

ST JAMES' METHODIST & UNITED REFORMED CHURCH WOOLTON L25 7RJ

Web address: <http://stjameswoolton.org>

MINISTER: Rev. 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 – November 8th 2020



Eternal God, in whose perfect realm no sword is drawn but the sword of justice, and no strength known but the strength of love: guide and inspire all who seek your kingdom, that peoples and nations may find their security in the love which casts out fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

God of peace, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; 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, this message comes with my thoughts, love and prayers to you. I hope you are coping with the four-week lockdown which has just begun. I did a very modest amount of Christmas shopping on Tuesday - just in case! This was only my 3rd visit to Liverpool City Centre in the last 9 months.

Today (Thursday 5th) I visited Halsall cutting on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. This was to mark the 250th Anniversary of when the first part of the Canal was dug, at that spot on that very day, 5th November 1770. There's even a sign there to tell you about it. There was only me and a (socially distanced) friend there to mark the occasion. At Halsall there is a sculpture representing the "navvies" who dug the canals. They were the key workers of their day, often living and working under dangerous conditions for a very small amount of money, sometimes disliked by the local people in the areas where they worked. This reminded me of the many people past and present who we have to be grateful for.

God calls us all to different ways of living, loving and serving. Each one of us is special to him. Even if we are confined to our houses, we can live out the call of God by a letter, a phone call or a prayer. I hope that you will stay safe, stay connected to St James' Church and above all, sense the presence of God with you this week. 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 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. Congratulations to Helen Miller, who turned 50 last week. Everyone at St. James' wishes a happy birthday and enjoy your special day.

PRAYERS NEEDED

God heals and you too can heal. God heals broken bodies, broken minds, broken hearts and broken lives. His presence alone has immense healing powers. You cannot be close to him without experiencing some degree of healing.

So, you may be wondering why you haven't received his healing?

You have not received it because you haven't asked for it. You receive God's healing energy that flows naturally, whether you are seeking it or not.

But there is much more energy that is powerful and available to those who ask.

The first step to receiving this type of healing is to live closely to God.

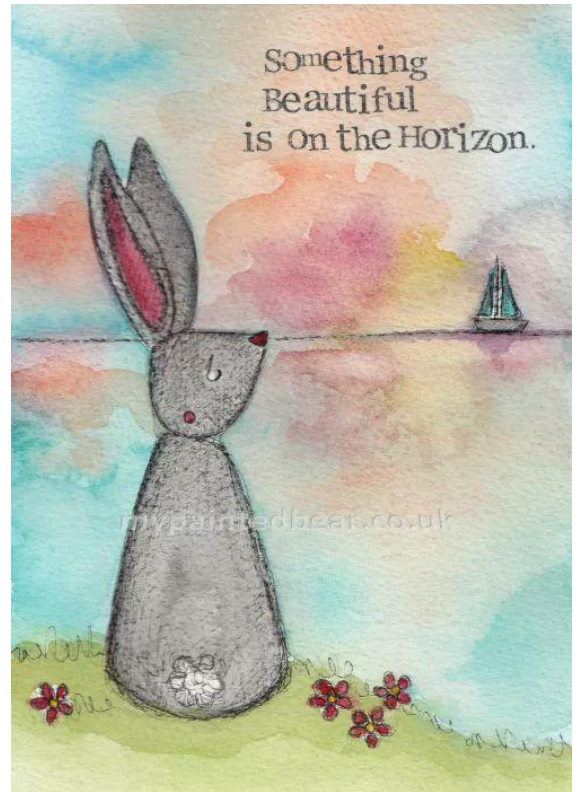
The benefits of doing so are endless.

As you grow more intimately with God, he reveals his will to you more directly.

When the time is right, God encourages you to ask for this healing of brokenness in you or in someone else.

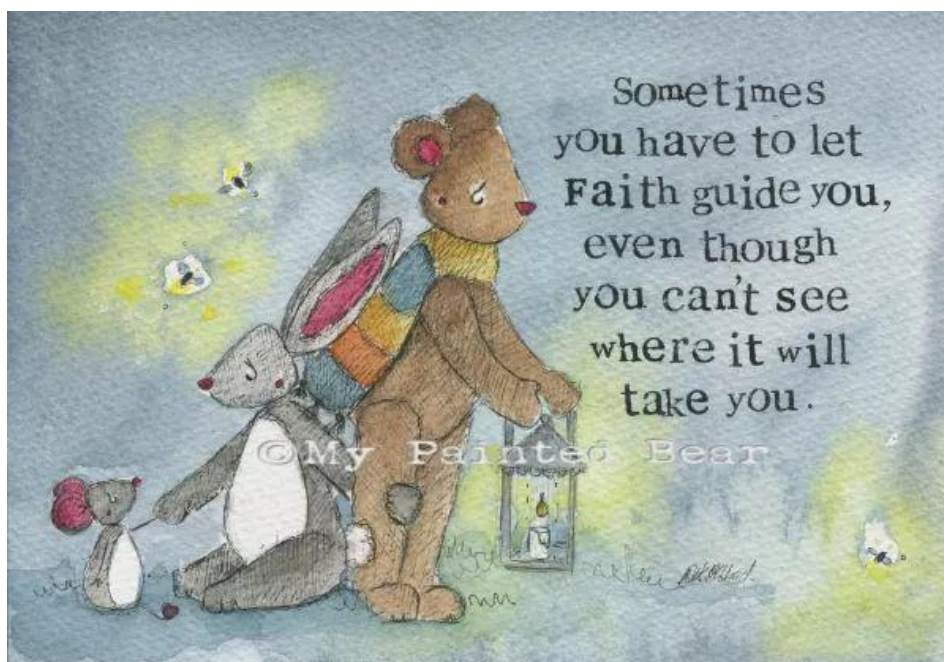
The healing may be instantaneous or it may be a process. That is up to God.

