

# **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 – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Eternal God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in justice and peace your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of the world. Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us, and bring us to eternal light and joy; through the power of him 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 are staying safe and well; this week we will reach the halfway point of the current lockdown. I know that many of you have been getting tested as our city has the opportunity to mass test as many of us as possible. I hope that those of you who have been tested have received reassuring results. For others, hopefully the time of isolation will pass quickly and you will keep well. We hope and pray that our city will be able to emerge more quickly from this time as a result of the extra resources being offered to us.

We thank those who have come to our city to help with this, including army personnel. May they be kept safe too. Thank you to all of you for the way you are helping our Church stay strong at this time. All the prayers, letters, kind actions, phone calls and emails make a difference, enabling us to know that we are all loved and cared for by God and each other. We hope that we will be able to see each other soon,  
God Bless, Peter.

### **HYMNS FOR FACEBOOK**

For those who don't use social media, since our church closed and lockdown began I have been posting a worship song a day on our church Facebook page for people to start their morning to, listen during the day or taking a moment to reflect.

This has been extremely successful but I'm running out of hymns and worship songs so if you have any suggestions at all please send me them via email [amybates93@aol.co.uk](mailto:amybates93@aol.co.uk) or text 07951977709- all suggestions welcome.

And for Christmas I will be doing an advent calendar countdown of people's favourite Christmas carols... please send me your favourite as soon as possible as I need 25 and the most popular will make the advent countdown! Amy

### **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. Happy birthday to Jill McIntyre's daughter Heather, who will be 35 on the 18<sup>th</sup> November. Everyone at St. James' wishes you a happy birthday and enjoy your day.

## MAG Group - Christmas 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!! 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.

## **FELLOWSHIP (BIBLE STUDY) GROUP**

Dear All. Thank you to everyone who responded to the enquiry about meeting on Zoom for a Fellowship Group. From the answers I thought it would be worth trying two meetings with an Advent theme on Mondays 30th November & 14th December. They will run 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.

## **CIRCUIT NATIVITY SERVICE**

We come with good news, great news! We shall be having our first all age family Zoom service on Sunday 6th December 10:30am! Oh no we are not... oh yes, we are!!

This service will be our Circuit nativity service and we need the help of your young people to make this extra special!

Do you have any young people who would like to take on a part of a narrator?

Do a reading? Say our prayers?

This will not be pre-recorded but spoken live on Zoom with a fun script sent out weeks in advance.

And there will be lots for the adults to do as well on the day, you are not getting out of dressing up that easily!! Please can you let Natasia know by Friday 20th November the names and how best to communicate with their parents! God bless and many thanks! Natasia

## **Telephone Worship – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2.30p.m.**

### **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**

**[Please note this is a new telephone number and pin]**

You will be invited to say your name and will then be admitted to the Worship Session.

### **Order of Worship:**

- Welcome and opening prayer (Host – Graham)
- Bible reading (Chris Bennet) 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
- Lord's Prayer (Host)
- Talk or "mini-sermon" (Rev Paul Wilson)
- Prayers (Pam Draper)
- Grace and dismissal. (Host)

Many thanks, and God Bless

**Graham Martin**

[Call me on 0151-222-5832 or 07712-525239 if you have any questions]

## **NEWS**

Reminder that There will be a "12 noon, After Worship Coffee Chat" on Zoom this Sunday (tea drinkers also welcome!)

Jayne McLaren is hosting, and joining details are:

By computer or tablet... Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81823449612?pwd=UHK5ZlhxYmVab3dxc1VlakNrYlJWUT09>

or use following via the Zoom "App":

Meeting ID: 818 2344 9612

Passcode: 828715



## ST. JAMES' RAILINGS

This Sunday's picture from our Church railings portrays the Beatitudes, the blessings of Jesus spoken as part of his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapter 5 verses 3 to 12). These have been referred to as "Beautiful Attitudes". These words are especially appropriate in this season when we remember all who have gone before us. The qualities of meekness and mercy, purity and peace making are ones which we recognise in the lives of so many we have known. The kingdom of heaven will be the place where these attitudes are seen in their completeness. As we mourn the loss of loved ones, we are assured that we will be comforted by Jesus. May we spiritually hunger, seeking the help of the Holy Spirit to show these beautiful attitudes in our daily lives. Even if we are mocked and persecuted, we know that our place in heaven is secure, because of God's grace.



