

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 – 10th April 2022



Palm Sunday



This Week's Collect

Eternal God, in your tender love towards the human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take our flesh and to suffer death upon a cross. Grant that we may follow the example of his great humility, and share in the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sixth Sunday in Lent

God of all-redeeming grace, in your great love you gave your only Son to die for the sins of the whole world. Help us by your Holy Spirit to worship you with reverence, and to enter with joy into the celebration of those mighty acts whereby you bring us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister's Message

Hello Everyone, Thank you for all your prayers, thoughts, cards and good wishes whilst I have been unwell with Covid. I was taken by surprised at how hard the virus hit me. I had assumed that the vaccines and my own normal good health would have protected me, yet I still felt really ill and had to retreat to bed for several days.

Thankfully I am on the mend now and am gradually returning to my normal activities. I hope that this Sunday and the coming week will be times of blessing for all of us. As we follow Jesus on his entry to Jerusalem, his week of teaching in the city, the Last Supper and the crucifixion we remember that he suffered and died for us. May we each become even more aware of the forgiving love of Jesus for us and for all the world. At this time of terrible suffering in Ukraine we pray that the healing power of the cross will bring hope to all who are so vulnerable.

God Bless, Peter

UPCOMING PREACHERS

Sunday 10th April **Revd. Peter Hughes (St James')** **Andy Gillespie (phone)**

Pictures from Peter

I have chosen some pictures for Holy Week, which are from the Stations of the Cross at T a' Pinu Church on the Island of Gozo, Malta. Pope Francis visited this Church on his visit to Malta at the start of April.

The Stations of the Cross make an inspiring walk up the hill opposite the Church. The pictures I have chosen show Jesus in the garden where the Angel ministers to him; Simon carrying the cross for the weary Jesus and Jesus on the cross.

I hope that these pictures may help you as you think of Jesus during Holy Week.



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.

This Sunday our preacher will be Andrew Gillespie

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**
- **Bible reading**
- **Lord’s Prayer**
- **Talk or “mini-sermon”**
- **Prayers**
- **Grace and dismissal.**



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.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

HARMONY CAFÉ

Come and join us at 6.30 pm on Palm Sunday 10th April as we share the Easter story through words and song. Due to Covid safety measures, we won't be able to offer refreshments this time and masks are preferred for the singing.

Everyone is very welcome. Doors open at 6.00 pm.

If you'd like to know more, please contact **Roy and Lynne Barker** 0151 421 1218 or email: the_barkers_88@hotmail.com

Christian Aid week is the 15th-22nd May.

We have a stall with St Peters at the farmers market on 14th May and they are organising a quiz night on 20th May.

On Saturday 21st May, we are hoping to organise a **Star for a Night** at St James'.

This will be a fantastic opportunity for any talented individuals to perform.

It will be a night of fun and togetherness (and raise money too). More details and tickets to follow.

If anyone would like to sing, play music, tell jokes, dance or show any other talent please email

Jane Laverty janelaverty5@gmail.com

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).

St James' Garden

Now that the weather is improving and so are the weeds; we would be grateful if anyone could help out maintaining our church garden. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Margaret Dee (428 3356).

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.

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.



Benevolent Fund

Benevolent Fund collection for Bradbury Fields taken on 27th March amounted to £207.05. A huge thank you to all those who donated to this extremely worthy cause.



The Liverpool Passion Plays – This is Our Story

Liverpool Cathedral are reviving their Passion Play for a single showing this coming Monday 11th April 6.30-8.30pm Admission free (though donations welcome).

Following link gives more information

<https://www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk/events-calendar/the-liverpool-passion-plays-this-is-our-story>

(As a “Declaration of Interest” my son, **Tom Martin** is playing Christ...!)

Hope of interest, been worth attending in the past. **Graham Martin**

PRAYERS NEEDED

Blessed Jesus, in the comfort of your love, I lay before you the memories that haunt me, the anxieties that perplex me, the despair that frightens me, and my frustration at my inability to think clearly.

Help me to discover your forgiveness in my memories and know your peace in my distress.

Touch me, O Lord, and fill me with your light and your hope.

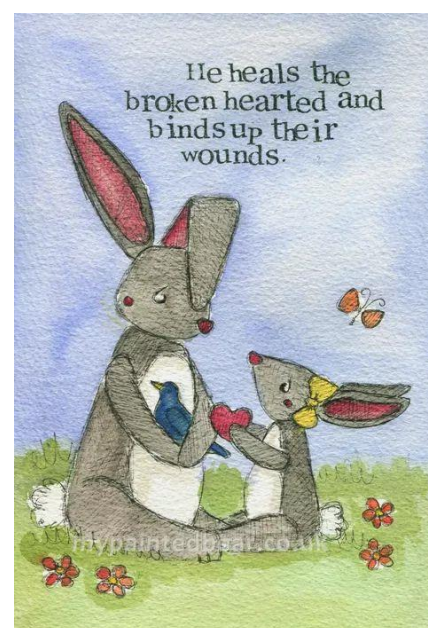
Jesus, I know that when you walked on the earth, you trod upon hard places, you felt the strain of this world and the pressures of mental torment.

So, I ask that you come besides me now, lead me through this time where my mind cannot cope.

Help me to find peace and calming inner thoughts.

You hold me safe Lord, I trust in you.

Amen.



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.

Opening Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for the special season of lent and the reminders of events that happened in Jesus' life when he entered Jerusalem. May our time of worship reflect our gratitude and love for you. Amen

Hymn: StF152 This is the day that the Lord has made

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here
[This is the day, this is the day \(StF 152\) \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord has made.

This is the day,
this is the day when he rose again,
when he rose again.
We will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day when he rose again;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day when he rose again.

This is the day,
this is the day when the Spirit came,
when the Spirit came.
We will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirit came;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day when the Spirit came.
Anonymous

Let us pray together

Lord Jesus, you journeyed to Jerusalem many times, as a child and as a man, touching many lives along the way as you taught and healed and challenged. Thank you for inviting us to journey with you today, for showing us the depth of your courage and the power of your love. Thank you, Lord, for being our King and Saviour – and our friend.
You are worthy of all our praise. **Amen.**



We are sorry, Lord Jesus, for the moments
when our hosannas are loud
but lacking in love,
when we chase the lure of worldly power,
but miss the signs of heavenly glory,
when we choose popularity over integrity,
when we would silence those who speak the truth and are silent when we could speak out.
Forgive us and inspire our steps as we follow you to the Cross...and beyond. **Amen.**



Today's Reading from the Old Testament: Psalm 118:1-2,19-29

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 19:28-40

Time to Reflect

Though Jesus visited Jerusalem several times, this was the only day when Jesus did something unexpected during his earthly life, entering into the city riding on the donkey. I am aware that many generations of theologians, Biblical scholars and readers of these texts would have asked questions, such as –

Why did Jesus need a donkey, especially a colt (which probably could not carry a grown man!) and not a horse?

How did the owner of the donkey let go of his colt, and obviously without any payment for it?

Jesus was used to walking everywhere, and therefore why did he not walk up to Jerusalem? The city was not too far, about two miles from the Mount of Olives!

As this is a familiar Bible reading, we of course know the answer to all the above questions - that is, all this happened in order to fulfil the Old Testament prophecy, which was spoken by the prophet Zechariah in chapters 9:9 and 14:4. This day was meant also to display a different kind of Kingship and Kingdom to all those who had gathered that day in Jerusalem for Passover, including the Roman soldiers/officials. We read that Jesus, the King of the Jews, entered the city in peace (one would not go into battle riding a donkey!) contrary to the victorious king who would enter the conquered city, riding on his 'warhorse', symbolising a judgment on the people of that city.

Adding to this, we are reminded "this is the day crowd shouts openly and claim allegiance with God rather than Caesar" which was quite a daring thing to do, given that not only was the ruling party watching everything closely, but also the religious leaders who were so concerned that they had said, "...look how the world is gone after him..." (John 12:19). They had their own agenda, but Jesus' journey on a donkey was extraordinary, unexpected and un-imaginable and therefore they were frustrated to see the large crowd cheering for Jesus.

Perhaps, it was that day when Jesus and his teachings meant something for the followers. The whole city would have been in a joyous uproar on that day! If you have an experience of being in a parade or carnival, you will sense the feeling of joy and something bigger to come, but things did not turn out as people expected! For we know that soon after this event, Jesus was arrested, interrogated and crucified.

The texts for Palm Sunday teach us that Jesus did not comply with the values and expectation around him, and nor should we. This is easier said than done in the Western world, where there is no 'pressure' to live the Christian life, where there is not a great need to rely on Jesus for the daily bread or basic necessity. However, we must live the 'servant leadership' in all circumstances and even when it is hard and challenging.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

As Jesus wept over Jerusalem and cleansed its Temple, let us pray for our cities and our churches today.

Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord.

We pray to you for cities in conflict, where dictators hold on to power and oppress their own citizens, and the voice of the people is not heard. Especially for Ukraine...

Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord.

We pray to you for cities in economic trouble where the current Covid crisis has put many out of work, new businesses cannot get loans to start, and people do not feel they are all in it together. Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord. We pray to you for cities suffering natural disaster, where storms, tsunamis, flooding or fire have destroyed the infrastructure and rebuilding has been slow and inefficient.

Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord.

We pray to you for all those suffering poor health, personal disaster, or the death of a loved one. Make us faithful in praying, visiting and caring for those in difficulties.

Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord.

We pray to you for churches of all denominations, as what unites us this week is so much bigger than what divides us. May we love one another, so the world may know you are among us.

Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father



Hymn: StF264 Make way, make way, for Christ Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here **or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tK6XuYhL7JI>

Make way, make way, for Christ the King in splendour arrives; fling wide the gates and welcome him into your lives.

Make way (Make way), make way (make way), for the King of kings (for the King of kings); make way (make way), make way (make way), and let his Kingdom in.

He comes the broken hearts to heal, the prisoners to free; the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance, the blind shall see.

And those who mourn with heavy hearts, who weep and sigh, with laughter, joy and royal crown he'll beautify.

We call you now to worship him as Lord of all, to have no gods before him, their thrones must fall!

A prayer of blessing

May God grant us exuberance of the Palm Sunday crowd, and the humility of Jesus riding a donkey; the energy and excitement of the crowd, and the calm holiness of Jesus; the expectation of the crowd, and the understanding heart of Jesus who journeyed to Jerusalem for love of us all.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 118:1-2,19-29

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."
19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.
20 This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.
21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.
24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
25 Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!
26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.
27 The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.
28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.
29 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.



Gospel Reading: Luke 19:28-40

28 After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.
29 When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples,
30 saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here."
31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'"
32 So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them.
33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"
34 They said, "The Lord needs it."
35 Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.
36 As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.
37 As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen,
38 saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"
39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop."
40 He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

C	H	A	N	G	E	R	S		O	F	F	E	R	S
H		P		O		E		I		E		L		I
A	L	O	E	S		B	E	M	O	A	N	I	N	G
R		S		P		U		A		S		H		N
G	A	T	H	E	R	I	N	G		T	R	U	M	P
E		O		L		L		E		O				O
	A	L	M	O	N	D		S	U	F	F	E	R	S
B		I		F						P		L		T
E	N	C	A	M	P	S		C	H	A	S	E	D	
T				A		H		R		S		V		R
H	E	A	R	T		R	E	I	N	S	T	A	T	E
E		S		T		I		M		O		T		V
S	O	S	T	H	E	N	E	S		V	O	I	C	E
D		I		E		E		O		E		O		R
A	R	R	O	W	S			E	N	T	R	A	N	C

Across: 1 Changers, 5 Offers, 10 Aloes, 11 Bemoaning, 12 Gathering, 13 Trump, 14 Almond, 15 Suffers, 18 Encamps, 20 Chased, 22 Heart, 24 Reinstate, 25 Sosthenes, 26 Voice, 27 Arrows, 28 Entrance.

Down: 1 Charge, 2 Apostolic, 3 Gospel Of Matthew, 4 Rebuild, 6 Feast Of Passover, 7 Elihu, 8 Signpost, 9 Images, 16 Elevation, 17 Bethesda, 19 Shrine, 20 Crimson, 21 Revere, 23 Assir.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.com



PROGRAMMES YOU MAY ENJOY – Sunday 10th April

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 - Palm Sunday

A Passion for Hospitality: What you didn't do for the least of these you didn't do for me. On Palm Sunday, Andy Johnston, leads a service from Kings Community Church, Southampton.

