



Peter's day off is Friday - messages and emails left on Fridays will not be received by him until Saturday.

**NEWSLETTER – October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022**

### ***This Week's Collect***

Eternal God, giver of love and peace, you call your children to live together as one family. Give us grace to learn your ways and to do your will, that we may bring justice and peace to all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



### ***The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector***

Lord of creation, you give new strength to our faith. Grant that we may recognise your presence in all life and history, and face our trials with serenity and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Minister's Message**

Hello everyone, I hope you have had a good week.

Last Saturday (15th) I attended the Choral Evensong and Recital celebrating the 96th Anniversary of the organ at Liverpool Cathedral (the organ was dedicated in October 1926, two years after the Cathedral was consecrated). The music during Evensong and the Recital was uplifting and inspiring. The Anglican Cathedral is an amazing building, its vastness capturing something of the glory of God, enhanced when it reverberates with the music of the organ and choir. Evensong on this occasion each year always includes the hymn "Angel Voices ever singing".

Some of the words really spoke to me on Saturday: "In thy house, great God, we offer of thine own to thee....of the best that thou hast given, Earth and heaven render thee".

Whether it is within the walls of God's house, the church, or elsewhere in our lives we seek to offer our best to God, out of what he has first given to us. I felt challenged anew to give of my best to God and to thank him for the wonders of all that he has made including giving us the ability to create things like great buildings, amazing music and relationships of love, trust and kindness. God bless, Pete.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

	OCTOBER 2022
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. <b>Coffee morning</b>
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30 a.m. Morning Worship – <b>Revd. Peter Hughes</b>
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. <b>Coffee morning</b>
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m. Morning Worship – <b>Revd. Peter Hughes (Holy Communion)</b> Followed by tea and coffee.

**Quiet Prayer Times** will now be held on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month, between 1.30 and 2.30 pm.** Come and offer your personal and global concerns quietly to God. Light a candle or leave a prayer on the message board while you are here or leave a prayer request in advance in the prayer book in the porch or in the 'Say One for Me' box by the main notice board. We will pray for you.



**Drop-in for just a few minutes or stay for a while. Everyone welcome.**

The recent Saturday Morning Coffee Drop In raised **£138.00**. Thank you all for your support.

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.

### HARVEST GIFTS

I have delivered this week the gifts of tinned and packet foods you donated at the service on 9th October. Nine bags went to both the Whitechapel Centre and to The South Liverpool Food Bank. Both centres were delighted to receive these gifts and will be writing to thank us in due course. I will update you with details of the centres who will benefit from your very generous donations of money within the next two weeks. Thank you for your wonderful support and generosity. God Bless. Wendy

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:synodclerk@urcmerseysynod.or.uk)**

**SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:wdoig45@gmail.com)  
We have a mum at Centre 56 who would be very grateful to have them.

## **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**

## **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).

## **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 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.



A very happy birthday to **Mike Hughes**, who celebrated his birthday this week (19<sup>th</sup> October) All the best from your friends and family at St. James'.

## **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.**

## ***A Message From Jamie and Kate Cook***

Just to let people know that we no longer have a landline telephone number and if they'd like to contact us, could they do so on our mobiles. If they require our mobile numbers, they can ask us directly.

### ***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.

### ***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.**



***We also pray for Billy Lamb, Arthur Evans, Joan Greenall, Elizabeth Draper, Bob and Janet Rowlands, Rogers Phillips, Gareth and Zarah Hughes, Graham Martin, Heather Hughes and Dave and Madge Tilly.***

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:delius9@virginmedia.com).

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

**Paul Holt**

16<sup>th</sup> –23<sup>rd</sup> October - Week of Prayer for World Peace



## THE INTERNATIONAL PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth

Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust

Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe

## ***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.

### **WORSHIPPING BY PHONE**

**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:

**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 Liz Hudson**

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

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



### ***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](mailto:jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk)**

