

**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 30<sup>th</sup> June – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**This Week's Collect:**

Lord of heaven and earth, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and power of your Church. Sow in our hearts the seeds of your grace that we may bear the fruit of the Spirit, in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**This week's Worship:**

**Sunday 30th June 10.30am:** Rev Peter Hughes

**This week's readings:**

**Genesis 12: 1 – 9; Genesis 22: 1 – 18; Hebrews 11: 1 – 2 & 8 – 19**

**Forthcoming services at St James':**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 10.30am:** Liz Hudson

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 10.30am:** Rev Peter Hughes, All age worship & Holy Communion

**Forthcoming events:**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 7.00pm** – Special Projects meeting

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 9.30 – 11.30am** – Morning Coffee

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2.30pm** – Monday House Group

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 7.15pm** – Wednesday Fellowship Group meeting

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 9.30 – 11.30am** – Morning Coffee

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 10.00 – 12.00pm** – Coffee morning and Farmer's market

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm** – Steward/Elders meeting

**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 Rev Peter Hughes,  
Reading by Peter Bounds: Genesis 12 vs 1-9,  
prayers: Pam Alexander,**

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

## Minister's Message - July 2024

Hello Everyone,

I hope you have been enjoying the sunny weather, although it may be a distant memory by the time you read this!

Several people from St James attended the "Leading your Church into growth" session a couple of weeks ago. This was a very positive evening led by Rev Stuart Radcliffe, our United Reformed Church Missional Discipleship Enabler. There was a good representation from the Circuit Churches. One of the main points of this first session was to create an atmosphere of praying positively for growth. This is why we have been encouraging everyone to use the "Praying for Growth" prayer as often as we can, in Services, Meetings and our own personal devotions. We also need everyone to be involved in working for growth. We need your ideas! This is why we have asked for you to give us two ideas in answer to this question:

### **What should we be doing as a Church to lead to growth?**

Please let us have your ideas (anonymously if you prefer) by 14th July Please use the words of this prayer to guide you.

“God of Mission,  
who alone brings growth to your Church,  
Send your Holy Spirit to give:  
vision to our planning,  
wisdom to our actions,  
joy to our worship,  
and power to our witness.  
Help our Church to grow in numbers,  
in spiritual commitment to you  
and in service to our local community,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.”

The next session of the Leading Your Church Into Growth Course is on Wednesday 24th July, 7.30pm at Trinity Church, Page Moss. You would be welcome to join us!

God Bless  
Peter

### **Trio**

On Sunday 30th June the Trio campaign will be launched. Trio stands for "The Responsibility Is Ours", referring to the need to support our Church financially. At present our Church is running at a loss and our small reserves (needed for emergencies) are being depleted. Work that we need to do to maintain our property is having to be put on hold. Inflation which has affected all of us also affects the life of the Church. We are all encouraged to prayerfully consider the level of our giving to the Church and, if at all possible, to increase the amount we give each week or month. The Trio paperwork explains the costs and figures in more details. All Church members should receive this paperwork and everyone who attends St James is also invited to share in this. Our Treasurer, Andrew McLaren, will be happy to give you the details if you haven't already received them. We are so grateful for everyone's giving but we need to keep you informed of the ongoing and increasing costs of running our wonderful Church. Many Thanks, Peter Hughes

### **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.

### **Benevolent fund**

The Benevolent Fund collection at the communion service on 23<sup>rd</sup> June raised £228.50 + gift aid for **Methodist Homes**. Thank you to all who were able to contribute.

### **Monday House Group**

The next Meeting of the Monday House group will be on **8th July at 2.30pm** at Doreen Parker's house.

All are welcome to join us as we continue our exploration of Genesis during Bible month.

### **Wednesday Fellowship Group**

The next Wednesday Fellowship group meeting will be **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 7.15pm.**

### **Extraordinary Church Meeting**

As part of Worship on **Sunday 14th July** we will be holding the Extraordinary Church Meeting to (hopefully) approve the new Constitution of St James Church. This is needed as we apply to register as a charity. All are welcome to share in this meeting and all Church members are encouraged to vote.

