline" telephone: Dial: 0330-159-6644

On being asked, enter the following number, or "Pin": 373818

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:

Welcome and opening prayer, Bible reading, Lord's Prayer, Talk or "mini-sermon", Grace and dismissal.

We normally have a "congregation" of 15-19.

COST: – The cost is the same as dialling an ordinary UK number – if you have "free minutes" or "free at Weekend" package from your telephone supplier then there will be no cost.

### ***BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS***

For those who are celebrating a birthday this week, remember, you are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. Everyone at St. James' wishes a happy birthday and enjoy your special day.



## **PRAYERS NEEDED**

Blessed Jesus, in the comfort of your love, I lay before you the memories that haunt me, the anxieties that perplex me, the despair that frightens me, and my frustration at my inability to think clearly.

Help me to discover your forgiveness in my memories and know your peace in my distress.

Touch me, O Lord, and fill me with your light and your hope.

Jesus, I know that when you walked on the earth, you trod upon hard places, you felt the strain of this world and the pressures of mental torment.

So, I ask that you would come besides me now, lead me through this time where my mind cannot cope.

Help me to find peace and calming inner thoughts.

You hold me safe Lord, I trust in you.

Amen.

We continue to pray for all those in need at this time.

### **CLARICE ROGERS**

We have heard that Clarice is doing well physically but struggling a bit to adjust to her recent move to a care home. She will probably stay there permanently, after this period of assessment.

If anyone would like to send a card or letter to Clarice her Daughter feels Clarice would appreciate this. If you send a card please write your name and where you know Clarice from, just to give her something to connect you.

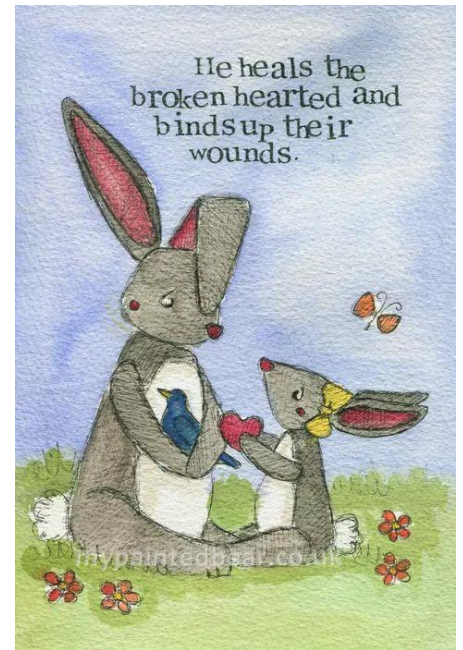
Clarice's address...

Widnes Hall

Coronation Drive

Ditton

Widnes WA8 8BL.



## **THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL READINGS**

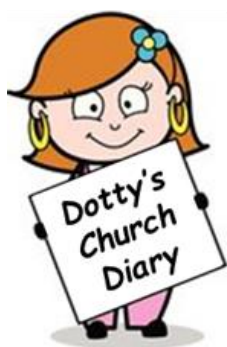
### **Philippians Chapter 1 Verse 21-30**

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

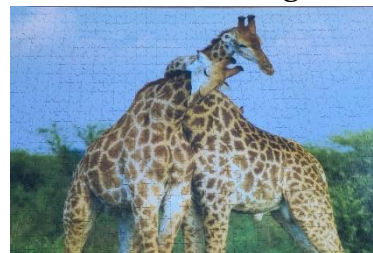


## DOTTY'S DIARY



**I LOVE** a puzzle! Whether it's Sudoku or a jigsaw, a crossword or a word search, even those maddening Dingbats that have featured in the newsletter recently, I can't resist them. They're my distraction of choice for losing a couple of hours and the anxieties of tomorrow, especially at 3.30 a.m.!

The last few months have been puzzling in more ways than one and began for me with Gertie and George in 1000 pieces and no picture to guide me. At first, I thought there were many more than 2 giraffes, but I was



wrong.

