

# 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 – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**



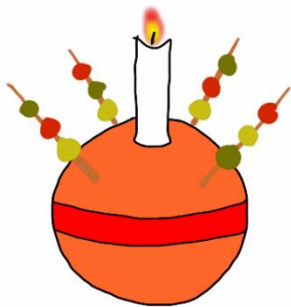
God of all holiness, your promises stand unshaken through all generations and you lift up all who are burdened and brought low: renew our hope in you, as we wait for the coming in glory of Jesus Christ, our Judge and our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

## Second Sunday of Advent



God of all time and space, who are we, that you should come to us? Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, even your Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

## CHRISTINGLE 2020



Rather than miss this treasured part of Christmas Worship, we're planning to do a DIY version during the dial in service on Dec. 20th. You can then have your own Christingle to light on Christmas Day.

Everyone can listen in to the service as usual, but if you want to join in as we make them together, you will need any small round object - orange, apple, tangerine etc (even a potato), and to decorate it: a red and white paper circle, 4 cocktail sticks, 8 sweets and a candle with holder.

A pack of the decorative items can be prepared and delivered to you in a Covid-safe way in time for the service, if it helps. To receive a pack, please call Liz on **0151 428 7252 before Wednesday December 16th.**

## St. JAMES' NATIVITY

### Create a Happy Family Memory for Christmas 2020 with Mary Joseph and their Donkey.



Our lovable nativity figures usually journey to Christmas, via the homes, workplaces and special events of St James' Church family. Due to Covid they cannot 'stay over' with anyone this year but they are still out and about. If you would like them to knock on your front door for a safe, outside, socially distanced photo-shoot, just call Liz on 0151 428 7252 before December 21<sup>st</sup>. With permission, pictures will be posted on the website and our Facebook page and will bring joy to other members of the church family. Or its ok to have a copy for your own album only.

## ***MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER***

### ***CHURCH REOPENING***

Hello Everyone,

I am pleased to be able to share with you the good news that we are hoping to return to Worship in Church on Sunday 13th December. It is good that we will be able to celebrate something of Advent and Christmas in Church.

Please read the information below and attached. I look forward to seeing you in Church soon.

God Bless, Peter.

Please read the information below so that we are all aware how we can behave safely and protect each other.

#### **Service Dates**

We plan to hold our services as follows:

**Sunday 13th December at 10.45am**

**Sunday 20th December 10.45am**

**Sunday 3rd January 10.45am** and then every Sunday (unless we need to stop again for safety reasons).

We will not be holding Services on Christmas Day or Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December.

Once again, you will need to book in advance to attend a Service. This is because the capacity of our Church has been much reduced by the need to observe social distance. You will need to book in each week. Booking will be by telephone only.

Please contact Jayne McLaren on 07859 062 692. Please leave a message if the call can't be answered.

These are the booking times:

For Sunday 13th December – anytime from 6pm Friday 11th December

For Sunday 20th December from 4pm on Sunday 13th December

For Sunday 3rd January – anytime from 6pm on Wednesday 30th December

Places will be given on a first come first served basis. If we can't book you in for the coming Sunday we will put you on the list for the following Sunday.

If you wish to sit as part of a family group, please tell us at the time of booking so that we can arrange seats together for you. If you book and then find that you can't come to a Service, please let us know as it will create space for others to come.

Please don't "turn up" at Church if you haven't booked for that Service as it will be frustrating for you to have to go home.

It is essential that you do not come to Church if you are showing symptoms of Covid 19 or have recently come into contact with someone who is suspected of or confirmed to be infected.

For all of us, including those who show no symptoms, getting a test (if available) in the week before coming to Church will help us to know we are safe when we have contact with others. Please do come when it is safe for you to do so. If you are in a vulnerable group please think carefully about whether it is safe for you to attend.

We have prepared the Church by cleaning and other measures.

## **MAG GROUP PAGE**

### **Christmas Card Wishes 2020**

Christmas!! Yes, I know I'm starting early but I know how organised many of you are!! Since I last wrote my Christmas Cakes are now baked and wrapped in foil maturing nicely for Christmas. Over a number of years at St James' we have had a "Christmas Wish Tree" in church where, instead of exchanging individual cards with all your church friends, instead we have invited you to write a Christmas message, hang it on the tree, and, if you wish, make a donation to give to the charity we had chosen.

Sadly, this year, due to our current circumstances, this will not be possible. However, we have come up with a plan for our church family to share Christmas messages with each other and we need your help. We are hoping to create a St James Family Christmas Card / booklet which will include everybody's greetings. We will then print copies of the card / booklet and distribute a copy to everyone. We feel that this will be a small way of connecting all our Church family members together at a time when we would normally be sharing and enjoying so many Christmas services and events together but will not be able to do so this year.

