

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 – 27th March 2022

The Parable of the Lost Son Luke 15:1-3, 11-32



11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So, he divided his property between them. 13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ 20 So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So, they began to celebrate. 25 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ 28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So, his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ 31 “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”



This Week's Collect

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to those who struck him and did not hide his face from shame: give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Fourth Sunday in Lent

O God, rich in mercy, you so loved the world that, when we were dead in our sins, you sent your only Son for our deliverance. Lifted up from the earth, he is light and life; exalted upon the cross, he is truth and salvation. Raise us up with Christ that we may walk as children of light. We ask this through Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God, for ever and for ever. **Amen.**

UPCOMING PREACHERS

Sunday 27th March **Graham Martin (St James')** **Chris Bolton (phone)**

QUIET PRAYER SPACE

Over the next fortnight the Church will be open for Quiet Prayer on
Tuesday March 28th between 2 and 3 pm



***Come and offer your prayers for Ukraine, peace in the world,
our country, our community, our homes and lives.
Bring your personal concerns to God.***

***Drop-in for just a few minutes or stay for a while or leave a prayer request in the
prayer box by the main notice board.***

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

***Tie a WHITE RIBBON FOR PEACE to the railings outside church.
Please invite others to do so too.***

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Wednesday 9th March to 6th April 7.30pm Lent Groups

Monday 14th March to 4th April 2.30pm Lent Groups
(Every Monday during Lent at 2.30pm in Church)

Sunday 27th March 10.30am Morning Worship Mothering Sunday

Thursday 31st March 7.30pm Property & Finance Committee Meeting

Thursday 7th April 7.30pm Mission Action Group Meeting (open to all)

WORSHIP AT ST. JAMES'

There are now 3 ways in which you can enjoy our Sunday morning services.

- By attending St James'
- Via telephone
- Via Zoom



All details and information are below.

Please use the Zoom link below

Joining from 10.15 for a 10.30 am start – Graham Martin

Either click on this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/5913455610?pwd=aVdZcFpaZVVaMDdsZ1BiR3lhRE1yQT09>

Meeting ID: 591 345 5610

Passcode: 12466

We hope to see you there.

If you want to listen in to the Service on Sunday, dial the above number, then PIN and listen in. You can chat up to 10.30, but when the service starts everyone will be “muted” to avoid feedback/noise.

This Sunday our preacher will be Chris Bolton

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:

The Host for this service is Graham Martin

Order of Worship:

- **Welcome and notices:**
- **Opening prayer** (Host)
- **Bible reading** (Norma Hannah: Luke2 v41-52)
- **Lord’s Prayer** (Host)
- **Talk or “mini-sermon”** (Chris Bolton)
- **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.

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.

Covid Precautions Update from the Steward Elders Meeting on March 6th

It is slightly worrying that infection rates appear to be rising again, though more slowly locally than in other parts of the UK. The Steward Elders meeting agreed that until Easter at least, anyone visiting church for worship or other reasons will be asked to continue to:

- (a)** wear a face covering over their nose and mouth while moving about the church and singing unless personal health reasons make this impractical. Face coverings can be taken off once you are seated.
- (b)** make frequent use the hand sanitiser provided at the entrances, and especially in the toilet areas.
- (c)** be especially sensitive to others' need for personal space, remembering that not everyone is fully confident or comfortable yet being in crowded areas, even with friends.

Please continue to help us look after each other.

Benevolent Fund

The focus of the benevolent fund collection during our communion service next Sunday is Bradbury Fields Services for Blind and Partially Sighted People

Bradbury Fields is a Liverpool based charity which has been supporting people who are blind and partially sighted for more than 170 years.

Its main objective is to improve the lives of blind and partially sighted people living in the area, by helping people who incur sight loss to adapt to their new circumstances, providing facilities and support designed for the use of blind people and aiming to minimise the isolation of blindness.

For newly blind people: support for people who have received the devastating news that they are going blind; help with the complicated business of sorting out their benefit entitlements in their new circumstances; and rehabilitation support to help adapt to the new challenges in their lives.

A variety of activities is on offer: there are walking groups; tandem groups; swimming groups; a book club; choir; and many other activities provided in the comfort of Bradbury Fields. Many service users are older in years and find great happiness in the Active Vision clubs which run four days a week and provide companionship and purpose to many who would otherwise be at home and isolated.