They were swiftly followed by the front page of The Times on an auspicious day in the mid-twentieth century (another 1000 pieces); and, at a more leisurely pace, 93 number puzzles (so far)



and much head-scratching over the Newsletter's Bible Crosswords.

Having been baffled by clues like '*Son of Korah*', '*Sennacherib's realm*', and '*the colour found only in Ezekiel*', I was entranced by the answer to last week's clue '*Breastplate Stone*' because of the story that emerged from behind it. (No space to explain here but ask the internet about Ephod and Emerald and prepare to be



intrigued!!)

I like puzzles because there is always a right answer; finding it is satisfying and I feel in control. If I don't, it's just a reflection of real life.

But most of all puzzles remind me that there is an answer to discover – it may be printed upside down, or tucked away at the back of the book, or arrive a week or more later. But the Creator of the Puzzle knows the answer so possibly, somehow, one day, I can too. And oh the joy when it all becomes clear. 😊

### A Harvest Notice from Mission Action Group :

Although church is beginning to meet again on Sunday mornings, we are unlikely to be able to hold a Harvest Festival in the traditional way this year, so are considering alternative ways to engage with and benefit the whole community at this special time.

The morning service on Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup> will have a harvest theme and in the time between now and then it is hoped that we can organise a modified collection of tinned and packaged goods, or financial donations, which can be sent to a local foodbank, and maybe some of the other groups we have been able to share with in the past. The details of how to do this safely and effectively are still being finalised, but Roy and Lynne have already offered their porch at 88 Vale Road as a drop-off point – no personal contact need be involved – and if anyone else has church people living around them, and a porch they would like to make similarly available, please email

[The Barkers\\_88@hotmail.com](mailto:The_Barkers_88@hotmail.com) or call Liz Hudson on 0151 428 7252. Other collection alternatives might be a deposit box outside church on Sundays or a church garden collection on a Saturday morning before the 11<sup>th</sup> so watch this space and please be ready to respond in any way you can.

Thinking about morning worship on October 11<sup>th</sup>, if anyone has a photograph or picture which could be included in a Harvest PowerPoint meditation, please can you call Liz or email it to her ([liz.hudson2@btinternet.com](mailto:liz.hudson2@btinternet.com)) and if anyone of any age would like to create any kind of harvest / seasonal picture to be displayed in the hall windows (now the rainbows have faded), that would be brilliant too.

St James may be operating on a slightly lower key than we would like but, together, there are lots of ways we can show our neighbourhood that Church is open and ready to celebrate with thankfulness God's creation and blessing at the end of a difficult Summer.

