

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 – 11th December 2022

This Week's Collect

God for whom we wait and watch, you sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people for the coming of the Messiah. Inspire the ministers and stewards of your truth to turn our disobedient hearts to you; that, when Christ shall come again in glory to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before him, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**



Second Sunday of Advent

God of mercy and power, whose Son rules over all, grant us so to live in obedience to your holy will, that at his appearing we may be raised to eternal life; 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 –

On this third Sunday in Advent our thoughts are focused on the theme of "There is Room for all of Nature". This recognises that God is the creator and Sustainer of all that we see - plants, animals, the eco system. Charles Wesley wrote in one of his hymns that: "When thou in our flesh didst appear, all nature acknowledged thy birth". He may have been thinking of the animals in the manger, the shepherds who may have brought sheep with them, the camels on which the wise men arrived and the stars shining down from heaven.

Today, we are challenged to see care for creation as part of our response to Jesus, not just some fringe issue for those who are particularly interested in nature. I was privileged to have a frosty walk along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal this week, and to enjoy nature in the brilliant sunshine. A canal is something made by human beings, but they are often havens for wildlife and all around is the beauty of God's creation. I have included a picture for you to enjoy.

May we celebrate Jesus, the Lord of creation who came to the people and the world that he had made.

God Bless, Peter



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER 2022

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)
	JANUARY 2023
Sunday 1st	11 a.m. - All Age Café-Style Worship to welcome in the New Year with songs, prayers, and hot snacks.

New Year's Day Cafe Worship with Brunch at St James', Woolton

Doors open at 10.45am for refreshments. Worship begins at 11.15 a.m., for about 45 minutes. Everyone welcome. Advance notice for catering purposes appreciated but not essential.

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.

Justice, Dignity at Solidarity at St James' Church: Working Group

In 2021, Methodist Conference adopted a new strategy to work towards becoming a fully inclusive church, entitled 'Justice, Dignity and Solidarity.' In many ways this followed the lead already taken by the URC some years before. At its heart, the strategy rests on three key declarations of what it means to be Christian, namely:

- Celebrate God Who made each person in God's own image
- Be a disciple of Jesus Who treated each person with dignity
- Rejoice in the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to all people

At the heart of inclusion lies being noticed, being valued, and being celebrated. 'Noticing' starts of course with initial warm welcomes (Methodists and URC folk are justifiably well known for this); 'valuing' is about being listened to and included, while 'celebrating' is about affirmation. On 13 October the Church Council agreed that Paul Holt and Kieran Bohan could convene a small group to think through the implications of 'Justice, Dignity and Solidarity' with a view to producing detailed proposals for the Church Council to consider.

Some of you have already indicated a willingness to be part of this group, but there is still time. We are planning a short pre-meeting after the Sunday morning service on **15th January** to identify a time when we can meet together for a longer period. Please could you e-mail Paul to let us know that you're coming (or not available on this occasion). His e-mail address is delius9@virginmedia.com.

Thanks

Paul Holt & Kieran Bohan

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

For the attention of any Stewards Elders or Pastoral Visitors who have NOT undertaken Safeguarding Training in the last 3 years.

Two Foundation Module Training Sessions have been arranged in the New Year as follows:

- 6.45pm for 7pm start - 9.15pm Thursday 19th January at Princes Park Church
- 6.45pm for 7pm start - 9.15pm Thursday 9th February at at Trinity Church, Page Moss or Court Hey Church (venue tbc)

Please complete booking form at the back of the Church or contact to Margaret Dee by Sunday 11th December if you are able to attend.

Advance Information

It seems that the Worship at Home Sheets which go out with this newsletter every week may be discontinued from the end of 2022. The content and style of the newsletter will also be reviewed at that time and may change quite noticeably. However, we will make sure that everyone who currently receives a paper copy of the news notes will continue to do so, for as long as they wish.

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.

WORSHIPPING BY PHONE

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:

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.**

Dave Dickson



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.



Prayers for celebrating the season of Christmas.

Holy Jesus, by being born one of us, and lying humbly in a manger, you show how much God loves the world.

Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, until we reach our home in heaven, and see you on your throne of glory.

Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour, and our eternal God.

Amen.

Loving Jesus, you were born in a stable but worshipped by the angels.
Be with all who are lonely, and with all who feel distant from celebrations.
Be for us a living hope that lightens their hearts.

Amen.

Jesus, as you healed the sick, bring healing to those in our families who are ill today.
Jesus, Lord of love, **in your mercy, hear us.**
Christ born for us, Son of God, given for us, help us to know you, to worship and to serve you.

Amen.

The kings, Lord, brought myrrh, frankincense, and gold.
Lord, we have nothing of our own to bring; we bring you what you have given: our lives for your life.

Amen.

Jesus, Saviour, son of Mary, you know us and love us, you share our lives and hear our prayer.
Glory to you for ever.

Amen.

May God, who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light, bless us and fill us with peace.

Amen.

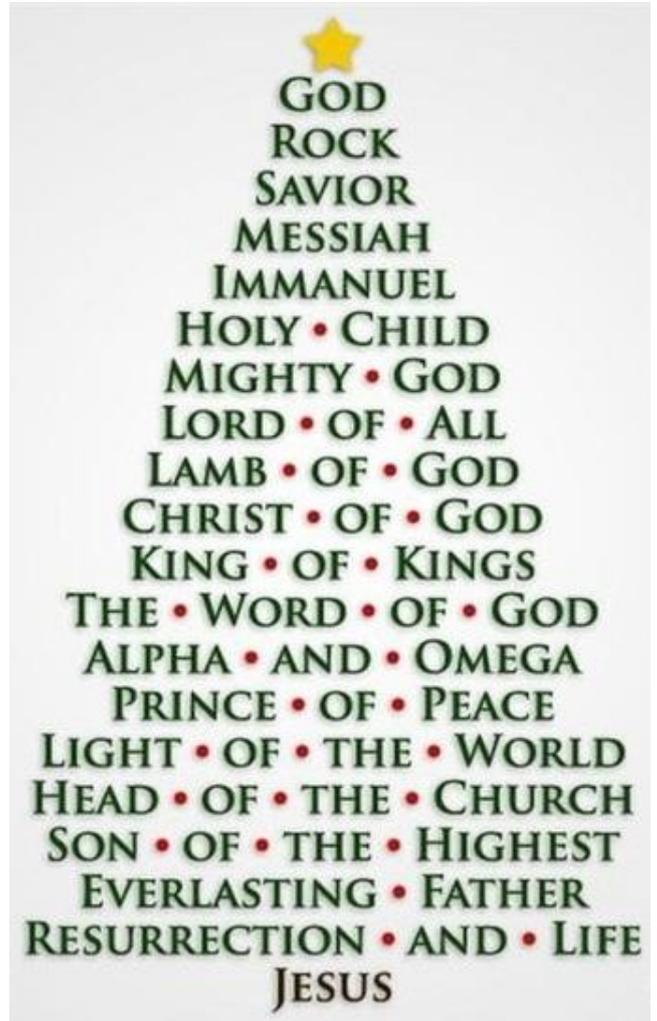
PRAYERS NEEDED

We also pray for Billy Lamb, Arthur Evans, Joan Greenall, Rogers Phillips, Ken Kitchen, Emma Skyner, Hilary Hopkin, Bob Rowland, Heather Hughes and Dave and Madge Tilly.

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.



**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 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)

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