

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

Sunday 16th January 2022

Reflection

Ephany 2 Bible Reading: John 2:1-11

Water into Wine

It's important to note where it was that Jesus decided to perform his first miracle which was also the first sign of God's calling on his life. He chose a village, much like the one he himself grew up in. It was not a rich village. The people who lived there worked hard for a living and the marriage ceremony and the party afterwards were significant and important events. The bride and bridegroom would have been mortified if the wine ran out. It did. When Jesus turned the water into wine, he saved the day.

John, in his gospel, tells us it was the most extraordinary wine, but knowledge of the culture tells us that people of the day did not get drunk as they surely would have if they had drunk the amount of wine that suddenly appeared. John had much more important points to make.

It's not insignificant that the first sign of his divinity was shown, not to the synagogue leaders or the rich and famous. It was shown to the poor, the workers, those in the community who had little savings. As he moved into his ministry people would tell the story of the water turning into wine and, slowly, as his message of love and service was made clearer through his teachings, his parables and, yes, further miracles, people began to understand that the teaching of Jesus was truly of God and that serving and caring for others, even though some of them might once have been considered enemies was, like the extraordinary wine of his first miracle, a foretaste of life in the kingdom of God in which there are no lords and ladies, no one to bow to except the one God who loved them for who they were.

Richie Brown

Please pray for the family and friends of Marion James who has recently died

Please pray for: Pam Moss, Viv Haworth, 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 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... for the services at St Luke's today; for all involved in the 10.00am Holy Communion service and the Big Picnic Worship at lunchtime.

Mon... those who are living through various stages of bereavement. Pray that they find ways to adjust and be able to face the future

Tues ... the PCC meeting this evening. Pray also for the groups using the premises this week including: Pram Club, Rainbows, Guides, Panto Group, Silver Swans, the Way Youth Club, Sewing Group and Flower arrangers.

Weds... Service for Christian Unity at St Luke's; (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity). Lord God "As we rejoice in the diversity of the universal church, may we also rejoice in the rich diversity of your creation. Make us mindful of our unity in Christ. Help us realize your plan for the fullness of time to gather all things in him, things on heaven and things on earth." *A prayer from 'Praying for the Earth'*

Thurs ... all who are currently ill with Covid-19, those who have recovered but have lingering symptoms or developed medical complications.

Fri... local businesses and places of work; pray for the economic wellbeing of the local area and the nation, for those who face uncertainty in their work, those who have lost jobs and face an uncertain and difficult future.

Sat... "The historic Christian presence in the Middle East is dwindling. Opportunities for young people to make social and economic progress are limited, and many leave to build a life in other countries. Please pray for the resilience of the region's remaining Christians, who work for peace and justice with an impact beyond their small numbers." *Prayer from Embrace the Middle East*

Our Sunday Service meet in the building & live streamed at 10.00am 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 after 2 pm by ringing 0808 501 5040.

Mission focus for January: Matt Thompson at UCCF John Moores University

UCCF - Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship .. Matt is a staff worker supporting Liverpool University & John Moores Christian Unions as they seek to give every student an opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ. **Matt's Prayer requests this week:** [Mission Week: 28th Feb – 4th March](#) Please pray for wisdom in planning the activities for this week of events designed to welcome non-Christians

from campus so that we can share the Gospel with them as we host them ." Matt has to decide whether to have an action packed week without over-burdening students or have fewer events in the hope that they are well attended.



St Luke's School Halsall

Applications for admission to St Luke's Halsall CE Primary School:

Please could you ensure that all 'Admission to Primary' and 'Supplementary Information' forms (available from school for consideration under the faith criteria 3/4) be **returned to school directly** and not sent to the church office or vicarage. Following the closing date for application, the forms will be reviewed and signed by Amanda once they have all been collated at the school, which will pass them on. Thank you.

Church services & Events

Currently refreshments are **not** being served after church services. We look forward to serving refreshments again soon. Watch this space for details!



Big Picnic Worship: this will take place again on **Sunday 16th January in church**. This service is appropriate for the whole family and starts at 12.30 in time to eat a picnic lunch - please bring your picnic with you! We will have active songs, games, a story, time to think about Jesus and pray for ourselves and our world. There is no need to sign-up just come to enjoy yourself in worship at 12.30 in Church We look forward

to seeing you!

Blue Monday Service: This will be a service of lament for all we have lost over the last year or 2, on **Monday 17th January**. We will meet in St Luke's Church at 7.30pm. All are welcome if you would like to come and remember and bring lament.

Week of Christian Unity: St Luke's will be hosting an Ecumenical service for the week of Christian Unity, joining with our sister churches locally on **Wed 19th January at 7.00pm**. All welcome.

START course: The START course is a 5-week course that enables each person to explore who God is and whether he should be a part of our lives. **This course starts on Wed 26th January at 7.30-9.30pm, on zoom only**, the link to be provided prior to meeting on the 26th. Please sign up online through the website so that we can send you the link that day

Notices

Prayer Ministry - Although we have a rota for prayer ministry to be available for people once a month on the last Sunday, we are very much

aware that life's problems do not conveniently arise on certain days! We do not at present have enough people to provide two Pray-ers every week, however we would hate for anyone who has come to church in need to leave with that same need.

Members of our team therefore who are present at any service would love to pray with you. They will be wearing a badge so you will be able to identify them so please don't hesitate take advantage and approach someone with a badge to ask for prayer - Shirley Wallin



“Could you or someone you know be just the person we need at StoryHouse? As we approach our fifth year as a pioneering Christian outreach introducing people to Jesus and growing church from our coffee shop in Crosby, North Liverpool, we’re looking for a new team leader to help us take our next steps. We’re recruiting a cafe manager to help lead the cafe into its next season and a part-time barista evangelist.” More info at storyhouse.community/jobs Please send all applications and any questions to our senior manager and pioneer minister Dave Lowrie dave@storyhouse.community

Don't throw away your old stamps, bring them to church and place them in the box at the back of church; they will be sent to the RNIB. Ideally leave a border around the stamps if possible! Many thanks



After the festive season foodbanks across Sefton will need supplies such as: coffee, jam, tinned tuna, UHT milk, squash, tinned potatoes, tinned tomatoes and instant mash. Please consider donating some of these things. Thank you.



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:** 20th January at St Helen's church, 27th January at All Saints with St Frideswyde church.



St Luke's Players 2022 pantomime, 'The Wizard of Oz' Once again St Luke's Players will be performing their ever-popular annual pantomime, with characters to entertain all ages! We are fully compliant with government advice and are monitoring the situation regularly. We would love to see you and help us support our chosen charities – Rowan Tree Special School and St Luke's Church Hall restoration fund.

Please note the change of dates for performances: new dates are 17th – 20th March Tickets, priced £9.00 for adults and £7.00 for children, are now available from [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) search for St Luke's Players or scan the code:



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