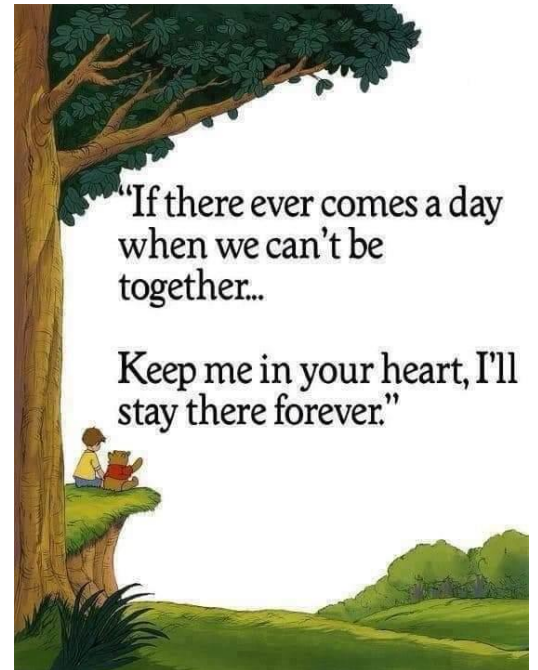
## **PRAYERS NEEDED**

Heavenly Father, we're praying for those in need of Your healing touch for their hurting hearts.

Some of them have received emotional wounds, some of them severe. Help them be willing to let you heal those hurts so they won't become increasingly destructive over time, for You are the Lord who heals.

We come to You with the same spirit of helplessness and dependence that Moses had when he was leading Your people through the desert. They came to water, but it was bitter and the people had nothing to drink. Moses cried out to You, and You showed him a piece of wood; when he threw it into the water, the water became sweet. We're now coming on behalf of these who are carrying emotional pain. In our hearts, we bring the wood of the cross, asking that Christ who heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds, would bring healing to any bitterness He finds in their hearts.

No matter what pain they've suffered, help them not to give into anger, resentment, unforgiveness, or bitterness and become captive to sin. May their hearts not become calloused or hard but refresh them in Christ. May they not lose heart but be inwardly renewed day by day.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

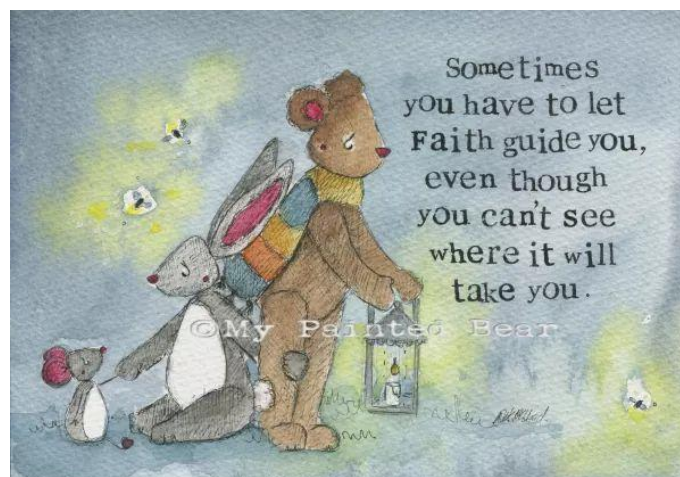


Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,  
and he saved them from their distress. He sent  
forth His word and healed them; he rescued  
them from the grave.

Psalms 107:19-20

Nan Street in hospital. Everyone having or waiting for treatment and appointments and those struggling at this time.

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





## St James Season of Remembrance – November 2020

There's still plenty of time to tie a ribbon to the railings, and leave a name in the prayer in the box in memory of a loved one, or ask Liz, Margaret or Irene to do it on your behalf (ring 0151 428 7252, 0152 428 3356, 0151 722 0579). Ribbons will remain in place till Friday November 27<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile, it's good to know Remembrance reaches forward as well as into the past.



This beautiful and thoughtful window display was designed and created by the Cook family to commemorate Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day 2020. Well done to Kate, Jamie, Hayden, Verity and Betsy – we're glad you are all staying safe and well. We miss seeing you all very much and send you our love. And someone special near the church garden last Wednesday morning, around 11 am experienced what they described as possibly the most memorable Act of Remembrance – looking up to see the Pre-school little ones being ushered across the road. They had come to look at the poppies. They climbed the Church steps to look and had their picture taken. They were invited to go and see Jimmy and had more pictures taken and talked about remembering people who had died and were special. Then the Pre-school leader said they now had to stand very quiet while they did that. They all stood, with a finger on their lips, and there wasn't a peep for a whole minute. They got a little clap from everyone and went off back to the rest of their morning activities. May God bless all our young ones, and those that love and care for them, as much as we are blessed by their presence amongst us.

