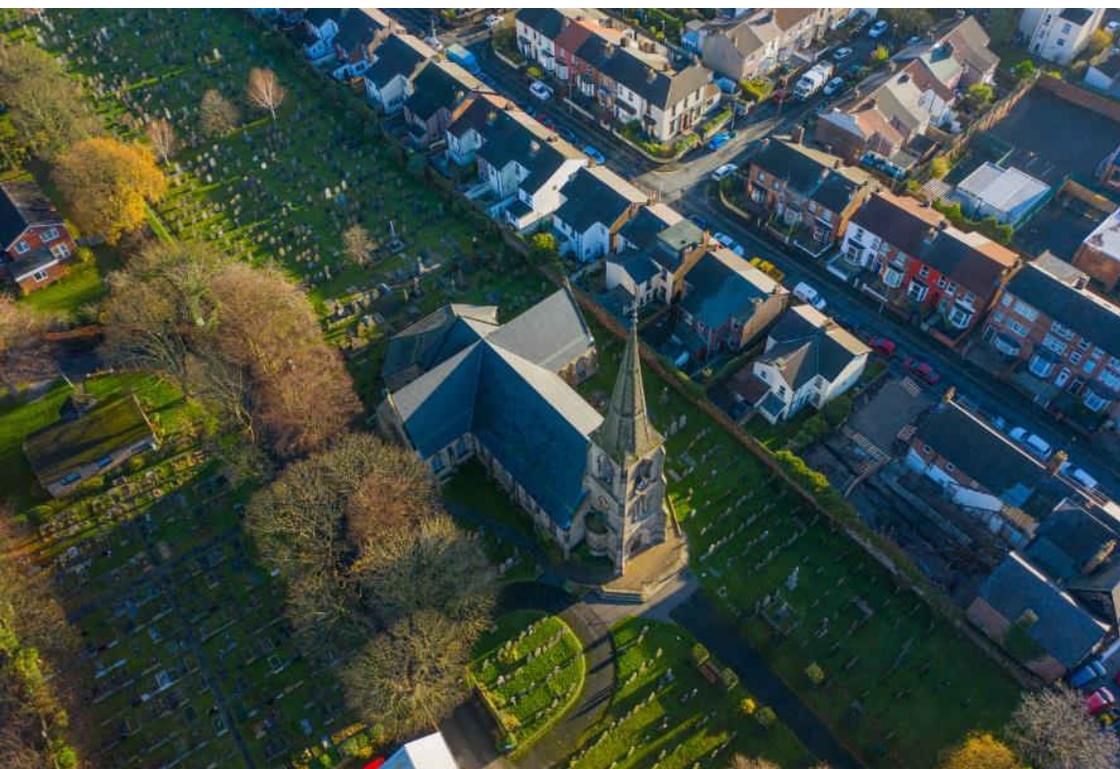


# ST LUKE'S GREAT CROSBY



**APCM BOOKLET  
2021**

## **PASTORAL CARE TEAM**

The pastoral care team consists of 14 individuals who have supported this work and mission for a number of years. A further 4 volunteers joined the team to support the Care Home Friends project. Also, a special thank you to a number of individuals that got in touch and joined the team for the duration of lockdown. Their contribution was invaluable. However, during this past year pastoral care had to be redefined. The impact of the global flu pandemic (COVID-9) put the country into lockdown on 23rd March 2020. A number of the team fell into the category of 'self-isolating' and 'shielding'. The 5 key areas covered in pastoral care are: Pastoral care; home communion; living with loss support group; Care Home Friends project and Holiday at Home. Communication was going to be key to understand the best way to offer this service. Firstly, a list of all those we were supporting was drawn up, and each pastoral care team member was allocated a number of people to keep in contact with. We increased our reach and the number of people we were supporting and we expanded our role. The first lockdown lasted 5 months so the contact became extremely valuable to remind people that we haven't forgotten them and that they were valued. We helped with shopping, picking up prescriptions, preparing meals on occasions for a few and doorstep visits. This was a way to reduce loneliness and check in on the most vulnerable. Hospital visiting was not allowed during lockdown, efforts were made to liaise with hospital wards and enquire about individuals' welfare, with their permission. Cards and letters were sent into hospital, and in some cases it was possible to have telephone conversations with individuals. Goody bags were delivered to approximately 50 people as a gesture of kindness. It was also another chance to chat with people. Chocolates for NHS staff: This was the work of one team member and was greatly appreciated by the NHS staff. Delivery of news sheets: Members of the team delivered the newsheet and a CD to those that did not have online provision. Care Home Friends: During the first lockdown, volunteers wrote to individuals. Chocolates and gifts were dropped off, donated by the volunteers/team members themselves. Holiday at Home initiative involving the 4 churches in the L23 partnership, led by one of the vicars, had to be cancelled for summer 2020. Communication across the team was via email updates regularly, and by phone. A special thank you to all the team for their tenacity and continued, relentless support to a larger number of people over the past year, which was unpredictable and unprecedented. Finally, a mention of thanks for the hidden individuals that

are not team members but selflessly provide pastoral care for many people. Thank you from Brenda and Helen for the privilege of working with you all.

### **LIVING WITH LOSS GROUP**

*“Starts again Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 10.30am in Church.”*

Sadly our group hasn't been able to meet due to the Pandemic. But Margaret Quayle, Jackie Cornforth, and Hazel Large have been phoning most members of the Living with Loss group, taking a week in turn all through this time. Our usual meeting once a month lasts for one hour, so our new phone support has been quite a commitment, as each call lasts around half an hour. Without exception this has been totally appreciated, and because each of us who make the calls vary in our personalities and ministries means conversation is different each week. Also it is wonderful to get to know more about each other. Before lockdown, one of our group started to help at Crossroads and looks forward to each week, enjoys the company and is now a valuable member of staff. In September when restrictions were eased, 12 of us met for lunch at the Bay Horse, and were planning our October restart, when unfortunately we were plunged back into lockdown. Until things return to normal we have been doing the Funeral follow up visits, either at a distance when allowed, or by phone, with a promise of a visit in the future.