Please gift aid your contribution if you are able to do so.

Monetary Offerings

Your monetary donations are vital to the running and future of St. James Church.

Please contact Margaret Dee if you would like to change your giving to a Standing Order or join the Weekly Envelope scheme (out now).

Also, if you are a UK Tax payer, please consider Gift Aid, as the Church is able to claim 25% from the Government at no addition cost to you (for example, for every £10 the Church would receive £2.50).

We thank you for your continued support. Contact Margaret Dee (428 3356).

The Samaritans challenge

I'm taking on The Samaritans challenge for March to walk 10,000 steps a day and raise money for them. This March, I will be walking 10,000 steps a day to raise money for The Samaritans. It would be great if you could sponsor me. Every little counts, however small. If not, a word of support will keep me on track. A sponsor form/online details will be available soon. Many thanks for your anticipated support.

Pam Alexander

Recycling at St. James'

Recycling of batteries, ink cartridges and spectacles: We will no longer be offering donation boxes for these items. All large supermarkets now have used battery collection tubs and some also take ink cartridges. Spectacles can be taken to Boots, Specsavers, Vision Express and some independent opticians will also take them. We will however continue to collect used stamps.

Thank you.

Church Flowers

We have recently resumed our beautiful flower displays in Church each week.

If you would like to donate money for flowers on a particular Sunday - perhaps in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a happy event - please speak to Jonquil Dickson who can add you to the calendar for the months ahead.

Also, if you would simply like to donate for flowers so that we can make sure all Sundays are covered, please speak to Jonquil. At present, we have many dates available, especially **Easter Sunday**.

We will then deliver those flowers to people after the Service. If you know someone who you feel would be blessed by receiving flowers from Church please speak to Jonquil or a steward.

We will also need some more volunteers to take flowers out to people.

Flower provider and delivery in March and April

Sunday date	Flower provider	Flower delivery
27th March	<i>Pam Draper</i>	<i>Wendy Doig</i>
3rd April		
10th April		
17th April		

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 happy 50th birthday to **Andrew McLaren** who celebrates his special day on the 26th of March. Lots of love from Jayne, Faye, Claire and Ben.

Opening Words (Psalm 34:1-3)

- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.
3 O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.*

Hymn: StF 119 – God of Eve and God of Mary

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGTDFZ7Evvc>

God of Eve and God of Mary,
God of love and mother-earth,
thank you for the ones who with us
shared their life and gave us birth.

As you came to earth in Jesus,
so you come to us today;
you are present in the caring
that prepares us for life's way.

Thank you that the Church, our Mother,
gives us bread and fills our cup,
and the comfort of the Spirit
warms our hearts and lifts us up.

Thank you for belonging, shelter,
bonds of friendship, ties of blood,
and for those who have no children,
yet are parents under God.

God of Eve and God of Mary,
Christ our brother, human Son,
Spirit, caring like a Mother,
take our love and make us one!



Let us pray together

Lord, we give you thanks for this day, another opportunity to receive your grace and love, and another opportunity to serve you and share our love with others.

As we come before you in this quiet act of worship, we take a moment to reflect on ourselves and our actions where we have fallen short of your love and glory. Thank you that due to your love and grace we can freely confess to you our shortcomings, knowing that we are forgiven, redeemed, and raised up to serve you again. **Amen**

Today's Reading from the Old or New Testament: Exodus 2:1-10

Today's Gospel Reading: John 19:25-27

Time to Reflect

To me, Mothering Sunday has three aspects to be held in tension. Historically, it was an opportunity to visit the mother church, for people living away from home, to return to visit the mother church, to visit family, to visit mother, maybe even with a Simnel cake in hand. It can be

good to return home and reconnect with one's roots and family. Take a moment to reflect on your roots and family and the visits you have made "home", both good and bad. Take time to give thanks for good times and take time to seek forgiveness for difficult visits.

Mothering Sunday has since become an opportunity to give thanks for mothers, and to celebrate the caring, the giving, the sacrificial qualities of mothers, mothering, and motherhood. We often think of these in the light of the narratives of Mary and Miriam from our bible passages. Take a moment to read these passages and reflect on their love and care in difficult circumstances, it wasn't easy to be Moses' mother or Jesus' mother. Take time to give thanks for your mother, or the person who mothered you. If you've been a mother, take time to give thanks for your child(ren).

