

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 – 13th February 2022



This Week's Collect



Jesus Heals a Great Multitude

"And he came down with them and stood on a stretch of level ground. A great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and even those who were tormented by unclean spirits were cured"
(Luke 6:17-18).

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

You alone, O God, can satisfy our deepest hunger, and protect us from the lure of wealth and power. Teach us to seek your kingdom above all else, that we may know the security and joy of those who put their trust in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister's Message

I hope you have had a good week. It's felt like a busy one to me, but one with lots of variety. The great thing about being a Minister is that no two weeks are ever the same! We had a Steward Elders Meeting on Monday and as your leadership team we are still steering a careful balance between starting up things at Church and trying to keep everyone safe. We are aware that although for most people Covid 19 is now experienced in a milder form, some people are still vulnerable and infection rates in Liverpool are still high. Gradually there will be more things happening in a face-to-face way and we will await further guidance from the Government in the next few weeks. We hope that things like refreshments after worship, coffee mornings and other get togethers will be possible soon. God's Kingdom is definitely not in lockdown or under restriction! The life that we share together is not confined to Church walls and the Spirit of God binds us together whether we meet in person or communicate by letter, phone, email or in other ways. As we prepare to celebrate Lent, we will be reminded again of the way that a difficult journey leads to a triumphal resurrection climax when that journey is made with Jesus.

God Bless, Peter

UPCOMING PREACHERS

Sunday 13th February **Revd. Peter Hughes (St James')** **Revd. Peter Hughes (phone)**

Pictures from Peter

No canal walks this week, but instead some pictures from two years ago. In February 2020, just before the first lockdown, Anne and I were blessed to spend two weeks in our favourite place - Malta. We haven't had the chance to return since, but we hope that you, like us, get some pleasure from these pictures. As the days lengthen, I am sure we are all looking forward to some blue skies and warmer days in which to enjoy God's creation.



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 – Revd. Peter Hughes

Either click on this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/5913455610?pwd=aVdZcFpaZVVaMDdsZ1BiR3lhRE1yQTo9>

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.

**Also from St. James Church: - Invitation to Telephone Worship
(And every Sunday until the end of February)**

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:

The Host for this service is Graham Martin

Order of Worship:

- **Welcome and notices:**
- **Opening prayer** (Host)
- **Bible reading** (Kate Cook: Luke 6: 17 - 26)
- **Lord’s Prayer** (Host)
- **Talk or “mini-sermon”** (Rev Peter Hughes)
- **Prayers** (Chris Bolton)
- **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.

Call to Worship

God our Maker You call us here to worship You together.

To bear witness to Your creativity seen, heard and found in all who gather.

We are all Your children, bearing Your divine image, shaped by Your imagination and breath.

You have gifted us with the beauty of difference the blessing of diversity the pleasure of individuality and the bond of love and peace.

Hymn 28

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

Jesus calls us here to meet him as, through word and song and prayer, we affirm God's promised presence where his people live and care.

Praise the God who keeps his promise ; praise the Son who calls us friends ; praise the Spirit who, among us, to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him Word of life and Lord of all, sharer of our flesh and frailness, saving all who fail or fall.

Tell his holy human story ; tell his tales that all may hear ; tell the world that Christ in glory came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other, vastly different though we are ; creed and colour, class and gender neither limit nor debar.

Join the hand of friend and strange; join the hands of age and youth ; join the faithful and the doubter in their common search for truth.

Jesus calls us to his table rooted firm in time and space, where the Church in earth and heaven finds a common meeting place.

Share the bread and wine, his body ; share the love of which we sing ; share the feast for saints and sinners hosted by our Lord and King.

John L. Bell (*b.* 1949) and Graham Maule (*b.* 1958)

Let us pray together

God of all,

You alone are worthy of praise, from every mouth in every nation and time. You created the world in your infinite grace, and by your everlasting love redeemed it. Hold us to the shared task of loving one another as You have loved us.

Merciful God, you made us in Your image, with minds to know You, with hearts to love You, with wills to serve You.

But our knowledge is imperfect, Our love inconstant and immature, And our obedience incomplete and self-serving.

Help us to grow in Your likeness, which is so widely displayed in the diversity of creation.