Your part is to trust God's will fully and to thank him, for the restoration has begun.



Special prayers for Delilah Morris and family after Delilah's recent operation. 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' RAILINGS

Remembrance Sunday is an occasion when we as Christians are called to pray for peace. Whatever our differing experiences and opinions regarding past and current conflicts, God's will for humanity is that we live in peace. Each one of us have a role to play in this, as the Prayer of St Francis reminds us.

We all have daily opportunities to show love, faith, hope, light and joy. The more we sow these seeds in our relationships and encounters with each other, the more the world becomes a place of peace.

Each day at noon people of all faiths and none use this '**Universal Prayer for Peace**'.

This forms a wave of prayer and hope rippling each day around the globe:

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 heart, our world, our universe.



ST JAMES SEASON OF REMEMBRANCE – November 2020

During November, you are invited to bring a ribbon or small strip of cloth (any colour) to tie to the church railings in memory of someone important to you who is no longer with you. If you would also like to put your name, or theirs, on a piece of paper in the prayer box near the gate, they will be included in the Church's prayers. If you can't get to church to tie a ribbon and would like someone to do it on your behalf, please ring Liz on 0151 428 7252, Margaret Dee on 051 428 3356 or Irene Elliott on 0151 722 0579 Ribbons etc will remain in place till Friday November 27th. If you would like to take yours home again, please collect it before Thursday November 26th. Thank you.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.



If you are able please click on the blue link below and find an 8-minute St James' video reflection for Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day - including the act of Remembrance with 2 minutes silence.

Treasure the moment and catch some familiar sounds and faces by clicking on -

<https://www.stjameswoolton.org/>



Telephone Worship – Sunday 8th 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 (Peter Bounds) Matthew 25, 1-13
- Lord's Prayer (Host)
- Talk or “mini-sermon” (Andy Gillespie)
- Prayers (Dave Dickson)
- 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

AVRIL

We are sorry to announce the sad news that our friend Avril, who lived up the road from Church - in the cottage with the two red doors, has died.

Avril died suddenly at home, which was in line with her wishes. Avril was a regular at our Tuesday Coffee, Sunday Worship and Women's Guild. Avril had an interesting life story which included travels to many parts of the world and time living in Hong Kong. Avril was always ready to enter into conversation with people and would share her sometimes controversial opinions! We know that despite her often saying she didn't believe in God; Avril drew strength from her time at St James' and was always one of the first through our doors on a Sunday and Tuesday. She appreciated the friendship and welcome she found at St James and we will miss her. Our thoughts are with Frances from our Church who was Avril's carer and with Avril's daughter who is a lecturer at Harvard University, Boston, USA.

Thanks 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

COVID -19 LOCKDOWN COMMUNITY QUILT

Members at St. Peter's have been putting together squares to make a quilt, which will be on display, memories of folk in our community of their Lockdown experiences. If there is anyone who would like to make a square (or more than one!) you are welcomed to be included. There is a short time limit however – these squares need to be submitted no later than 15th November. Here is what is asked for and details:

The square needs to measure **20cm x 20cm**. your design inside should measure **18 x 18cm** to allow for join. If possible, try to make the bottom square a cotton fabric – you can use whatever fabric and threads/embellishments in your design. The actual design could be anything that is significant to you during lockdown – the NHS...rainbows....walks...our village...buildings....people etc. It can be hand or machine sewn.

It would be lovely to get a good selection.

Please put your finished squares in an envelope and write your name on it as we will make a list to display alongside of everyone who has made a square. Post the envelope through the letter box in the Simon Peter Centre, Church Road Woolton L25.

If you would like a photograph of the finished quilt put your email address on the envelope too.

Any questions to thehub@stpeters-woolton.org.uk

NOTE: if anyone is unable to deliver their squares please contact Wendy Doig on 07867795179 or wdoig45@gmail.com and I will collect from you by arrangement no later than 14th November.

BIBLE READING

1 Thessalonians chapter 4 verses 13 to 18: Believers who have died

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew chapter 25 verses 1 to 13: The parable of the ten virgins

'At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

'At midnight the cry rang out: "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!"

"Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out."

"No," they replied, "there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves."

'But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

'Later the others also came. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us!"

'But he replied, "Truly I tell you; I don't know you."

'Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

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.

