

*Matthew 18.20 "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*

**Sunday 18th July 2021**

This week's reading is John 3:1-12

## Reflection

### G>AV

I received a timely reminder this morning from the Lectio365 prayer app (give it a try if you haven't already) that my problems are nothing in comparison to our God. It's been 'one of those' months and when you're having 'one of those' days/weeks/months/years, problems have a tendency to completely fill your vision and max out your mental and emotional capacities. When you feel like this you go to God complaining how big all these problems are (or is that just me?). However the biblical pattern tends to go the other way, reminding our problems just how big God is.

Notice the number of prayers in the bible that start with the greatness of God before bringing any requests, how Jesus taught a prayer that starts with the Heavenly Father and his kingdom before the petition and how the New Testament letters always begin with praising God before getting into the details. This pattern puts us and our problems into perspective next to a God who was before all things, is now and always will be and has proven faithful time and time again.

You may not have seen the symbols G>AV before, they stand for 'God is greater than the highs and the lows' and they're engraved on a keyring I am giving to a friend this weekend who is leaving for new challenges. To me they stand as a reminder that however crushed I may feel in the valley God is not anxious, he is not wringing his hands and freaking out about the outcome and also as a reminder that when I think things are as good as they can be, they are nothing compared to the glory to come. We need not despair in the low times or be carried away in the good because no high or low can ever separate us from the love of God (Rom 8:39).

Dave Lowrie

**Pray for the family and friends of** Elaine Mayers whose funeral will be held at St Luke's on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Please also continue to pray for the family and friends of Tracey (neighbour of Joyce Fell) who has recently died.

**Please pray for:** Stan (Jean Robert's husband)Olivia, Viv Pierce, Angie Welsby, Hal Whitaker, John Metcalfe, John Sayer, Vicky Sutton, Donald Gallagher, Simon Hulme (Headteacher of St Michael's School), Lisa Stone, Marg Houghton, Christine Burrige, Gill Billington, Finley, Eloise (parents Anna and Pete), Tom Dowd, Sophie, Jean Stevenson, Malcolm Molyneux, Carol Ranson, Lyndsey Moore, Maureen Mitchell, and all those who are suffering with COVID-19, feeling vulnerable or self-isolating.

## Prayers for this week:

**Sun...** Read John 3.1-12 – Nicodemus came to Jesus at night, probably afraid to do so openly, yet Jesus welcomed him, pray for those who are seeking God but may be afraid of doing this openly because of what others might think of them.

**Mon ...** as further lockdown restrictions are lifted continue to pray for all local businesses in your area. Pray for those people who because of Covid-19, could not work for months and have lost money, and employment. As we each choose how little or much feels right for us pray that we live responsibly for others as well as ourselves.

**Tues ...** that the fragile ceasefire holds in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. Conflict has forced families to search for safety, with many living in camps. Pray that all sides would find a peaceful solution and that food will be urgently provided for all those who are vulnerable.

**Weds ...** As the end of school term ends and as children and teachers look forward to the school holidays, pray for a time of rest and relaxation Pray also for children around the world who would like to play more, work less and have safe clean water to drink. For the School leavers' service at St Luke's today.

**Thurs...** as the UK and the world economies begin to recover from the effects of the pandemic, pray for wisdom, integrity and compassion for politicians and others implementing measures to aid recovery in coming months

**Fri...** Olympic Games begin in Tokyo today; the Paralympic games will begin in on 24th August; pray for all the athletes participating; for the organisers in their planning and preparations to keep everyone safe.

**Sat...** those who are living through various stages of bereavement; having lost someone very precious to them. Pray that God would strengthen them by His presence and through family and friends as they experience the different stages of the bereavement process and face practical tasks and decisions as they face the future.

## Mission focus for July is In Another Place (IAP)



**Prayer points this week:** for Sam and all involved in the Music Zone sessions on a Wednesday afternoon at their new base in Strand. That the forthcoming auditions for the Crosby Nativity go smoothly.

**Our Sunday Service meet in the building (booking essential using the events page) & online at 10am every week;** [www.stlukecrosby.org.uk](http://www.stlukecrosby.org.uk) , church [YouTube channel](#) by searching for stlukeschurchcrosby & 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.

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

- **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July** - the online service at 10.00am is an Agape Meal, so please do have a drink and some refreshments ready for our online sharing during the service.

## Notices

**Church numbers are changing!** Under the current restrictions we can have more than 30 people in church. So, knowing that we were 'full' at 30 people last week (11th July), we will increase the number of spaces available to 60 this coming Sunday 18th July. This is late-ish news so we will also extend the deadline for booking to 5pm on Saturday 17th July.

This is also a next step in increasing our numbers again following the removal of restrictions on 19th July. We will keep you informed of changes to church worship as the PCC hopes and the Church of England guidance is matched with our local context and infection rates. We are still in a pandemic even if many of us are vaccinated, so we may still make some requests so as to care for vulnerable people as we move forward over the next weeks and months. Please bear with us and care for each other as we find our way back to a new normal.

**Big Picnic Worship** started very positively in June and so we're doing another 2 services on 25th July & 1st August. These 2 will be the same so please only book for 1 of these services through the church website. Bookings will close on the preceding Saturday by noon, and it's first come first service so please book early.

