

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 18th April – 2021



God of life and love, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of the bread. Open our eyes that we may see him in his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Third Sunday of Easter

Christ, our friend, you ask for our love in spite of our betrayal. Give us courage to embrace forgiveness, know you again, and trust ourselves in you; we pray in your name. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Hello Everyone,

The big news this week is that we will plan to open for Worship in Church next Sunday 25th April. Please contact **Jayne McLaren** any time from this Sunday at 4pm to book your place for next week.

We had an excellent Annual Church Meeting on Zoom this week and we welcome our New Steward Elders: **Margaret Dee, Jan Underwood** and **Jonquil Dickson**. Please pray for them as they begin their work as leaders of our Church

The funeral of Eva Lloyd Jones took place this week and next week the Service for Peggy Calvert will be on Friday. We give thanks for two ladies who lived to an amazing age (99 and 100) and are grateful that they shared the life of St James Church. May they rest in peace and rise in glory to walk with the Risen Jesus.

Have a good week,

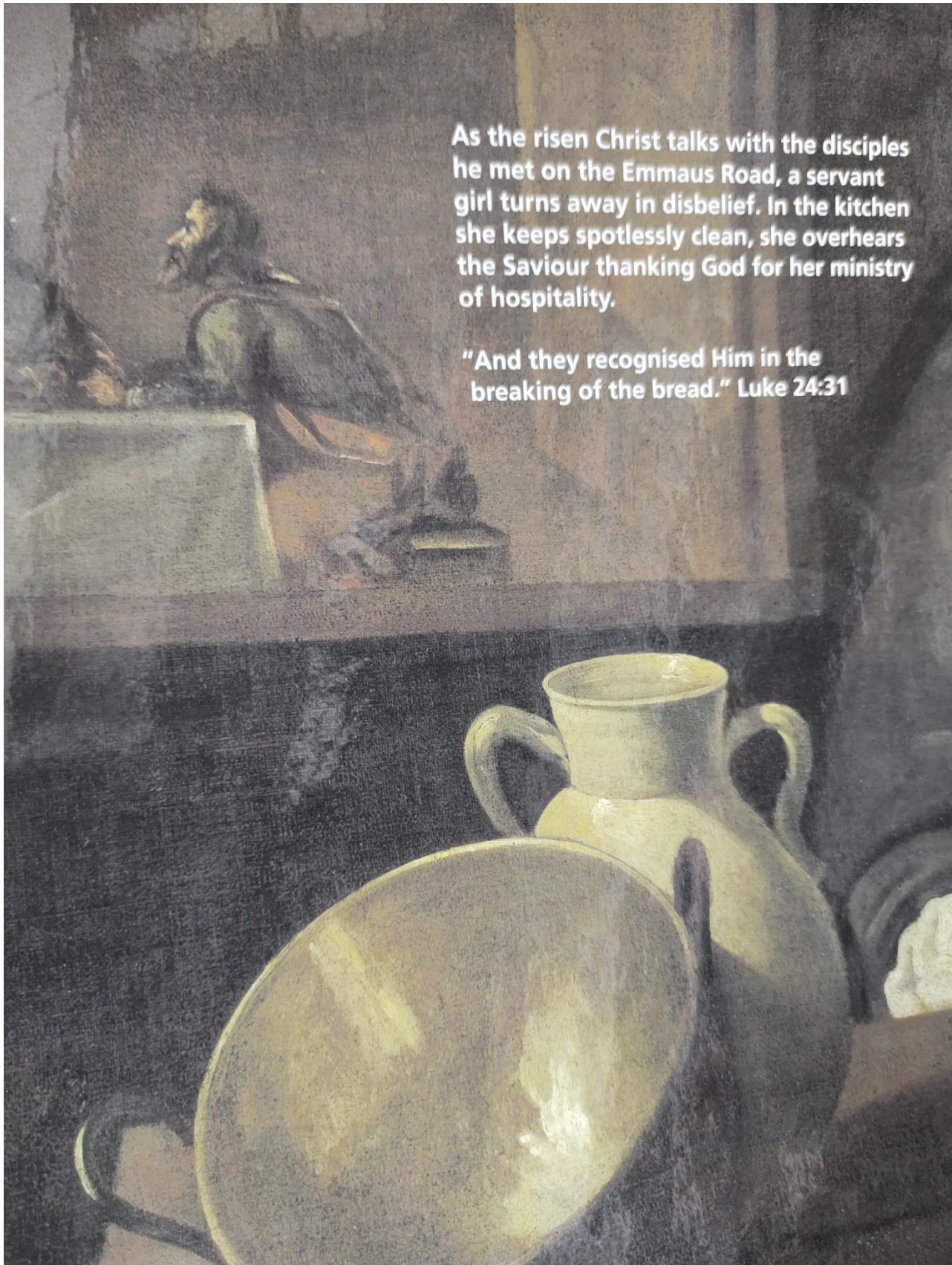
God Bless Peter.