Help us to understand our own prejudices and narrow mindedness.

Help us to love our neighbour as we ourselves long to be loved.

Help us to serve others with humility and gratitude.

Do not hold our sin against us but help us to repent of outdated and inappropriate world views.

Help us to mature in our thinking, loving and serving.

Amen



Today's Gospel Reading:

John 17. 20-23

Time to Reflect

These, of course, are the words of Jesus praying for His disciples as He's about to go to His death. But His prayer is surely for all of us too. It's a prayer for a true communion of people, that's to be seen in the relationship of the Trinity itself, where we can speak of oneness, even when there's clearly difference.

The ethnic mix of many of our communities has changed so much in recent years because of the movement of peoples. And hateful racism is not simply targeted at Black footballers on social media. Immediately after Brexit, the number of racist incidents rose significantly across the country and all too many people saw newcomers as unwelcome. It's not without reason that footballers and others in this country have been 'taking the knee' since the murder of George Floyd in the United States.

Back in the year 2000, Pope John Paul II suggested an aim for the beginning of the millennium that he thought the rest of us might share. Like Jesus in the Gospel, his prayer was that we achieve a 'spirituality of communion'. He described this as being able to see God shining on the face of the brothers and sisters around us, to know how to "make room" for people who are different, and to bear "each other's burdens".

In a recent book called "The ungrateful refugee", Dina Nayeri, speaking from personal experience, argues that the most urgent need for a migrant or a refugee is to belong to a place. She says that this is achieved by existing communities allowing newcomers to change them on their native soil. But this is true not just for migrants or newcomers but also for people who are seen to be different from the majority.

We would do well to remember the different aspects of institutional racism described by Lord MacPherson in the 1990s. One of these is when established groups in society exercise their power in such a way that people, from different backgrounds, feel that they don't really belong. The phrase, "We've always done it this way," is one I sometimes hear, and it betrays an unwillingness to be changed on our own soil. Sadly, the requirement of the majority can all too often be, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do!"

But, to enable people to belong usually requires us to think differently and to listen more to the ways that others might do things if they were given the opportunity. Pope Francis, in a letter he wrote this year to mark 'Migrants' Day' called us to "build communion in diversity, to unify differences without imposing a depersonalized uniformity."

A time of prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, who crossed boundaries and borders, help us to love our neighbours and break down barriers in our communities.

Wounded Healer, who made blind eyes see and deaf ears hear, enable us to perceive the reality of racism, bigotry and racial injustice in ourselves and our society.

Prince of Peace, inspire us to celebrate difference and reconcile division and help re-imagine this world as a place where justice and peace kiss and freedom abounds.

God our Maker, in whose image and likeness each of us has been created, with a human dignity worthy of respect.

Listen to the cry that rises from every corner of this fragile earth, from our human family.

To world leaders and decision makers, grant the wisdom to reach beyond boundary and border. May our common humanity drive policy and foster peaceful dialogue and constructive collaboration.

To those who misuse their power or take power from others, through violent action or hateful speech. Grant mercy and grow in them a humble heart of compassion, peaceful dialogue and constructive collaboration.

To the innocent ones robbed of dignity, possession, or shelter, to the victims of these forces who have had life taken from them, we entrust them in your everlasting arms, O God, that are wide enough to embrace all of Your creation.

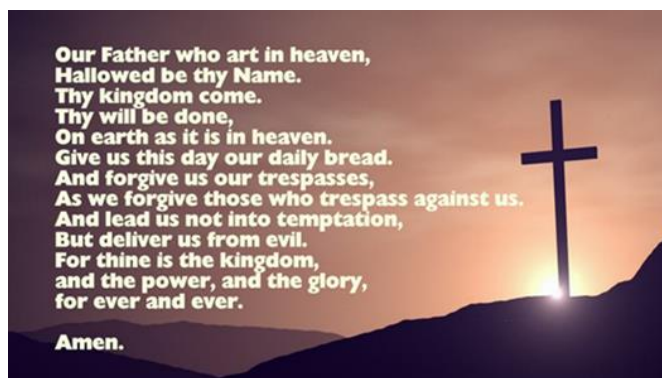
Maker of all you painted into being all heaven and earth, creatures and all living things, with such depth of diversity – shape, size, colour, uniqueness and giftedness, help us to recognise your Divine Image in stranger and friend, to see Christ in the displaced and dehumanised, that we might recognise their dignity and act with Your passion and zeal to see justice, equity and love abound.

