

**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 6th October – 13th October 2024

This Week's Collect:

Blessed are you, O Lord, and blessed are those who observe and keep your law. Help us to seek you with our whole heart, to delight in your commandments and to walk in the glorious liberty given us by your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we make our prayer. Amen.

This week's Worship:

Sunday 6th October 10.30am - Paul Holt

This week's readings:

Matthew 4: 18-22

Romans 8: 28-39

Forthcoming services at St James':

Sunday 13th October 10.30am – Rev Peter Hughes, Harvest and all age Parade service

Sunday 20th October 11.00am – United worship at Hope Chapel (**No service at St James'**)

Sunday 27th October 10.30am – Rev Peter Hughes, Holy Communion

Forthcoming events:

Tuesday 8th October 7.30pm - Church Council

Thursday 10th October 9.30 – 11.30am – Morning Coffee

Wednesday 9th October 7.30pm - Circuit Church Growth

Monday 14th October 7.30pm - Steward/Elders meeting

Monday 21st October 2.30pm – Worship Consultation

Monday 21st October 7.30pm – Pastoral Committee

Wednesday 23rd October 7.15pm – Wednesday fellowship 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 John Lansley,
reading by Kate or Jamie Cook: Exodus 14:26-15:2,**

prayers: Pam Bellis.

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

Minister's Letter October 2024

Over the summer the congregation of Aigburth Methodist Church ceased to exist as a separate Methodist Society (Church).

The closing Service at Sara Hall, far from being a sad occasion, was a celebration of all that had been achieved for God over the years since meetings had started in 1872 in a small house in what was then the small village of Aigburth.

Many things in life exist in waves and cycles, with things starting small, flourishing and later becoming small again. This is reflected in the annual cycles of nature. In the spiritual life of the Christian Church things take longer than a year to complete a cycle.

As we pray for and hope for growth it is nevertheless clear that the Methodist and United Reformed Church in the UK is in an overall cycle of reduction at present. Numbers are not nearly as big as what they once were and it is harder than ever to find people who wish to take on responsibility within the Church. This is not a criticism, just a fact of life, often the result of ageing, weariness and conflicting responsibilities elsewhere.

However, even with declining numbers and a sense of weariness we still have great people and physical resources!

As we look at St James and around our Circuit, we see that there are many opportunities for us to offer our premises to serve the local community. These buildings are a resource which have passed down to us by those who sacrificially built them to serve God's purpose in our local community. May we not fall into the temptation to see them merely as a means to raise money!

Our resources in terms of people are you and I, each other and all of us together. Maybe we, like the Methodists of Aigburth village in 1872, need to begin again with smaller numbers and a realistic vision for what we can do together with our brothers and sisters in Christ in South Liverpool. Are we the small seeds which must be scattered in order that something new can grow and be harvested in the future?

One thing we can be sure of is that with Jesus there is always the offer of new, resurrection life.

Right at the end of the Bible (Revelation chapter 21 verse 5) John hears God's voice declaring "I am making everything new".

As we approach harvest Festival, we can be confident that the Lord of the Harvest has the miraculous power to make what we plant to grow even to a hundredfold!

God Bless
Peter

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 29 September for the Methodist Centre at Princes Park realised £320.56 plus gift aid.

Thank you to all who were able to contribute.

Harvest 2024

Our Harvest Festival Service is an All Age (Parade) service on **Sunday 13th October** at 10.30am. This year we invite you to donate non-perishable items (tins and packets) which will be donated to Centre 56 and the Whitechapel Centre and financial gifts which will be sent to "All We Can" - the Methodist Relief and Development charity. Their Harvest Appeal this year is towards the work of All We Can's partner in Liberia, SHIFSD (Self-Help Initiative for Sustainable Development, pronounced 'shift'). All We Can envelopes will be available in the next few weeks.

Harvest Lunch Sunday 13th October:

Special Projects Fund Raising group are serving a light Buffet Lunch after the service on this day. The cost will be £5 per person and we need you please to put your name and number attending on the list at provided at back of church OR ring Wendy 07867795179 to book yourselves in. This will be an opportunity to chat together and celebrate Harvest time and also to help towards much needed funds to keep the running of our church and hall buildings viable.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible and you are welcome to invite friends and neighbours to join us.

Would those of you who would still like to add their names to the list of those attending PLEASE let Wendy Doig know on 07867795179 no later than Monday 7th October.

THE WINTER FAIR on Saturday 23rd November.

Santa will be making an early visit. There will be morning coffee and lunches and exciting stalls to find your Christmas Gifts with Raffles and some surprises.

Help on the day and for preparation before is needed. If you can help, in anyway on the day please contact Wendy on 07867795179.

We are asking you green fingered folk to help us stock the plant stall. Would you please consider putting some plants, seedlings, cuttings into pretty pots and bringing them along on Friday 22nd from 2.00 until 8.00 we will be delighted.

Please watch this space for other help needed!! Thank you.

Date in Diaries now please.

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.**

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*