

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 21st March – 2021



Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross, we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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.

Fifth Sunday in Lent (First Sunday of the Passion)

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Hello Everyone,

I hope you are well and are able to share in our worship this week, either by Zoom, Telephone Worship or by using the sheets we send out. This Sunday is known as Passion Sunday, the start of the penultimate week of Lent. We turn our thoughts more closely to the final stages of Jesus's journey to the cross.

This last year, an even Lent itself may have felt very long, but there is hope ahead. As Jesus journeyed to Jerusalem, he was determined to fulfil his mission to save us all. As we journey to a time when we hope we will be free from covid restrictions, we know that, through his death and resurrection, Jesus sets us free in an even deeper way.

God Bless, Peter.

Birthdays.

For those who are celebrating a birthday this week, wishing you a wonderful time ahead. Sending you smiles for every moment of your special day... Have a wonderful time and a very happy birthday!

Everyone at St. James' wishes you a happy birthday and enjoy your day.

UPCOMING PREACHERS

Passion Sunday March 21 st	Steve Elliott (Zoom) & Chris Bolton (Telephone)
Palm Sunday March 28 th	Circuit (Zoom) & Liz Hudson (Telephone)
Good Friday April 2 nd	Revd. Peter Hughes (Zoom)
Easter Sunday April 4 th	Liz Hudson (Zoom) & Revd Peter Hughes (Telephone)
Sunday April 11 th	Revd. Peter Hughes (Zoom) & Andrew Gillespie (Telephone)

**The Lent Cross
Sunday 21st March – Lent 5
The Whip**



As well as being mocked, Jesus was whipped before he was crucified.

The pain would have been extreme. Many have suffered physical and emotional pain during the Covid 19 pandemic and at other times.

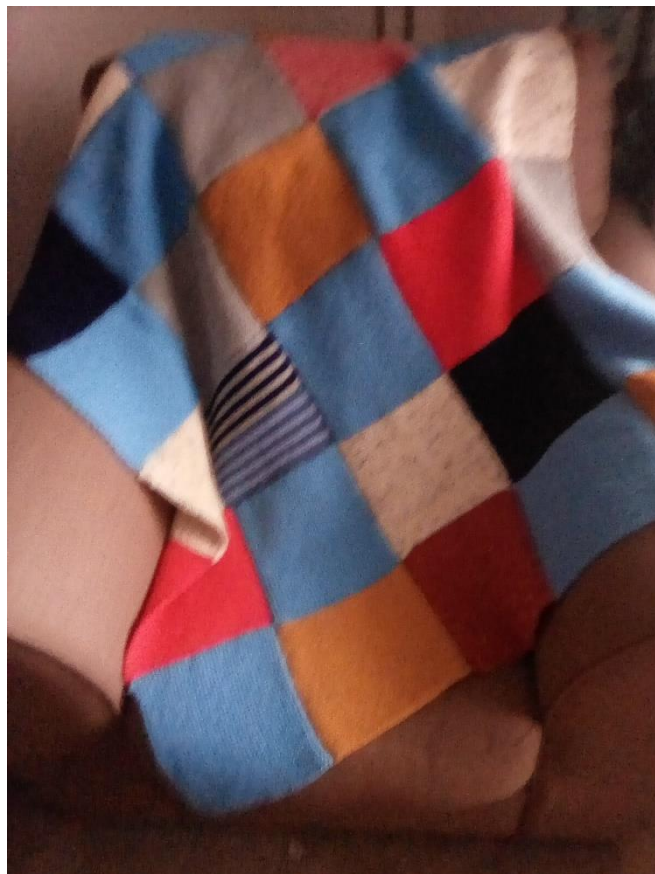
In the loneliness of pain, Jesus is able to come close to us.

**“How deep the Father’s love
for us, How vast beyond all
measure”**



Keeping busy in lockdown.

Hilary Hopkin has been passing the time in lockdown by knitting squares for blankets. Some were given through Wendy, to the Family Centre. She has heard that they were gratefully received and they are very pleased to have them.



Picture from our Church Railings.

This week's picture is full of bright colour and fits in well with the signs of spring around us. We pray that not only will the world spring to life, but also our own spiritual lives will be reawakened and become more fruitful. Although we continue to go through a difficult time there are many signs of hope. Even though we aren't able to enjoy our Church life together as usual, God is still working within and between us by His Spirit. May there be glimpses of God's springtime in all our lives this week.