### SAMARITANS PURSE

Every year we have filled Samaritans Purse shoeboxes at St. James but this year sadly, we are unable to. This year we are able to do them slightly differently. If you have any items or filled shoe boxes, they are now being accepted Surehomes office on 32 Allerton Road, Woolton Village, L25 7RG, and 16 Leyland St, Prescot L34 5QP up until NOVEMBER 16th. You may remember from your school days packing a shoebox full of gifts, wrapping it in paper, and then sending it halfway across the world to make a child's Christmas. We're acting as South Liverpool & Prescot drop-off points so that you can continue to do this every single year. Making your own shoebox is simple and makes such a huge difference. Make sure you get your shoebox to our office before NOVEMBER 16th.

### How to Pack a Shoebox –

1. Find a medium-sized shoebox, ensure you wrap the lid and box separately.
  2. Print out the appropriate label depending on if your box is for a boy or girl, along with what age range the shoebox most suitable for.
  3. Fill the shoebox with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child this Christmas.
- Our opening hours are Monday - Friday, 9.00-18.00 & Saturday 10.00-16.00.

If you bring your box along, and simply leave it in reception, we will do the rest.  
Or phone Jayne McLaren on 07859062692

## ***A MESSAGE FROM OUR FRIEND DAN HOLMES, FROM ACROSS THE POND***



The first stop on my first ever UK tour was Liverpool. When I was just a young boy, I used to pretend I was a famous musician (the Beatles) and I would perform on my back porch to thousands of make-believe fans! Many years later....

Sue and I got an invitation from Roy and Lynne Barker to join them for dinner on the weekend of my first concert. We accepted but were very sceptical. You know...we'd travelled and were a bit tired and didn't know the Barkers. And we certainly didn't know the pastor and his wife. All of the stereotypes of a stodgy, conservative preacher and his dotting wife flooded our imagination. What a wonderful way to start the tour. We thought and planned about ways we could cut the evening short, you know, when the conversation grew old and awkward. That never happened. We had to pull ourselves away when we realized it was almost TWO o'clock in the MORNING!!

Why this story? John Wesley preached about radical hospitality. I know that I had never experienced such radical hospitality ever. Wow! So, that's what he was talking about. Sharing so openly and connecting on such a level that you could swear we had all been friends for years. Saturday evening came. The concert was and is still a blur. But one moment I do remember quite clearly. I was looking at all of you when all of a sudden, I was that little boy again, performing on my back porch. I was in Liverpool, and I was receiving the biggest musical hug I had ever gotten. I almost cried right then and there, in front of you.

St. James, you have touched my heart. Many friendships have been made with you and I treasure them all. You have moulded a part of me and had such an impact.... I tell everyone about the wonderful people of St. James! You are all so very, very special. I can never repay what you have given me.

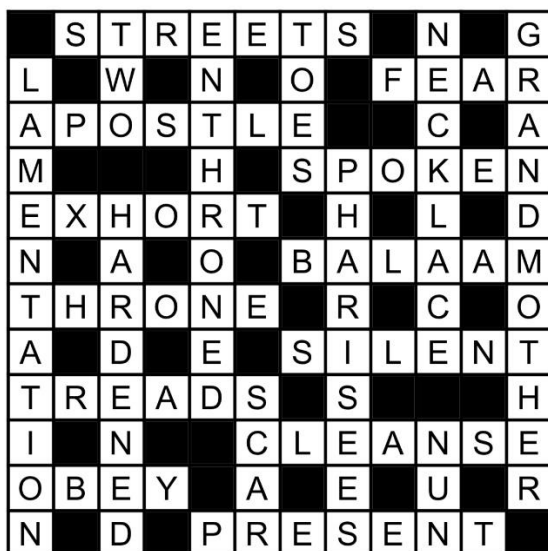
When the Covid plague has passed and it is safe, we will return. And we so look forward to being with you. You are wonderful, radical people! **SHINE ON!**

Blessings and Peace, Dan Holmes.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3iB3ogCqAc>

## LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Across: 1 Streets, 8 Fear, 9 Apostle, 10 Spoken, 12 Exhort, 14 Balaam, 15 Throne, 16 Silent, 17 Treads, 19 Cleanse, 21 Obey, 22 Present.