When we do not listen to the cries, give us ears to hear.

When we do not recognise racism and injustice, give us eyes to see.

When we do not speak truth to power, give us voices to declare your ways.

The Lord's Prayer



Hymn 713

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

Show me how to stand for justice: how to work for what is right, how to challenge false assumptions, how to walk within the light.

May I learn to share more freely in a world so full of greed, showing your immense compassion by the life I choose to lead.

Teach my heart to treasure mercy, whether given or received — for my need has not diminished since the day I first believed: let me seek no satisfaction boasting of what I have done, but rejoice that I am pardoned and accepted in your Son.

Gladly I embrace a lifestyle modelled on your living word, in humility submitting to the truth which I have heard.

Make me conscious of your presence every day in all I do: by your Spirit's gracious prompting may I learn to walk with you.

Martin Leckebusch (b. 1962)

A prayer of blessing

May God the Father bless us.

May God the Son bless us.

May God the Holy Spirit bless us.

So may the blessing of God who is one in three and three in one bind us together in unity, now and forever. **Amen.**

John 17. 20-23

‘I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Monday Fellowship Group will meet tomorrow, Monday 14th February at 2.30pm in Church. We will be looking at Luke chapter 5 verse 17 to chapter 6 verse 11. All are welcome.

Church Council is meeting on Tuesday 22nd February at 7.30 p.m.

Jubilee Jamboree!

Celebrating 50 years of the URC, Mersey Synod is hosting a family fun day at Parkgate and Neston URC on Saturday 16 July 10am-3pm.

Let's get ready to party! Yes, we're celebrating 50 years of the URC!

It's a free family fun day – there'll be an ice cream van, a craft station, a bouncy castle, a labyrinth, parachute games, a children's worker and more.

There's also plenty for adults (and yes, you can go on the bouncy castle too!) with a time of historical reflection, sessions on Muddy Church, interactive Café Jam and even puppet workshops. It's not to be missed! Save the date!

Book now using our booking form which you can find at at

<https://www.urcmerseysynod.org.uk/welcome.htm>

Please note:

- a) Each person attending the event needs to fill in their own booking form
- b) The closing date for bookings is Friday 1 July 2022 for catering reasons
- c) Return the booking form to the Synod Office via email synodoffice@urcmerseysynod.org.uk or by post to 1 Fingall Road, Wavertree, Liverpool, L15 9JE
- d) Once we have received your booking form, we will send you a confirmation letter/email nearer to the date with an information leaflet about what is planned for the day, in more detail.

Church Flowers

We are hoping to resume the regular pattern of flowers in Church each Sunday.

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 will be drawing up a 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. We are also hoping to resume delivering 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. We will also need some more volunteers to take flowers out to people.

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

Benevolent Fund

Next Sunday, 20th February, we shall be resuming the taking up of a collection for the Benevolent Fund as a part of our holy communion services. This month the collection will be added to our own Benevolent Fund, which is used to enable St James's to respond to requests for assistance from time to time. In other months, the collection is used to support specific charities nominated by members of the congregation (the list of charities to be supported this year is drawn from the list originally adopted for 2020, before the pandemic). Members are encouraged to gift aid their contributions where possible.

Thanksgiving for the Life of Gordon Salmon

Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Gordon Salmon to be held on Wednesday February 23rd, 2022, at 2.30 pm. Invitation to everyone who knew Gordon and remembers him with love and affection.

If you would like to attend this service and/or the refreshments in the church hall afterwards, please let Wendy or one of the Stewards know as soon as you can, to help with seating and catering arrangements. Please do not contact Christine or the family direct.

PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, it hurts so bad. Dull the pain with Your love.

