

**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.



ADVENT SUNDAY, DEC. 3rd

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	
	December 10 th Gift Service and parade at 10.30 am	
	17 th Christingle at 10.30 am	
	Harmony Café Carols at 6 for 6.30 pm	
	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 every Tuesday morning from 9.30 to 12.30:
BUT NOT ON BOXING DAY!

SERVING	TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY DEC. 10th
	Advent Sunday	Gift service/Parade
Minister	Liz Hudson	Rev. Peter Hughes
Welcome	Miller family	Cook family
Steward (V)	Jayne McLaren	Liz Hudson
(W)	Amy Bates	Pam Bellis
(B)	Stuart Williams	Margaret Dee
Readings	Margaret Peacop & Graham Martin	Brigades
Prayers	Long family	Pam Draper
Offertory count	Jane Williams & Ray Jennings	Jayne McLaren & Peter Barlow
Tea/coffee	Karen Skyner & Kay Whittaker	Jane & Hannah Williams
PowerPoint	Liz Hudson & Lynne Barker	Lynne Barker
Music	Peter Bounds	Roy Barker
Flowers provider		Liz Hudson
Delivered by	Pauline Taylor	Jennifer Long
This evening	no service	no service
Tuesday Coffee	Jane Allen & friend	Wendy Doig & Eileen Curphey
Saturday Coffee Morning December 9th	Church Family Life Committee	

COMMUNION AT THE HUB, 361 AIGBURTH ROAD

Wednesday 6th December, 11.30; coffee, cake, and communion; all are welcome.

BLUE BINS

Two of our bins were “borrowed” to add to the fun on November 5th. Since it may take a month to get replacements, please flatten paper waste from the kitchens as much as possible, and take it home with you if you can.

Women’s Guild Programme

December 6 th	Soup & Sandwiches, mince pies & carols
13 th	Christmas Meal at “Spire”.

SEASONAL TRAP

The following has been offered by a local preacher in Yorkshire for approval. When people nod in agreement, he points out that there are no fewer than ten errors in it. How good are you?

“The Bible tells us that the three kings on their camels, led by Caspar, followed the star all the way from Persia in the East to the stable in Bethlehem, where they met the shepherds, and saw the baby Jesus, born that very night, surrounded by cattle.”

(No prizes are offered)

JOHN WELLS

Sadly, we have to report the death of John Wells, who passed away on November 23rd.

WELCOME MARY AND JOSEPH ON THEIR 2017 JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Our very own Mary and Joseph figures (accompanied, of course, by their faithful donkey) will set off on their annual Christmas journey today. They are looking for friends to visit and stay with on their way. 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, the booking form is now open. You can welcome them during the day or overnight – just let Liz Hudson know as soon as possible so as not to miss your preferred ‘slot’. 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 the 2017 journey can be seen on the St James’ Facebook Page.

CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year’s Operation Christmas Child. With the shoeboxes that were dropped off and those from the congregation, 310 potential Gospel Opportunities are now on their way into the hands of needy children.

GIFT SERVICE 10th DECEMBER

Gifts for this service will be divided between:

- the **Whitechapel Centre** serving the homeless
- **Action for Children** to support families in poverty
- **Centre 56** working with children suffering poverty and domestic abuse:
- **Women’s Refuge Centres**, where women and children fleeing from domestic abuse are given help and support.

Gifts of toys for children aged 2 to 12.

Toiletries for women and teenagers (boys and girls). shaving foam, shampoo, warm hats, gloves and socks for young males.

Boxes of seasonal biscuits, chocolates and other Christmas goodies

**These gifts can be brought to the service at 10.30 on 10th December –
all items UNWRAPPED please.**

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Many thanks to everyone for help and support and to those of you who attended. An excellent total of £1468 was raised for the general maintenance of our buildings which require constant and ongoing attention.

The Collects for the First Sunday of Advent

The first collect, the collect of the Advent season, may be said on any day in Advent in addition to the collect of the day.

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.

Lord our God, keep us your servants alert and watchful as we await the return of Christ your Son, so that when he comes and knocks at the door he may find us vigilant in prayer, with songs of praise on our lips. We ask this 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 for next week - please send to Derek Long at derek.long2@tesco.net or on 722 1014 by 9 pm on Wednesday.