If you would like to have your greeting included, and you can send a photo too **if you wish**, you can either

- email me at [pambellis@hotmail.com](mailto:pambellis@hotmail.com) or
- you can write to me at 3 Park Cottages, Kinseys Lane, Ince, CH2 4NS. Please write your name clearly so that I know who the wishes are from,
- or you might like to give me a ring instead on 0151 356 7510 and just tell me your message

Also, **if you wish** to make a Christmas donation with your wish, (but this is not required) then this can be done

- by Bank Transfer (Ref. CHRISTMAS WISH) as you would your weekly collection OR
- by post – a cheque payable to St James Church (please write CHRISTMAS WISH on the back) - to (the Treasurer) Mr S Elliott, c/o St James Church, Church Road South, Liverpool, L25 7RJ

The most **important thing** is not the photos or the donations, but **YOUR Christmas wishes** to be shared with **YOUR** St James' Family, so get wishing everyone!!

**Closing date – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December.**

Many thanks.

### **Calling All St James' Heart Makers!**



Firstly, can I say a HUGE THANK YOU! To everyone who has been knitting, sewing or crocheting hearts for this year's MAG Group Christmas activities.

If you have any finished hearts that are ready for collection you can:

- Leave them in Roy and Lynne's porch – 88 Vale Road, Woolton, L25 7RN
- email me to arrange for them to be collected [pambellis@hotmail.com](mailto:pambellis@hotmail.com)
- ring me to arrange for them to be collected 0151 356 7510 or 07811 406016

Many thanks, Pam Bellis.

## **CHRISTMAS GIFTS NOTICE**

Our Christmas Gift Service will be one of many 'special' services which we have been unable to hold this year and all of these services for worship have been very much missed. However, the love and generosity of our members and friends when asked for help has, as ever, been truly amazing and received with so much gratitude by those receiving the help and support through financial gifts.

The Harvest food donations were taken to Garston Food Bank and Food vouchers were purchased and given to Centre 56 and to the two Women's and Children's centres which we support.

We hope to be able to support this Christmas: Centre 56 – a day nursery and after school club for children living in poverty and who are living with or fleeing domestic abuse, two Refuge accommodation centres who support mothers and children fleeing from domestic violence and abuse, and the Action for Children centre at Ellergreen Community Centre, L11.

This year we will not be collecting or delivering toys or gifts but would ask you to consider making a donation in lieu, **BEFORE THE 11TH DECEMBER**, so that staff at these centres can buy the gifts according to the children they are looking after at this time and also supply gifts for the children to give to their mums. The staff know the circumstances of each child and family and therefore can purchase appropriate gifts in time for Christmas giving.

It may not be possible for everyone to include another family in their virtual Christmas shopping, but if you can, please send gift donations in one of the ways that is now becoming familiar i.e.

- by Bank Transfer (Ref. GIFT SERVICE ) as you would your weekly collection – i.e.
- (HSBC - Sort Code 40-29-39 Account 11060856 St James Methodist /United Reform Church ).
- OR by post – a cheque payable to St James Church (please write GIFT SERVICE on the back) – to (the Treasurer) Mr S Elliott, c/o St James Church, Church Road South, Liverpool, L25 7RJ
- OR leave an envelope with The Barkers at 88 Vale Road,
- OR ring Wendy on 07867 795179 to arrange a Covid-safe pick-up

Many thanks to you all for everything you do to help St James to support our community family.

## **ADVENT ZOOM FELLOWSHIP (BIBLE STUDY) GROUP (2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING)**

Monday **14th December** from 8.15pm for about an hour. The late start time is to include everyone who responded, some have family duties which prevent an earlier start. I know that Advent is a busy time, but probably not as busy this year as many of the activities we would normally doing won't be taking place.

EVERYONE is welcome to join us, whether you answered the original e mail or not.

If anyone is not sure about Zoom, you could ask a family member who is in your bubble to help you. Also, Graham Martin has offered to help people over the phone.

If you would like to join us please let me know and I will let you have Zoom details nearer the time. Depending on how things go we may continue with a group in the New Year.

Best wishes, Peter.

## **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

For those who are celebrating a birthday this week, remember, count not the candles...see the lights they give. Count not the years, but the life you live. Wishing you a wonderful time ahead. Everyone at St. James' wishes you a happy birthday and enjoy your day

## **PRAYERS**

Please keep all our friends and family close to our hearts this week as we face what comes before us.

## **ONLINE WORSHIP**

### **Circuit Nativity Service - Sunday 6th December 10.20am for 10.30am on Zoom**

A lot of effort has gone into organising the Circuit Nativity Service, and everyone is invited! Especially families with children!!