UPCOMING PREACHERS

Sunday April 18th	Andrew Gillespie (Zoom) & Revd. John Lansley (Telephone)
Sunday April 25th	Revd. Peter Hughes (St James') & Chris Bolton (Telephone)
Sunday May 2nd	John Greenwood (St James') & Revd. Peter Hughes (Telephone)
Sunday May 9th	Graham Martin (St James') & Revd. Paul Wilson (Telephone)

Picture from our Church Railings.

This week's picture focuses on the meal shared at Emmaus by Jesus and the two disciples he met on the road. The picture imagines Jesus being thankful for the part which a humble servant girl has played in providing the meal. Jesus was recognised in the breaking of the bread, and everyone who played a part in that meal is recognised for who they are - their gifts and personality. Each of us is noticed by the risen Jesus as we serve others in our work, our family, our Church and community. May we experience the risen Jesus in these places and may others know that Jesus is alive when they experience him in the love we offer.



SUNDAY SERVICES AT ST. JAMES'

Morning Worship at St. James is now being held as a “Zoom” service.

Joining from 10.45 for an 11am start – Preacher: Andy Gillespie.

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. 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:

Order of Worship:

- **Welcome and notices:**
- **Opening prayer (Host)**
- **Bible reading** (Chris Bennett) **John 21: 1-17**
- **Lord’s Prayer** (Host)
- **Talk or “mini-sermon”** (Revd. John Lansley)
- **Prayers** (Liz Hudson)
- **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]

PRAYERS NEEDED

Dear Lord, it is my will to surrender to you everything that I am and everything that I'm striving to be.

I open the deepest recesses of my heart and invite Your Holy Spirit to dwell inside of me.

I offer you my life, heart, mind, body, soul, and spirit.

I surrender to you my past, present, and future problems.

I ask You to take hold over every aspect of my life.

I surrender to You all my hurt, pain, worry, doubt, fear, and anxiety, and I ask You to wash me clean.

I release everything into Your compassionate care.

Please speak to me clearly, Lord.

Open my ears to hear Your voice.

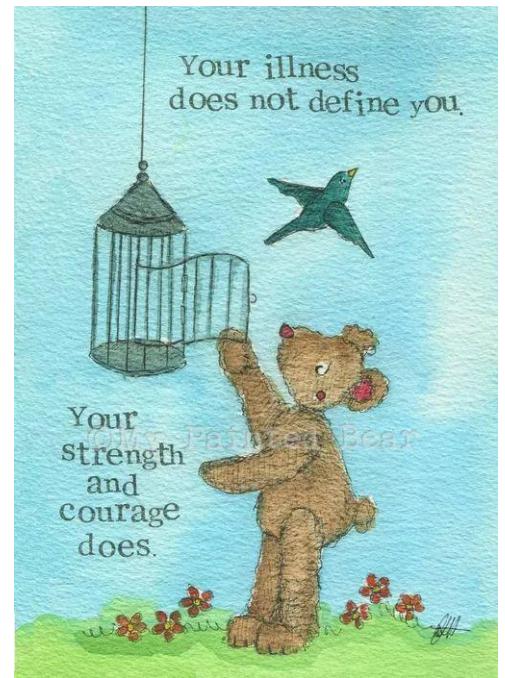
Open my heart to commune with You more deeply.

