

Sunday 22nd Nov – Christ the King

This week's reading is Luke 12:33-34

Reflection

Modern technology, eh? Sitting in my home office, study, workstation, zoom hub, or whatever, I'm surrounded by flashing screens of computers (home, wife's and work's) all fired up in case an important "issue" arises, iPad and iPhone charging for occasional social media browse –and the e-reader of course. Just to be ready in case, well, you never know. But rather than being ready, for much of the time it means being in a constant state of multitasking and restlessness. Have you ever wondered what Jesus' response might have been if he had been observing the way we live today? No technology then of course but people still constantly worrying about the next day, week, year and the need to stay in control when it came to food, clothing and other "stuff". In this Sunday's gospel passage from Luke 12 Jesus said do not be anxious about God's provision in life but instead think of the lilies and the birds who were fed and "clothed" in God's creation without a single worry! The distraction of modern technology as we strive to keep up and have all the "stuff we need" causes the same kind of anxiety to make us restless people who miss out on the true riches of God's kingdom. As we reflect on our Sabbath theme this Autumn, let's find the restfulness that comes from trusting wholeheartedly in a providing God, and forgetting about technology—at least for a day!

Graham Wood

Prayer

Please pray for: Ray & Agnes Terry, Liz Mace, Lil Fogg, Lyndsey Moore, Maureen Mitchell, Vicky McCabe-Watson, Jenny, Tom Dowd, Billy, Tracey, and all those who are feeling vulnerable or self-isolating. **Also pray for friends and family of:** Maureen Law, Denise Fell (Joyce Fell's daughter in law), Chris White, Peter Barnard (June's brother), Doreen Burns (Pat Bridge's sister) who has recently passed away.

FUNERAL

The **funeral** of the **late Peter Barnard** is on **Thursday 3rd December** at **2.15pm** in church. We ask that unless you are booked in access will be denied. We will be streaming the funeral so if you are unable to attend you can watch by going to the link as follows: <https://stlukecrosby.org.uk/attend-a-funeral/>. Please pray at this time for Peter's family and friends.

Prayer for this week The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and senior church leaders have called a month of Prayer for the Nation during the second lockdown. The suggestion is that as many of us as possible unite to do this at 6pm each day.

Lord Jesus Christ, in these dark and difficult days, we turn our hearts to you. In ages past, you have delivered our nation from disaster. Do it again, we pray. Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to our leaders, Give strength beyond human strength to the NHS and all our frontline workers. Give comfort beyond human comfort to the elderly and all who grieve. Lord Jesus Christ, in these dark and difficult days, turn your face towards us, have mercy upon us, and heal our land, we pray. Amen. (Cof E prayer for week 23-29th Nov)

The following prayers are from the C of E booklet "Prayer for the Nation"

Sunday: Family, friends and loved ones We lift to God those we hold in our hearts – praying for their health, their well-being and their sense of hope. We pray that even when loved ones cannot physically be together they would not feel apart. We ask for God's help in our communicating, our connecting and our caring.

Monday: Schools and colleges, children and young people We pray for all those involved in the shaping of young lives. We give God thanks for the sacrifice and commitment of teachers and all those involved in serving children and young people in education. We pray that all might be nurtured and cared for and that every needful resource would be made available – that all lives can flourish even in these difficult times and that no-one would be overlooked.

Tuesday: Elderly, isolated and vulnerable We echo God's commitment to those most at risk of this virus by praying today for those who are particularly vulnerable and isolated: praying for their deliverance, protection and comfort. We hold before God those who care for them – that they would be strengthened and encouraged in this work.

Wednesday: Businesses, the workplace and economic wellbeing in this time of great challenge, we pray for the economic wellbeing of the country. We remember before God those who face great uncertainty in their work. We lift before God those who have lost their jobs and face an uncertain and difficult future. We pray for a renewed commitment to our common life together.

Thursday: The NHS and other key workers Our God is the great healer – and the agent used more than any other is the NHS. Today we voice our gratitude for those who serve this country in the National Health Service and pray for that God would prosper the work of their hands – that they would all be encouraged in their continued work of sacrifice and care amongst us.

Friday: National and Local government We pray for those who are in positions of authority with responsibility for decision making at national and local level at this difficult time. We ask that God would give great wisdom, deep commitment to all and right judgment.