*2 Corinthians 1. V 3+4*

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. Contact the office for more information 931 3119.  
Hazel Large

### **QUIET PRAYER**

Since the first lockdown in March 2020, meeting formally for prayer has not been possible. There have been a couple of socially distanced prayer walks around the village and prayer needs are shared regularly via a WhatsApp group of about 20 members, which is a great encouragement to many. Jan Matthews

### **SMALL GROUPS**

Over the last year small groups have, like everything else, had to adapt to the pandemic. Most of our small groups have continued to stay in contact one way or another. Some have stayed in contact via WhatsApp, some have had

regular meetings via zoom (once we figured that out!), others have simply called each other and chatted regularly. Thanks go to each member and the leaders of our small groups for making the support of each other in this strange and testing time possible



and continuous. Not only did small groups continue, when it would have been so easy to let that contact slip, but we also had 1 small group start-up. Some people also thought about and joined a prayer triplet. A variety of biblically-based material was used, and for some just being able to have a conversation with others was important. At least one group asked Paul Beardwood to visit by zoom and walk them through what it is to live an Eco-lifestyle, given our success as a church in being awarded the Silver Eco-church award. Another time in which Small Groups were well used, was during courses. Colin Stephens once again ran the Big Bible Course and Amanda Bruce ran the Start course for new Christians, or for those re-exploring their faith. Running these courses meant that 2 of our newer members were able to spend time exploring their faith and learning about the bible, before joining a small group they had spent time with during the Bible Course. Other groups took in new people without the prompting of a course, but it was good to see these small signs of growth during this strange season of lockdown and limited social contact. If you want more information about small groups or courses then please contact us on [office@stlukecrosby.org.uk](mailto:office@stlukecrosby.org.uk)

### **PRAYER MINISTRY**

In normal circumstances prayer ministry is carried out when we are physically together, by the laying on of hands or praying for those in need. Because of this, it has probably been the most affected of all aspects of church ministry, due to the pandemic. Even when the services resumed, prayer ministry was excluded for obvious reasons. But God has a way of turning obstacles into opportunities and initiated by Joyce Fell a Prayer Ministry WhatsApp group started with some additional people but unfortunately missing a handful of our team who can't access WhatsApp. We have had the privilege to pray for so many people, far more than would have come forward in church, some church goers, some not, with very positive and encouraging feedback. Some have been healed in the most unlikely of circumstances and some

unfortunately have died. We have come together, every day for the last year, and interceded on behalf of those in need and left the answers with God. The group has also been very supportive for those of us who have family members on the front line in the NHS or who are key workers in very vulnerable situations. We suffered a major blow in November when we lost Denise Fell who was part of our team and prayed the most beautiful heartfelt prayers but we find comfort in the fact that she is with her Lord to whom she prayed in such a genuine and sincere way. I cannot put into words the dedication and commitment of our prayer warriors who, from rising in the morning until late at night every single day have never ceased to pray for all those brought to us in need. Looking forward, we will adapt our ministry in line with government restrictions, knowing that with God there are no restrictions. He bypasses the circumstances of the day and ministers to the root of the problem through the power of his Holy Spirit. "I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love" Shirley Wallin

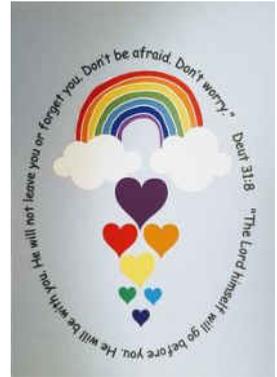
### **PRAM CLUB/STEPPING STONES**

We started a new story series in January on what God is like inc our Shield, our Light, our Song. In March we closed but quickly set up a Facebook page just for our families. We started off just sharing news/updates, and then decided to have a go at recording our Story Time still using the story series. We took turns every fortnight, just like we did in the Hall, posting it on a Tuesday afternoon. On alternate weeks we would share a topic for conversation or a 'Thought for the day'. We have also invited our families to join in our church services and shared ideas for activities/crafts as well as signposting them to relevant support pages. We have 11 families in our group and are so pleased that we can keep in touch. We sent out Easter Books and still had our summer party with Bev and Nicky socially distanced in Nicky's garden and everyone else in their homes with their own food!! We sent party bags to all our families which were well received. For safety's sake we decided to carry on in the same way in September. We went into church to record our Christmas Service to make it special and different and even had a special message from Santa for all the children. As Lockdowns continued, we have valued the opportunity to send love and support in our posts, recognising the struggles we are all having, but encouraging us all to turn

towards Jesus for his comfort and peace. We have really missed our fun in the Hall and hope it won't be long before our Pram Club Family can be together again. Bev Seel and Nicky Fell

### **SUNDAY GROUPS**

We had some of our usual sessions at the start of the year but of course had to stop when the first Lockdown was introduced in March. I don't think any of us appreciated how long it would go on for and we just hoped our church families would join in with the online services like the rest of us. After a couple of months however we realised we wanted to reach out in some way to show our support to the children. At just the same time we were approached by Jan Wilson who wanted to use her artistic talents to bless the children. She went on to devise a lovely bookmark featuring a verse the leaders chose. Each bookmark was personally addressed to each of the children in our groups and sent our love and prayers. We were also delighted to tell each child that they had been paired with a named member of the Prayer Ministry Team who was going to be specifically praying for them. A bookmark and an activity sheet were delivered to the children and we got feedback that they had been well received. The Prayer Ministry Team blessed the children again with Back to School cards in September. Jim Stewart headed up a lovely Advent activity pack in December which he has written about separately. We look forward to seeing the children again very soon and together learning more about Jesus. LITTLE LIGHTS 0-4, CLAMBERERS GROUP 3-6 years, EXPLORERS 7-10 YEARS AND TAG.