As caring people, we are aware that for some Mothering Sunday is not an easy day. There will be those who never knew their mother's love, have lost their mother in tragic circumstances, or had a difficult relationship with their mother. There will be some who longed to be mothers themselves and were denied that opportunity, have been bereaved or had their children taken away. Take time to think of folk in these situations and offer up a prayer for comfort and healing from their pains and struggles. If this is your situation, pause to remember that you are love and are being prayed for today, and take comfort in God's love.

Often, we think only of God as Father, but there are also beautiful images of God as Mother in our bibles, and we finish with an image of God as a mother in Hosea 11:3-4. God: "Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I who took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them." Take a time to sit quietly and ponder on God's love as our Mother.

A time of prayer

Lord, we pray on this Mothering Sunday for Mothers all over the world including our own. We pray for mothers where life is difficult, trying to protect their children in places of strife, famine, and war, for mothers despairing in poverty, for mothers facing illness or bereavement. We give thanks for mothers and all their love and care. We give thanks for new mothers and pray for strength and grace in caring for their children. We grieve for those who have not known their mothers, have had difficult relationships with their mother, or lost their mother. We pray for those who have been unable to be mothers or had opportunities to mother snatched from them. Lord, we pray your love and grace, comfort, and healing into all the places and situations it is needed. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to Great Are You Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHzow-HG4iU> or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

Verse: You give life You are love

You bring light to the darkness

You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken. And great are You Lord

Chorus: It's Your breath in our lungs

So we pour out our praise

We pour out our praise

It's Your breath in our lungs

So we pour out our praise to You only

Bridge: And all the earth will shout Your praise. Our hearts will cry these bones will sing. Great are You Lord

(REPEAT)

Mothing Sunday

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.

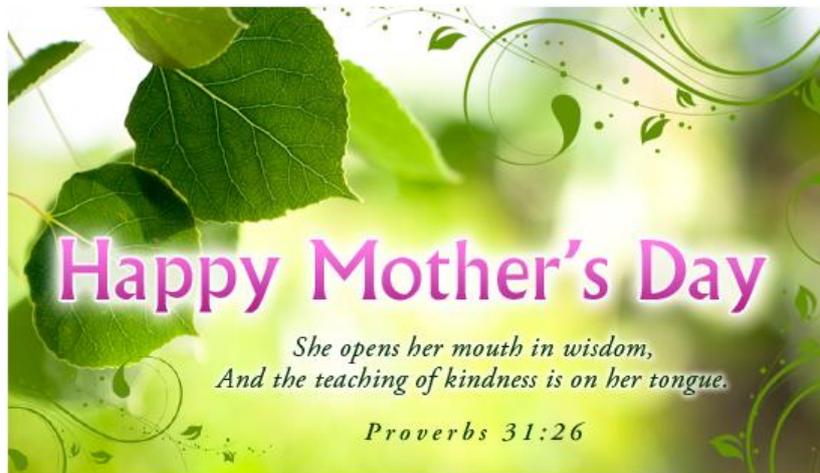
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.

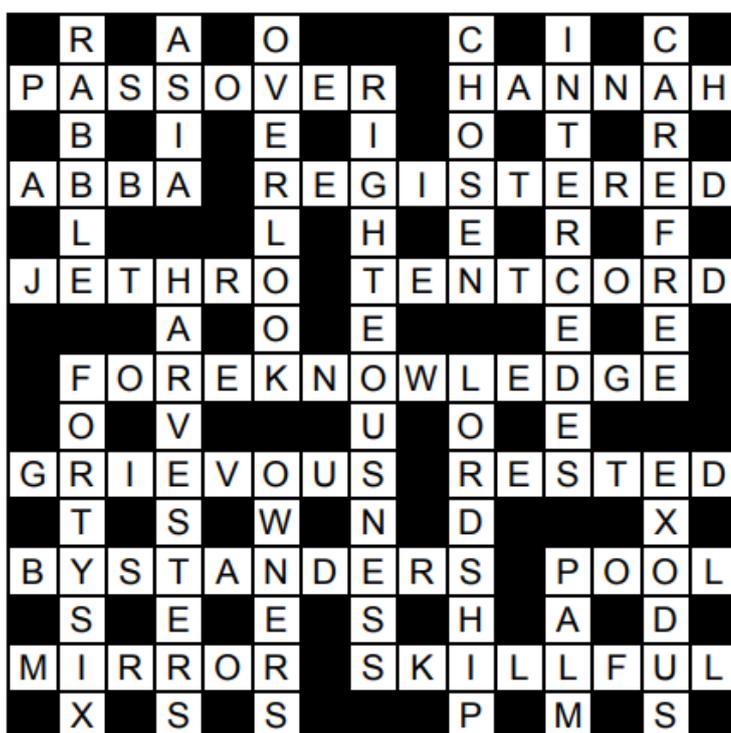
Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth:
strengthen us each day, that in joy and sorrow we may know your presence; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Across: 7 Passover, 9 Hannah, 10 Abba, 11 Registered, 12 Jethro, 14 Tent-cord, 15 Foreknowledge, 17 Grievous, 19 Rested, 21 Bystanders, 22 Pool, 23 Mirror, 24 Skillful.

