

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 2nd May – 2021

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Loving and eternal God, through the resurrection of your Son, help us to face the future with courage and assurance, knowing that nothing in life or death can ever part us from your love for us in Jesus Christ our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Hello Everyone,

I hope you have all had a good week - still enjoying the spring sunshine with a few showers for the benefit of the gardens, window boxes etc! It was lovely to see some of you in Church on Sunday, and great that others could join us via Zoom and Telephone Worship. Can I reassure anyone nervous about returning to worship in Church that we have very thorough procedures in place to keep everyone safe. When you feel ready to return you can be confident that St James will be a welcoming and safe place for you. We are continuing with Worship in Church each Sunday at 10.30am and we're hoping to share in covid safe Communion on 16th May. Thanks to our Steward Elders, Wendy and others who have helped us with all of this. This last week we held our Special Projects Meeting and we are planning for our first event to be a coffee Morning on 24th July. As we continue to celebrate the Easter season our thoughts turn to Jesus the True Vine. We are all connected to Jesus and each other in a way that the events of this last year have been unable to destroy. May the life of the Holy Spirit continue to flow through us as we move forward together, God Bless Peter.

UPCOMING PREACHERS

Sunday May 2nd John Greenwood (**St James'**) & Revd. Peter Hughes (**Telephone**)

Sunday May 9th Graham Martin (**St James'**) & Revd. Paul Wilson (**Telephone**)

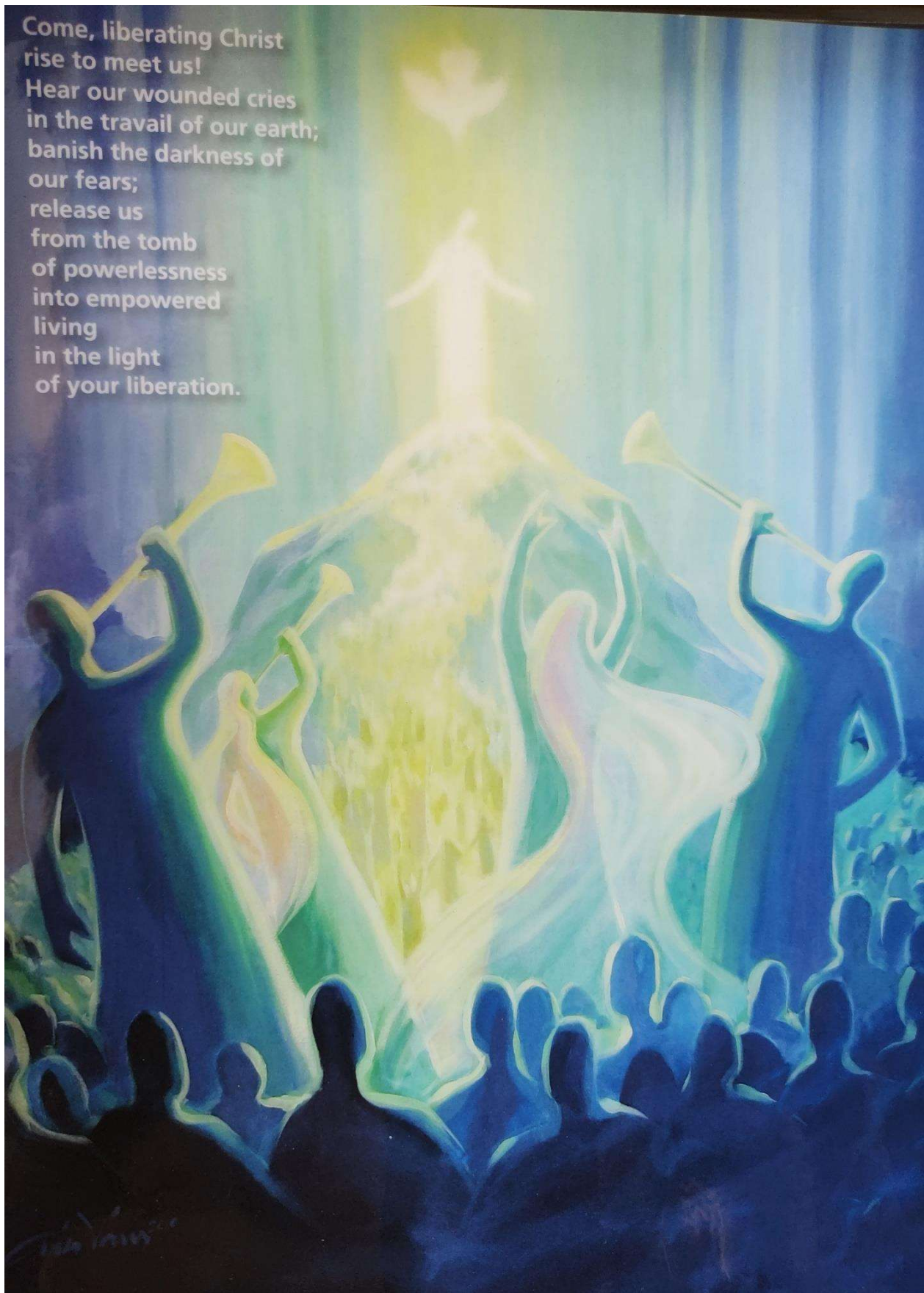
Outdoor Worship at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church St Mary's are holding two Saturday afternoon Prayer Services in their Parish grounds at 12noon on Saturday 15th and Saturday 22nd May. They are inviting members of St James' and St Peter's to join them.