As the days lengthen,
and the earth spends longer
in the light of day,
may we spend longer in the light of your presence,
O Lord.

May the seeds of your Word
which have been long buried
within us, grow
like everything around us,
into love for you and love for others,
a visible declaration of your Lordship in our lives.

Grant, Lord, that there may be
a springtime in our lives this Lent.

SUNDAY SERVICES

**From St. James Church:- Invitation to Telephone Worship
Sunday 21st March: 2.30pm (And now every Sunday until the end of March)**

This Sunday our preacher will be Chris Bolton.

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:

Order of Worship:

- Welcome and notices:
- Opening prayer (Host)
- Bible reading (Peter or Geraldine Bounds: John 12 vs 20-33)
- Lord’s Prayer (Host)
- Talk or “mini-sermon” (Chris Bolton)
- Prayers (Chris Bennett)
- Grace and dismissal. (Host)

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.

If there is a lot of “noise” during your session you can mute everyone’s telephones by pressing #5 – but please unmute – by again pressing #5 – at the end of your contribution.

**ALSO – Morning Worship at St. James is now being held as a “Zoom” service.
Joining from 10.45 for an 11am start – Preacher: Steve Elliott**

Either click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5913455610?pwd=R3RFV1RWU2NpKzJ1cTM1VFJ2STk4UT09>

Meeting ID: 591 345 5610

Passcode: 6WbLRw

We hope to see you there.

PLEASE NOTE: Where a preacher provides a copy of the words of their sermon, we will include this (after it has been preached) with our Church Notices and other Worship Material. – We do not want to waste a good sermon! even if it arrives a few days after it was preached.

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]

Advance Notice - Memorial Service for Derek Long.

Jennifer Long and family hope to hold a Memorial Service for Derek conducted by Revd. Dr Mike Long on Saturday 24th July, 12 noon at St James Church, followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.

As with all plans at present, this will be subject to any Covid regulations which may apply at the time.

HELPING HANDS NEEDED!

Who is a little bored, sitting at home, twiddling thumbs? Would you be interested in some easy, outside- in- the- fresh -air, garden tidying and maintenance?

We really do need some help with the ongoing weekly maintaining of our church garden and hall grounds. An hour (or two!) a week and if there were enough pairs of hands it could be a monthly rota?

Now, we do have a gardening firm who come in fortnightly to cut the grass. However, there is weeding, general tidying to be done and small, odd jobs within the lovely, calming garden areas. Margaret Dee has spent many hours making the gardens to the sides of church welcoming and colourful, and Roy takes great care of Jimmy (and he can be quite a handful, Jimmy, not Roy,) but that is only two pairs of hands!

The grounds to the side of the hall also need constant attention to keep them clear of weeds, leaves and the occasional sweet papers and chip wrapper, to keep them safe for children to play in and keep the area clean and looking cared for and spruce. None of these jobs are arduous and if done on a regular basis take very little time up. We can even offer a cup of tea or coffee once the regulations are lifted and there are always passers-by to have a chat with over the garden wall. Now the smiles are within our masks but that adds to the fun!!

Please will you think about giving of your time? Please contact me, Wendy Doig on 07867795179 or email wdoig45@gmail.com if you think you can help us. Many thanks.



PRAYERS NEEDED

Dear Jesus, divine physician and healer of the sick, we turn to you in this time of illness.

