

**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 31st**

***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.

***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

**The church is open for coffee on Tuesday mornings from 9.30 to 12.30:  
BUT NOT ON JANUARY 2<sup>nd</sup>**

***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.

<b>SERVING</b>	<b>TODAY</b>	<b>NEXT SUNDAY JAN 7<sup>th</sup> 2018</b>
	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Epiphany</b>
<b>Minister</b>	Rev. Peter Hughes	Steve Elliott
<b>Welcome</b>	Dickson family	Miller family
<b>Steward (V)</b>	Amy Bates	Ian Taylor
<b>(W)</b>	Pam Bellis	Pat Fagan
<b>(B)</b>	Margaret Dee	Jayne McLaren
<b>Readings</b>	Peter Barlow & Pam Bellis	Ray Jennings & Sue Moister
<b>Prayers</b>	Dave Dickson	Long family
<b>Offertory count</b>	Jane & Stuart Williams	Mike Hughes & Margaret Peacop
<b>Tea/coffee</b>	Pam Draper & Gwladys Gardner	Irene Elliott & Pat Fagan
<b>PowerPoint</b>	Dorothy Peers	Lynne Barker
<b>Music</b>	Kathryn Norton	Peter Bounds
<b>Flowers provider</b>		
<b>Delivered by</b>		
<b>This evening</b>	no service	no service
<b>Tuesday Coffee</b>	(none)	

### ***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

### ***RYAN MILLER***

would like to thank everyone who has helped him 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.

### ***THE CHURCH AGM***

will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018.

### ***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.

### ***FELLOWSHIP GROUPS IN JANUARY***

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	2pm, 30 Stuart Avenue
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	8pm, 89 Kings Drive
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm, Margaret Dee's
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	at St Columba's

## ***AN IDLE THOUGHT***

on a favourite carol:

*“Heaven and Earth will flee away  
When he comes to reign”*

- so what will be left for him to reign over?

## ***THANKS***

A quiet. week for notices gives me the chance to thank everybody who has helped by sending their news, and those who print and distribute the leaflets. I'm also very grateful to the staff of the coffee shop in Woodhall Spa, and (last year) the staff of Tewktech in Tewkesbury, both of whom rescued me when communications were failing disastrously, without asking for any reward.

A happy New Year to you all.

### **The Collect for the First Sunday of Christmas**

God of glory, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us in your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share in the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Radiant God, in Jesus Christ your light shines in our darkness, giving joy in our sorrow and revealing your presence in our loneliness. Fill our hearts with your light that in the darkness of this world our lives may shine with your eternal splendour; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## ***REMINDER***

The smooth running of the church in all its aspects depends on a small number of volunteers. Please consider joining them if you could read the lesson, weed the gardens, provide or distribute the flowers, offer prayers, or simply welcome people at the door.

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