It will take place **Sunday 6th of December** at 10.30am (but please join at 10.20am so everyone can be safely admitted). As this is an online Zoom service, we need to know in advance who is coming. So, if you plan to attend PLEASE let us know - either by replying directly to this email, or sending a request for the joining details to: St James' Church

Communications: [stjameswoolton@gmail.com](mailto:stjameswoolton@gmail.com) or to our Senior Steward, Jayne McLaren at [jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk) Joining details will be sent on Friday 4th, and please not to be shared! - (If others want to come, they should ask directly). Hope to see you there.

### **You are also invited to join:**

**Telephone Worship – 2.20 for 2.30pm on Sunday – Preacher Andy Gillespie**

**Dial In Instructions: 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 invited to say your name and will then be admitted to the Worship Session.

### **This Sunday's Act of Worship, or short service, will comprise:**

#### **Order of Worship:**

- Welcome and opening prayer (Host – Graham)
- Bible reading (Wendy Doig): Mark 1, 1-8,
- Lord's Prayer (Host)
- Talk or “mini-sermon” (Andy Gillespie)
- Prayers (Steve Elliott)
- Grace and dismissal. (Host)

**COST:** - 0333 numbers cost 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 Everyone,

Graham Martin. St. James' Communications Officer

## **GOSPEL READING**

Mark 1:1-8 New International Version

### **John the Baptist Prepares the Way**

**1** The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, **2** as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you who will prepare your way” —

**3** “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

**4** And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

**6** John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

**8** I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”





## Let there be bread shared among us

As many of you will know, I have been making bread for our friends at St James' whilst we can't be together. I have written an article about it which can be found at <https://www.urcmerseysynod.org.uk/sharinglovethroughbaking.htm>

I don't have everybody's details so my apologies if you haven't received bread yet (and live in the local area!), but don't be shy, please do get in touch with me on 0151 421 1218 if you would like some fresh home-baked bread. There is no charge, it's simply a sort of hug from the Barkers to you. You will recognise some of the smiling recipients and their bread in the photo.

Roy and Lynne Barker

## Nativity

We are now in Advent, a period of expectant waiting and preparation for Christmas. Once again, the nativity scene graces the apse and week on week the excitement builds. This year, when we cannot all meet together in church, you are invited to join in telling the Christmas story by taking a photo of your nativity scene which will be shared with the church family and with the wider world on St James' Facebook.

Please email photos to Roy and Lynne Barker [the\\_barkers\\_88@hotmail.com](mailto:the_barkers_88@hotmail.com) or call 0151 421 1218. If you would like to give a short explanation about why your nativity is special to you, please do. Alternatively (or additionally!) please find some links for some templates for you to colour and create your own scene which you can share with us all – why not build the scene in your window as a witness to passers-by?

This is a photo of the Nativity set knitted by Roy's aunt, Brenda, Joan Barker's sister. It's a reminder of the love that was knitted into the characters and a very special part of our family tradition.



## Make your own Nativity from

<https://explorer.compassion.com/pop-up-nativity/>

<http://www.whychristmas.com/fun/nativity-coloring.shtml>



## LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Across: 1 Hallelujah, 6 Upward, 7 Rahab, 9 Feasts, 10 Lot, 11 Ears, 14 Race, 15 Ice, 16 Ithmah, 17 Faith, 18 Lystra, 20 Blaphemed.

Down: 1 Hip, 2 Loaves, 3 Eldest, 4 Unrest, 5 Athaliah, 6 Unbelief, 8 Bethesda, 9 Freewill, 12 Riches, 13 Shiloh, 14 Ransom, 19 Red.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

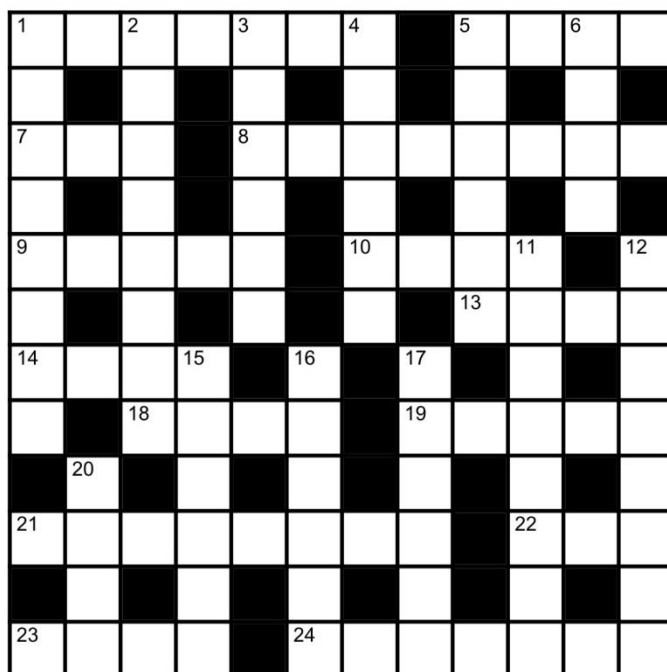
## THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 Holy messenger (7)
- 5 Ill (4)
- 7 Needle hole (3)
- 8 Two sold for a farthing (8)
- 9 Trials (5)
- 10 Plague upon Egypt (4)
- 13 Secure (4)
- 14 Anthem (4)
- 18 Entrance (4)
- 19 Unclean bird (5)
- 21 One of the tribes (8)
- 22 King of Judah (3)
- 23 Prophet (4)
- 24 Kish sent Saul to seek them (7)