**YOUTH WORK** This year has been a challenging year for youth work. We have not been able to meet in groups, and it is hard to meet on the internet in the same way as adults have. There have been difficult times but there also have been good times. But we continue to think of all the age groups.

There have been some highlights in the year, for example we were able to put together a Christmas pack and distribute it to many of the young people.

And at the same time, you might have noticed some artistic music videos in the Sunday online service. We have been able to experience the input of some of our young people in a way we have not been able to before the pandemic. We hope as we move forward we will be able to do more with the young people, and we will be able to keep some of the positives. Jim Stewart

### **THE WAY YOUTH CLUB**

The Way Youth Club has been closed since the start of the first lockdown in March until the present day. We were hoping to reopen after Easter this year but that is looking increasingly unlikely and it may well be September before we open our doors again which will mean that we have lost a whole year of new members. In the words of Captain Sir Tom Moore “tomorrow will be a better day”. Keep the faith. Hope you enjoy the photograph of our most recent event, it seems so long ago. Tim Causer



### **2ND ST LUKE'S BROWNIES**

As you can imagine the last 12 months for 2nd Crosby St Luke's Brownies has been very different indeed! We had just started planning our weekend away to Shirdley Hill when the first lockdown hit. Straight away the Brownies started doing challenges at home, the first being some baking and crafts to earn their Easter badge. The summer term saw us taking part in lots of different challenges including a baking challenge to use strawberries, designing badges and sending birthday cards to Captain Tom Moore. We even took part in a Sefton 'Sleep In/Out' sleepover which saw the Brownies (and in some cases their whole family too) sleeping in all sorts of exciting places - under tables, in dens, hammocks, tents - all sorts! Since September our Brownie pack have met each week on Zoom. We have been working through some Brownie badges and challenges including activities from the Be Well theme. This has included talking about mindfulness and having a positive mind-set. Packs of activities have been made and delivered to all of the Brownies and they have enjoyed making Christmas cards and crafts, Chinese dragon wind chimes and making Mother's day cards and gifts. Over the February half term, some of the Brownies chose to take part in an online Thinking Day event with girls from all over Sefton. They then joined a

Facebook live campfire sing along and finished the celebrations with another sleepover and a Zoom pj party! It was lots of fun with treasure hunts, bingo and a game of 'Play Your Cards Right'! The good news is, that being online hasn't stopped new members from joining and the recent news brings us hope that we will be able to meet face to face in the near future. We can't wait to get back to our meeting place and seeing some familiar faces at St Luke's.

Julie Perry, Lizzie Perry and Leah Solomon. [2crosbyslukes@gmail.co.uk](mailto:2crosbyslukes@gmail.co.uk)

### **STORYHOUSE**

About 3 years ago we spent a couple of months gathering regularly to pray and discern the vision for StoryHouse Church and during that time there were a number of pictures shared and one of them was of a network of fibre optic cables connecting the community together. A couple of months into lockdown last year we were praying and reminded once again of this picture realising this vision of the Holy Spirit rushing through fibre optic cables was actually literal. StoryHouse Church has not met in person since 22nd March 2020. Our Sunday gatherings have been broadcast on Facebook and YouTube with an average of 80-100 views each week and have hosted monthly prayer and worship and midweek church, Alpha and StoryHouse Kids on Zoom. We had 10 Alpha guests and 8 of them have come to faith or returned to faith and are now part of our community. The number of committed adult church members has grown from 20 to 35 with 25 of them now engaging in daily Bible Study and prayer. Thanks to the government grant at the beginning of the first lockdown, the furlough scheme and the amazing StoryHouse staff, the coffee shop is still open. Trade has fluctuated with the different lockdown tiers over the past few months and for the majority of the past year we have been open for takeaway with a reduced menu, hours and staffing. Hannah and the team have adapted incredibly well and we're looking forward to reopening properly soon.



### **ST LUKE'S PREMISES**

Well, where do I start! We started off the year with some new bookings for the hall as we were welcoming monthly Bluebell Craft Stalls and a newly formed baby class business Bloom Sefton. It wasn't long before we realised

that the craft events weren't going to be allowed under the new government restrictions, but as nursery groups could continue for most of 2020, Bloom Sefton's bookings went from strength to strength. The money from our church and hall lettings have taken a massive hit in 2020 and we pray that now the effects of the vaccines are being seen in lower infection rates, that groups will start to meet in a safe way. We did find some rotting wood in the structure of the Webster Room and as the hall is primarily a wooden building we are having a structural survey carried shortly. The church heating boilers have been very troublesome this past year with intermittent faults and hence sometimes the system would not fire up – although with the doors and windows open during services, you perhaps didn't notice if there was heat or not coming out the blowers! Paul Beardwood