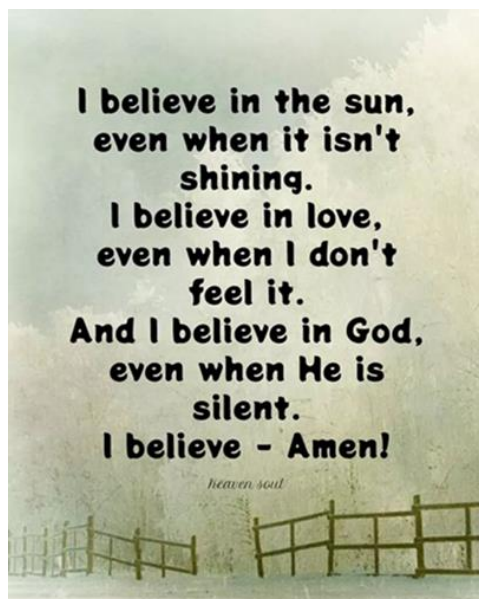
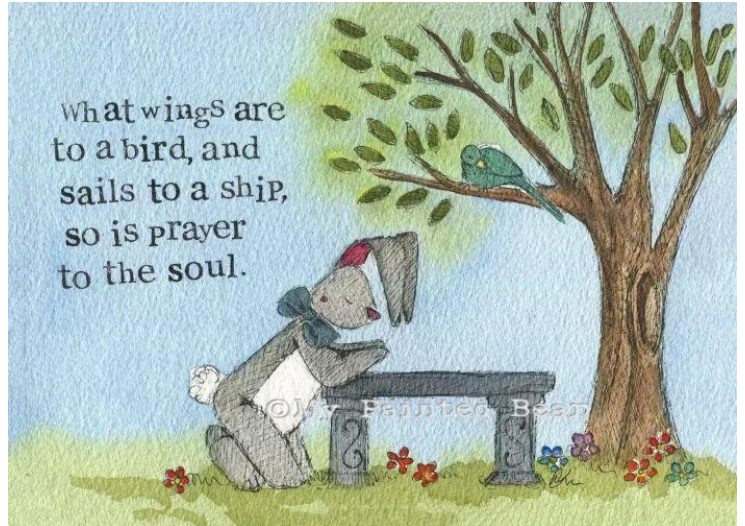
Blur the sharp edges by reminding me that from bad comes good. Help me appreciate that after the sorrow, joy is sweeter.

I look forward to better times. I can endure anything with You by my side. Amen.

Lord of Heaven, I rest underneath your mighty wings of love. I dwell within your gentle heart. I know there is healing in your touch. Through the sufferings of Christ, I can ask for restoration and trust in your goodness.

You are my Lord, my Saviour, My healer and my friend. I dwell within your gentle embrace.

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.

We continue to pray for Ken Kitchen, John and Sylvia Pagan, Ian Taylor, Mike Hughes and Arthur Evans.



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.
Happy birthday (16th February) to Lynne Barker. Enjoy your day.



LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF GOD

The word of God doesn't always have to be heard in church, but anywhere. I was in school this week, teaching R.E when I felt extremely empowered by God. We were looking at how do Christians today try to follow Jesus' teaching about justice and fairness? This through the example of Mother Teresa.

Mother Teresa's prayer

**'Make us worthy, Lord
To serve our fellow humans throughout the world
Who live and die in poverty or hunger.
Give them, through our hands
This day their daily bread,
And by our understanding love,
Give peace and joy.'**



I asked the pupils if they could see any connections between this prayer and the Lord's Prayer. Ethan spotted the line 'Give us this day our daily bread'.

We continued the discussions by asking - **Is it fair that every person one earth should have food, drink, a home and a chance in life?**

We picked out the themes of love, the duty to serve, the idea that serving the poor is a privilege. The children considered in which ways Mother Teresa put into action the teachings of Jesus. Someone once said, "God has no voice but ours, no hands but ours"

I discussed with pupils what this might mean for Christians today. What does Mother Teresa's prayer say about sharing, fairness and kindness?

Fairness for everyone matters because...

I then asked the pupils to consider some sayings of Mother Teresa for themselves and explore their meaning. The six are provided below.

'God doesn't require us to succeed. He just requires us to try.'

'I am a pencil in God's hand. God is writing a love letter to the world.'

'Don't be satisfied with giving money to charity. Instead spread your love everywhere you go.'

'Do something beautiful for God.'

'If you cannot feed one hundred people, then just feed one.'

'Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway, for you see, in the end, it is between you and God.'

They then had to write what they thought the quote meant. Then, write what is hard to follow about the quote. Then, finally write a question they would have liked to ask Mother Teresa.

I want you know to consider the quotes yourself. What would you have written?

Also, consider how you try to follow Jesus' teaching about justice and fairness? I have really thought hard about this since I taught this lesson – especially by the responses of my class.

I leave you with this quote – 'Do something beautiful for God.'

**God bless
Andrew McLaren**

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

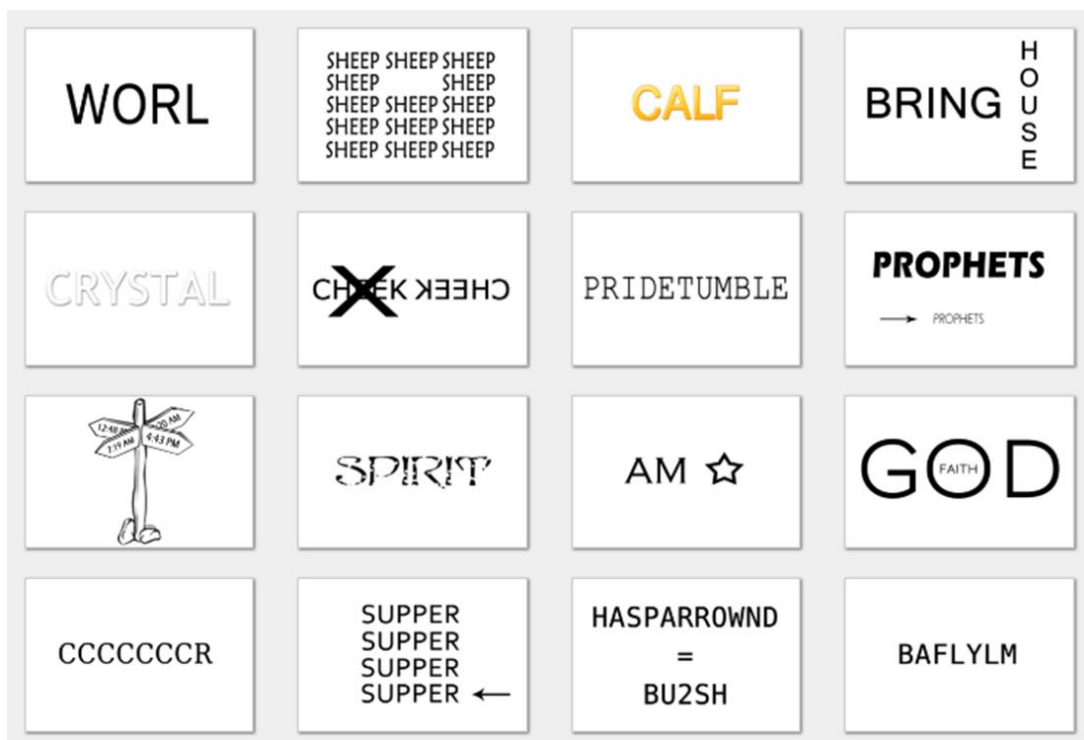


Across: 1 Despair, 5 Resting, 9 Purer, 10 Galatians, 11 Neglected, 12 Siege, 13 Alms, 15 Ordained, 18 Promises, 19 Days, 22 Amber, 24 Protector, 26 Existence, 27 Gnash, 28 Strange, 29 Treason.

Down: 1 Depend, 2 Straggler, 3 Agree, 4 Righteous, 5 Ruled, 6 Satisfied, 7 Image, 8 Gospel, 14 Samaritan, 16 Dishonest, 17 Egyptians, 20 Camels, 21 Orphan, 23 Brier, 24 Pence, 25 Eagle.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

ST JAMES' DINGBATS – Last week's answers (working across)



1. World without end
2. Lost sheep
3. Golden calf
4. Bring the house down
5. Crystal clear
6. Turn the other cheek
7. Pride goes before a pride
8. Minor prophets
9. Signs of the times
10. Holy Spirit
11. Morning star
12. Faith in God
13. Caesar
14. The Last Supper
15. A bird in the hand is worth two in a bush
16. Fly in the ointment