These Services tie in with the period of Thy Kingdom Come and celebrate Pope Francis's "**Care For Our Common Home**" The services will encourage people to recognise the value of spending time outdoors in prayer and thanksgiving for the wonders of nature.

You may wish to bring a picnic blanket, and folding chairs will be available at the services.

Picture from our Church Railings.

The picture for today - the 5th Sunday of Easter - reminds us of the liberating power of the resurrection. Our hope and prayer are that liberation will be experienced by all who are oppressed because of their race, gender, sexuality, social position or for any other reason. As we look at the news bulletins from India, we pray that the people of that nation may be liberated from the awful effects of Covid 19.



WORSHIPPING AT ST. JAMES'

With the re-opening of church this Sunday, we will see many of you returning to St James' for the first time in a long while. Some of you may not feel confident enough to attend church at the moment and are waiting for when the time is right for you.

Hopefully, we may have a solution to this. One where you will get to experience our church service. Many of you have enjoyed our Zoom services during the last lock-down, so we have decided to trail something. We are going to broadcast a live church service from St James'. You will get to experience the service from the comfort of your home and join in with the fellowship.

As we are trailing this, we would like your feedback. God willing that technology won't let us down.

Please use the Zoom link below

Joining from 10.15 for a 10.30 am start – Preacher: Revd. Peter Hughes.

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.

**Also from St. James Church:- Invitation to Telephone Worship
(And every Sunday until the end of May)**

This Sunday our preacher will be Revd. Peter Hughes

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:

- **Welcome and notices:**
- **Opening prayer (Host)**
- **Bible reading** (Liz Hudson) **John 15: 1 - 7**
- **Lord's Prayer** (Host)
- **Talk or "mini-sermon" (Rev Peter Hughes)**
- **Prayers** (Pam Bellis)
- **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.

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]

Please read again all the information below so that we are all aware how we can behave safely and protect each other. This may seem a lot to remember but like everything else we have had to do over the last year, we will soon get used to it!

Service Dates and times

We plan to hold our services every Sunday at 10.30am (doors open from 10am).

Bookings

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. Bookings can be made by phone, text or email.

Please contact Jayne McLaren on 07859 062 692 (jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk) from 4pm on the Sunday afternoon for the following Sunday's Service.

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.

Clothes to suit the Temperature

You may wish to wrap up well to come to Church. The heating will be on and is now working on full power, but we need to ensure good air circulation by keeping some doors open. Please do not close any doors that the stewards have left open. Hopefully, the weather will be much warmer in the coming weeks than it was back in December!

Please don't bring unnecessary bags or other items as they could potentially carry and transmit the virus

Lifts to Church

If you normally give a lift to someone or get picked up by someone to come to Church, please be aware that this is an informal, private arrangement between friends. Lifts are not arranged by the Church and are not offered on behalf of the Church. Please check the current Government guidance before giving or accepting a lift and ensure that any sharing of transport is carried out in a Covid 19 secure way

Face Coverings Required

For now we are still required to wear a face covering at Church, as we are in shops and other enclosed spaces.

You will notice that those on duty will be wearing face coverings for your protection. Children under 11 are not required to wear face coverings. Some adults may also be exempt.

Arriving at Church

The doors will open 30 minutes before the Service begins. Please do not arrive before then. When you arrive at Church you will be greeted by a Steward and be expected to clean your hands before entering. If there is a queue to enter or to use the sanitiser, please observe safe social distancing in the queue.

You may use the main entrance or the ramp entrance. If you are able to, please use whichever entrance is less busy at the time you arrive.

Track and Trace

We will keep a record of who attends each service to help track and trace contacts in case anyone attending Church tests positive at a later date.

Social Distancing

Please enter the worship area and find a seat as quickly as possible, do not gather in groups for conversation. Some chairs will be reserved for those who are coming in families or household groups.

Please DO NOT move any seats as this will potentially compromise the way we have arranged them to allow social distancing.