I want to feel Your loving embrace.

Open the doors that need to be opened and close the doors that need to be closed.

Please set my feet upon the straight and narrow road that leads to everlasting life.

Amen.

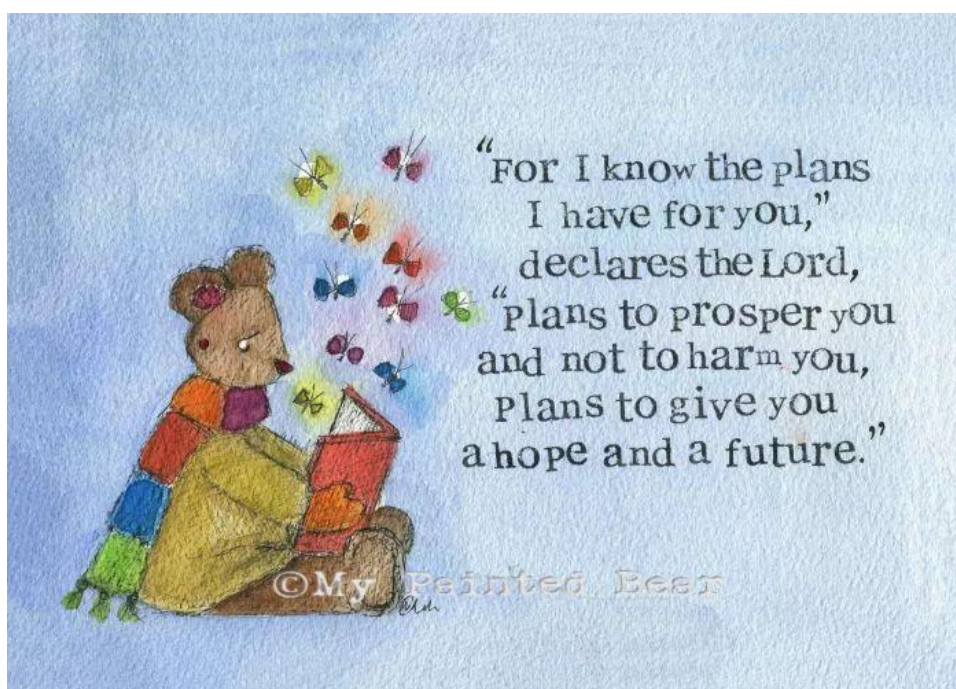


Birthdays.

For those who are celebrating a birthday this week, wishing you a wonderful time ahead.

Sending you smiles for every moment of your special day...

**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.**



CHURCH REOPENING

Dear All,

I am happy to share the good news that St James Church is planning to reopen for Worship in Church from Sunday 25th April at 10.30am.

This was proposed by our Steward Elders and approved at our Annual Church Meeting last night. I am attaching a letter and some guidance to let you know the arrangements for booking in and the procedures we will be following to keep everyone safe at Church. We realise that not everyone will be or feel able to join us on Sunday 25th but we do hope that over time everyone will be able to join us for worship once again.

God Bless Peter.

Latest News: St James Church to open at the end of April

Now that we are out of the third lockdown period, we are planning to open our Church for Worship again. We are looking forward to seeing you in Church very soon! 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'



What wonderful photos taken by Jayne McLaren, taken in her son's garden.
Thanks be to God.



READINGS
Psalm 4, verses 1-8.

- 1 Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you people turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?
- 3 Know that the Lord has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him.
- 4 Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the Lord.
- 6 Many, Lord, are asking, 'Who will bring us prosperity?' Let the light of your face shine on us.
- 7 Fill my heart with joy when their grain and new wine abound.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Luke 24, verses 36-48.

- 36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'
- 37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.
- 38 He said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?
- 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.'
- 40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.
- 41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, 'Do you have anything here to eat?'
- 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish,
- 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.
- 44 He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.'
- 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.
- 46 He told them, 'This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,
- 47 and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
- 48 You are witnesses of these things.