### **CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS**

If there has ever been a year in which you wonder what a Communications Officer did, other than edit and print the newsletter – this was the year! Suddenly we were thrown into the dilemma on how worship would look now we couldn't meet physically in church. The first week of lockdown we encouraged you to view the national Church of England's service, while we worked out what to do. The second week consisted of me, sat at home, taking control of Amanda's computer and giving Amanda directions over the phone - we soon realised that method was not sustainable every week. So evolved the way we are doing it now; editing pre-recorded video from church members into a half hour time of worship. It's been a time of learning for us all, but we do thank God that we have the technology that enables us to keep in touch with one another. I remember the first week of Zoom Coffee Chat – people's faces lit up and were so excited as we saw different members join the room. This time of lockdown has also allowed the wider Crosby community to watch our services and we have welcomed a few new faces as well as some members who have moved away. I'm so glad we introduced ChurchSuite the previous year, as this software has been an invaluable tool to allow online booking of virtual and physical events, online donations and a central place that ministers and staff can access to find the information they need easily. Looking forward, the online and physical services will probably continue for



some time yet with hybrid meetings. Thank you to all who have contributed towards our online services so that we were all able to still feel part of St Luke's church family whether we were watching online, using a DVD or using the phone to listen to the service. Paul Beardwood

### **THE MAN SHED**

This is now run by Paul in conjunction with the local Veterans, but is open to anyone wishing to be involved. Paul has introduced a number of new wood working tools and is able to carry out a more varied range of tasks. Paul has managed to keep going within the limits of COVID and has done work for some local people and the Church. It is now open most days from 10.00am to 3.30pm, so if you are interested in the refurbishment of old tools, wood work, some up cycling, or helping with the church grounds and buildings then give the shed a visit. Contact Dave or Law for more info email: [office@stlukecrosby.org.uk](mailto:office@stlukecrosby.org.uk)

### **CROSSROADS**

This year has been an unprecedented year and sadly Crossroads has been required to close during each national lockdown. We have successfully managed to apply for government funding and keep our managers on the Furlough scheme. We have continued with routine maintenance with the biggest work undertaken was making the building COVID secure in line with UK Gov regulations to enable us to reopen safely when lockdown was lifted. Managers and volunteers have kept in touch with regular visitors to the café as well as the older, more vulnerable customers. We said goodbye to Anne our gardener after many years of faithful service, thank you Anne. Happily, Anne has been replaced by Jan from Ground Force, thank you Jan. Work is continuing to make Crossroads the best it can be, and a huge 'thank you' must be said to the managers and committee members who are always busy working with dedication. We welcomed Dee Mcguigan as a new manager. Sue Davey our longest serving manager retired in September and has been replaced by Jane Bush. A massive 'thank you' too to all the volunteers, who are such a crucial and amazing asset and make the centre possible, including Richard, Joyce, Molly and Sophie who looked after things during interim periods. We have, however, lost volunteers due to lockdown with only a few returning, so please consider if this is a way you can support Crossroads. Don't forget to pay a visit when you are in the village to enjoy a fabulous, tasty and inexpensive experience. If however, you are not able to drop in

from time to time, please consider a monthly tithing contribution as every little bit helps. We are always striving to recruit volunteers, and we would welcome more volunteers for just a few hours any day of the week and they would be assured of a warm reception, why not give it a try? Please check out our Facebook page and give us a 'like'.

Ali Dobson

### **NIFTY KNITTERS**

Sadly our group had to stop meeting from the middle of March due to the Lockdown. This was a real blow to our members as many of them live alone and look forward to bringing the items they have knitted during the week and seeing their friends for a good chat and some laughter. Our thanks go to Michelle Heaps and Jan Matthews who valiantly filled their cars with our knitting and fillers for the shoe boxes and drove to the Samaritan's Purse warehouse near Wigan to deliver it all for us. Without their help it would have stayed in the cupboards until next year which would have been a disappointment after the hard work all the ladies had done. In all, we have made approximately 1040 items, mostly for the shoe boxes going to very poor countries in Eastern Europe and also hats and neck warmers for the seafarers. Sadly we were unable to send any donations to our charities due to not meeting as a group. The small amount we do have will be needed to buy wool for when we restart as our stocks are very low. Hopefully now the vaccine is being rolled out we can look forward to meeting again sometime this year and carry on supporting our charities as we also enjoy socialising together on Friday afternoons. Many thanks to all who have contributed during this difficult time, your continued support is very much appreciated.

Brenda Morris & Carol Roocroft.

### **CRAFTY LADIES**

Crafty Ladies, like other groups, have not met for over a year now. We have kept in touch over this period with some ladies continuing to make cards for sale and for private use. We miss the fun, the sharing of new ideas, the "Thought for the Day" and the being together. However I have continued to sell cards to loyal customers during this time, mostly from a safe distance. We have managed to raise about £500 over the year for St Joseph's Hospice in Thornton. Big thanks to all our supporters. Agnes Law. Carol Roocroft. Audrey Davis.

### **SEWING GROUP**

Like most groups and church meetings the sewing group came to a halt in March 2020 when we went into lockdown because of the COVID pandemic. Since then we have kept busy at home making items for our NHS which has also kept us sane. From March until now 919 syringe driver bags have been made along with 254 comfort bags, 228 scrub bags for nursing staff to take uniforms home to launder



and sanitize, 214 mastectomy cushions, jewellery pouches, along with numerous other vital items. Quilts for care leavers have also been made. We pray it is not too long until we can meet again in the coffee lounge off the Church hall. We meet on 1st and 3rd Monday of each month from 1-3pm; we would welcome new members and as always welcome donations of fabric that can be reused. Sandra Dowson