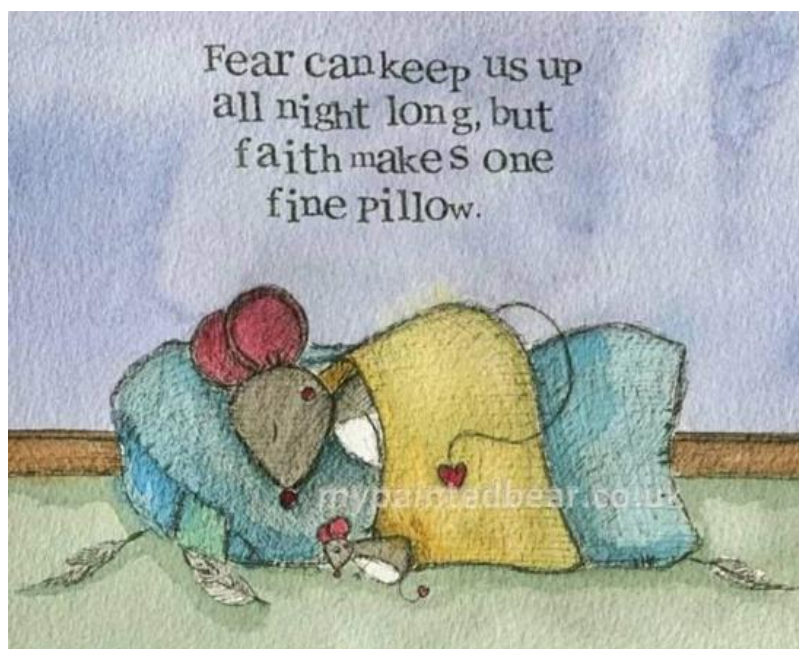
Oh dearest comforter of the troubled, alleviate our worry and sorrow with your gentle love, and grant us the grace and strength to accept this burden.

Dear God, we place our worries in your hands. We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servant to health again.

Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do, you do for the love of us.

Amen.

We also pray for all those in need at this time, especially those who are dealing with COVID-19.



SPRINGWATCH with St. James'

Dramatic storm damage at Sudley House. A very near miss. Thanks for the photos Debbie Stanford.



MARCH 2021 - THE END OF AN ERA



Do you remember February 1999? Liverpool were 6th in the Premiership, Everton scored 5 at home against Middlesbrough and there was growing concern over another potentially lethal virus: The Millennium Bug (aka Y2K).

In late January, St James newsletter had advertised a vacant job in a local church setting. One of the congregation thought *'that sounds interesting but I've already got a job'*. Then without warning, things changed and so an 11th-hour application for the church job was submitted. The wheels

of the appointment process turned, drawing our own LYNNE BARKER into service with the Mersey Synod of the United Reformed Church, in an admin role that evolved over time into Office Manager and Moderator's PA. She answered the call joyfully and loyally, continuing to do so for the last 22 years, and is now preparing to retire on March 31st.



By coincidence, Lynne will end this time in the same way she began - working in a different setting from the Synod's main office.

The early months were spent with a small team of comparative strangers and a single computer in a portacabin in a Birkenhead church car park. Eventually, the new office at St Stephens Church, Wavertree was finished and became her 'working home' until, in this final year, Lynne, like so many others, has found herself working-from-home for real. This time, there have been established relationships and no shortage of technology to keep everyone together and in touch, but if it was a challenging way to begin, it must also be a challenging way to end.

And in between? We might guess that Lynne's job description began *'Look after the office'* and ended *'any other tasks that are appropriate and necessary'*. So routine duties often embraced people calling in, for no obvious reason other than the need to talk, and Lynne listened, leading to many shared special moments, openings to build networks between denominations, churches and people, and countless times and ways to show loving Christian witness in the workplace.

Like many church families across the Mersey Region, St James has benefited from having Lynne in the Synod Office; someone close who recognises change happens and the positive aspects of new ideas, who tackles everything with thoughtful enthusiasm and who has carefully shared available information to help horizons stay wide, encourage shared working at many levels, and - especially here in Woolton - strengthen our practical approach to being an LEP.

Over recent weeks, many of Lynne's colleagues have been expressing their regret at her retirement, and their thanks for all her work and friendship since 1999. As a church family here at St James, we give thanks too, and wish her a long, healthy and happy retirement, full of God's blessings, and with lots of time to enjoy the love of Roy and the family.

We do so, hoping that, with them, we too may continue to enjoy Lynne's friendship and fellowship in the days to come.

We also wish Pat, Lynne's successor many happy and fruitful years in the post and look forward to having contact with her as she takes up this important position in the life of the Mersey Synod and its churches.

STRAWBERRY FIELD

Pause and Pray

A Journey Towards Easter

From 18th February 2021, join us on Zoom each Thursday at 12pm GMT as we Journey Towards Easter.

All are welcome to join us using the following details:

Meeting ID: 862 0206 4834

Passcode: 063400

For more information visit:

www.strawberryfieldliverpool.com

#GatesOpenForGood

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The Salvation Army is a Church and registered Charity in England (214779), Wales (214779), Scotland (SC006399) and the Republic of Ireland (0116399)

Foodbank Appeal

Please see below for items in short supply at Knowsley Foodbank. Donations can be brought to the Big Help Project office on Link Road, Huyton, L36 6AP between 9:00-4:30 Monday to Friday, or St Mary's Church, Halewood, 10am - 12pm on Saturday mornings.

