

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

Sunday 28th November 2021

Reflection

Today's Bible Reading: Luke 21:25-36

An Offering of Grace:

Today is a day of grace I feel – the day is a gorgeous, light-filled, golden one. It is one of those cold crisp Autumn days that seem like a gift from God. Today is a day of beauty that puts the incessant demands of life into the shade and enables me to see God and know the grace of his life and love. The grace of God is so necessary for us all.

Recently I've been reminded of this fact in some of the training I have had to do or deliver. I am so aware of the fact that we all hold different perspectives and in the midst of that variety we all have to honour and care for others more than ourselves. I am also beginning to notice how a lack of grace for each other in how we are each managing the risk of Covid is, at times, causing resentment and fear towards each other. 1 Corinthians 8.9 reminds us that whatever we feel safe to do ourselves, our care for others must lead us to honour another, being mindful of vulnerabilities that we may not hold. We must have grace for each other, remembering that our own freedoms or fears are less important than a care for others. We have all received grace from Jesus, although none of us deserve his thought, care or healing. In our weakness and vulnerability, though, he has taken our sin and given us life. In turn we need to learn to give away that grace and love to others. We need to not behave in ways that enable others to be fearful or feel pushed into doing what they don't, in all conscience, wish to do.

Let us continue to love one another, offering grace to each as is needed, honouring each other as each has need.

Amanda Bruce

Please pray for the families and friends of Malcolm Molyneux and Tom Dowd who have recently died.

Please pray for: Audrey Davies, Daniel Watson McCabe, Lyra Cassell (aged 16 who is fighting Leukaemia, for her parents Hayley & Johnnie & her little brother Sonny), the Elliott family, Joyce Angami, Christine Burrige, 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... Advent marks the beginning of the church year. It is a time for reflection in darkness, for renewal of hope and for a movement towards a beginning.

“Lord Jesus, Light of light, you have come among us. Help us who live by your light to shine as lights in your world. Glory to God in the highest.” Amen. (C of E)

Mon... “Dear Lord, We ask for your wisdom and guidance as we offer our prayers for the appointment of the next Bishop of Liverpool. We ask that through prayer, reflection and discernment your Spirit leads us to the right person for our diocese. We continue to ask you for a bigger church to make a bigger difference helping us to become fit for the mission that lies ahead. We ask this so that your Kingdom may come and your will be done, in our lives, in our diocese, and in the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Amen (Prayer from Liverpool Diocese for our new bishop and for the vacancy process)

Tues... those living with depression; that at their lowest points of their despair God would meet them there.

Weds... Holy Communion service at St Luke’s this morning.

Thurs... Keystone Meeting today; for all who are living with dementia and their carers.

Fri... IAP Crosby Nativity today and tomorrow, please pray for: the cast and crew, for fine weather and for people to meet with God through it.

Sat... from a Tearfund Prayer after COP 26: “We pray that the progress made at COP26 will be a stepping stone to genuine change: that following these talks governments will put words into action, and the policies will be put in place that will avert disaster. Help us continue to hold on to hope – to never give up but keep praying, speaking out and taking action. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

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

Mary is a palliative care doctor and is developing a palliative care service in the government sector, training and supporting teams in the main teaching hospital, the children's hospital and district hospitals to provide compassionate care and symptom management for patients with illnesses we cannot cure. **Prayer points:** *“Please give thanks for the 12 victims of the oil tanker explosion who have been discharged this week. Pray for their ongoing rehabilitation and healing. Let us thank God too for the training of Palliative Care Nurse Champions, working on all wards in the hospital to be able to identify and help patients in need of palliative care. Pray for our patients suffering with breast cancer, who are often young women with children, presenting with advanced disease. There is no radiotherapy in Sierra Leone, and no NHS, and many patients are not able to afford chemotherapy. Pray for the team as we offer treatment for pain and other distressing symptoms, practical help and counselling; that this will bring comfort and peace.”*

Thankyou 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 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

The funeral of the late Malcolm Molyneux will be on Monday 13th December @ 10am in the Lady Chapel of Liverpool Cathedral

Forthcoming Sunday Services:



Our Toy Service is being held on Sunday 5th December - we are collecting new unwrapped toys for SWACA (Sefton Women and Children’s Aid) and the Sefton Mayor’s Christmas Toy Appeal. (New and unwrapped toys, gift vouchers, toiletries, pyjamas and stocking fillers for all ages are needed and welcomed as part of the appeal. Donations of gift cards and toiletries are especially welcome for older children and teenagers). More information [here](#).

Big Picnic Worship: this will take place again on **Sunday 5th December in the church hall**. This service is suitable for families with primary aged children. We are also collecting unwrapped toys at this service. Thank you.

Please see next week’s newsletter for details of our Christmas services.



VOLUNTEER



Volunteers needed for our rotas:

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

Newsletter: Please email your articles for the weekly newsletter directly to news@stlukecrosby.org.uk Thank you.

Have a Greener Christmas!, see the [Going Green page](#) of the church website for an **Online Advent Calendar** packed full of ideas to help you and the planet as you prepare for Christmas. Each day has a practical tip to guide you through the seasonal challenges from choosing a Christmas tree to avoiding excess plastic packaging.

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. 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

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!



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:** 2nd December: St Helen's Church, 9th

December: Moor Lane Methodist Church, 16th December All Saints with St Frideswyde Church, 23rd 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. For further details click [here](#).

Winter Arts Market 3rd & 4th December 10.00am – 5.00pm at Liverpool Cathedral “Just in time for Christmas, Liverpool Cathedral is hosting The Winter Arts Market,” 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 12th 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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