Saturday: All who are grieving, and all suffering with physical and mental ill-health 'Lord the one you love is ill...' John 11 v 3 We bring to God all those who suffer in body, mind, spirit or with grief. We ask that in God's great loving kindness they might know God's sustaining presence amidst their pain. We pray for those who are stretched beyond their own capacity to cope and remain hopeful – that in the roar of these waterfalls God would bring a sense of coherence, comfort and strength.

This Sunday

Unfortunately there are no physical church services taking place during this time of lockdown but we can join together as a church family online or on the phone using the details below.

Online Sunday Service is online at 10am every week across our digital platforms;

www.stlukecrosby.org.uk, church [YouTube channel](#) by searching for stlukeschurchcrosby & church [Facebook](#) There are children's resources on www.stlukecrosby.org.uk/resources/

Freephone Dial-in Service - you can listen to the weekly Sunday service on the phone by ringing 0808 501 5040.

Virtual Coffee Morning on Zoom every Sunday at 10.45am. If you are not able to be online, you can also join in by ringing 02030512874 then 84676603954 # then # when prompted, followed by the password. Ring Paul 07855 727196 to get the password.

Forthcoming online events – book via www.stlukecrosby.org.uk/events or ringing 931 3119 (please leave a message)

↪ **Day of Prayer** Sun 22nd Nov all day event - Christ the King Sunday, has been designated a Day of Prayer for St Luke's church. We would love everyone to joining together in prayer. We'd love to cover the whole 24 hours in hourly slots from midnight to midnight with prayer, to our King for our world. Look at today's insert for more information.

↪ **History Evening** 7.30pm Mon 30th Nov - Find out more about the history of Crosby in this enlightening evening with Hugh Hollinghurst followed by a Q&A session. If you have a question about Crosby's past, then please enter it when signing up to the evening.

↪ **Calling All Men!** - as we can't physically meet for our men's meal this year we thought it would be great to have a 'virtual' drink & get together for an hour on Monday 7th Dec at 7.30pm. Content of the evening to be confirmed but we look forward to 'meeting' up with you. You can book in through the events page of the website.

Notices

↪ **A Day of Prayer for the Pandemic** - Sun 22nd Nov - A number of the Prayer Ministry Team have felt a need for a day of prayer and fasting (optional). We will be praying in hourly slots and you are very welcome to join us for some or all the time. Please register on Churchsuite

↪ **Christmas Jumper Quiz and Auction** 8pm Fri 4th Dec – Join us for some festive fun and raise funds for SWACA families. To register your team/household contact Sandra.blower@swaca.com

↪ **Ecumenical Prayers** 9.45am Thurs 17th Dec - This will be online by Zoom. You should ensure that your name is on your zoom account so that Rev Kath Rogers can let you in on the day.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89609148265?pwd=VElvcERReDFjVHQvVnFkdm4wTWptZz09>

↪ **Is God calling you to volunteer to fulfil these church vacancies?**

- **Leaders for our Pastoral Care Ministry and Team** This is a role that needs 2 people working together to bring their own unique sense of care and mission to the role. It is a role that is very rewarding. If you feel that it is something you could do, or know someone who would be great for the role, please speak to Helen or Brenda. This is a vital ministry for the church's well-being and we need the right people in this leadership role.
- **PCC member and deanery synod representative** – if you feel you are being called to either of these posts, and then please have a word with Amanda.

↪ **Michelle and Jan** are taking various fillers & knitted items to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox processing centre on Wed 25 November. If you have any suitable items, (or even a stray shoebox from last year!), these can be collected from you and taken to the centre. Please contact Jan by Tues 24 Nov on 07944 671454, thanks. Many thanks to all our wonderful knitters who've kept those needles clicking throughout the months!"

↪ **Thank you** to everyone who attended and donated to the Tearfund Big Quiz Night we were able to raise a total of £615.00.

This month's mission partner is Mary Bunn

Please pray for the work Mary and her team provide. Mary's team has started receiving healthcare workers for clinical placements in Palliative Care, part of a programme developed with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, to train teams of one doctor or Community Health Officer and 3 nurses from each of 5 regional and district hospitals.

Donations can be given by using the Donate tab on the church website and selecting Mary Bunn in the drop down menu.

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