

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

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

**MINISTER: Revd. Peter Hughes** [peter.hughes@methodist.org.uk](mailto: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 10<sup>th</sup> December – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**This Week's Collect:  
Second Sunday of Advent**

God of all holiness, your promises stand unshaken through all generations and you lift up all who are burdened and brought low: renew our hope in you, as we wait for the coming in glory of Jesus Christ, our Judge and our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

**MINISTER'S MESSAGE December 2023**

Dear Friends

As I write this, we are only in the first week of Advent and I already feel that I'm behind with my Christmas preparations. I am sure many of you are in a similar situation to me - although maybe there are one or two of you who wrote your Christmas Cards in October! Some of this panic is induced by the Black Friday phenomenon and also the fact that certain organisations hold Christmas special events in November!

The fact is that Advent and Christmas will happen whether we are ready or not; it won't be the end of the world if we get to January and somethings never got done. The Methodist Church is encouraging us to experience things that are "Out of the ordinary" this Advent and Christmas. We are challenged to scratch beneath the surface and find the wonders of God's presence. Where is Jesus shining within us, in the people we meet and in creation? Words from "O Little Town of Bethlehem" are used to remind us that: "above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by....yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting light....so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven"

To scratch beneath the surface and experience these wonders means that we need to take moments to pause, reflect and pray. This is more important than rushing around to find another gift or attend another event in search of the perfect Christmas. Seeing the busyness ahead I have blocked off two days in my diary to try and find some space. I'm not going to tell you which dates they are in case someone tries to put a meeting in on them!

I encourage you to take whatever time you can in whatever way you can to pause, relax and look beneath the surface during this Advent.

I am sure that God will speak to you and bless you.

Have a good Advent and a Happy Christmas,

Peter

### **This week's Worship:**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am:** Revd. Peter Hughes, All Age Worship & Gift Service  
**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am:** Mr Obeth Thevanesan  
**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 4.00pm:** Carol Service

### **This week's readings:**

**Isaiah 11: 1 - 9**  
**Mark 1: 1 - 8**

### **Forthcoming services at St James':**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am:** Revd. Peter Hughes - Christingle Service  
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 11.30pm:** Christmas Eve Communion Service  
**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 10am:** Christmas Day Service led by Mr Steve Elliott  
**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 10.30am:** Revd. Peter Hughes - Communion Service

### **Forthcoming events:**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am – 12.00pm:** Coffee morning and Carol singing at Farmer's market.  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 7.15pm** – Wednesday Fellowship Group  
**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am–11.30am:** Coffee Morning (**LAST ONE OF 2023**)  
**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December from 4.45pm:** Carol singing around Woolton Village

### **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 Graham Martin, the speaker is Kieran Bohan  
prayers: Kate Cook, reading: Jamie Cook Mark: 1:1-8**

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.

### **Tea and coffee after services**

The arrangements for tea and coffee after the morning services has changed. Tea and coffee will now be served on the first and second Sunday each month.

### **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.

### **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. A mum in Centre 56 is hoping to find one in time for Christmas. **ALSO**, A family with 4 boys have just arrived at one of the refuge centres we support. If anyone can help with clothing for 4/5 6/7 and 15 /16 year old boys. And size small young man. I would be happy to collect. Wendy 07867795179 Warm clothing in particular. Thank you.

### **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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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](mailto:St.James.notices@gmail.com)*