*Feeding of the 5000 WORDSEARCH*



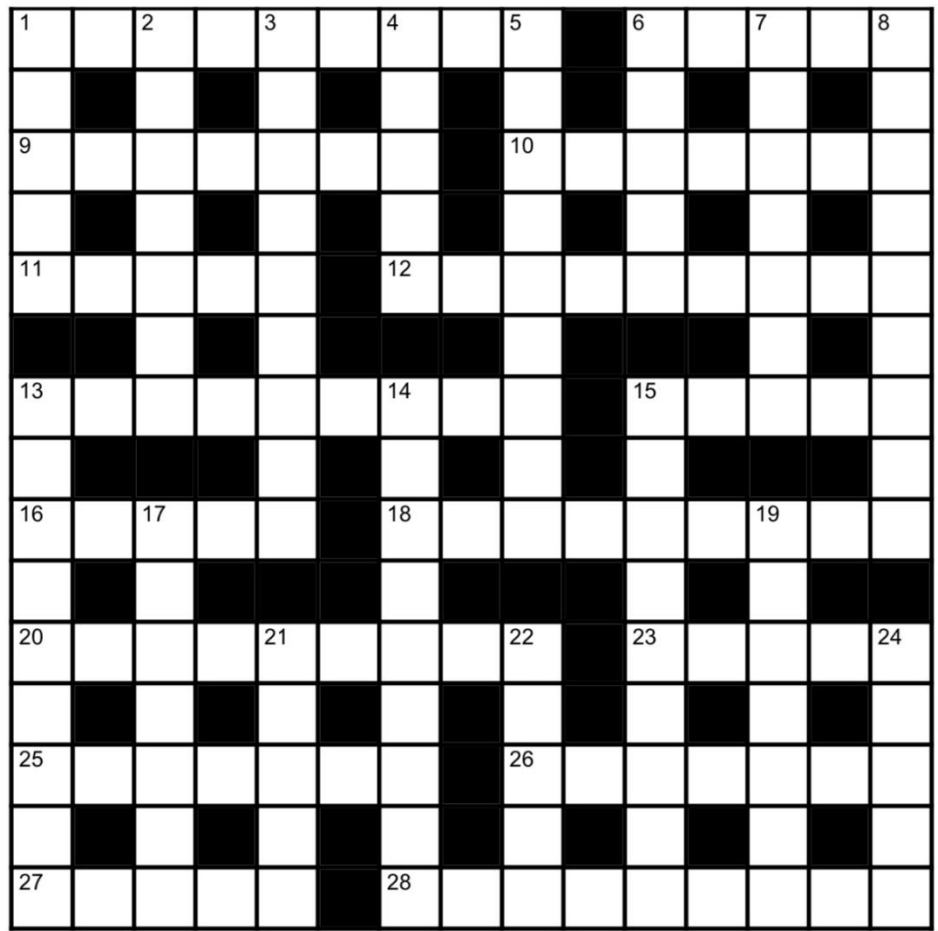
BASKETS  
BLESSED  
BOY  
BREAD  
CHILDREN  
COMPASSION  
CROWDS  
DISCIPLES  
EAT  
FEEDING  
FISH  
FIVE THOUSAND  
GATHERED

GRASS  
HUNGER  
JESUS  
JEWS  
LEFTOVERS  
LOAVES  
MEN  
MIRACLE  
MULTITUDE  
PRAYER  
STARVING  
TWELVE  
WOMEN

## THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 Word of God (9)
- 6 Korah, Dathan and Abiram fell into one (5)
- 9 Prophetess and judge (7)
- 10 Rescue (7)
- 11 Judas wore one around his neck (5)
- 12 In a fervent manner (9)
- 13 Age when Jehoram became king (6-3)
- 15 Long range of hills or mountains (5)
- 16 Like the tomb on Resurrection Morning (5)
- 18 Samson, maybe? (9)
- 20 Pharisaical tomb covering (9)
- 23 The beginning of a sequence (5)
- 25 Time when not working (7)
- 26 Alternative name for Feast of Tabernacles (7)
- 27 Region of Israeli enslavement (5)
- 28 One of 13 down (9)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.com

### Down

- 1 City near to Tyre (5)
- 2 Honourable title for a teacher (7)
- 3 In an ideal way (9)
- 4 Region famous for its gold (5)
- 5 Strive (9)
- 6 A city of Nimrod (5)
- 7 Counselling (7)
- 8 Golden covering of the ark (5,4)
- 13 Apostles, collectively (3,6)
- 14 New and old parts of the Bible (9)
- 15 Plundered (9)
- 17 Secretly (7)
- 19 Instruction for the twelve spies (7)
- 21 Jubilate (5)
- 22 Minor prophet (5)
- 24 Often put on the head during mourning (5)



## LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Across: 1 Antipas, 7 Ashore, 8 Curtain, 9 Deer, 10 Slew, 12 Pleased, 14 Debtors, 16 Half, 18 Fish, 20 Ishmael, 21 Lepers, 22 Emerald.

Down: 1 Accused, 2 Three, 3 Pray, 4 Sandals, 5 Shadrach, 6 Greece, 11 Watchmen, 12 Promise, 13 Defiled, 15 Exiles, 17 Abana, 19 Shoe.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk



## NEWSLETTER NOTICES FOR NEXT WEEK



If you would like to share anything during lockdown 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](mailto:jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk)