

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 – October 30th 2022

This Week's Collect

Holy God, you have called witnesses from every nation and revealed your glory in their lives. Grant to us the same faith and love that, following their example, we may be sustained by their fellowship and rejoice in their triumph; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



All Saints

Almighty God, you have knit together your chosen people in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord. Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys which you have prepared for those who love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister's Message

Hello everyone,

Can you believe we are in the last week of October already? Like me, you have probably seen many houses decorated for Halloween and children showing much more interest in vegetables than at any other time during the year (well pumpkins, anyway!). We remember that Halloween is a Christian celebration. Just as we celebrate Christmas Eve the day before Christmas Day, so Halloween is the eve of All Saints Day. It is wonderful at this time of year to celebrate all those Christians who have gone before us. We cherish their memory and seek to follow their good example. May we too rejoice in the victory of the risen Jesus who brings all his people through the trials of life and safely into the joys of heaven.

This Sunday in Church we will conclude on our exploration of Isaac, May we, like him, trust in God to guide and lead us as we pass the faith which we have received onto others.

God bless Peter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER 2022	
Sunday 30th	10.30 a.m. Morning Worship – Revd. Peter Hughes (Holy Communion) Followed by tea and coffee.
NOVEMBER 2022	
Thursday 3rd	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Coffee morning
Sunday 6th	10.30 a.m. Morning Worship – Chris Ansell
	6.30 p.m. URC Café Jam (Church Hall)
Monday 7th	2.30 p.m. Bible Fellowship (Pam Draper's House)
	7.00 p.m. Sound Desk Training
	7.30 p.m. Steward Elders
Tuesday 8th	7.30 p.m. Property & Finance
Wednesday 9th	1.30 - 2.30 p.m. Prayer Hour
Thursday 10th	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Coffee morning
Saturday 12th	10 a.m. – 12 noon Coffee morning
Sunday 13th	10.30 a.m. Morning Worship – Darren Murrell – (Remembrance Sunday)
Monday 14th	7.30 p.m. Steward Elders
Wednesday 16th	1.30 - 2.30 p.m. Prayer Hour
	7.30 p.m. House Group
Thursday 17th	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Coffee morning
Saturday 19th	10.00 a.m. Winter Fair
Sunday 20th	10.30 a.m. Morning Worship – Revd. Clement Matarirano
Monday 21st	7.30 p.m. Mission Action Group
Tuesday 22nd	7.30 p.m. Circuit Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting at St James'
Thursday 24th	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Coffee morning
Sunday 27th	10.30 a.m. Morning Worship – Revd. Peter Hughes (Holy Communion) Followed by tea and coffee. Advent.
DECEMBER 2022	
Thursday 1st	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Coffee morning
Saturday 3rd	7 p.m. Christmas Sing-along
Sunday 4th	10.30 a.m. Morning Worship –
Monday 5th	2.30 p.m. Bible Fellowship
Thursday 8th	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Coffee morning
Saturday 10th	10 a.m. – 12 noon Coffee morning (Carol singing in village)
Sunday 11th	10.30 a.m. Morning Worship - All Age Worship & Gift service
	4 p.m. Carol Service
Monday 12th	7.30 p.m. Steward Elders
Wednesday 14th	1.30 - 2.30 p.m. Prayer Hour
	7.30 p.m. House Group

Roy Barker & Friends Christmas Sing-along

Roy Barker & Friends Christmas Sing-along is on Saturday 3rd December at 7.00 pm (doors open at 6.30pm). Come and join us for some Christmas fun and lots of singing. Wear your Christmas hats and sweaters and bring your voices. Proceeds will be split between St James' Church Development Fund and The Alder Centre at Alder Hey Hospital, who provide various types of support and education for anyone affected by the death of a child.



Get your tickets now: adults: £6, children: £1. Contact **Roy and Lynne Barker**
0151 421 1218

Second Saturday of every month Coffee and Cake in the church.

Thank you for your tinned and packet food donations which are collected weekly and taken to the Whitechapel Centre for distribution. Did you know that socks are one of the most requested items by people who are homeless? Every year Whitechapel give out thousands of new pairs to people they are helping. So please join their **Socktober Campaign** and pop a pack of one or two pairs of warm new socks into your shopping trolley if you can. They will be very much appreciated (both men's and women's please).

Sunday 6th November: Café Jam - spread some song across your heart. Praise God through songs, enjoy cake and fellowship. Here at St. James' starting at 6.30 p.m. for more details contact Rita on 07838103310 or synodclerk@urcmerseysynod.or.uk

The next Saturday Coffee Morning is on the **12th of November**. From 10.00 am until 12 Noon in the Church. Please pop in and say hello. There will be some homemade cakes and scones along with toasted teacakes.

SATURDAY 19TH NOVEMBER – WINTER FAIR - 10.00 a.m. until 1 p.m. Morning coffee, Brunches, Raffles. Christmas Gifts. Yummy homemade cakes and jams. And lots more. There will be an early visit from Father Christmas.

We will be very grateful for the following items and if you can help with any of these please bring to the hall on Friday 18th November between 2.00 and 6.00 p.m. or ring Wendy for collection on 07867795179. NEW toiletries, Christmas gifts, scented candles, stationery items, jewellery. Plants or small bunches of flowers. Homemade cakes or biscuits. Festive tinned or packet foods for Hamper prizes (but please see Wendy for collection before the date!)

Put the date in your diary now. Any help you can give will be very much appreciated – please ring Wendy on 07867795179. Tell your family and friends to book the date too!

BABY CLOTHES

If anyone has any baby boy's clothes, in good condition, age 6 to 12 month, please contact Wendy on 07867795179 or wdoig45@gmail.com
We have a mum at Centre 56 who would be very grateful to have them.

Messy Church

A couple of years ago St James were considering starting a Messy Church. We concluded that we didn't have enough leaders to make this a possibility. Court Hey Methodist Church do have a Messy Church but are currently struggling for leaders. They have between 50 and 100 people attending and do not want to have to close. If anyone from St James' who was interested in Messy Church would like to support Court Hey, you would be warmly welcomed. Their next Messy Church is on Saturday 22nd October 4.00pm to 6.00pm and anyone from St James' would be welcome to come along with no obligation to find out if it may be something you could be involved in.

If you want to know more, please email Revd. Peter who will pass your details on to the Messy Church co-ordinators at Court Hey.

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.



Job Vacancy - Church Treasurer

We have an urgent need to appoint a new Church Treasurer, as our current Treasurer has been in post for more than six years and has given notice that he will definitely be standing down in the near future. The role does NOT require you to count the collection every week - the Steward Elders cover this task.

The Treasurer has overall management of our Church finances and budgets, advising the Church Council on the state of our funds. The Treasurer completes the annual accounts, reporting to the Church Council and Circuit. It does not require a financial expert but some experience in this area is helpful.

Training and support will be available from the retiring Treasurer, **Steve Elliott** and the **Circuit Treasurer, Roger Heath**.

Please speak to our Treasurer if you are interested.

Benevolent Collection

The benevolent fund collection at the communion service on 30 October will be for Homeless Sunday. This year, the theme for Homeless Sunday is '**Homelessness and Mental Health Issues**' and the focus is on how mental health issues can both lead to, and be a cause of, homelessness.

Compared to the general public, people sleeping rough:

- are almost 17 times more likely to be a victim of violence
- die 30 years younger on average
- The average life expectancy for men sleeping rough is 47 and 43 for women

When growing up:

- 2/3 of people who sleep rough experienced violence between parents/carers
- Just under 60% had a parent/carer with a drug or alcohol problem
- About half have been sexually and/or physically abused
- 1/3 have been bullied or have been suspended or expelled from school
- 25% have been taken into the care of a council as a child or young person
- A quarter were brought up in a workless household living on welfare benefits
- 15% reported that they often did not have enough to eat each day

We shall be contributing to Housing Justice, a small, highly influential national charity. Their work makes a huge difference to thousands of people who stay at night shelters across the country, and those who are helped in some other way by churches, faith and community groups, and their volunteers.