Throughout your time in Church social distancing of 2 metres will be in place, keep a safe distance, just as you would in any public place at the moment. Please don't put others in an awkward situation by going over to their seats and chatting to them.

Differences to Notice

In order to minimise the risk of transmission, our Services will be much shorter than previously and will not include singing.

If you have brought your offering with you, please place it on a plate near the entrance as you arrive or leave. There will be no offering during the service.

We will not be using the Prayers of Intercession book; if you have a prayer request, please let us know by contacting a Steward Elder during the week.

At the end of the Service you will be encouraged to leave promptly rather than linger and chat, there will be no refreshments. All of this goes against what we are used to but it is to enable us to safely share in worship.

Children, Families & Households

We are looking forward to welcoming children, young people and families back to Church.

Unfortunately, we won't be able to hold separate Junior Church, at least for now.

We encourage children to bring their own drawing and writing materials (including pen and paper), please don't bring toys. We request parents to help children in practicing social distancing, which we realise may be demanding! Families and people from the same household or "support bubble" will be able to sit together and we will provide you with the right number of seats together for your group as long as you tell us at the time of booking.

Holy Communion

At first, while we are all getting used to being back in Church, Holy Communion will not be part of the Service. Later we will reintroduce Communion which will be shared in a Covid safe way.

Go Safely

As you leave Church you will be offered hand sanitiser again so that your hands are clean as you return home.

SPRINGWATCH with St. James'

These photos were taken by the Revd. Peter Hughes. Here are some new arrivals on the Canal-near Saltaire.





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.

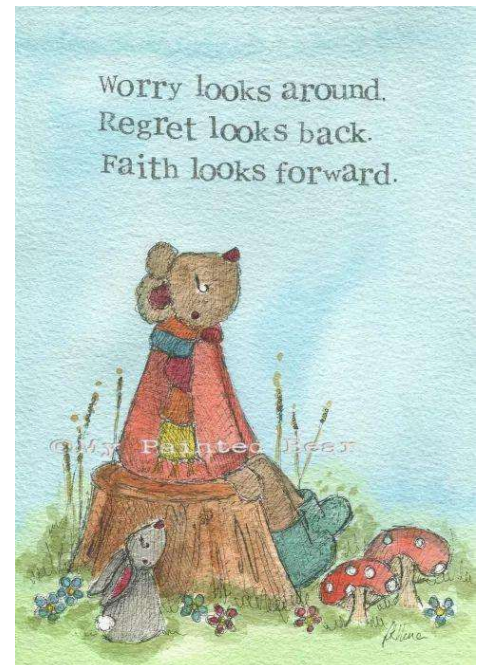
The burdens. The cares. You know where we need to be set free. We ask for your healing and grace to cover every broken place. Every wound. Every heartache. Thank you that you are Able to do far more than we could ever imagine.

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.



Please remember those at St. James who need our prayers this week, we pray for those close to our hearts, for those known to us and for those only you know of. For those due to undergo surgery and for those recovering. For Dot Woods and family, as Dot is poorly in hospital. For Madge and Dave Tilley, as Madge is now at home. We look to you for your strength and healing Lord



Fifth Sunday of Easter.

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.



Happy birthday to Margaret Dee and Pam Draper who both celebrate their birthdays this week.

Sheila Thwaite would like to say a Big Thank you to all her friends at St. James for all their good wishes and surprises she received to celebrate her 80th Birthday last week x x

Date for your diary –

Christian Aid week is the 10th-16th May, the focus this year is on the climate crisis. We will not be doing house to house collections. We will be collecting using an e-envelope which will be forwarded to you via email. We will be collecting in the Church grounds two afternoons during the week (provisionally Wednesday and Friday 2.45-4pm). If anyone is available to collect at these times, please email Jane (jlaverty65@icloud.com). Individuals will be taking part in the 300,000 steps challenge (anyone interested is welcome to take part).

Christian Aid Quiz

St James and St Peter's are joining forces for a Zoom Christian Aid quiz on Sunday 23rd May at 7pm! The quiz is free to join, suitable for adults and children, and is open to households of all shapes and sizes. More details about how to sign up to follow! We look forward to seeing you there! For those who are keen quizzers, you may be interested in the national Quiztarian Aid Quiz on Saturday 8th May - hosted by celebrities and an ideal way to get some quiz practice in before our quiz!

St James has always been very generous with their support of Christian Aid through donations, giving of time and prayer. I pray that we will continue to do all we can this year.