Down: 2 Two, 3 Enthroned, 4 Toes, 5 Necklace, 6 Grandmother, 7 Lamentation, 11 Pharisees, 13 Hardened, 18 Scar, 20 Nun.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

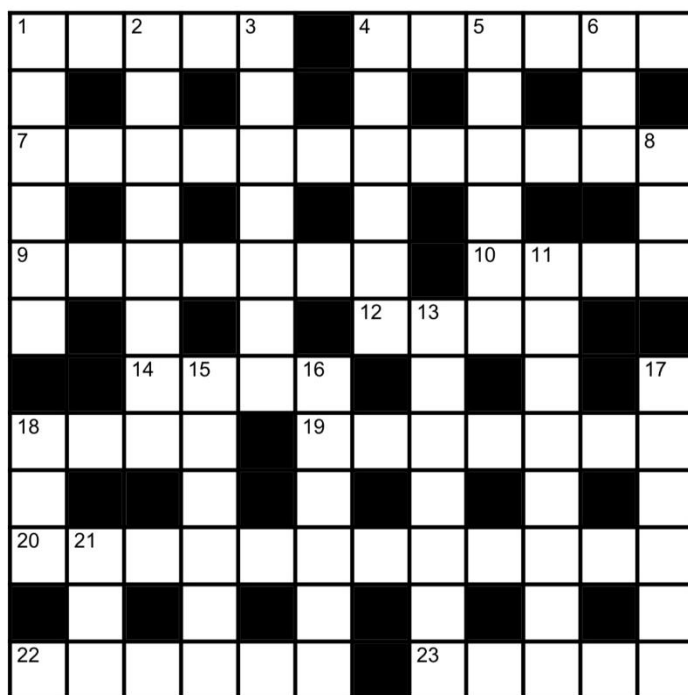
## THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 Like a sword (5)
- 4 First camp after Israel crossed the Jordan (6)
- 7 Miracle (12)
- 9 Just (7)
- 10 At the very end (4)
- 12 Watches (4)
- 14 Middle easterner (4)
- 18 Scene of Jesus' first miracle (4)
- 19 Prophet (7)
- 20 Brought back by the spies (12)
- 22 Shuts (6)
- 23 Purple seller (5)

### Down

- 1 Veil (6)
- 2 Army killed by an angel (8)
- 3 Region visited by Paul (7)
- 4 Visitors (6)
- 5 Zacchaeus, for example (6)
- 6 In the past (3)
- 8 Fisherman's tool (3)
- 11 Helped (8)
- 13 Like God (7)
- 15 Elijah's providers (6)
- 16 Worn by Jewish men (6)
- 17 Elijah's successor (6)
- 18 Last supper artefact (3)
- 21 Lamp fuel (3)



by Philologus

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## BIBLE READING

### 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 New International Version - The day of the Lord

**5** Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup> for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While people are saying, 'Peace and safety', destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.



## ***GIFT DAY UPDATE***

As an update on our gift day in place of our Christmas fair, we have to date we received over £700 and on behalf of St James can we thank you all so much. This is a huge help with our finances as the £1500 we normally take for our fair would have been very difficult to replace, but this goes a long way towards that.

As the likelihood is that our fair would have been either this weekend or next, it is still possible to make further donations, so If anyone would like to add anything to this total then please either send a donation to the Church or to the treasurer direct. If it is easier to make a direct payment into the Church account then the details are

HSBC

Sort Code 40-29-39

Account 11060856.

With our current lock down meaning that we are unable to hold services and with a vastly reduced income from renting our hall, our Church finances are obviously of some concern, and it is important that people should be aware of our situation, particularly with the recent urgent expensive repairs to the stonework of our buildings.

However, the continued support of our fellowship and the Circuit has been brilliant and we can only thank everyone for this.

Many thanks again. Steve Elliott.

## **St James Beavers, Cubs and Scouts Catch-up.**

We have had to be flexible! Moving in and out of different levels of restrictions. We were able to run a very successful Halloween outdoor afternoon at our Scout friend's HQ in Garston. But in spite of a poor weather forecast we were able to run consecutive sessions for Beavers Cubs and Scouts without any problems. We carved pumpkins and enjoyed a campfire and eats - all socially distanced.



Just after that event, the restrictions changed again stopping all Scout face to face activities. As a result, we have resumed our program of zoom meetings online. Within one week we had also distributed activity packs that encourage challenges and investigations which give a bigger dimension than just sitting in front of a computer.

On a wider Scouting front, we congratulate Ben Elman in being appointed as District Commissioner to the Liverpool South Area. This is a challenging role, but Ben will still be a Cub and Scout leader for the 33rd.

Like everyone, we were disappointed that the Remembrance parade had to be cancelled. We organized a wreath and distributed stones and painting kits for the members to decorate as a poppy. Some are shown below.



We are putting our Christmas plans in place and are looking forward to a District wide Zoom virtual Christmas Party organized by the District team.

Skip.



**STRAWBERRY  
FIELD**

# 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)**