SCAFFOLDING

You will see that scaffolding is now erected to the High Street side of the church. This is to carry out work and erection of the damaged cross.

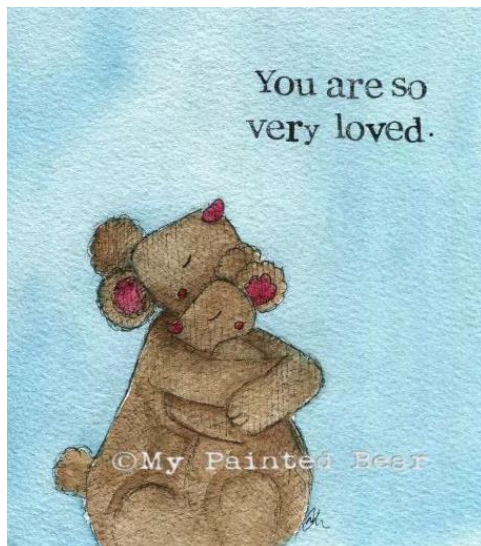
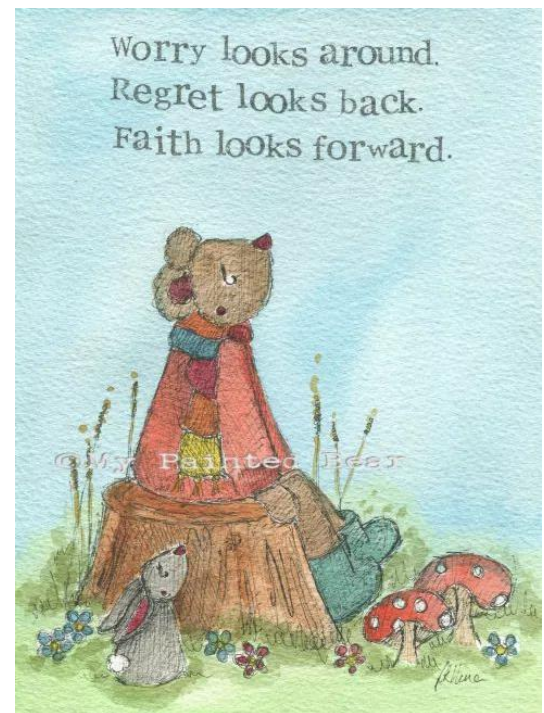
The ramp access is clear for use **FROM THE SIDE GATE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RAMP**, but I would ask that you do not use the footpath down the side of the building where the scaffolding is in place for your own safety.

Thank you.

Wendy Doig Property manager

PRAYERS NEEDED

Dear God,
 We confess our need for you today.
 We need your healing and your grace.
 We need hope restored.
 We need to be reminded that you work on behalf of those
 you love, constantly, powerfully, completely.
 Forgive us for trying to fix our situations all on our own.
 Forgive us for running all different directions and spinning
 our wheels to find help when true help and healing must be
 found first in You.
 Forgive us for forgetting how much we need you, above
 everyone and everything else.
 We come to you and bring you the places we are hurting.
 You see where no one else is able to fully see or understand.
 You know the pain we've carried.
 The burdens. The cares.
 You know where we need to be set free.
 We ask for your healing and grace to cover every broken
 place.
 Every wound. Every heartache.

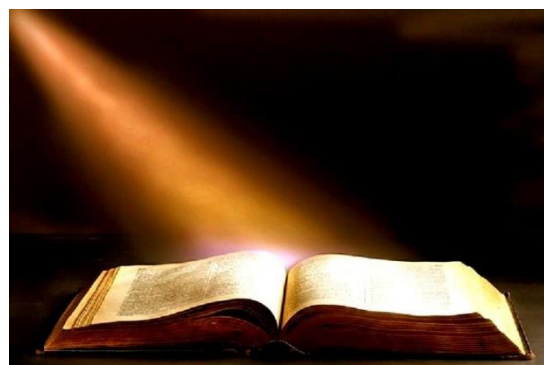


Thank you that you are Able to do far more than we could ever
 imagine.
 Thank you for your Mighty Power that acts on behalf of your
 children.
 We reach out to you and know that you are restoring and
 redeeming every place of difficulty, every battle, for your greater
 glory.
 Thank you that you will never waste our pain and suffering.
 We love you.
 We need you today. In Jesus' Name, **Amen.**