Down: 1 Rabble, 2 Asia, 3 Overlook, 4 Chosen, 5 Intercedes, 6 Carefree, 8 Righteousness, 13 Harvesters, 15 Forty-six, 16 Lordship, 18 Owners, 20 Exodus, 22 Palm.

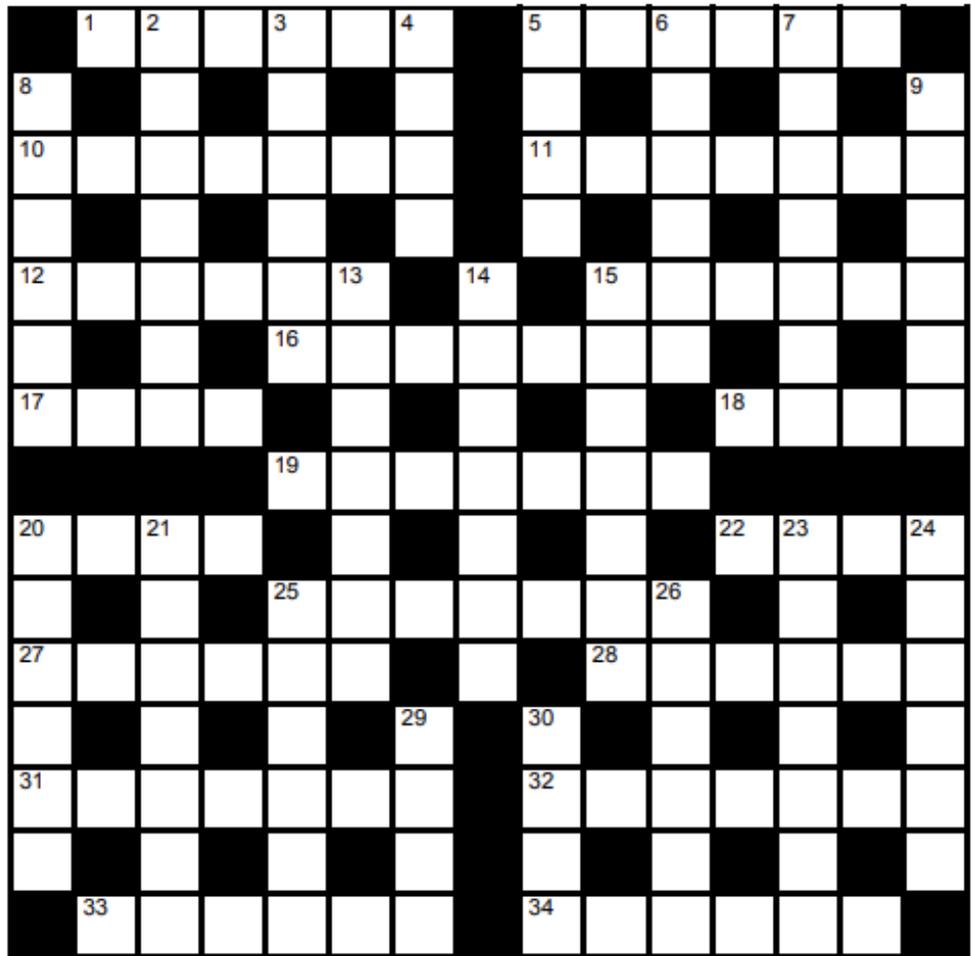
THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Air (6)
- 5 Town where Timothy lived (6)
- 10 Sets up shelter (7)
- 11 Promised one (7)
- 12 Welcome season (6)
- 15 Aaron, for example (6)
- 16 Site of scrolls (4,3)
- 17 Flower (4)
- 18 Magi guide (4)
- 19 Roman army divisions (7)
- 20 Way (4)
- 22 Blemish (4)
- 25 The resurrected boy did this seven times (7)
- 27 Old Testament prophet (6)
- 28 Female relative (6)
- 31 Storm (7)
- 32 Insanity (7)
- 33 Follow closely (6)
- 34 Distant (6)

