

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

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*Peter's day off is Friday - messages and emails left on Fridays
will not be received by him until Saturday.*



SUNDAY MARCH 29th 2020

Dear friends,–

Hopefully you have received a message from our minister Peter, via email, with attachments that include worship material for the coming Sunday.

I promised to send out news from our church family, but to tell the truth there isn't much. It's certainly good that I have heard of no illness, and I am grateful to all who have enquired about our health; the family spirit is strong among us.

Some additional material follows which may be of use to you.

Take care –
Derek

The Collects for the Fifth Sunday in Lent (First Sunday of the Passion)

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross, we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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.

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOCKS - Go forward one hour this weekend. One newspaper letter pleads “can we put them forward by twelve weeks?”

BLESSINGS OF THE CORONA VIRUS(!)

- Atmospheric pollution worldwide has decreased, in some places by 40%. Factories have closed, and people are not using their cars – a major source of pollution.
- The love and concern shown by neighbours offering to do the shopping, reported by so many. Often the offers come from people with whom there has been little contact – and in our case the window-cleaner!
- Cathy reports from London that without the traffic she can hear the birdsong. And it's quieter around here, too, without the airport's regular traffic.
- Any more you can think of?

QUIZ NIGHT 21ST MARCH - Please will all those of you who bought a ticket for this event contact Wendy Doig for a refund, she will ensure this is returned to you.

FINALLY

I have recently been given a copy of the Manchester Guardian of March 25th 1935 (don't ask). It contains the following story:

This Church Collection Complex:

I am reminded by your recent remarks (asserts a Scottish correspondent) of the predicament of a certain Highland laird. When this old worthy noticed that he had just placed half a crown in the collection plate in place of his customary penny, he turned to the presiding Elder and demanded 2s. 5d. change. But that official firmly refused to entertain such a suggestion. "You have given it to the Lord," he pointed out, "and you can't take it back."

"Then I'll get credit for it in Heaven," the laird said resignedly.

"That you will not," the Elder pointed out with admirable logic, "you'll only get credit in Heaven for the penny that you meant to give."

"Then in that case," said the laird, bitterly, "I'll stay away from the kirk for twenty-nine Sundays, and that will even matters up." And, despite the scandal created among the orthodox, the laird dourly kept his word.

(We do hope to be back in church before 29 weeks.)

Please read the Worship and Service document on the website and use the opportunity it offers for your private worship.