

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

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021**

**Christ the King Sunday**

**Reflection**

**Today's Bible Reading: Revelation 1:1-6**

### **The Rest You Need is Not the Rest You're Chasing**

Which of these two teachings of Jesus do you prefer?

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"

"Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven."

I'm going to guess it's the first one because nearly everyone is exhausted right now and a rest sounds great. For that reason it is regularly made into inspirational merchandise, last I checked it even features in the church office toilet! The second teaching however only gets printed when it's in the bible and has yet to even make keyring status. Yet the two are inseparably linked. The very next thing Jesus says is to take up his yoke to find "rest for your souls". The yoke is an ancient way of inviting us to take up the way of Jesus; his teachings, example and presence in our lives. It seems counter intuitive because the last thing the weary and burdened need is more to do! But Jesus isn't giving us more to do, the yoke was a kind of ancient backpack and so what he's actually offering us is an entirely different way to carry the weight of life, one that will feel like rest compared to how we have been carrying it so far. Crucially it isn't rest for our feet or our minds Jesus offers but rest for our souls. Which is why our faith must penetrate deeper than the rule-keeping religion Jesus warned about, it needs to enter deep into our hearts but when it does we receive the inner rest of the one who could sleep even in the storm.

**Dave Lowrie**

**Please pray for the family and friends** of Malcolm Molyneux who has recently died.

**Please pray for:** Tom Dowd, Daniel Watson McCabe, Lyra Cassell (aged 16 who is fighting Leukaemia, for her parents Hayley and Johnnie and her little brother Sonny), the Elliott family, Joyce Angami, Christine Burridge, Donald Gallagher, Maureen Mitchell, Viv Pierce, Stan (Jean Robert's husband), Marg Houghton, John Metcalfe, Finley, Eloise (parents Anna & Pete) Simon Hulme (recently retired Head of St Michael's school) and all those who are suffering with COVID-19, feeling vulnerable or self-isolating.

## Prayers for this week:

**Sun...** Christ the King. We are now reaching the end of the Church's year. With the beginning of Advent, we begin again the cycle of the birth of Jesus, his ministry, his death, Passion and resurrection. "Lord of the past and the future: we thank you for the last Church Year. We pray for the coming year, that we may benefit from the teaching and wisdom of the church and grow in faith and knowledge of You."

**Mon...** for your MP that they will make wise decisions for the good of their constituents and that they will be able to cope with the stresses and strains of public office.

**Tues...** St Luke's Halsall, church school, for the pupils, parents and staff. Give God thanks for them and pray they all keep safe.

**Weds...** for wisdom for the Prime Minister and the Cabinet; for integrity, truth and compassion throughout Government

**Thurs....** Ecumenical Prayer at St Luke's this morning.

**Fri...** the work of the House of Commons and the House of Lords: that good and just decisions will be made and that the tone of debate is measured and constructive.

**Sat...** those people and places in the local, national and international news this week that God has put on your heart to pray for.

**Our Sunday Service meet in the building (*Booking no longer required*) & online at 10am every week;** [www.stlukecrossby.org.uk](http://www.stlukecrossby.org.uk), church [YouTube channel](#) by searching for stlukeschurchcrossby & church [Facebook](#) There are children's resources on [www.stlukecrossby.org.uk/resources/](http://www.stlukecrossby.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 November is Mary Bunn & her work in Sierra Leone



We support the work of Mary Bunn who is a member of St. Luke's congregation currently working in Sierra Leone. Mary is the only palliative doctor and supports the teams in the local Hospice and children's hospital developing wider understanding of childhood cancers and palliative care requirements.

Following the tanker explosion earlier this month **please continue to pray** for wisdom in management as these patients have complex needs and good early treatment is essential for minimising later problems

Thank you, Mary

**Also from Mary: Hospice Africa Quiz "A Merry Little Quizmas"** "The quiz will be held on **Sunday 5 December 2021 at 7pm via Zoom** Please join us for a fantastic evening of fun and merriment hosted by quizmaster extraordinaire John Nelson. Please send your team name to [hospiceafrica.uk@gmail.com](mailto:hospiceafrica.uk@gmail.com) and we will send you the zoom link. £10 entry donation per team. Please donate via our [Blg Christmas Give webpage](#) during the campaign week 30 November - 7 December so we can double your donation. There will also be a raffle and auction held on the night, Thank you for your support."