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 shoeboxes they are now being accepted Surehomes office on 32 Allerton Road, Woolton Village, L25 7RG, and 16 Leyland St, Prescott 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 & Prescott 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

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Across: 1 Still, 4 Esther, 8 Inn, 9 Dreamers, 11 Gardener, 12 Gold, 14 Wide, 17 Rejoiced, 20 Doctrine, 22 Awe, 23 Master, 24 Hades.

Down: 1 Sting, 2 Ignored, 3 Ladder, 5 Sea, 6 Heel, 7 Rested, 10 Eden, 13 Orchard, 14 Wisdom, 15 Levi, 16 Joseph, 18 Deeds, 19 Acts, 21 Rue.

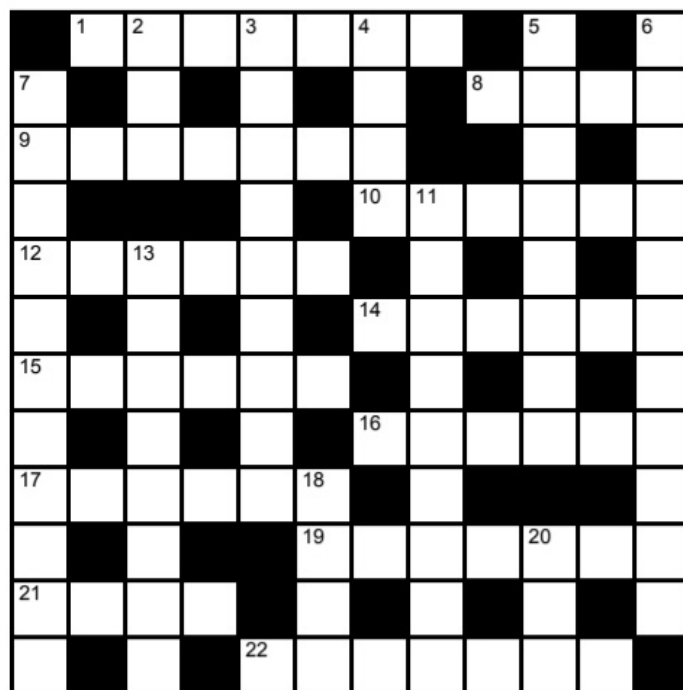
THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Place where the hypocrites give alms (7)
- 8 Awe (4)
- 9 Last supper guest (7)
- 10 Uttered (6)
- 12 Encourage (6)
- 14 Rider of a speaking donkey (6)
- 15 King's chair (6)
- 16 Still (6)
- 17 What a winepress operator does (6)
- 19 Purge of sins (7)
- 21 Do as directed (4)
- 22 Gift (7)

Down

- 2 Number of angels sent to Sodom (3)
- 3 Provided with power and authority (9)
- 4 One of the giants had twelve of these (4)
- 5 Jewellery (8)
- 6 Lois' relation to Timothy (11)
- 7 A cry of sorrow (11)
- 11 Sect condemned by Jesus (9)
- 13 This happened to Pharaoh's heart (8)
- 18 Mark (4)
- 20 Joshua's father (3)



by Philologus

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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 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.

Christmas Fayre Gift Day – 14th November

We hope everyone is keeping as well as possible in these strange times.

Thank you to all of you for the financial support you have been giving to St James Church over the past 7 months. We appreciate that many of our fellowship have continued to contribute by direct payments into the Church's bank account. Others who previously have put their offering on the plate had put their money aside and contributed when they returned to Church. Others have now started to make direct payments. We are grateful for this help and without it the Church would have faced some significant difficulties.

At this time of the year we would normally be well into the preparations for our Christmas Fayre but sadly the current regulations mean that we cannot hold one this year. The Christmas Fayre is a significant part of our income at this time of the year, raising on average more than £1500.

In an attempt to help with our finances, we have decided to hold a "socially distanced" Christmas Fayre Gift Day instead. It would be really helpful if you could consider supporting this gift day as a way of making up this source of income. Perhaps you could send a gift to the value of what you would expect to spend at the Christmas Fayre.

Instead of bringing a gift to Church as we would for a normal Gift Day, we are asking you to get this to us by another method.

We have enclosed an envelope (if you have not received this by email) and if you wish to contribute to this, you could send a cheque to the Church with St James Church as the payee. The address is St James Church, Church Road, Liverpool, L25 7RJ

Or as an alternative this could be done by direct payment into the bank

If you wish to do this our bank details are

HSBC

Account name St James Methodist United Reform Church

Sort Code **40-29-39**

Account Number **11060856**

If you use this method, it would be helpful if you could email the treasurer (stevewelliott@aol.com) so he can look out for the payment.

Those of you who receive weekly Service Sheets through your door could give by arranging to safely pass your envelope to the person who delivers your Service.

We do of course realise that not everyone will be able to assist in this however, can we thank everyone for the gifts of time and money that you do give to God through St James'; it is really appreciated, as without everyone's' dedication, support and sacrificial giving, none of the good work that St James' does in the name of Christ would be possible.

Take Care

Steve Elliott

Treasurer.

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