### **ST LUKE'S WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

As with every other group, the Women's Fellowship has not been able to meet since the first lockdown of 2020. We managed to squeeze in three meetings at the beginning of the year, one in January which was a Social and Quiz Night. In February we had a lovely talk from a gentleman called Gordon Hartley, who took us on a scenic tour of Wales, with some excellent slides. In March we were given some insight into the Feelgood Factory, with Sandra Duncan. We are very much hoping to resume our meetings later this year, when we hope to be able to re-book some of the speakers who were unable to come last year. The Women's Fellowship is an inclusive group for women of all ages, and we would welcome new members, especially younger women. After all, we started life as the Young Wives! Do come and join us, you won't be disappointed. Julie Gill

### **MOTHER'S UNION**

As a Diocese we provide much needed holidays weekends away or days out for families who are in need of a break. We collect household goods for young people coming out of care and ready to set up their own home. We provide emergency toilet bags for local hospitals and the homeless

Colouring books for hospital wards. Members run toddler groups, messy church, baptism and wedding preparation classes, and some provide refreshments at weddings for when photographs are being taken. Knitting/sewing is a popular pastime of our members providing angel pockets for babies born sleeping, small knitted baby hats, blankets and comfort squares for the local premature baby units. Fiddle muffs are made for dementia patients and for autistic children in local additional needs schools. Prayer shawls for anyone in need or sometimes given to a new bride or at a baptism. Knitted hats, gloves etc are given to the homeless and the local Seafarers mission. Baptism prayer bags/cards and gifts are given at Baptism services. A small support/prayer bag is given to the adult dropping children off at school for the first time, containing a tea/coffee sachet, small packet of biscuits ,a packet of tissues and two prayers, one for the parent and one for the child. A similar goody bag can be provided for those later in life going into a changing situation such as residential care this box is tailored to the individuals need. Prayer is central to the work of Mothers Union. Each day at midday members all over the world pause to pray. The Wave of Prayer is a continuous expression of our commitment in prayer to each other which runs throughout the year and encompasses all the places in which we are represented. Barbara Naylor

### **KEYSTONE**

Keystone has been unable to meet since March last year but we quickly organised a support network for everyone involved. We have kept in touch by phone, email where possible, letter, card and the occasional socially distanced visit. Carers, cared-for and all involved have appreciated the regular contact, the cards and the small gifts through the year, all aimed at giving encouragement and comfort. There was, of course, no Christmas lunch this year, no service or party around the Christmas tree, but we still had gifts delivered by Hope and Jeff, Kath and Colin and myself. It was lovely to actually see people and chat from a safe distance. The Christmas theme was “Hope” and everyone received an olive wood “candle” with the word Hope, or Peace if 2 candles went to the same house, burnt into the wood. Many people have commented on how meaningful these are. We have only had one carer contract Covid and she is now recovering at home with help from family. We



have, however, lost 6 people; carers, cared-for and team although none of these have been Covid related. We miss them all and it hasn't been easy to support those bereaved while being unable to visit. As soon as we are able we will hold a service to remember those we have lost. The monthly Keystone prayer meeting continues on the third Monday of each month at 10:30 via zoom. If you would like to join us please let me know at [jane.at.keystone@gmail.com](mailto:jane.at.keystone@gmail.com) so that I can send you the link. Thank you to all who are involved in any way. It wouldn't happen without you! Jane Stephens

### **LAKESIDE**

The meeting by the Lakeside, to walk and talk and share a little of how to walk Gods way, was suspended after February 2020, due to the varying and changing pandemic restrictions. I would very much hope that the group can be reinstated once restrictions have been lifted and our hopes for gathering again are met. Anyone interested in this group - walking, talking, sharing faith and having a drink at the Royal can contact Rosemary Turner via the office.

### **BIBLE SOCIETY**

The Bible Society works to widen the reach of the Bible and to increase knowledge of it, with the belief that "when people engage with the Bible, lives can change – for good". The Bible Society Action Group in Crosby runs 2 events during the year, both of which occurred in 2020 before the lockdown. The first was a coffee morning whose proceeds fund prizes for the 2nd event, an annual reading contest for local schools held at St Luke's Halsall. A donation is also sent to the Bible Society. In addition this year, St Luke's Church ran the Bible Society Bible Course for the 3rd time, and due to the circumstances this was the first time it was run online using the ubiquitous Zoom. Colin Stephens



### **GROUNDFORCE**

As for every other activity in our church life, Groundforce has been seriously affected by the pandemic. We faced different challenges at different times. When we were in the first 'stay at home' lockdown, volunteering of any description seemed to be out of bounds. As restrictions eased over the summer, we were able to meet if socially distant. Rosemary reckoned that meant being apart by the length of a small cow. However, we ran out of small cows so this proved an impractical measure. The highlight of having

refreshments together in the Crosby Room was definitely out of the question; even praying together at the start was frowned upon. At one stage we had to sign a form in the hall to say who had turned up that day just in case of any spread of infection. Bit by bit the sense that Groundforce was a community was being eroded. However we have managed to continue to meet on the first Saturday of the month during 2020 albeit in a less organised way and with fewer people. Some of the team turned up at different times during the week and have been a big help to Dave who does the brunt of the mowing and to Dan our groundsman who has been furloughed for part of the year. The grounds have become a more valuable resource than ever for our community with more people visiting them to take exercise and to enjoy God's creation. We look forward to getting back to meeting more normally during 2021. Steve Matthews



## **BOOKSTALL**

# St Luke's Bookstall 2020

Book Sales:  
569

Clients: 99

### Supported by bookstall

- St Luke's Halsall school
- Bible Society Bible Course
- Bible Society coffee morning
- Keystone
- St Luke's Childrens' groups
- Pastoral Care

### Individual Bestsellers

Saltwater and Honey  
by Lizzie Lowrie  
(67 - New Bookstall record)