Third Sunday of Easter – “It is the Lord.”



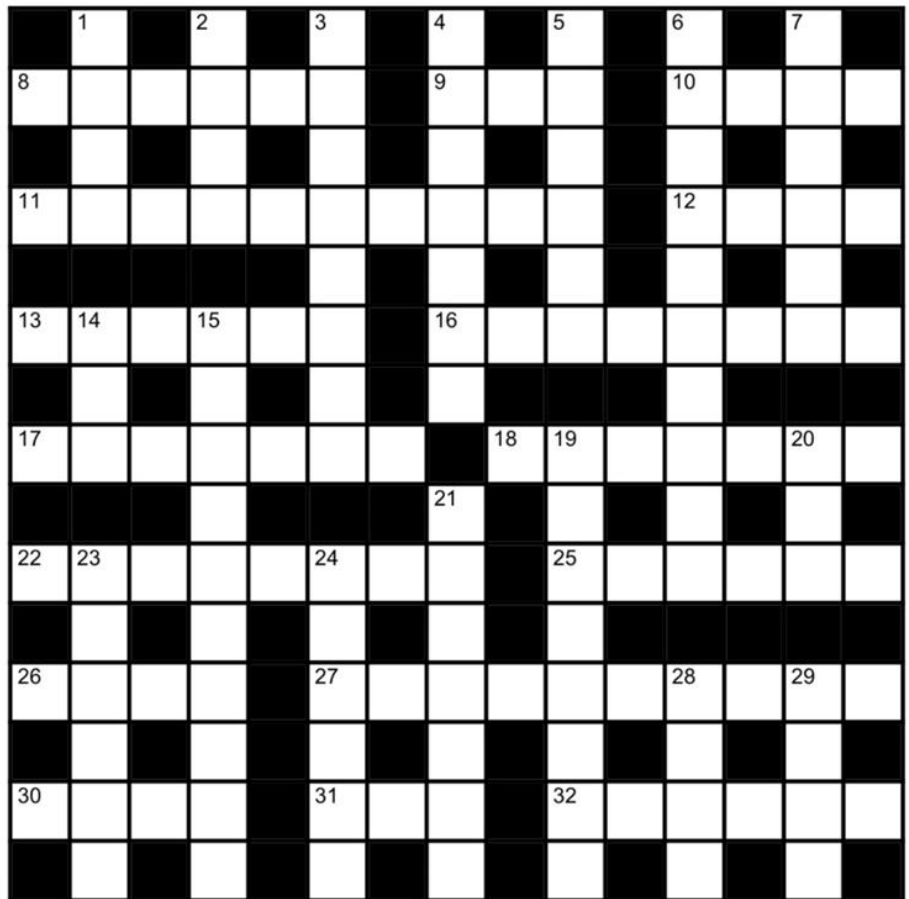
LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 8 Religious service (6)
 9 Vessel (3)
 10 Drive forcibly (4)
 11 Christ does this for us (10)
 12 Bethesda was the name of this (4)
 13 Servant of a prophet (6)
 16 One who leaves the straight and narrow path (8)
 17 Check the money (7)
 18 Fragrant offering; make angry (7)
 22 Come out from among them (8)



by Philologus

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- 25 Works with clay (6)
 26 Main part of text (4)
 27 Chucked it too far (10)
 30 Treachery sealed with this (4)
 31 Simon washed his (3)
 32 Migratory grasshopper (6)

- 2 Brother of James; Hardy book (4)
 3 Choice by vote (8)
 4 Evening glow (7)
 5 All sing the tune (6)
 6 To reduce deficiency (10)
 7 Take no notice of (6)
 14 Look at (3)

- 20 The blind will (3)
 21 Regrets; Serpent (anag) (7)
 23 Angels by another name (6)
 24 Decorates (6)
 28 Say it and you will be in danger of the council (4)
 29 Cleanse (4)

Down

- 1 Standard for the tribe of Judah (4)

- 15 Alternative Revelation (10)
 19 Son of Jacob (8)

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