***We also pray for Billy Lamb, Arthur Evans, Joan
 Greenall, Elizabeth Draper, Rogers Phillips, Ken
 Kitchen, Graham Martin, Heather Hughes and Dave
 and Madge Tilly.***

Bible Reading and Leading Prayers in Church

We would like to offer a workshop to encourage new people to think about reading from the Bible and/or leading prayers in our Sunday Services. It may be that some of our faithful readers and leaders of prayers would like a refresher or an opportunity to practice together. If you would be interested please contact Peter Hughes with times during the week when you would be free to attend such a workshop.



A History of Liverpool with Mike Hughes

Liverpool Blitz Memorial

During the Blitz of 1940-1, when much of the church was destroyed, over 1,700 residents of Liverpool and Bootle were killed by bombing. In 2000 a bronze memorial was unveiled in the Church Gardens by the Duke of Edinburgh.

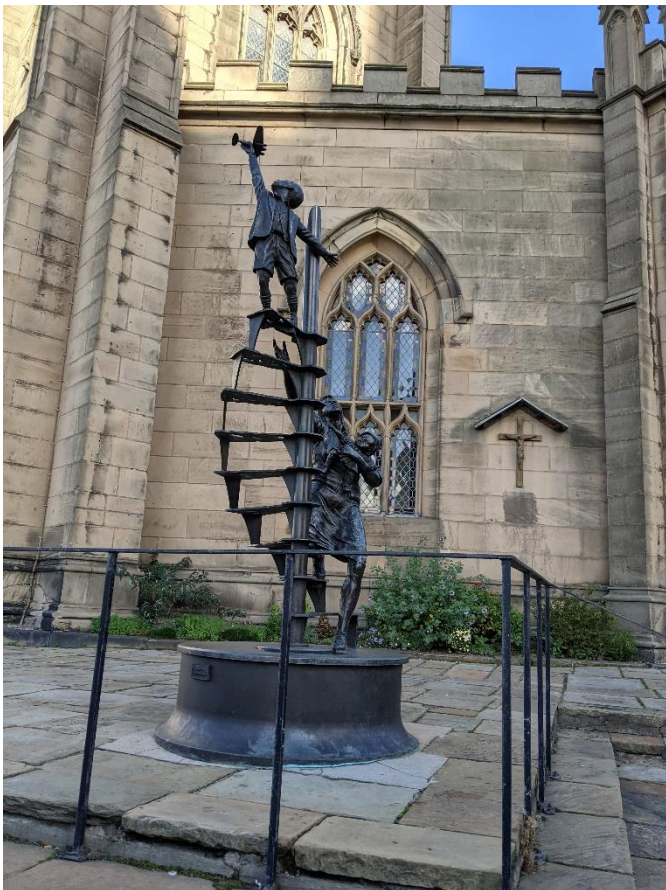
The sculptor, **Tom Murphy**, wrote of the memorial:

Each person will interpret the sculpture from their own knowledge and perspective.

However, the key elements include:

