

**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 24th

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 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**

BRIAN AND BERNICE STOCKS

Write to wish all of us a happy and worshipful Christmas; they remember with joy their time in Liverpool. Brian's ministry among us was from 1977 to 1985.

SERVING	TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY DEC. 31st
	Christmas Eve	Holy Communion
Minister	Ian Taylor	Rev. Peter Hughes
Welcome	Alan Smith	Dickson family
Steward (V)	Pauline Taylor	Amy Bates
(W)	Carol Skyner	Pam Bellis
(B)	Liz Hudson	Margaret Dee
Readings	Pam Draper & Matthew Dyer	Peter Barlow & Pam Bellis
Prayers	Graham Martin	Dave Dickson
Offertory count	Peter Barlow & Ray Jennings	Jane & Stuart Williams
Tea/coffee	Helen & Steve Miller	Pam Draper & Gwladys Gardner
PowerPoint	Dorothy Peers	Dorothy Peers
Music	Peter Bounds	Kathryn Norton
Flowers provider	Sue Moister	
Delivered by	Pam Draper	
This evening	11.30 pm Communion	no service
Tuesday Coffee	(none)	(none)
	THIS EVENING	CHRISTMAS DAY
Minister	Rev. Peter Hughes	Rev. Peter Hughes
Steward (V)	Ian Taylor	Pauline Taylor
(W)	Pauline Taylor	Stuart Williams
(B)		Ian Taylor
Readings		Jennifer Long
Prayers		Laverty family
Music	Derek Long	Derek Long
Communion Steward	Sue Moister	

CIRCUIT STATIONING

We are currently seeking a Superintendent Minister for the Liverpool (South) Circuit who will serve at Elm Hall Drive Methodist and Trinity Page Moss LEP. We were recently matched with a minister who visited on December 11 and 12. I am grateful to all those who assisted with this and to the members of the Circuit Invitation Committee for their discernment. On this occasion, we concluded that an invitation should not be offered and therefore we shall proceed to round three of Stationing in the new year. Please continue to pray for all involved in this process and particularly that we may know and do God's will.

Rev Caroline

Circuit Superintendent Minister

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to Ryan Miller who was 18 on Thursday! We would like to thank everyone who has helped Ryan raise funds over the last 12 months for his World Challenge trip to Africa in 2018. Everyone who gave him jobs to do or donated has helped boost his funds immensely, and we are very grateful to you all for your generosity. He is now well on the way to the target of £4000.

THANK YOU FROM ACTION FOR CHILDREN

The following note was written to Wendy after the toys and gifts were delivered: 'To everyone at St. James', wishing you all a very merry Christmas, and a big thank you for all your kindness in providing the children with such generous gifts. These gifts make such a difference to the families, many of whom really struggle to provide their children with Christmas presents. How wonderful that they will wake up on Christmas morning with gifts. Thank you from all at Action for Children.'

THE WHITECHAPEL CENTRE were delighted to receive the warm gifts, shampoos, shaving foam, soap, etc. They were also thrilled with a large container of lollipops (!) and the sweets and biscuits delivered to them.

THE REFUGE CENTRES for women and children received some lovely toys and also we left toiletry sets and other goodies so that the women will also have a bag of presents on Christmas Day.

Heartfelt thanks for all these kind and generous gifts, all of which make a difference and help to take away some of the worries and problems being faced.

NEWS FROM NAPLES

You may remember that Rosaria and Pietro visited us when the Methodist Youth Band came in 2011. Rosaria writes with Christmas greetings and news of the work among the children of Naples, and with the sad news that Pietro died quite suddenly in August.

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! The recycling box is on the table at the back of the church.

FROM MARGARET PETERSON

On behalf of myself and my two daughters Gill and Dianne I wish to thank everybody at St James' for the kind messages of condolences, flowers and hugs. A special thankyou to Peter and a special mention to Lynne, Roy, and Derek, for providing the beautiful music. It was a beautiful service and a fitting tribute to a loving husband, father and grandfather who will be greatly missed.

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.

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.

The church AGM will be held on April 22nd 2018

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.

The Collect for Christmas Eve

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Christmas Day

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin. Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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

And a happy Christmas to all our readers!