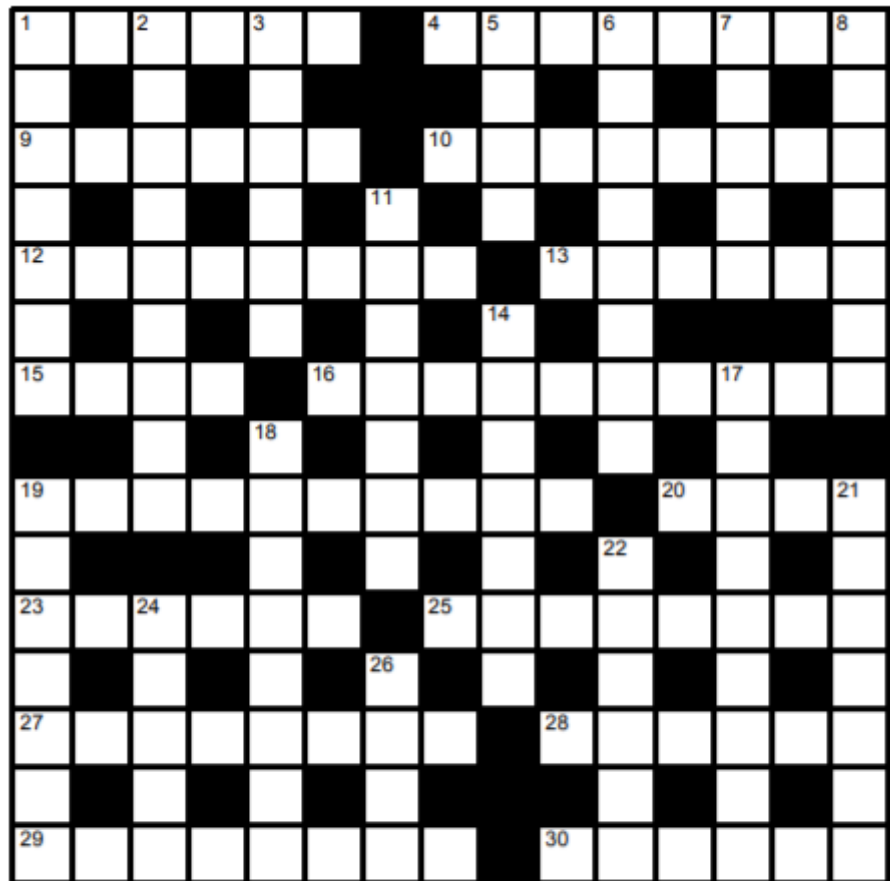
THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Express sorrow (6)
 4 Anticipated (8)
 9 God with judge people with this (6)
 10 Sore ants (anag); In the White House? (8)
 12 Kept confined (8)
 13 Times Peter denied Christ (6)
 15 Noah became this by faith (4)
 16 Last book of the Bible (10)
 19 God's angels (10)
 20 Mix up (4)
 23 Thin length of material (6)
 25 It never comes (8)
 27 Soothed (8)
 28 Money lender (6)
 29 Counted (8)
 30 Rigid sheets of metal (6)

Down

- 1 A dimension of God's love (7)
 2 Himalayas, for example (9)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

3 Gain, reach or arrive at (6)

5 Sesame worked! (4)

6 A faithful minister of Christ (8)

7 Mother in law of Ruth (5)

8 Sun sets in this sky (7)

11 Retaliation (7)

14 Scripture is profitable for this (7)

17 Magicians couldn't do this for Pharaoh's dreams (9)

18 Jerusalem - how her house is left (8)

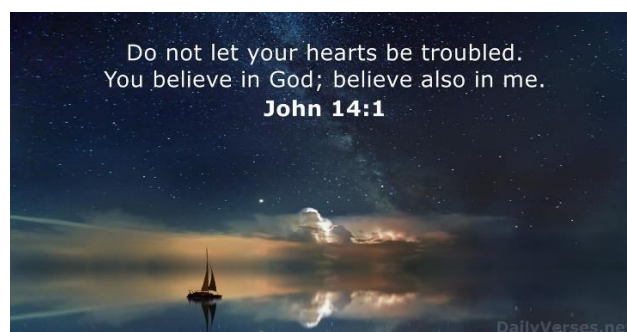
19 Disease of cattle (7)

