

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

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

MINISTER: Revd. Peter Hughes peter.hughes@methodist.org.uk
0151 364 0134



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

Weekly Notices 26th November – 3rd December 2023

This Week's Collect:

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Sunday of Advent 3rd December

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.

This week's Worship:

Sunday 26th November 10.30am: Revd. Peter Hughes, Holy Communion (**Coffee Jayne and Andrew McLaren*)

Sunday 3rd December 10.30am: (Advent Sunday) Revd. Sheryl Anderson

This week's readings:

Matthew 8: 5 – 13

Ephesians 2: 1 - 10

Forthcoming services at St James':

Sunday 10th December 10.30am: (2nd Sunday of Advent) Revd. Peter Hughes - All Age Worship & Gift Service

Sunday 17th December 10.30am: (3rd Sunday of Advent) Mr Obeth Thevanesan,

Sunday 17th December 4pm: Carol Service

Forthcoming events:

Monday 27th November 2.30pm - Monday House Fellowship at Pam Draper's house

Monday 27th November 7.30pm: Steward/Elders Meeting

Tuesday 28th November 7.30pm: Finance & Property meeting

Thursday 30th November 9.30am – 1.00pm – Coffee morning & setting up for Christmas (Trees etc)

Saturday 2nd December 7.00pm – Roy and Friends Sing-along

Thursday 7th December 9.30am – 11.30am – Coffee morning

Saturday 9th December 10.00am – 12.00pm: Coffee morning and Carol singing at Farmer's market.

Wednesday 13th December 7.15pm – Wednesday Fellowship Group

WORSHIPPING BY PHONE:

IF YOU CANNOT COME TO WORSHIP AT ST JAMES IN PERSON WHY NOT LISTEN IN

The dial in instructions are as follows:

Between 2.20pm for 2.30pm on Sunday:

1. From your normal "landline" telephone: Dial: 0333-016-0300
2. You will then be asked for your Room number:

Enter 86 10 75 55 followed by the # key

Then when asked, enter the PIN: 2544 followed by the # key

You will then be directly entered into the pre-service "worship chat".

Please say your name so people know you have joined.

This Sunday the host is Liz Hudson speaker is Rev John Lansley

prayers: Jayne McLaren,

reading: Chris Hickey: John 6 vs 1-15.

Everyone is invited to, and very welcome at, this time of worship and fellowship.

Prayers

We keep in our prayers all those who are poorly, their family and friends and those caring for others.

We also pray for everyone in our Church family and those known to us who are in need of our prayers this week.

Roy Barker & Friends Christmas Sing-a-long is on Saturday 2nd December at 7.00 pm (doors open at 6.30pm).

Come and join us for some Christmas fun and lots of singing. Wear your Christmas hats and sweaters and bring your voices. Proceeds will be split between St James' Church Projects Fund and the Steps to Work programme at Strawberry Field. Strawberry Field continues the legacy of caring for young people in the local community as a safe, calm and spiritual home for trainees. The Steps to Work programme empowers young adults aged 18 – 25 with learning difficulties, who are neurodivergent or have barriers to employment into paid work.

Get your tickets now: adults: £6, children: £1. Contact Roy and Lynne Barker 0151 421 1218

Monday House Fellowship

The November Meeting of the Monday House group will be on **Monday 27th November at 2.30pm** in the home of Pam Draper.

Christmas Wish Tree

This year we will once again be having a Christmas Wish tree. Instead of exchanging Christmas cards with friends at church you are invited to write a wish and hang it on the tree. If you wish to make a donation, the collection will be given to Christian Aid. Thank you for your support.

Celebrating Christmas with Strawberry Field

St Georges Hall, Sunday 26th November 4.00pm.

Tickets are £20 for adults; Concessions £18; Children under 16 £12

<https://strawberryfieldliverpool.com/celebrating-christmas-strawberry-field-partnership-st-george%E2%80%99s-hall-charitable-trust>

Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre held last Saturday raised £900.00 to date. Thanks to everyone who helped and to all who supported us on the day.

Decorating the church for Christmas

Come and get into the festive spirit and enjoy a cuppa!

Join us as we put up the trees and decorate the church for Christmas.

Thursday 30 November from 9.30 am – 1.00 pm at the Coffee Morning.

Benevolent Fund

In the season of remembrance, the Benevolent Fund collection at the communion service on **26th November** will be devoted to the Royal British Legion.

