

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

This week's reading is Matthew 2.13-23 - Herod

### Reflection

**In Him I will trust!** As I'm writing this reflection on the first day of another lockdown, feeling that we've gone full circle and ended up where we were in March but then through my window I see spring bulbs shooting reminding me of new life and better times ahead. As I reflect, I think of the analogy of the virus as a battle between good and evil - analogy mind, I'm not talking end times! Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy and the virus has done just that on a mega scale, stealing our confidence, stability, and security, killing 78,000 people, and destroying jobs, the economy, peace of mind, isolating vulnerable people, increasing mental health problems and generally running amok. We've always been a step behind, slow to act and so the virus has gained ground. Each time we counterattack, it creeps up again and then just as the vaccine gives us light at the end of the tunnel, it mutates a new variant and off it goes again. We are now in a last ditch attempt to win the race between people being vaccinated and people becoming infected until eventually the scales tilt in our favour and good will win.

I have noticed that as my ability to control my life has lessened my trust in God has deepened and submitting and surrendering my all to God, placing the future of mine and those I love in his hands has alleviated stress and anxiety. The daily Bible discipline I follow, is Lectio 365, a free app. John Wesley's Methodist covenant prayer was recently quoted and I invite you to join me as we place our hope and trust in our wonderful God. *"I am no longer mine, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you. Exalted for you, or brought low for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now glorious and blessed God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours, so be it. And the covenant now made on earth let it be ratified in heaven".*

Shirley Wallin

### Prayer

**Please pray for:** Malcolm Molyneux, Carol Ranson, Audrey Brogan, Ray & Agnes Terry, Lil Fogg, Lyndsey Moore, Maureen Mitchell, Vicky McCabe-Watson, Jenny, Tom Dowd, Billy and Tracey, and all those who are suffering with COVID-19, feeling vulnerable or self-isolating.

## Prayers for this week

... (Read Matthew 2: 13-23) Prayer for Refugees (CoE) “ Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own; look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry. Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Amen.

... Alcohol concern promotes January as ‘Dry January’. Pray for this and other charities dedicated to tackling the harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and society. Pray for those who are suffering due to alcohol abuse and addiction, and for those recovering.

... all hospital staff, pray that God would give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, pray that they may be strengthened, and through their work many will be restored to health.

... “Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name’s sake.” Amen. (CofE)

... “God, our rock and shield, we pray for our land, and all nations and places in our world, as many continue to endure the effects of the illness Covid-19 and the Coronavirus pandemic. For all who take difficult decisions, from governments to health practitioners, give wisdom and compassion. Deliver us from this disease, we pray, and enable all nations and communities to grow in collaboration and unity as we face this challenge together.” Amen (Churches Together)

... all who are living with domestic violence, for God’s care, peace and protection and that they would have strength and courage to seek help.

... Heart-breaking headlines hit us from all sides — TV, radio, newspapers, and our phones, pray into it, and seek God’s comfort for those affected by war, disaster, or poverty. Focus on the people in news photos or articles and pray that God gives them what they most need in their distress.

## This Sunday

**Online Sunday Service** is online at 10am every week across our digital platforms; [www.stlukecrosby.org.uk](http://www.stlukecrosby.org.uk), church [YouTube channel](#) by searching for stlukeschurchurchcrosby & church [Facebook](#) There are children’s resources on [www.stlukecrosby.org.uk/resources/](http://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.stlukecrossby.org.uk/events](http://www.stlukecrossby.org.uk/events) or ringing 931 3119 (please leave a message)**

- ☞ **Mission Evening - Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Jan @ 7.30pm** – You are invited to a Zoom meeting to learn about the work Matt Thompson is doing at Liverpool Universities Student Union.
- ☞ **Sunday Night Zoom ‘Good news’ - 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 7pm** - We would like to invite you to an hour of contemporary Christian worship, poem's, readings and video clips, sharing some Good News. Coffee and chat after.
- ☞ **History Evening - Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 7.30pm** - Find out more about the history of Bootle in this enlightening evening with Hugh followed by a Q&A session.

### Notices

- ☞ **Physical Church Services** – You will, no doubt, be aware that we entered another period of National Lockdown as of Wednesday 6th January 2021. In view of the rapidly rising infection rates and the new strain of Covid-19, the PCC has made the difficult decision to close the church for public worship with immediate effect. We spoke with Rev Amanda Bruce and also considered a letter from Bishop Paul dated 5th Jan. All services will be online and available on DVD
- ☞ **Rose Sponsorship** - The Rose Garden of Remembrance was redesigned and replanted last spring to accommodate new ash burial plots and rose bushes. You might have noticed it now has plenty of space for new specimens! Roses may be planted in memory of a loved one who is buried in our church grounds who you like to remember with a special planting. If would like to sponsor a rose then please contact John Turner via the office or email [johnturner838@gmail.com](mailto:johnturner838@gmail.com)
- ☞ **As a committed Christian are you trying to find out how you could be serving God?**  
The diocese are running 2 online courses in the next few months
  - LifeCall events have been running for 10 years and prove to be an excellent way of helping people to consider how they might serve God in the church, the community, and the world. The format has changed from time to time, but they have always proved to be an enjoyable and useful time for those attending. In 2021 there will be a series of online – events about specific areas of ministry – Reader Ministry, LML and ordination. Sometimes confusing, sometimes scary but



often persistent – God’s call can be hard to understand, hard to know, hard to discover and that’s where LifeCall comes in.

- If you’re not sure how you should or could respond to this, then Directions is the course for you. It will help you explore what God wants for you, grow your Christian calling and equip you for the next stage of your journey. This year’s 12 week course will take place online using Zoom. If you are interested in either of these events, then please have a chat with Amanda.



↪ The Church of England has a **free dial-in worship service** which offers music, prayers and reflections on a free telephone line 0800 804 8044

↪ **Eco Challenge for 2021** - 2020 brought about St Luke’s church obtaining the EcoChurch Silver Award, so how can we as a church and as individuals take the next steps to go for gold in 2021? Many churches across the country struggle with the ‘lifestyle’ module in the award scheme. In response to this, EcoChurch have teamed up with Creation Care [www.creationcare.org.uk](http://www.creationcare.org.uk) The Creation Care scheme aims to encourage households to make changes to care for God’s earth. Wherever households are on their creation care journey, we want to provide ideas for your next steps, and recognise the progress you’ve made. So, over the next few months why don’t you have a go; you have nothing to lose!

↪ **Thank you.** In November my son Graeme Fell set up a JustGiving page in loving memory of his wife Denise with a target of £250. On behalf of Graeme and my family, we would like to thank everyone who donated so generously either by JustGiving or through Thompson’s funeral home, giving thanks and praise to God for the amazing amount of £2,500 raised for the NSPCC. We have an amazing Lord and we know that through his sacrifice on the cross, we will see Denise again. May God bless you all, love Joyce and Graeme Fell.

### **This month our focus is Matt Thompson – Liverpool Christian Union worker**



Please pray for some of the students who don’t yet know Jesus, but have been around the CUs before Christmas. Please pray that the seeds that have been planted won’t be snatched away, but that they will return to us in January, and will eventually come to know Jesus personally.

#### **Contact Details:**

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