

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

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Reflection**

**Today's Bible Reading: Luke 10:1-9**

## **Feeding the Hungry**

The feeding of the five thousand is in all four gospels. It's clearly important and one of Jesus's miracles that pointed towards his deity. I think it amazing that, after all were fed and the five thousand does not include the women and children, there were twelve baskets of food left over. What happened to it?

I don't believe that in that vast crowd no one had brought food for themselves or their children. Some must have done. In my reflection I see Jesus blessing the small child's gift and as it was being multiplied and distributed those with food began to do the same.

Their compassion for others became more important than their selfishness.

I see a reflection of this as, among others, some footballers give vast sums of money to help the less fortunate. They have done this out of their good fortune. At least one footballer, on the other hand, had to be taken to court by his cleaner for her to be given her wages, calculated at the minimum wage!!

You and I are more like the family who join Jesus in sharing our wealth when we dig into our pockets and savings yet again to help this or that person, family or community to begin living with more hope, more self-esteem and, hopefully a desire to show their appreciation in a similar fashion.

What of those twelve baskets? Are they still edible? And what of all that we still have? Is any of that still of use to others? Something for you and, me, yes, me to think about.

God blessed us all. Let us, in whatever way we can, continue to do what we can to improve the lives of others.

**Richie Brown**

**Please pray for the families and friends of:** Steph Jones and Jimmy Gillies who have recently died.

**Please pray for:** Margaret Quayle, Christine Burridge, Donald Gallagher, Maureen Mitchell, Viv Pierce, Sophie, Stan (Jean Robert's husband), Marg Houghton, John Metcalfe, Malcolm Molyneux, Finley, Eloise (parents Anna & Pete), Simon Hulme (Headteacher of St Michael's school) and all those who are suffering with COVID-19, feeling vulnerable or self-isolating.

## Prayers for this week:

**Sun... Harvest Thanksgiving:** Thank God for all who work on the land and sea so that we may have food to eat and share. Pray for farmers in this country and in other countries, dealing with extremes of weather, and other natural disasters, for fishermen battling wind and waves to bring home their catch. Pray for all who are involved in the transport and distribution and retail sectors. Please also pray for Joshua and Sebastian as they are baptised at St Luke's this afternoon.

**Mon...** for the people of Haiti, for all who have lost family, friends and neighbours. For all those helping to comfort the grieving, for the medical staff looking after the injured, and for those searching for the missing amongst the debris of collapsed buildings.

**Tues...** "God of hope, we pray for world leaders attending COP26. Bless them with wisdom, creativity and a shared vision of hope for all creation. May they find the determination to take strong action to halt the destructive effects of climate change and the political will to act together for the common good." Amen (Christian aid prayer for COP26)

**Weds...** for those countries and communities around the world where the climate crisis is having the most impact.

**Thurs...** for the local area where you live, work and spend your leisure time, pray also for the leaders of the area; those involved in churches, local government, education, the emergency services, the NHS, health and social care provision.

**Fri ...** those people and places in the local, national or world news today that God has put on your heart to pray for.

**Sat ...** apple pressing afternoon at St Luke's, pray also for the groundforce team, and all who work and volunteer at St Luke's in maintaining the buildings and the grounds.

**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.

## Mission focus for September



### Alejandro Mesco, Arequipa, Peru

"We hope that in September or October a container with wheelchairs will arrive to distribute to people with disabilities in Arequipa and other places in the southern region. This is thanks to the organization: "Joni and Friends"

**Prayer point this week:** *"We are thankful to our God for the MMI director and other colleagues who have recovered from covid 19"*

***Please see World Mission part of the newsletter for more news, pictures, and information about supporting him and his work financially - Joyce Fell***

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



Alpha begins **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October**; meetings are each **Thursday evening** for 11 weeks until 16<sup>th</sup> December, online and in church, more details to follow soon. Who could you invite? Would you like to refresh your own faith? Is God calling you to be part of the team in some way?

## Notices

**Car Parking at St Luke's** - A reminder that the “crescent shaped” drive way outside the front entrance of church should only be used for dropping off or collecting people before or after a service please do not park for more than a couple of minutes in this area. It should be kept clear during services as it is potentially for the use of an emergency vehicle if required. Thank you, **Colin and John, churchwardens.**

**Harvest** - for Harvest Thanksgiving this year we will be sending our offering to help Mary Bunn and her work in Sierra Leone. Offering envelopes will be available on **Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday 26th September 2021 at 10am**. To donate on line please click [here](#) and using the dropdown 'Fund' menu select 'Mary Bunn'

**Mary has sent St Luke's church family an update on her work in Sierra Leone– please see World Mission part of the newsletter for all the latest information, prayer requests and details regarding financial support.**



**Big Picnic Worship** will take place again on **26th September and 3rd October**, as a repeated service. This service is suitable for families with primary aged children and will include the story of Noah, singing, activity and prayer times. We will also use this time to reflect a little on our world and how we care for it, with the activity becoming part of the church-wide response to COP26. Please [register](#) for the service online and bring your own picnic lunch. We may be inside depending on the weather, but be prepared!

**Chaplaincy calling:** There are a couple of part-time paid roles and always volunteer roles available in the diocese for those who wish to get involved in hospital or prison chaplaincy. Whilst these roles are not currently available for volunteers due to Covid (clergy aren't even allowed into hospitals yet) they will be in a few months' time. If you would be interested then please let Amanda know and have a look at the Mission in the Economy site to learn more and maybe consider attending the Chaplaincy Today course - <https://mite.org.uk>

Next manor old girls lunch at Bay Horse Formby October 15th at 12.30 ' phone Janet Cane 01704871361  
**Hazel Large**

St Luke's honey now available £4 a jar contact **Agnes Law on 0151 924 3448**

**Virtual Prayer Room for COP26** - An opportunity to spend some time, wherever you are, praying for various aspects of COP26 prior to the November conference. The virtual prayer room is currently a work in progress; more pages will be added over the next few weeks, join in with: reading a Bible verse, a prayer activity and then post a prayer on the board. Please see the Going Green webpage [here](#) for more information.