13.15 BBC 1 Songs of Praise: Palm Sunday in Winchester

Katherine Jenkins visits Winchester to see how they are marking Palm Sunday. With hymns from the cathedral and a special performance by Alexandra Burke



THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

6 Of a limited distance on the Sabbath (7)

7 Make up for (5)

9 A creature to be strained? (4)

10 Precursor of the Exodus (3,7)

11 Beaten (8)

13 Laid aside in the tomb (6)

15 Babylonian deity (4)

17 Priestly apparel (5)

18 Babylonian export (4)

19 Source of danger (6)

20 Personnel of 25d (8)

23 Household worker (10)

26 Wanes (4)

27 An "unclean" rodent (5)

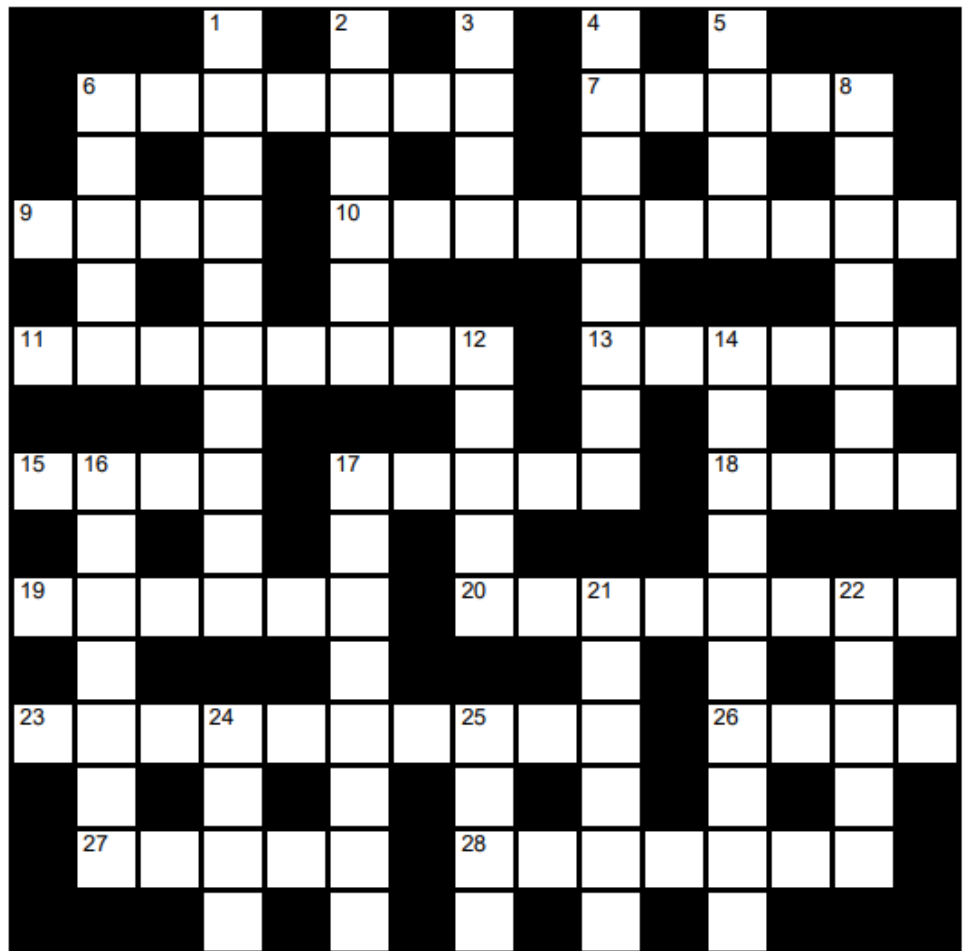
28 Book of prophecy (7)

Down

1 Sacrificial offering (10)

2 Grab harshly (6)

3 Anthem (4)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.com

4 Young animals for sacrifice (8)

5 Of Solomon, for example (4)

6 Prophet who went to Nineveh (5)

8 A priestly prophet (7)

12 Sins (5)

14 Plague (10)

16 One of the tribes (7)

17 Like the Prodigal Son (8)

21 Not much (6)

22 Spiritual leader (5)

24 First Israelite king (4)

25 Military force (4)

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