## Notices

## Forthcoming Sunday Services:

On the **28th November at the 10am service**, we're expecting to finalise Jackie's licensing to St Luke's as an Assistant Minister, and Rosie Norman is coming to give a presentation about Safe Families. We look forward to seeing you!

**Our Toy Service is being held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December** - as previous years we are collecting new unwrapped toys which will be divided between SWACA (Sefton Women and Children's Aid) and Sefton Helping Hands

**Big Picnic Worship:** this will take place again on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December in the church building & will include a baptism. This service is suitable for families with primary aged children. We are also collecting unwrapped toys at this service. Thankyou

### Volunteers needed for our rotas:

VOLUNTEER



Although we have had people very kindly coming back to help on our rotas we are still in need of extra help with the refreshments on a Sunday after service. You will need to be in church by 9.30am to set up. Also we need people to read prayers during our Sunday

service. If you feel you are able to help with either rota, please contact Sandra and Gaynor at the office (0151) 931 3119.

**Thank you, Sandra and Gaynor**

### **In Another Place Crosby Nativity – Update!**

**Location:** The performance will take place on the grassy area near the Coastguard Station. There will be free parking on the grass, accessed from The Serpentine Burbo Bank, staffed by stewards. The main car park next to the Coastguard Station will be open but this is pay and display. For those coming by train, get off at Hall Road (not Crosby) and turn right, heading to the coast. Tickets are available through <https://bit.ly/CrosbyNativity> Standing: £5 or bring a seat for the central area: £8. Reduced price for children. There is a discount for group bookings. Contact Sam in the IAP office for bulk bookings: [admin@inanotherplace.com](mailto:admin@inanotherplace.com) Please pray for: cast and crew, for publicity for many to come, for fine weather. For people to meet with God through it. We look forward to seeing you there!



Thank you for all the emotional and practical support you gave me during my recent brush with cancer. Thank you especially for your prayers which I believe were the reason that the treatment went smoothly and painlessly with a full recovery. **Margaret Quayle**

**Many thanks** to all our knitters & to all who filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. 78 shoeboxes, various fillers & many bags of knitting have been taken to Hope Baptist Church in Bootle for onward transfer. All those items will bring much joy to their recipients, so thanks again.

**Newsletter:** Please email your articles for the weekly newsletter directly to [news@stlukecrosby.org.uk](mailto:news@stlukecrosby.org.uk) Many thanks!



### **Churches Together in Crosby Ecumenical Prayer:**

Please come along to Morning Prayers on a Thursday with fellow-Christians. These short Services start at 9.45am. You can be sure of a warm welcome!

**Forthcoming Venues:** 25<sup>th</sup> November: St Luke's Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> December: St Helen's Church, 9<sup>th</sup> December: Moor Lane Methodist Church, 16<sup>th</sup> December All Saints with St Frideswyde Church, 23<sup>rd</sup> December: SS Peter & Paul's Church



**Searching for the Light - An Advent Art Adventure** with paintings and reflections by Richard Popplewell and John Turner at St Luke's Church. Displayed throughout Advent: **Wednesdays 1st, 8th & 15th December 10am - 2.30pm Saturdays 4th, 11th & 18th December 10am-**

**12.30pm** other times may be available by request.

### **Winter Arts Market 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am – 5.00pm at Liverpool Cathedral**

“Just in time for Christmas, Liverpool Cathedral is hosting The Winter Arts Market, one of the most popular craft fairs in the region, where you will find creative crafts, contemporary design and artisanal food at affordable prices.” For further details click [here](#)



**A Christmas celebration by Crosby Capriol Singers** “ Our afternoon of Christmas music will contain a selection of well-known carols, songs and inspirational music all designed to get you into the Christmas spirit.” **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2.30-4.30pm** at St Luke's Church. For further information and to book tickets please see the Capriol Singers Facebook page or click [here](#)

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