

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 7th March – 2021



Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Third Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves. Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Welcome to another Church Newsletter, faithfully compiled by Jayne & Andrew who also help us to run our Sunday Zoom Services. Although the weather isn't quite as good as earlier in the week, the days continue to get longer and the spring flowers give us hope of even better days to come. We are hoping that before long we will be able to welcome you back to worship at Church, but sadly this will be after Holy Week and Easter Sunday. We want to be careful so that when we do open it will be for good rather than followed by further closure. We are awaiting more advice from the Methodist & United Reformed Churches.

As we travel through Lent, we know that Jesus is with us on our long and difficult journey through the pandemic. Jesus will not let us down as we continue to love, support and encourage each other. We thank God for all the positive things we continue to experience even in this time, every kind prayer, phone call, letter and simple act of kindness makes a difference.

Thank you to all of you for the way our Church has continued to worship, care and reach out. God Bless Peter.

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... Have a wonderful time and a very happy birthday!

Everyone at St. James' wishes you a happy birthday and enjoy your day.



UPCOMING PREACHERS

3rd Sunday in Lent March 7th Graham Martin (Zoom) & Revd. Peter Hughes (Telephone)

Mothering Sunday March 14th Revd. Peter Hughes (Zoom) & John Lansley (Telephone)

Passion Sunday March 21st Steve Elliott (Zoom) & Chris Bolton (Telephone)

Palm Sunday March 28th Circuit (Zoom) & Liz Hudson (Telephone)

The Lent Cross

Sunday 7th March – Lent 3. Bag of Coins

Soon after Jesus and the disciples shared their last supper together, they went to pray in a garden.

One of Jesus's friends, Judas, betrayed him, so that soldiers would be able to find and arrest him. The coins represent the 30 pieces of silver which Judas was paid for betraying Jesus.

Many people experience betrayal today in different ways.

When we are betrayed in life, we can draw strength from knowing that someone cares and understands.

“Christ is the world’s life, he and none other, sold once for silver, murdered here our brother. He who redeems us, reigns with God the Father, Glory to God on high.”

(Please note that the coins in the bag have no monetary value, they are only symbolic!)



Dotty's Diary



This Lent I've found a resource called '*Holy Habits: Following Jesus*' produced by Revd Andrew Roberts who wrote the Holy Habits book we were working through as a church family in far-off BC days.

(BC = Before Covid). Each week there is a 10-minute video on a theme, followed by questions, either for discussion in a Zoom group or for personal consideration (in my case). And then I jot down things that have come to my mind.

Revd Andrew covers the key points of each theme in the videos in such an engaging way. It makes the handbook which goes with the series useful, but not

essential, although I guess he wouldn't thank me for saying that!

Session 1 pointed to the role of Scripture in everyday life, and now I can see Jesus journeying into the wilderness and beyond leaning on a bible-shaped shepherd's crook.

Session 2, about Serving with Gladness, pointed me towards a selection of short charity videos, including two I knew little or nothing about: Mercy Ships, and the Torch Trust – (a joyful revelation – at least to me).!!

This week's study, called Breaking Bread, included a real-loaf, heart-warming encounter between a homeless person, and a Methodist Minister walking from Yorkshire to London to be inaugurated as President of Conference.

I probably spend about an hour on each theme, but that is my choice, as is the day and time when I tune in - although I do try to protect Thursday evening. No-one knows whether I watch and listen except the Lord (and you, now) so it's something of a secret between us and feels even more special for that. But putting this week's theme (Sharing) into practice, I'm happy to tell you that you can have a no-obligation peek for yourself just by googling:

holyhabs.org.uk/onlinehomegroup

Then scroll down to the little green blob that says 'find the videos' and they are all there on the right-hand side of the screen. Enjoy the blessings.



Picture from our Church Railings.

This week's picture reminds us of hope, life and love in moments of darkness and despair. I know that for some members of our Church this last week has been one of the hardest of their lives. Please pray that all who are going through desperate experiences will know the presence of God with them. There is much to be joyful about, but we must recognise and come to terms with the reality of pain and suffering as well. In the end all will be well because the risen Jesus has a place for all in his house of many rooms. I hope that in every difficult experience in the coming week you will know a deeper experience of hope and grace.



In our own moments of deep darkness
when despair takes its grip on our souls,
May we have the strength to hold on to the assurance
that beyond darkness there is light
beyond despair there is hope
beyond dying there is living
beyond forsakenness there is, always, the love of God.

SUNDAY SERVICES

From St. James Church:- Invitation to Telephone Worship
Sunday 7th March: 2.30pm (And now every Sunday until the end of March)

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:

Order of Worship:

- Welcome and notices:
- Opening prayer (Host)
- Bible reading (Chris Bolton John 2 v13-25)
- Lord’s Prayer (Host)
- Talk or “mini-sermon” (Rev Peter Hughes)
- Prayers (Pam Bellis)
- 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.

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

Joining from 10.45 for an 11am start – Preacher: Graham Martin

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.

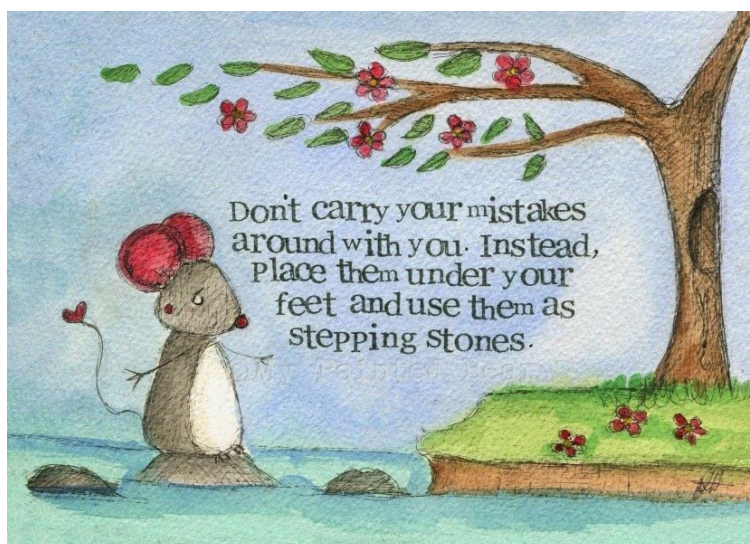
PLEASE NOTE: Where a preacher provides a copy of the words of their sermon, we will include this (after it has been preached) with our Church Notices and other Worship Material. – We do not want to waste a good sermon! even if it arrives a few days after it was preached.

God Bless

Graham Martin

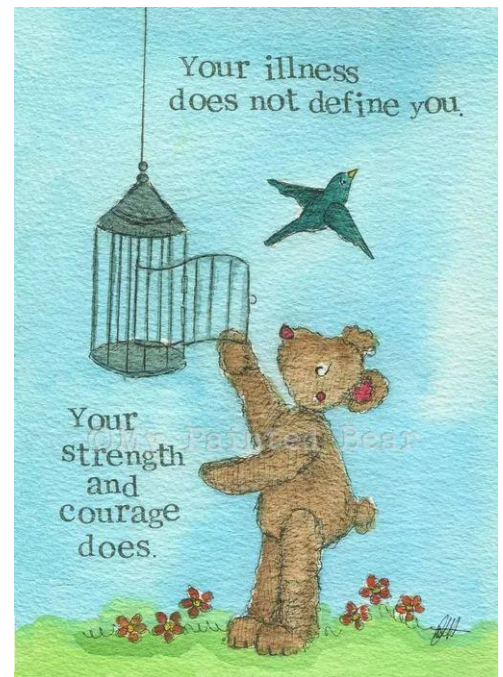
Communications officer (and local preacher) St. James Church

[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.



Our thoughts are with Pam Draper and her family during this difficult time.



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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

Across: 1 Parable, 7 Felix, 8 Antioch, 9 Offer, 12 Plea, 14 Sun, 15 Plot, 17 Urn, 18 Ash, 19 Oxen, 21 Rob, 22 Idle, 24 Sides, 27 Bathing, 28 Plain, 29 Untying.

Down: 2 Annul, 3 Animal, 4 Locust, 5 Deaf, 6 Wine, 9 Onyx, 10 Found, 11 Rinse, 12 Prays, 13 Ephod, 16 Ours, 19 Obtain, 20 Eighty, 23 Linen, 25 Isle, 26 Evil.

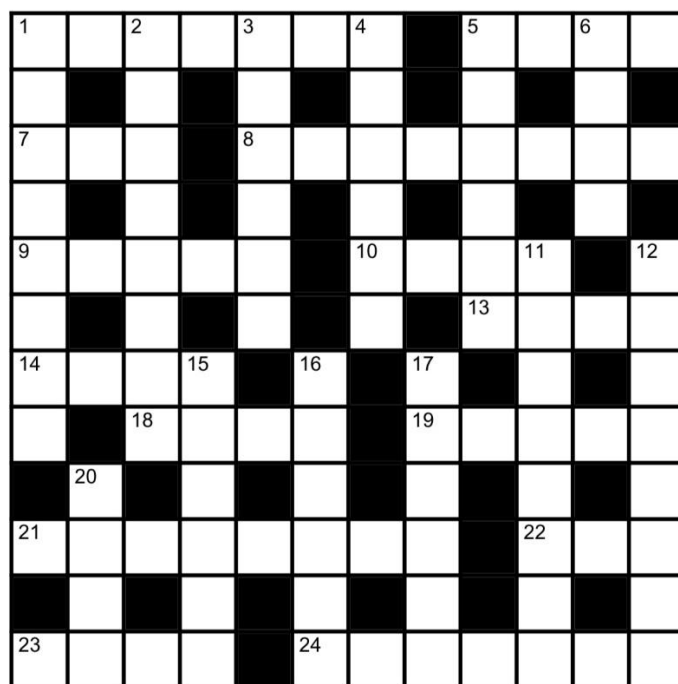
THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Spoke (7)
- 5 Ridicule (4)
- 7 Path (3)
- 8 Religious work (8)
- 9 Adversary (5)
- 10 God's dislike (4)
- 13 Adullam, for one (4)
- 14 Book written by a priest (4)
- 18 Book of Paul's journeys (4)
- 19 May be guiding (5)
- 21 Bearing (8)
- 22 Pledge (3)
- 23 Can't stand (4)
- 24 Number of sheep in the lost sheep parable (7)

Down

- 1 Dirty (8)
- 2 Lydia's home town (8)
- 3 An epistle of Paul (6)
- 4 Book featuring Nebuchadnezzar (6)
- 5 Concerning the Old Testament laws (6)
- 6 Worry (4)
- 11 One who says how to behave (8)
- 12 Granted (8)
- 15 Charge (6)
- 16 Book read by the eunuch (6)
- 17 Wine vessel (6)
- 20 Devout widow (4)



by Philologus

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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