Down

- 2 Writes down (7)
- 3 Nut (6)
- 4 Multitude (4)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 5 Light (4)
- 6 Jabin's army captain (6)
- 7 Clothing (7)
- 8 Thurible (6)
- 9 More towards spotless (6)
- 13 Place of torment (7)
- 14 Counsellor (7)
- 15 Coins (7)
- 20 Enough (6)
- 21 Victory (7)
- 23 Long-suffering (7)
- 24 Remove the chaff (6)
- 25 Soldier's guard (6)
- 26 Crown (6)
- 29 One-pot meal (4)
- 30 One-tenth of an ephah (4)



PRAYERS

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.

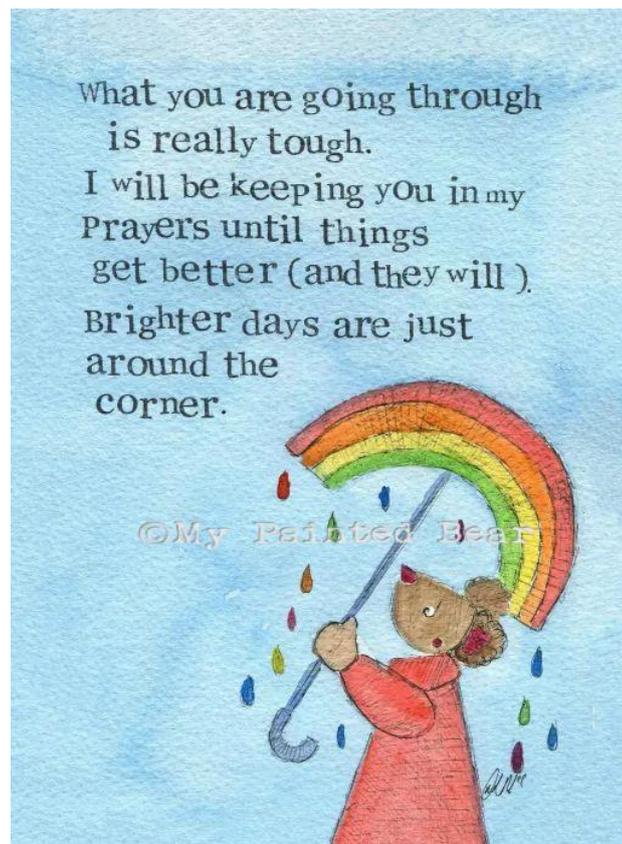
As you grow more intimately with God, he reveals his will to you more directly.

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.

Amen



We continue to pray for those who need our prayers at this time due to ill health, struggling with mental health and all difficult situations and their loved ones who are sometimes overlooked but need our prayers too.

We also pray for Ken Kitchen, John and Sylvia Pagan, Ian Taylor, Arthur Evans, Helen and Fred Stanford, Pat Fagan, Pam Draper, Alex and Doreen Banks, Ron Swindells and Mike Hughes.

PROGRAMMES YOU MAY ENJOY – Sunday 27th March

6:00 – 9:30 a.m. Radio Merseyside: Daybreak

Helen Jones brings you the Sunday magazine reflecting Merseyside's worlds of faith.

8.10 a.m. Radio 4: Sunday Worship – A Passion for Hospitality: I was Naked

Marking Mothering Sunday and continuing the Lent series with Rev Dr Alison Jack of Edinburgh University's School of Divinity. Theme: 'I was naked'. Reading: Luke 8: 26-39

13.15 BBC 1 Songs of Praise: Mothering Sunday

On Mothering Sunday, the Rev Kate Bottley joins mums at a baby massage class. Laura Wright meets a mother who believes her prayers were answered when she nearly died on a walk in Derby.

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