This is the country's largest Armed Forces charity, with 180,000 members, 110,000 volunteers and a network of partners and charities; giving support wherever and whenever it's needed. It provides lifelong support to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families. Its support starts after one day of service and continues through life, long after service is over – from providing expert advice and guidance, to recovery and rehabilitation, through to transitioning to civilian life. And not just for members of the Armed Forces, but for their families too.

Every year in November, it distributes paper poppies to raise vital funds to help today's Armed Forces community. It remembers those who lost their lives on active service in all conflicts; from the beginning of the First World War right up to the present day, as well as all those who have served in the forces and their families.

Christmas Gift Service: Sunday 10th December at 10.30a.m.

We warmly invite you to join us for this special service of Giving. We support the following charities; Whitechapel Centre, which is the leading homeless and housing charity for the Liverpool region. They work with people who are sleeping rough, living in hostels or struggling to manage their accommodation. They are committed to helping people find accommodation and maintain a home and learn the life skills essential for independent living. As you can imagine Christmas is a particularly difficult and emotional time and the centre try to make this time a little better for anyone sleeping rough, offering a warm welcome, Christmas lunch and a gift. They will also be distributing gifts and Christmas treats to over 900 clients around the city. For many, this will be their first Christmas without their own home. This is their specific Christmas Wishlist for gift bags for the men, women and children they support.

Chocolate Selection boxes. New pyjamas. New boxers and socks. Toiletry gift boxes for men and women. Hats, scarves, gloves. Christmas food treat. Stocking fillers.

We also support two Refuge centres for women and children fleeing from many kinds of abuse.

A YMCA centre who accommodate both men and women in difficult circumstances, helping them to find a better life with accommodation and job seeking.

Centre 56: who we have supported for very many years, who provide domestic abuse support for families and children. Providing childcare, information and support for families.

Please consider a financial gift via the special plate provided or use the new card reader available at the back of church. These gifts will be used to purchase gift vouchers for food. But we would also ask for gifts of toiletries, special biscuits/chocolates/Christmas treat which will be used in gift bags which all units try so hard to provide.

Help with the following: if anyone has an artificial Christmas tree they no longer want, please contact Wendy on 07867795179. A mum in Centre 56 is hoping to find one in time for Christmas. Thank you.

**The LiveSimply team of Bishop Eton and St Mary's is proud to present:
Climate Crisis Question Time - COP 28**

Date and venue: Thursday 30 November 2023, starting at 7:15pm. The event will conclude by 9:00pm. St Mary's church hall, Church Road, Woolton, L25 5JF

Title: Climate Crisis: What can I do?

Chair: Bill Chambers, Pro-Vice Chancellor Emeritus, Liverpool Hope University. Current / former Chair and Trustee of various humanitarian, arts and sports charities.

Panel: - Ged Edwards, CAFOD Manager, with first-hand knowledge of the disproportionate impact of climate change on the people in the poorest nations.

- Liz Makinson, Teacher and LibDem Councillor for Calderstones Ward, currently serving on the Liverpool City Region Transport Committee.

- Paul Rooney, Senior Lecturer in Geography & Environmental Science Liverpool Hope University, a Deacon in St Helens and leader on the Liverpool Archdiocesan environmental strategy.

- Paula Barker, Labour MP for Wavertree, former Shadow Minister for Homelessness and Rough Sleeping.

Carol singing:

Farmer's Market 9th December 10.30am - come and join us as we sing in the centre of the Village, then back to St James' for a cuppa at the Coffee Morning.

All are welcome to join us as we sing around Woolton Village on **Tuesday 19th December:**

4.00 – 4.45 pm Meet at Tesco

5.00 – 5.45 pm Meet at Sainsbury's

then back to St James' for a cuppa/bring your own food if you wish.

6.45 pm Meet at Marie Curie

Message from Marie Curie Hospice

You are invited to our annual "lights to remember" carol service in the Catholic cathedral on **December 10th, 5.00pm.**

Also, Rev. Ruth Pryce, Chaplain, has asked:

If anyone would be willing to train as a Chaplaincy volunteer at the Hospice? If anyone is interested, she could meet up with them and discuss further.

T: 0151 801 1435 E: ruth.pryce@mariecurie.org.uk

Church Flowers

If you would like to donate money for flowers on a particular Sunday - perhaps in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a happy event - please speak to Jonquil Dickson who can add you to the calendar for the months ahead. Also, if you would simply like to donate for flowers so that we can make sure all Sundays are covered, please speak to Jonquil. At present, we have many dates available. We have a box at the back of church for any donations or small change.

All donations are gratefully received.

*You can download all notices [from our website](#).
Anything you wish to be included in the weekly notices,
please email by Thursday evening: St.James.notices@gmail.com*