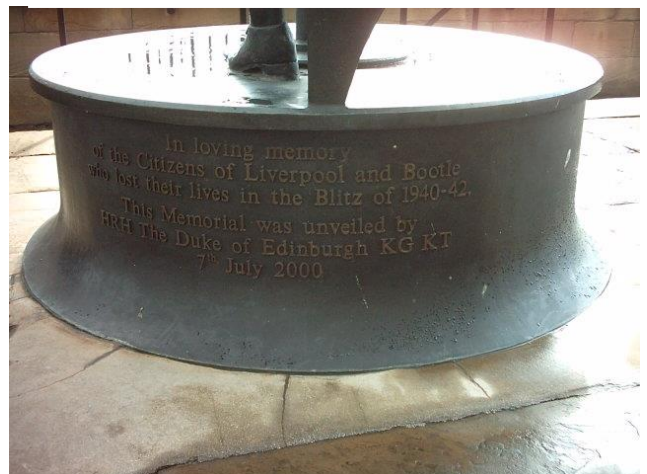
- The mother who is clutching her baby while frantically trying to encourage her young son to escape down the staircase to a safer place.
- The small boy playing with his aeroplane, standing precariously at the top of the stairs, lost in the excitement of war.
- The abstract staircase, shrinking as it rises, symbolising the diminishing option for the family group.
- The staircase also indicates the way bombs spiral as they fall.
- Each step of the stairs has jagged cut outs, which give the transient effect of shards of glass, particularly on a sunny day, when they can be seen within the shadows cast by the sculpture.
- The aeroplane held by the small boy can be seen both as the instrument of destruction, or as a Cross in Remembrance of those who sacrificed their lives during the Blitz.

The names of those who died in the Blitz are recorded inside the base of the sculpture.



This photo was taken by our resident historian **Mike Hughes**.

If you have any stories about The Blitz that you would like to share with our church family, please email me – Andrew McLaren
andrew34.am@gmail.com



The Origin and History of All Saints Day

In the early years when the Roman Empire persecuted Christians, so many martyrs died for their faith that the Church set aside special days to honour them. For example, in 607, Emperor Phocas presented the beautiful Roman Pantheon temple to the pope. The pope removed the statues of Jupiter and the pagan gods and consecrated the Pantheon to "all saints" who had died from Roman persecution in the first three hundred years after Christ. Many bones were brought from other graves and placed in the rededicated Pantheon church. Since there were too many martyrs for each to be given a day, they were lumped together into one day. In the next century, All Saints Day was changed by Pope Gregory III to today's date--November 1. People prepared for their celebration with a night of vigil on Hallows' Eve -- Halloween (possibly because of the strong holdover influence of the Celtic Samhain festival, which many Christians in Ireland, Britain, Scotland, and Wales had continued to observe).

In the 10th century, Abbot Odela of the Cluny monastery added the next day--November 2nd--as "All Souls" Day" to honour the martyrs and all Christians who had died. People prayed for the dead, but many unchristian superstitions continued. People in Christian lands offered food to the dead--as it had been in pagan times. The superstitious also believed that on these two days, souls in purgatory would take the form of witches, toads, or demons and haunt persons who had wronged them during their lifetime. As happens so often in Church history, sacred Christian festivals can absorb so many pagan customs that they lose their significance as Christian holidays.

For All The Saints

For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their
Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

For the Apostles' glorious company,
Who bearing forth the Cross o'er land and sea,
Shook all the mighty world, we sing to Thee:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

For the Evangelists, by whose blest word,
Like fourfold streams, the garden of the Lord,
Is fair and fruitful, be Thy Name adored.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

For Martyrs, who with rapture kindled eye,
Saw the bright crown descending from the sky,
And seeing, grasped it, Thee we glorify.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
All are one in Thee, for all are Thine.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave, again, and arms are strong.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blessed.

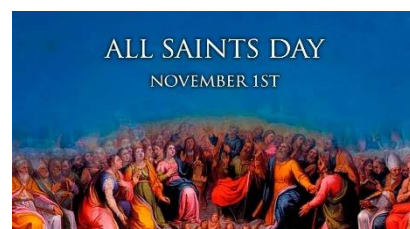
Alleluia, Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on His way.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's
farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless
host,
And singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