God and the Pandemic by Tom  
Wright (15)

Saying Yes to Life by Ruth Valerio  
(14)

## **ST LUKES ECO TEAM**

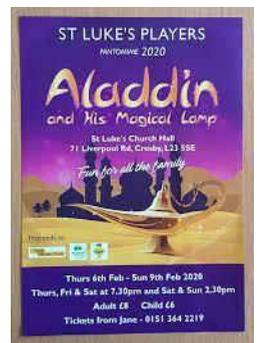
*“Supporting A Rocha Kenya.”*



A difficult year for us all, due to the lockdown, and Church being closed, but we have still managed to raise funds, and this year, I am happy to report that we have donated a total of £1,220. It has been a good year for soft fruit in the Church Orchard, and Agnes has continued to do a great job, making jams and marmalades, thanks to Michelle Heaps, in assisting with local deliveries. Barringtons Funerals, kindly donated the Christingle oranges, thanks to them, and as there were some left over, they were used by Agnes, to make a delicious 3 fruits marmalade, which has been very popular. Thanks also to John and Rosemary Turner, for looking after our St Luke's bees, we have had another bumper year of honey, which helped to increase funds, the funds sent to the project in Kenya, have actually been used, to buy more beehives for the local community, and also to plant more trees. Our friends at A Rocha send their gratitude and prayers, for our continuing support. Sandra Brogan, Eco Team January 2021

## **ST LUKES PLAYERS ADS**

St Luke's Players usually stage an annual pantomime in February. The aim of the group is to entertain audiences of all ages, raise money for charities and provide the opportunity for drama, dance and music within a Christian environment. Sadly, like so many others, we were not able to present our annual pantomime this year. We have, however, continued to meet via zoom on a couple of occasions and through our Facebook group. We do hope to be able to make a decision about future productions over the coming months and hopefully resume the fun and hilarity to raise much needed money for charity. Our members are mostly associated with St Luke's Church, but as part of our outreach we always love to welcome newcomers from further afield. We'd love more young people (15 or over on 31 August 2021) to become involved in acting or support roles. Rehearsals are always lots of fun and have created great friendships within the group. So if you'd like to try treading the boards with St Luke's Players or support behind the scenes, please have a chat with one of our members. Ali Dobson, Secretary



## **ST LUKE'S HALSALL SCHOOL**

'Inspiring lives, building futures together with Jesus.'

Wow what a year it's been since I last wrote a report for the APCM. The last twelve months have been the most challenging, stressful and exhausting in my 15 years of headship. We have been closed twice, whilst remaining open for the children of keyworkers; which latterly meant around a third of the children were in each day. We have had to adapt our working practices each time there was a partial and full return of children to school and most recently provided remote education at a moment's notice without any guidance or training. The staff has been fantastic at each point, taking on board the latest instructions and requirements, adapting as necessary to keep school functioning and it is a real credit to them that despite all of this turmoil school has continued to thrive and be a happy and pleasant place to learn and work. The last twelve months has again reminded us that it is a real privilege to be in a position to help shape and influence the pupils' futures and promote God's love in their lives each day. We were delighted to appoint Mrs Sally Griffiths as our new Deputy Head in November following the departure of Sandra Jones who moved into the ordained ministry. Sally has settled in really well in what can only be described as unusual circumstances. As always, we appreciate your prayers as we face the challenges school life presents and aim to be Christ's representatives to the school community. Thank you all, Richard Miller, Headteacher.



## **IN ANOTHER PLACE**

Since December 2018 we've been in Bootle Strand shopping centre with over 130 volunteers. We were preparing Liverpool Passion which is now postponed to 2022. We furloughed our staff; however volunteers continued to interact online and worked on ideas for when we re-open. We maintained a presence on social media; making crosses out of household objects and live streams of craft activities. We began a virtual pilgrim walk, counting our miles from our daily exercise and travelling the world. This has taken us through

many different countries. We had video calls with people from these countries learning about different cultures and responses to COVID-19.

In Autumn we ran a treasure hunt/snail trail across Bootle and Crosby. We adapted the Grotto to be COVID secure with 70 volunteers and it proved very popular. We started our Music Zone which has been functioning online alongside our Gospel choirs. We designed escape rooms during lockdown and will open the first one soon. We are moving to a prominent first-floor unit in the strand which we hope will increase our interactions and impact. Alongside plans for the Passion we are preparing the 2021 Crosby Nativity complete with a camel on the beach.

# WORLD MISSION

## **WORLD MISSION**

It has taken a global pandemic to get us to start to connect online with our partners across the globe. Although we feel deeply the lack of physical contact with each other, we can take heart from the fact that perhaps we feel more in touch with our mission partners than before 2020. Joyce and I have enjoyed Zoom meetings with Alejandro and his family, together with his other supporters in parishes throughout the UK. This has been of great benefit to all of us. We have also been really encouraged by our online mission evenings and I would like to thank all of you who have taken part in these. It has been a great way to connect with our partners, hearing their news and right away praying together for them. They too have been blessed and encouraged by our fellowship. Our sincere thanks go to Paul for publicising these and setting them up, as well as ensuring the Donate drop down menu includes our monthly mission focus. Thanks also to Caroline for forwarding our donations wherever possible by BACS transfer to our partners. Please keep on following each monthly mission focus and fervently praying for all our partners who are facing difficult challenges these days. Thank you to all members of the World Mission Group for their continued commitment to their mission partners and to our mission focus in general. Thank you also to everyone who has continued to support our mission, both in prayer and generous giving. Maureen Cawdron World Mission Coordinator