Help St James' raise £500

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/st-james-church-woolton?channel=email>

Many thanks,
Jane and Tony



Congratulations.
Daniel Stanford achieved his half-marathon distance at Junior Parkrun this week and was awarded with a commemorative wristband.
Well done Daniel 👍 ☆

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

D	E	S	P	A	I	R		R	E	S	T	I	N	G
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E	X	I	S	T	E	N	C	E		G	N	A	S	H
L		E		A		C		S		L		N		A
S	T	R	A	N	G	E		T	R	E	A	S	O	N

Across: 1 Despair, 5 Resting, 9 Purer, 10 Galatians, 11 Neglected, 12 Siege, 13 Alms, 15 Ordained, 18 Promises, 19 Days, 22 Amber, 24 Protector, 26 Existence, 27 Gnash, 28 Strange, 29 Treason.

Down: 1 Depend, 2 Straggler, 3 Agree, 4 Righteous, 5 Ruled, 6 Satisfied, 7 Image, 8 Gospel, 14 Samaritan, 16 Dishonest, 17 Egyptians, 20 Camels, 21 Orphan, 23 Brier, 24 Pence, 25 Eagle.

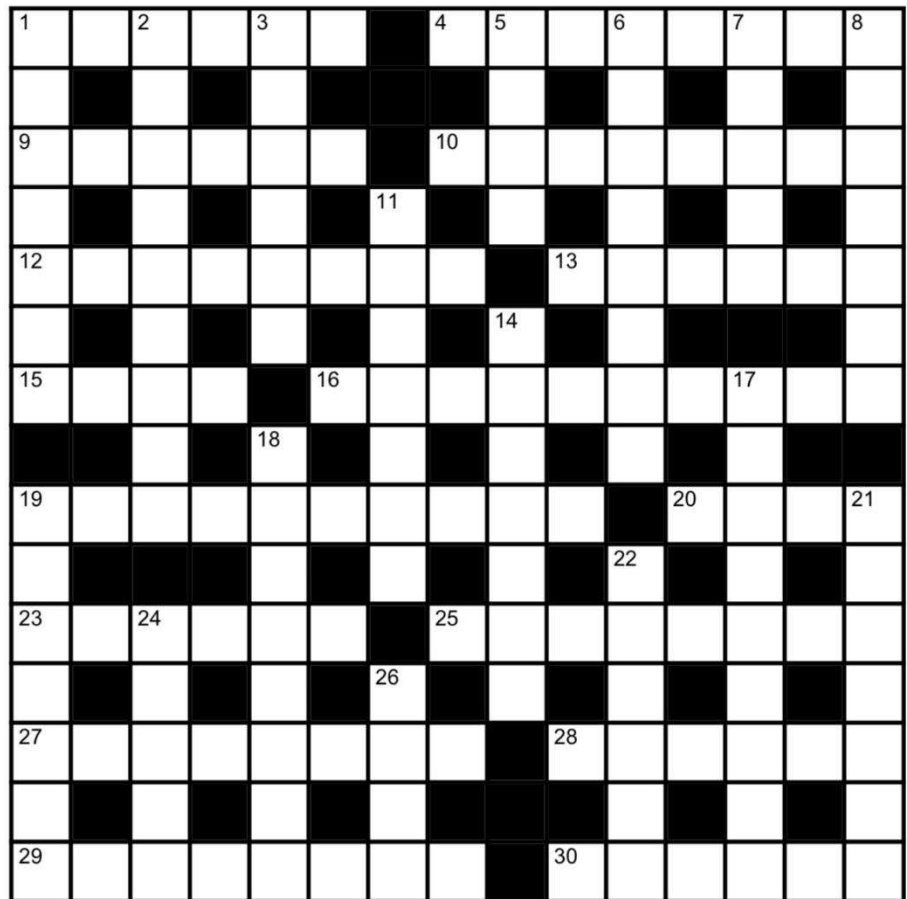
THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Express sorrow (6)
 4 Anticipated (8)
 9 God with judge people with this (6)
 10 Sore ants (anag); In the White House? (8)
 12 Kept confined (8)
 13 Times Peter denied Christ (6)
 15 Noah became this by faith (4)
 16 Last book of the Bible (10)
 19 God's angels (10)
 20 Mix up (4)
 23 Thin length of material (6)
 25 It never comes (8)
 27 Soothed (8)
 28 Money lender (6)
 29 Counted (8)
 30 Rigid sheets of metal (6)

Down

- 1 A dimension of God's love (7)
 2 Himalayas, for example (9)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 3 Gain, reach or arrive at (6)
 5 Sesame worked! (4)
 6 A faithful minister of Christ (8)
 7 Mother in law of Ruth (5)
 8 Sun sets in this sky (7)
 11 Retaliation (7)
 14 Scripture is profitable for this (7)
 17 Magicians couldn't do this for Pharaoh's dreams (9)
 18 Jerusalem - how her house is left (8)
 19 Disease of cattle (7)
 21 When Jesus comes these will be with Him (7)
 22 Fragment of food (6)
 24 Booms (anag) (5)
 26 Not there! (4)

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