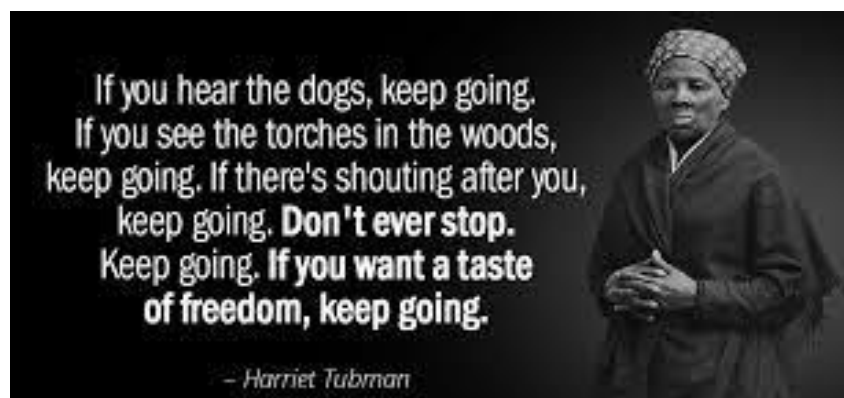


October - Black History Month (Harriet Tubman Influential Black Methodist)

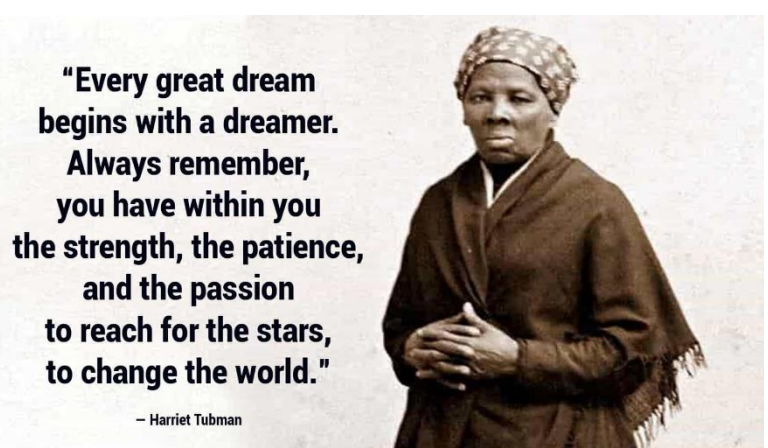
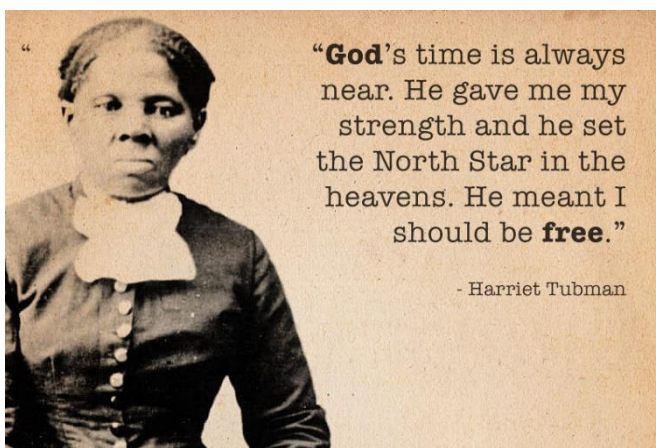
Harriet Tubman (born Araminta c. March 1822 – March 10, 1913) was an American abolitionist and social activist. Born into slavery, Tubman escaped and subsequently made some 13 missions to rescue approximately 70 enslaved people, including family and friends, using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. During the American Civil War, she served as an armed scout and spy for the Union Army. In her later years, Tubman was an activist in the movement for women's suffrage.

Born enslaved in Dorchester County, Maryland, Tubman was beaten and whipped by her various masters as a child. Early in life, she suffered a traumatic head wound when an irate overseer threw a heavy metal weight intending to hit another enslaved person but hit her instead. The injury caused dizziness, pain, and spells of hypersomnia, which occurred throughout her life. After her injury, Tubman began experiencing strange visions and vivid dreams, which she ascribed to premonitions from God. These experiences, combined with her Methodist upbringing, led her to become devoutly religious.