## **SWACA**

SWACA like many organisations has throughout most of 2020 and to date had to adapt to provide services within a COVID pandemic context. During the initial lockdown staff were predominantly home based. We have remained fully operational since March 2020 focusing primarily on telephone based support and have continued supporting both existing service users alongside undertaking assessment of need for new service users. It's been a challenge but we have maintained full support following the initial lockdown we moved to a mixed approach of office and home based staff and were able to introduce some face to face support. We adjusted again for the November lockdown easing back on office staff and since January six had to return to predominantly home based working again. It's upsetting, disruptive and frustrating for staff and service users alike. We have lost significant income from our shop which has had to remain close for the majority of the pandemic but have managed to access additional funding from government sources and grant making trusts ( with domestic abuse a high profile issue). We are really grateful and thankful for all the support we have and continue to receive from everyone at St Luke's, without your support and that of other local donors we would be unable to continue. Pam Stubbs



## **TOYBOX**



The Toy box charity work on the streets of Latin America with homeless children and children who are working on the streets. Toybox works in Guatemala, Bolivia, Peru, El Salvador, Nicaragua, India and Kenya. Here at St Luke's we are helping to support the Toybox campaign to get the Children of Guatemala registered with birth certificates. It is estimated that roughly 700,000 children are unregistered. The cost is upwards of £32 per child, which is beyond the reach of the families of many of these children. As like everyone else this year Toybox has been challenged in all aspects of their 'normal' work. In Guatemala, Toybox, despite the pandemic, have still managed to give birth certificates to 200 children. They have also supplied families with soap, water and face masks. In India they have supplied educational help via WhatsApp and in Sierra Leone they have supported families with basic items like shoes, socks, pens and pencils, enabling 100 children to register for school. Once

again I would like to thank you for contributing to the work of Toybox over the last year and ask that you keep all those involved with the Toybox Charity in your prayers. For further updates on their work please check out their website [www.toybox.org](http://www.toybox.org) Janette Burridge

### **SAMARITANS PURSE**

Due to COVID restrictions and not being able to meet in church, shoeboxes couldn't be made available this year for

folk to fill and return. Instead people were encouraged to build a box on-line or make a donation to Samaritan's Purse on the church website during the focus month in October (£275 was given). Our wonderful Nifty Knitters have kept their needles clicking during lockdown and Michelle and Jan were able to take two car loads of knitted items, fillers and some shoeboxes to the Operation Christmas Child warehouse in Leigh, in late November. Many thanks to all the knitters, Carol and Michelle for coordinating/collecting. As well as distributing shoeboxes to children across the world, Samaritan's Purse are also involved in international disaster response - since 2009, they have responded to over 112 disasters around the world. Their mission is to bring hope and light in the darkest situations as fast as they can when disaster strikes. They work through the local church and ministry partners on the ground, utilising all their experience in food distribution, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter and medical services in Jesus Name. Thank you for your help Vera de Villiers



### **CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**

Throughout 2020, the wonderful congregation of St. Luke's has continued to support the work of this charity via the home boxes, finding safe ways to deliver the boxes to Hilary, allowing for a total of £507 to be donated. Obviously, it was not possible

this year to hold Christingle services this year, however, with the world mission team, Amanda and other volunteers, we opened Church in a Coved safe way on 22nd Dec to about 35 families (130 people) who enjoyed walking through the nativity story. At the end of which, they collected Christingle packs full of all the items required to make their own Christingle at home, thanks to Barrington's Funeral Services for their generosity in once again providing the oranges. On Christmas Eve, Rev. Amanda led us all in an online



Christingle service. The feedback from those who took part in the events was very positive, stating how lovely it was to actually be in Church, think about the nativity and take part in the Christingle service. The money donated through home boxes and the Christingle service will be used to continue the work of the Children's Society to fight against child poverty, neglect and helping all children have a better chance in life, which is more critical than ever at the current time. Thank you to everyone that continues to support myself and Hilary and the work we do for this charity. Special thanks to Hilary for doing an amazing job, under very challenging circumstances. [www.childrensociety.org.uk](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk).

Jo Marshall & Hilary Roberts

### **ALEJANDRO MESCO**

(Link Mission Partner in Arequipa, Peru.)

In October Jim Stewart arranged a very successful Zoom Quiz night for Alejandro Mesco our link mission partner in Peru and the amazing amount raised was £1,479! At the moment because of the pandemic and due to Doris's ill health, both she and Alejandro are living in a rural area outside the city. Alejandro reports that the second wave of COVID 19 is much more contagious and the hospitals are full with a lack of oxygen and Intensive care beds. Lima is the most affected city at this time with Arequipa growing at a high level. Alejandro is a volunteer worker with disabled people at The Medical Mission Institute and although two of the team were infected with COVID they are now recovering with the blessing of God. My thanks to everyone who support and pray for Alejandro and his family. Joyce Fell, St. Luke's Mission partner for Peru.