### Down

- 1 Highest in quality (8)
- 2 Grace (8)
- 3 Beg (6)
- 4 Abhor (6)
- 5 Capital of Lydia (6)
- 6 Feature of Pharaoh's dream (4)
- 11 Confused at Babel (8)
- 12 Chief captains (8)
- 15 Reap (6)
- 16 Announce (6)
- 17 Largest Roman army division (6)
- 20 Place of refuge (4)



by Philologus

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## ***BIBLE QUIZ – THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS***

### **1) How did the celebration of Christmas begin?**

The correct answer was b) The Church began Christmas as a feast day for Christ in 336 A.D.

No one knows what day Jesus was born, or even exactly what year. But in 336 A.D. the Western Church, based in Rome, chose December 25 to celebrate as Christmas, meaning "Christ's Mass." The Eastern Church chose January 6. The day was named Epiphany, meaning "appearance." Eventually the period from December 25 to January 6 became known as the Twelve Days of Christmas

### **2) When was the celebration of Christmas outlawed in England?**

The correct answer was c) The 17th century

During the 1600's, some Puritan groups considered Christmas a pagan celebration because it included non-religious elements such as decorating and feasting. As a result, Christmas was outlawed, for a time, in England and parts of the English colonies in America.

### **3) Who wrote the famous book, A Christmas Carol, that tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge?**

The correct answer was b) Charles Dickens

Dickens' book, published in 1843, is the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserable, stingy miser, who has a series of disturbing visions that make him into a completely new person -- generous and lovable. Many of our traditions of Christmas celebration and the "Christmas Spirit" of giving can be traced back to A Christmas Carol.

### **4) Where did the modern Christmas tree originate?**

The correct answer was c) Germany

German families put up a "Paradise tree" on December 24, the feast day of Adam and Eve. They hung wafers on it symbolising the bread distributed in Church for Holy Communion. The Christmas holiday followed immediately, so candles representing Christ as the "light of the world" (John 8:12, 9:5, 12:46) were often added to the tree. Thus, began our tradition of putting lights on Christmas trees.

### **5) When was the Christmas carol, *Silent Night, Holy Night*, composed?**

The correct answer was c) 19th century

This most popular of all carols was composed in the 1800's, with music by Franz Gruber and words by Joseph Mohr. Many popular carols originated in the 18th and 19th centuries, including *Adeste Fideles*, *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, *Joy to the World*, *O Little Town of Bethlehem* and *It Came upon a Midnight Clear*.





## CHRISTMAS PJ APPEAL WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Merseyside Junior Mentoring Project believe that every child should go to bed on Christmas Eve in cosy **new** Pyjamas.

With your help and generosity we are hoping to reach as many families as possible.

We would love for donations of Brand New Pyjamas, Slippers & Dressing Gowns with sizes ranging between Newborn to Adults.

If you would prefer to give a donation to help with this appeal, please use the contact details below.

**DROP OFF POINT:** Ellergreen Community Centre, L11 2RY

### COLLECTION AVAILABLE

**Please donate on or before Friday 11th December 2020, all donations are greatly appreciated!**

**For more information:**

Email: [Renee.obrien@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:Renee.obrien@actionforchildren.org.uk)  
[Eleanor.hacking@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:Eleanor.hacking@actionforchildren.org.uk)



Cheques should be made out to Action for Children and they or pyjamas etc should be sent to  
Action for Children  
Ellergreen Community Centre  
Ellergreen Road  
Liverpool  
L11 2RJ



# An Hour of Hygge

Friday, 8pm-9pm via Zoom

Join us for a women's hour of 'hygge' on Zoom. 'Hygge' is a Danish word, pronounced "hoo-ga". It's a lovely word which translates into English as 'cosiness'. Hygge is about creating a warm atmosphere and enjoying the simple things in life.

Join us for an evening of Hygge each Friday between 8pm-9pm on Zoom. Light some candles, get a cuppa and get yourself comfy. We will share conversations, stories, and the simple things in life; even though we cannot meet in person.

Zoom details: 840 2465 3338 Passcode: 656366

The Salvation Army is a Church and registered Charity in England (214779), Wales (214779), Scotland (SC009359) and the Republic of Ireland (CHY6399)



## ***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)