Dates for the Diary:

Sewing group will be starting again on **Friday 1st Oct 10.30 to 12.00pm** in coffee lounge. Past members and new all welcome. Please bring your own machine and materials, ideas for new projects very welcome. **Sandra Dowson**

**Fruity Frolicking!** Have you ever wondered what people can do with windfall apples that won't keep? Come to the Paddock at St Luke's church hall on **Saturday October 2nd between 1pm and 3pm** and make apple juice! Book yourself and your friends online, (book [here](#) to register your attendance) Meet the team, make friends, make juice and have a bit of fun and fruity frolicking.



**John Turner**

## Listen to God - COP26:

At the beginning of November the COP 26 conference is running in Glasgow. We need to pray for this conference specifically, as well as for how we as a church are aiming for Carbon Zero operation. We are holding 2 Listen to God evenings with regard to this important discussion and action, so please do come and pray for God's leading and wisdom for our world leaders, as well as our own church and individual responses: **4th October & 27th October, 7.30pm in Church.**



Keystone  
Support for dementia carers

Keystone is restarting on **Thursday 7th October at 10:30** in the welcome area in church. All carers of a friend or relative living with dementia are welcome. Meetings will continue on the first

Thursday of each month, depending on the covid situation. For further information please contact Jane Stephens 07721302846 or [jane.at.keystone@gmail.com](mailto:jane.at.keystone@gmail.com)



**A Call to Action: Saturday 9th October:** Join in with members of other churches in Liverpool Diocese for a climate justice walk on Saturday October 9th, culminating at Liverpool Cathedral for Evensong at 3.00pm.

The walk will be leaving **St Luke's Crosby at 10:30am**. More information about the walk, prayers, and how to make paper origami boats for the prayers can be found [here](#).

# World Mission News & Notices from some of our link partners

## September 2021



**Alejandro Mesco our  
Mission partner in  
Arequipa Peru**



“Our food bag delivery aid program to vulnerable families continues and we also share the gospel with those who benefit from food.”

“Dear brothers and sisters, thank you very much for your time to read these paragraphs and thank you for your prayers for our activities at MMI and for my family, especially for Doris. We also pray for you with hope that you are doing well with God's help at this difficult time.”

With lots of love: **Doris and Alejandro Mesco.**

For various reasons including COVID, we are unable to hold our annual quiz in aid of Alejandro either in person or online. However, I am sure you would like to support prayerfully and financially. Please see the prayer updates in the newsletter about his ministry with MMI. If you would like to donate, you can do so online (please click [here](#)) and **using the drop down ‘Fund’ menu select ‘Alejandro’** or by giving money in the blue envelopes at the back of Church marking them with Alejandro’s name. God bless and thank you,

**Joyce Fell (St Luke’s Mission Partner for Peru)**



IAP plans are taking shape for the Crosby Nativity which will be on the beach on Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th December.

The first rehearsal will be held on **Monday 27th September** at Waterloo United Free Church. Auditions for those not already involved but who would like to take part will start at **6.30pm**. Rehearsals will then be on Monday evenings throughout September and October, but not all the cast will be required every Monday. We look forward to meeting you!

### **Message from Mary Bunn**

Greetings from Sierra Leone at the end of the rainy season, where we’re still having some heavy rains and dramatic storms with thunder and lightning, but also more bright sunny days in between. The beginning of the rains is the hungry season here as the

previous year's harvest has all been used up, and the new crop has only just been planted. By now, more locally grown food is available but imported staples such as rice have increased in price, as has everything else because of the recent rise in the cost of fuel. So many are struggling. In the past, you have generously donated funds for medicines and nurses' salaries for the palliative care unit at the government teaching hospital, Connaught, where I work for most of the time.

For this Harvest season, we would love to use your gifts to help with practical costs, including food, transport, and daily necessities such as soap and toothbrushes, for the child and adult patients we support. We are also wanting to provide lunches for a group of 'Palliative Care Nurse Champions', who we hope to be training in the hospital next month. This will help us to grow and expand, and to be able to help more patients, as we are currently limited by the small number in our team.

Please pray for the training, and that the nurses who join us will be compassionate, caring and committed. Pray for good working relationships with the new Hospital Management.

Please pray too for our ongoing struggle with accessing affordable pain medication, and that we will finally be successful in procuring a reliable supply.

Many thanks for your faithful support and encouragement.

To donate directly, via the UK Friends of the Shepherds Hospice (in the process of changing their name to Palliative Care Sierra Leone), please use one of the following methods, as shown on their website:



1. By making a payment by credit or debit card via [Virgin Money Giving](#).
2. By sending a cheque (made payable to "The UK Friends of the Shepherd's Hospice") to our Treasurer, Peter Stokes, at 20a Upper Brighton Road, Surbiton, KT6 6LS. If you wish, and are able to do so, please complete the [Gift Aid declaration](#) (PDF 77KB) and send it with your cheque.
3. By making an on-line transfer to our bank account. Please 'phone Peter Stokes on 020 8399 2527 – or send an e-mail to [prpstokes@btinternet.com](mailto:prpstokes@btinternet.com) to arrange this.

If you would like to give to us on a regular basis by direct debit please contact Peter Stokes as above to set this up.

**Contact Details:** Vicar Rev Amanda Bruce



0151 932 9253



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**Website** [www.stlukecrosby.org.uk](http://www.stlukecrosby.org.uk)

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