

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

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

**MINISTER: Rev. Peter Hughes
5 Elder Gardens, L19 9DJ**

peter.hughes@methodist.org.uk 0151 364 0134

Friday is Peter's day off and if possible people should not contact him on that day.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th

Welcome to everyone in Church this morning.

A lift is available for access into church, and there is a ramp at the rear of the building. We have large print hymnbooks; other items are available in large print or braille on request. There is a loop system for people with hearing aids. **If you need any help, please ask a steward.**

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, St James' offers you a very warm welcome and we hope you'll come again.

We would like to keep in touch with you to let you know what's going on at St James', so please fill in your details on the 'NEW TO CHURCH' slip.

We are a Gift Aid Church. If you are a taxpayer, and not using the envelope system, please complete a Gift Aid envelope with your offering.

Offertory card - If you make your offering by monthly standing order, please take an offertory card from the table at the back of the church to place on the offertory plate each week to represent your gift.

	CHRISTMAS DIARY DATES	
	TODAY Christingle Service at 10.30 am	
	Harmony Café Carols at 6 for 6.30 pm	
	December 20 th Carol Singing around the village	
	24 th Christmas Eve worship at 10.30 am	
	Holy Communion at 11.30 pm	
	25 th Christmas Day worship at 10.30 am	
	31 st Holy Communion at 10.30 am	

**The church is open for coffee on Tuesday mornings from 9.30 to 12.30:
BUT NOT ON BOXING DAY –OR JANUARY 2nd**

SERVING	TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY DEC. 24th
	Christingle	Christmas Eve
Minister	Worship Team	Ian Taylor
Welcome	Ken Davies	Alan Smith
Steward (V)	Carol Skyner	Pauline Taylor
(W)	Pat Fagan	Carol Skyner
(B)	Ian Taylor	Liz Hudson
Readings	Worship Team	Pam Draper & Matthew Dyer
Prayers	Worship Team	Graham Martin
Offertory count	Mike Hughes & Margaret Peacop	Peter Barlow & Ray Jennings
Tea/coffee	Jonquil & Dave Dickson	Helen & Steve Miller
PowerPoint	Liz Hudson	Dorothy Peers
Music	Kathryn Norton	Peter Bounds
Flowers provider		Sue Moister
Delivered by	Jonquil Dickson	Pam Draper
This evening	Harmony Café Candlelight Carols*	11.30 Communion
	Stewards: Jayne McLaren (V) Pam Bellis(W) Lynne Barker (PP)	
Tuesday Coffee	Pauline Taylor	(none)

ROY BARKER'S CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG

held on December 2nd raised £1121.80. We are grateful to Barclays Match Funding, since through it the total amount to be shared between Oakleaf Children's Bereavement and Loss Support Service and our own Hall Refurbishment Fund will be £2121.80. Many thanks to Roy and Lynne for what was their 21st Christmas sing along. Their work and commitment is very much appreciated. Many thanks also to Tim, Adam, Jamie and Heather for their musical backing and to the Girl's Brigade memorable signed 'White Christmas' and to the unforgettable Woolton Village People who turned up and entertained yet again to uproarious applause. Thanks also to Wendy and those who help behind the scenes and to those from St. James' who supported us on the night, and to the many friends and families who came along to enjoy another wonderful entertainment.

STAMPS AT CHRISTMAS

Please remember to save any postage stamps – various charities are glad to use them. Please try to keep a good margin of paper around them!

KEN PETERSON

died last week and the funeral took place on Friday. Our prayers and sympathy are with Margaret and family in their loss.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Benevolent Fund collections at Christmas will be for Christian Aid. Envelopes for your donations are available in church; please gift-aid your giving if at all possible.

GLENYS EVANS

and family wish to express their thanks to so many friends for their cards and messages of sympathy over the last two weeks.

CAROL SINGING IN WOOLTON VILLAGE

all are welcome to join us on 20 December for some carol singing fun, starting at Sainsbury's at 4pm, moving to Tesco to start singing about 5pm, back to St James' for drinks, (bring your tea if you like) then leaving for Marie Curie about 6.30 - 6.45 pm. For more information, contact Roy Barker.

OPEN HOUSE AT ST. JAMES'

Candle-lit Harmony Café meets this evening when we will tell the Christmas story. Come and join us for tea/coffee and cake from 6.00 pm for a 6.30 pm start. You are warmly invited to join us to sing (or listen to) a variety of songs, some new, some familiar, in a relaxed atmosphere. Cakes to share with our visitors would be much appreciated please. All are welcome - why not invite a friend!

METHODIST HOMES

The Coffee Morning on December 2nd raised £625 – an increase on last year. Thanks to all who supported this event in any way.

MARY AND JOSEPH'S 2017 JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

If you would like to take these lovable little knitted figures to work, to school, to a family gathering, to a meeting, to a leisure venue etc., and spread awareness of the Christmas story in the process, there may still be time; just let Liz Hudson know as soon as possible. Last year Mary Joseph and their donkey met nearly 2000 different people – they hope to meet even more this year. Email Liz on liz.hudson2@btinternet.com, or text/call 07866 213330.

A photo journal of their journey can be seen on the St James' Facebook Page.

SOME JANUARY DATES

- 2 Jan take down Christmas trees from 10.00 am
10 Jan Worship Consultation 7.30 pm at 30 Stuart Avenue
16 Jan Mission Action Group 7.30 pm at 88 Vale Road
22 Jan Special Projects Group, 6.30 for 6.45.
Pastoral Visitors Meeting. 7.30 pm.
28 Jan circuit youth band, open to all from 10 to 16, 5.30 to 7.
Contact Natasia on halewoodchurchcw@gmail.com or
07867 489 463: £2 per session.

The church AGM will be held on April 22nd 2018

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you can offer to do the Bible readings on Christmas Eve Communion and on Christmas Day, please let Peter know.

The Collect for Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility: that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent

God for whom we wait and watch, you sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people for the coming of the Messiah. Inspire the ministers and stewards of your truth to turn our disobedient hearts to you; that, when Christ shall come again in glory to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before him, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

*Notices: please to **derek.long2@tesco.net** or **722 1014** by 9 pm on Wednesday.*