Knowsley Foodbank

has run out of:

Coffee

UHT Milk

Tinned Fish

Tinned Meat



is running low on:

Sugar

Jam

**Condiments
& toiletries**

Best wishes,
Ms Lee M. Phillips Circuit Office Manager. Liverpool South Circuit

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

T	A	B	I	T	H	A		E		S	
O		I		R		B	O	U	G	H	T
R	O	B	B	E	R	S		T		A	
C		L		E		T		Y	O	K	E
H	E	E	L			A		C		E	
E			A		T	I	T	H	I	N	G
S	O	J	O	U	R	N		U			O
	R		D		U			S	E	E	D
M	A	G	I		M		I		X		D
	C		C		P	R	O	M	I	S	E
F	L	E	E	C	E		T		L		S
	E		A		T	R	A	D	E	R	S

Across: 1 Tabitha, 7 Bought, 8 Robbers, 9 Yoke, 10 Heel, 12 Tithing, 14 Sojourn, 16 Seed, 18 Magi, 20 Promise, 21 Fleece, 22 Traders.

Down: 1 Torches, 2 Bible, 3 Tree, 4 Abstain, 5 Eutychus, 6 Shaken, 11 Laodicea, 12 Trumpet, 13 Goddess, 15 Oracle, 17 Exile, 19 Iota.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.com

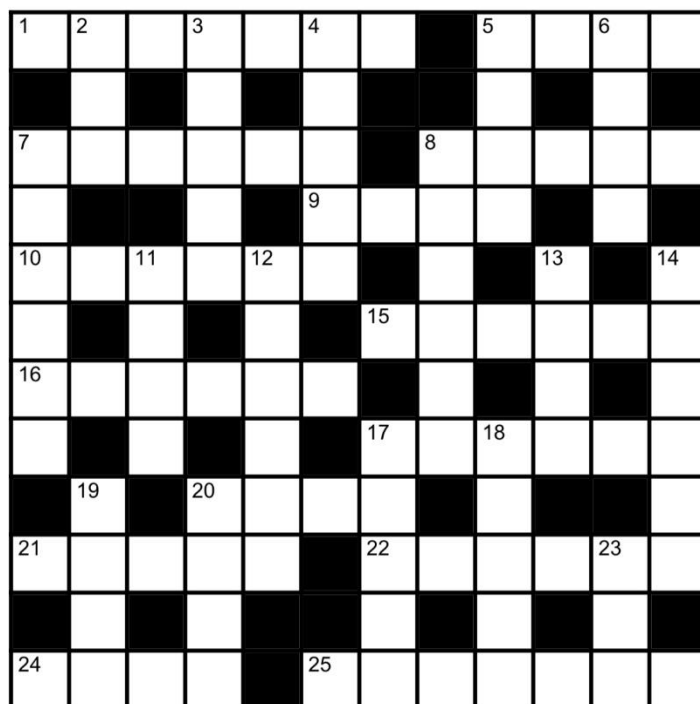
THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Haman's end (7)
- 5 Cereal grain (4)
- 7 Messiah (6)
- 8 Grind (5)
- 9 Priest who returned from Babylon with Zerubbabel (4)
- 10 Roman ruler (6)
- 15 Like a lamb (6)
- 16 Parable feature (6)
- 17 Don't cast them before swine (6)
- 20 Insects (4)
- 21 Number of years Aeneas was bedridden (5)
- 22 Capital of 8 down (6)
- 24 Flavoursome plant (4)
- 25 Mark (7)

Down

- 2 Tree, mentioned only in Isaiah (3)
- 3 They may be girded (5)
- 4 Purified by Elisha (5)
- 5 Nathanael's home (4)
- 6 Flower of Sharon (4)
- 7 Foul weeds (6)
- 8 Origin of Timothy's father (6)
- 11 Christ's yoke is this (4)
- 12 Sanctify with oil (6)
- 13 Celestial body (4)
- 14 Biblical divisions (6)
- 17 One of David's hymns (5)
- 18 Loathe (5)
- 19 Spouse (4)
- 20 Defeated Benhadad (4)
- 23 Joshua's father (3)



by Philologus

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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