In 1849, Tubman escaped to Philadelphia, only to return to Maryland to rescue her family soon after. Slowly, one group at a time, she brought relatives with her out of the state, and eventually guided dozens of other enslaved people to freedom. Traveling by night and in extreme secrecy, Tubman (or "Moses", as she was called) "never lost a passenger". After the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 was passed, she helped guide fugitives farther north into British North America (Canada) and helped newly freed enslaved people find work. Tubman met John Brown in 1858 and helped him plan and recruit supporters for his 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry.



When the Civil War began, Tubman worked for the Union Army, first as a cook and nurse, and then as an armed scout and spy. The first woman to lead an armed expedition in the war, she guided the raid at Combahee Ferry, which liberated more than 700 enslaved people. After the war, she retired to the family home on property she had purchased in 1859 in Auburn, New York, where she cared for her aging parents. She was active in the women's suffrage movement until illness overtook her, and she had to be admitted to a home for elderly African Americans that she had helped to establish years earlier. She became an icon of courage and freedom.



Justice, Dignity and Solidarity at St James' Church

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.

We live in an increasingly divided world where minorities often experience being left out, their / our needs unconsidered, or worse, oppressed and abused. Where this happens, at work, in school, or even in church, the gifts God has given to people of difference cannot be shared or celebrated, and the full flood of God's blessing is dammed up. It is against this background that all churches are called to be a beacon of Jesus's own including and affirming love, rooting inclusion and affirmation firmly in a narrative about justice.

We have already made great strides. For example, we have a wheelchair ramp and a sound reinforcement system, and big print service sheets already available for people who need them, so they / we feel welcome and included. There are others, of course, whose difference is less obvious, for example around mental health, poverty, sexuality, ex-prisoners, refugees, domestic abuse survivors, to name but a few. Very importantly, people with a lived experience of exclusion *expect* that they will not be noticed, valued, included, or affirmed, because often this is how they have been treated in society and - very sadly - in some churches.

Unless we are very specific about the breadth of our inclusion and affirmation, it is likely that people with a lived experience of exclusion will *hear* words of welcome but *assume* they do not apply to them; they will screen out positive messages because their sense of difference is alienating.

How to approach this? One way is to *speak into the silence* by providing visible, explicit, positive inclusive and affirming statements. For example:

- Prominently display in the foyer - and outside on the notice board - a statement which makes clear that 'all are more than welcome' by spelling out the full range of inclusion.
- Taking note of awareness seasons in wider society, for example, around mental health and suicide, prisoners, Pride, and asylum seekers by prominently displaying material, referencing the particular 'awareness' in intercessions, preaching and Sunday activities with the children and young people.

There will be many other ways too.

On 13th of 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 to consider.

If you would like to be part of this group, please email Paul: delius9@virginmedia.com.

]Arrangements for meeting times etc can be decided once it's known who may be interested.
Thank you.

Paul Holt

Isaac and Rebekah

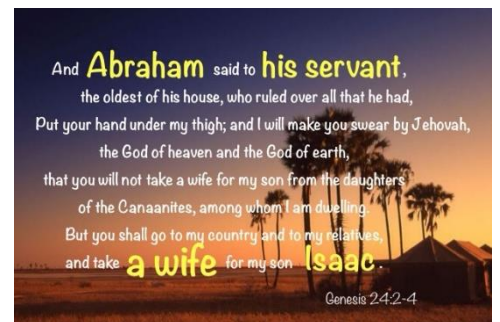


This Sunday, see the end of our focus on the life of Isaac, one of those great fathers of faith. As Revd. Peter told us in his first service about Isaac, here at St James' we have a stained-glass window dedicated to the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah. This was quite an unusual choice when the windows were first put in.

The marriage of Isaac and Rebekah can be found in **Genesis 24**.

Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebecca. Twenty years elapsed before they had children; throughout that time, both Isaac and Rebecca prayed fervently to God for offspring.

God eventually answered Isaac's prayers and Rebecca conceived.



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 Pam Bellis

Order of Worship:

- Welcome and notices
- Opening prayer
- Bible reading:
- Lord's Prayer
- Talk or "mini sermon"
- Prayers
- Grace and dismissal.

Liz Hudson



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

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

Psalm 28:7