### **From St James Worship Consultation Group:**

Morning worship in three weeks' time (**Sunday July 21st**) will be a songs-of-praise style Summer Celebration of Praise and Thanksgiving. Everyone in the Church Family is invited to take part by suggesting, in advance, a favourite hymn, song, bible reading, meditation or poem to be included in the service.

As it will be an All-Age service, favourite items from the younger members of the church will be especially welcome.

We do need to know really quickly, by next Sunday (July 7th) or Wednesday July 10th at the very latest.

Please talk to Melanie Phillips, Lynne Barker or Liz Hudson about your choice.

Call or email [liz.hudson2@btinternet.com](mailto:liz.hudson2@btinternet.com); (07866213330)

[Melanie\\_Phillips31@hotmail.com](mailto:Melanie_Phillips31@hotmail.com)

[the\\_barkers\\_88@hotmail.com](mailto:the_barkers_88@hotmail.com) email and 07840 284231.

It would be good if you could say briefly what makes the item you have chosen special to you, but that's not essential.

You can suggest an item even if you cannot be in church on the 21st. Others will enjoy it anyway. And don't worry – you won't be put on the spot or have to do or say anything yourself during the service.

We will try to use as many of the requested items as possible. Looking forward to hearing from everyone, and thank you for your help.

### **UNICEF**

On **13th July** Jane, Faye, Danny and colleagues from the Early Intervention in Psychosis team will be walking 30 miles from Woolton to Southport.

The walk is to raise money for UNICEF.

Anyone wishing to donate can use the following link and Jane will leave a sponsor form in Church.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/jane-laverty-1718563152496>

Many thanks for your support.

### **JMA boxes**

It's that time of year again! If you have a JMA box, would you please bring it to church over the next few weeks so that I can empty it before the end of the financial year. Many thanks

for your continuing support for JMA

Pam Bellis

### **Baptismal roll book and Memorial book**

We are preparing two books which will be on display in the church entrance for members and visitors to view. One book will record the names of baptisms which have taken place at St James and the other book will record the names of members of St James after they have died.

We are looking for someone who has neat handwriting who would be willing to write the names into the books for us. All the preparation of lists of names and the books will be provided for you. There is no time limit for this work to be completed, so if you think you would be interested and can help, please speak to Pam Bellis.

### **Praying for the Growth of our Church**

As leaders of our Church share in the Circuit's "Leading Your Church into Growth" Course over the next few months, we are all challenged as a Church to pray for growth. Please can we encourage everyone at St James to include the prayer below in our daily prayers.

#### **Leading your church into growth - a prayer.**

God of mission, who alone brings growth to your church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, joy to our worship, and power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **General Election**

As you know, our country is preparing for a General Election on Thursday 4th July. St James Church Hall will be serving as a Polling Station.

The Joint Public Issues Team, which is a body including the Methodist and United Reformed Churches has issued some helpful guidance for us at this time.

Their overall heading is "Love. Pray. Vote". Within Charity Commission law there are regulations which prevent Churches and Church leaders suggesting which way people should vote. We are all free to make our own choices and shouldn't be pressurised by others to vote in a certain way.

However, we are challenged to consider the important issues facing the UK at this time, and to examine the policies of the different parties in relation to these issues. Then we can prayerfully and lovingly cast our votes.

The Joint Public Issues Team have identified six important issues which they think that we as Christians should be concerned about.

These are:

Poverty

Asylum & Refugees

Environment & Climate Change

Economy

Peace & Conflict

Politics

Personally, I would add to the list the issue of concerns about the NHS.

You can read and download a briefing on these issues at: [jpit.uk/election](http://jpit.uk/election) and <https://jpit.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/202405-Election-issues-briefing.pdf>

A few printed copies will be available at Church.

The Joint Public Issues Team also offer a prayer for us to use at this time, which is below.

May God guide us and bless our country at this time.

Peter

### **A prayer for voters**

Loving God, we face a choice.  
Be with us as we consider the options  
weigh the arguments  
and assess the claims and the candidates.  
But also prompt us to listen:  
to the voices on the margins  
to the cry of the earth  
and to those who reach a different conclusion to us.  
God, we pray that you would  
stimulate our minds  
stir our hearts  
and sanctify our choosing.  
Help us also to remember  
your command to love our neighbours  
both during and after this election.  
Amen

### **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)*