### **MALAWI**

Malawi continues to be both rich in promise and poor in resources. Having suffered a modest Covid outbreak last year, the pandemic seemed to have receded, but it came back with greater vigour in January this year, with the death of many adults including three politicians. The second outbreak was largely due to the South African variant of the virus, and the fact that many Malawians returned from South Africa to Malawi. But by the beginning of February, things had quietened down again. Our St Luke's contributions to Malawi focus mainly on two Funds based in the national Queen Elizabeth Central Teaching Hospital – the Chira ('get well') Fund for adults and Friends of Sick Children (FOSC). Chira continues to provide essentials for the hostel

that houses patients' guardians, and the adult medical wards. We contribute to education in anti-Covid measures – hand-washing, social distancing and mask-wearing – and pay for soap, disinfectants, PPE, and the general needs of ward upkeep, water supplies and equipment. We also support ongoing education for graduate nurses and doctors, for which the need continues to be great. Malcolm and Liz Molyneux

### **AROCHA**

A Christian organization engaging communities in nature conservation. Campaign to save the forest! A Rocha Kenya has been working in Dakatcha Woodland since 2000. Scientific monitoring has confirmed the importance of this



woodland for endangered and endemic species such as Sokoke Scops Owl, Clarke's Weaver and Golden-rumped Elephant-shrew. Land acquisition started in 2014 in response to the rapid habitat loss observed, (this forest is unprotected and as a result is being cut down for charcoal, timber and pineapple plantations) and 1,517 acres of woodland of a planned 10,500 acres reserve, the A Rocha Dakatcha Nature Reserve, has been acquired already. We are working with local churches, farmers and schools in this area around the reserve to engage them in habitat protection and restoration, and provide sustainable income-generating activities. The pressure on the land was compounded by the start of land adjudication in the area in September 2020. This has set off an unprecedented rush of people land purchasing for farms closely linked to charcoal burning that is decimating the forest and destroying the home of the rare and endangered wildlife. The easy availability of power saws to cut trees for charcoal and motorbikes to transport charcoal to Malindi has exasperated the situation further. At site level, agricultural expansion, unregulated logging, rampant charcoal burning and the expansion of commercial pineapple plantations are rapidly destroying and degrading what is left of the unique forest habitat. Jan Matthews

### **SIERRA LEONE**

Doctors James and Mary Bunn have been working in Freetown, Sierra Leone for the past few years, James as a paediatrician with the World Health Organisation, and Mary as a palliative care specialist in the government

hospitals. Mary is establishing a new palliative care service in the government sector, through teaching, training, advocacy and clinical leadership. She works with a small team of nurses, developing their teaching skills as well as clinical expertise in palliative care. The team works in hospitals and the community, offering holistic care which is physical, psychological, social and spiritual, and relies on the donations of our generous supporters to provide medicines, dressings, transport, necessities, care and support. Many thanks again to all at St Lukes for their friendship, prayers and support. Mary Bunn

### **CHRISTIAN AID**

This Year's Christian Aid Week was certainly different from any other. I had big plans to make a number of changes to what we have done in the past on Christian Aid Week. I wanted to replace the house-to-house collections, which had always been the main focus of our fund-raising, with



other events, but I had never envisaged it to be all that different. Everything we normally do and everything I had planned was of course completely impossible, so we had to come up with something quite quickly. The first thing that came to mind was to have a fund-raising meeting of some sort – a quiz! (We weren't yet quite so "quizzed out" then) Fortunately, I could rely on some technical support from Jim Stewart and Paul Beardwood and together we arranged the first of a long row of quizzes to raise funds for Christian Aid. And how wonderful it was just to get together. The other event we managed to organize was a musical fund-raiser in Crosby Village. (Those were the days of long queues in front of Sainsbury's and strict social distancing). So I got together with a friend, guitarist and singer Andrew Thompson-Smith and - perfectly socially distanced with a collection bucket at a good distance too - we spent several hours on the Friday and Saturday of CA Week entertaining the shoppers in the village with folk songs and popular folk tunes. We didn't collect an awful lot of money – just £150 -, but it was a reminder to everyone that, despite the pandemic, the needs of the world around us had not gone away. The big box with CA materials, collection boxes, banners, posters etc. is sitting untouched in my bedroom and I am hoping it'll come out to encourage us and bring joy and much needed support this year. Kirsten Sothmann

### **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CROSBY**

Since our last Report, we have held no Meetings, due to Covid. For Christmas 2020 we did not display any Christmas Services leaflets, as most churches were closed and those that were open could only accommodate a limited number; we did not place our usual Christmas poster on Crosby Road North, and we did not distribute our usual stick-on nativity figures. We did, however, place the Crib in the centre of the Village. There was no Service of Prayer for Christian Unity. Because of social distancing, we have not delivered any Welcome-in Packs. Crossroads has, of course, opened when allowed. We have managed to hold a few Zoom Ecumenical Morning Services, on a monthly basis, organised by Rev. Kath Rogers, which people have enjoyed. Terri Whittaker

### **DEANERY SYNOD**

The outbreak of the pandemic has, of necessity, curtailed all deanery meetings and missional activity this year. The only two deanery Synods to have taken place were held via Zoom video conferencing and sadly, it meant that because of the large number of participants, the usual friendly and informative atmosphere of Synod was replaced by mainly muted participants. We hope that in 2021 we will be able to resume face to face meetings, but in the meantime it seems as though Zoom will have to suffice. St. Luke's representatives at Synod are Caroline Ramsey, Keith Cawdron, Rosemary Turner and Zorina Jones and as there is a further vacancy for a parish representative, we would encourage anyone interested to join us. There have been clergy changes in the deanery during lockdown and even the installations of these clergy have had to be done via Zoom. We welcomed Revd. Nathan Thorpe as vicar of St. Giles, Aintree, Revd. Dr. Mark Davies as vicar of St. Luke, Formby, Revd. Beth Anderson as vicar of St. Nicholas Blundellsands and two new curates to the deanery, Revd. Gordon MacLeod and Revd. Simon Macaulay. The deanery is continuing to work co-operatively and inclusively with all PCCs to establish a fair and equitable means of allocating Parish Share. An important aim is to recruit a representative from every parish to explain to congregations what Parish Share is, what it does and why it is necessary and also to bring to a Synod working party the opinions and views of all church members. Zorina Jones