## Let's work together to get fit for mission.



Last month, Bishop Paul Bayes launched the next stage of **Fit for Mission**. This is all about gathering views and ideas from across our Diocese around how we can achieve our core principles to introduce more people to Jesus, deepen discipleship, develop our

Christian Leaders for the future and work for justice. To get fit for mission, we need a clear direction of travel that sets out what resources we need to tackle the key challenges we have been facing as a church for some time of declining membership and attendance, under-resourcing on the frontline, pressure on people, unsustainable building and a church that does not look or act like me. This consultation phase is therefore a vital step in our growth agenda to build on our calling to ask God for a bigger church to make a bigger difference – the views and ideas of everyone are crucial in helping to shape our future.

We want to hear from as many people within the Diocese as possible to get their views on how we might tackle these challenges and see growth in the church, and I would urge you to encourage your church community to take part by:

- Emailing their thoughts, views and ideas to [fitformission@liverpool.anglican.org](mailto:fitformission@liverpool.anglican.org), or:
- Completing our survey [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FNGWBKH](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FNGWBKH)
- Anyone who hasn't already watched Bishop Paul's film explaining more about this stage of Fit for Mission and why it's important can view this on our website at [www.liverpool.anglican.org/fitformission](http://www.liverpool.anglican.org/fitformission).

**We would like your thoughts by July 23rd, please.**

- ❖ All the feedback gathered through the consultation will be used to shape our proposals for the future.
- ❖ This is a valuable opportunity for you and your Parishes to have a say, so please do support the consultation by encouraging as many people as possible to take part.
- ❖ We'll be sharing our proposals with you after the summer when we'll once again be seeking views on what we've set out.

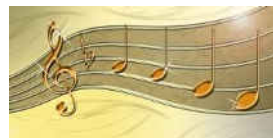


**Your help is needed!** Maintaining the cleanliness of the church and the church hall is a vital role, and Renee does a great job of this; however when she is on annual leave we need someone to cover. If you can help with this, please contact Paul by emailing [comms@stlukecrosby.org.uk](mailto:comms@stlukecrosby.org.uk) or phone the Parish office. Your help is much appreciated!

**Prom Praise Together:** The All Souls Orchestra and Special Guests including Noel Robinson, Rend Collective, and Matt Redman will be coming together at All Souls Church, London, UK on **Saturday 17 July 2021** to livestream an evening of thrilling and diverse music. The concert will be live streamed from [allsoulsmusic.org](http://allsoulsmusic.org) **at 6:00pm**. For song sheets and other resources please see [www.allsoulsmusic.org/2021](http://www.allsoulsmusic.org/2021)



**Saturday Lunchtime Concert Series 2021** | return at St Faith's Church, Crosby Road North, Waterloo, L22 4QQ. Refreshments served from 11.00am with a noon start. No ticket required & free entry. 17<sup>th</sup> July: Richard Lea (Organ), 24<sup>th</sup> July: Katie Bradley (Soprano) 7<sup>th</sup> August: Gregor Cuff (Cello) 14<sup>th</sup> August: John O'Collen (Classical Guitar) 21<sup>st</sup> August: Angelina Dorlin-Barlow (Vocalist)



**IAP** is holding auditions for the Crosby Beach Nativity (Scheduled for December 2021) at Waterloo United Free Church on **Tuesday 20th July, at 4pm & 6pm**. If you are

interested in taking part then please email [admin@inanotherplace.com](mailto:admin@inanotherplace.com) If you have an unwanted guitar, ukulele or keyboard and would like to donate it to a good cause then Sam and the Music Zone team would love to hear from you, email [development-coordinator@inanotherplace.com](mailto:development-coordinator@inanotherplace.com)

**StoryHouse Update** StoryHouse's discipleship and outreach work has remained very active online, with the Sunday service streamed live over Facebook and YouTube with approximately 50 people watching the whole service live or later (plus many more who watch in part). Every Wednesday evening there is a course on Zoom, presently this The Prayer Course. A lot of those attending came through the Alpha course run in lockdown. The children's group meets on Zoom on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Over summer there will be an outdoor service and picnic once a month, Sunday afternoons, behind ASSF church (next one due 18th July 21).

It is hoped that services will commence in person in September, but this will be held in a bigger venue as the numbers have increased. Other missionary activities will continue in the coffee shop.

Story time is being re-introduced gradually. This has been welcomed by many families with preschool children.

Some of the cafe staff will be leaving for university in August and StoryHouse will be looking to recruit Baristas. Please pray for this. This will be in addition to the recruitment of a youth worker for the L23 area.

The trustees and Dave, Lizzie and Hannah continue to meet to plan, and revisit the vision and values. As a result, a prayer Framework has been established and the staff, Dave and Lizzie and some trustees pray every Tuesday 8-9am before the coffee shop opens. There is so much to pray about and we value your prayers for the whole mission of StoryHouse.


Since 17th May the cafe is providing indoor as well as outdoor seating. Business has been good. The process for StoryHouse to become a Bishops' Mission Order is progressing well and is now approaching the consultation stage. Please pray for StoryHouse and the staff in the coffee shop, for Hannah the manager, and for Dave and Lizzie.

Thank you for your support.



Please consider donating any of the following: toiletries, tinned rice pudding, tinned fruit, Coffee, UHT milk (1 Litre) Long life Juice/Squash, Instant noodles/past'n'sauce, Jam. Thankyou.


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