21 When Jesus comes these will be with Him (7)

22 Fragment of food (6)

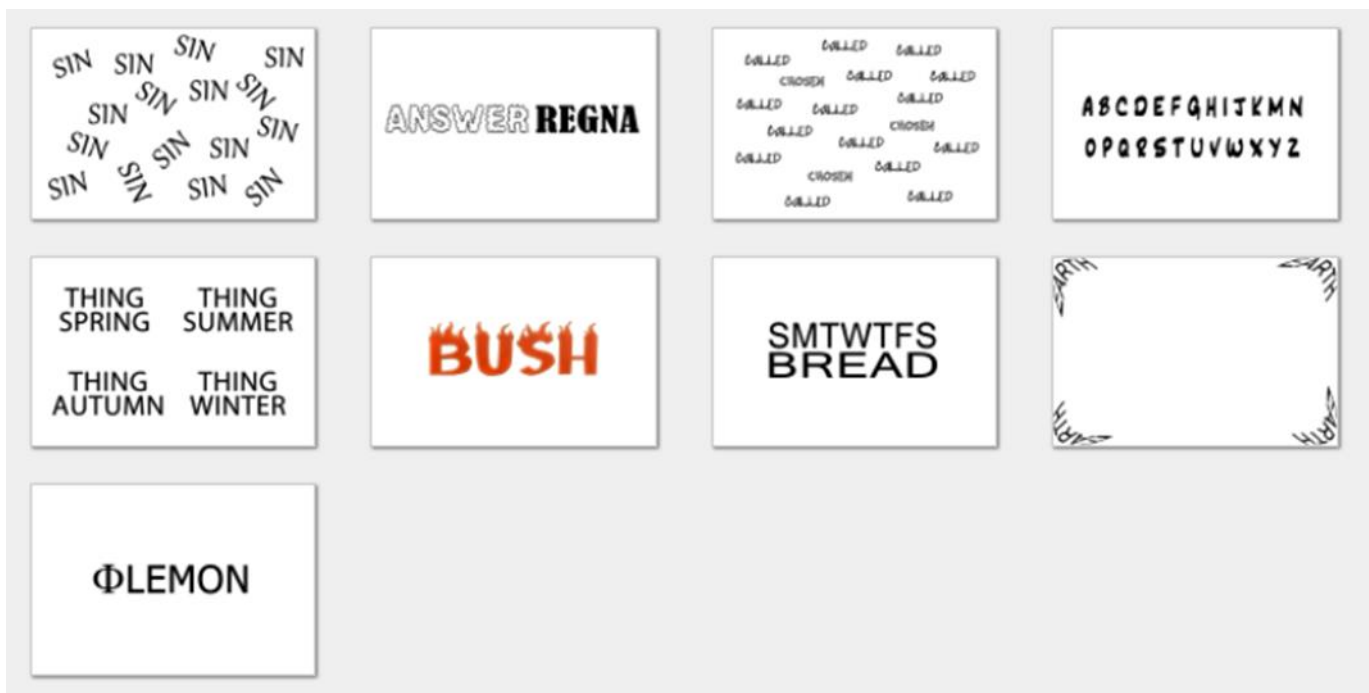
24 Booms (anag) (5)

26 Not there! (4)



ST JAMES' BIBLE DINGBATS

The say what you see puzzle. Work your way across each row. Answers next week. Enjoy!



PROGRAMMES YOU MAY ENJOY – Sunday 13th February

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

Kevin Duala sits in. The Sunday magazine reflecting Merseyside's worlds of faith.

8.10 a.m. Radio 4: Sunday Worship - Racial Justice Is Everyone's Business

A service for Racial Justice Sunday from St Nicholas Church, Durham.

11.20 BBC 1 Songs of Praise: Love and Kindness

Katherine Jenkins meets Christians showing love and kindness to others, and we remember archbishop Desmond Tutu.

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

