

Zechariah 4:6b 'Not by might, nor by power but by spirit, says the Lord of hosts'

Sunday 31st July 2022

Bible Reading: 1 Samuel 1:4-18

Reflection

An encounter with the living God will change your life

Throughout this year I've been asking God to show me what to contend for on behalf of our community and these are the words He gave me – encounter, space and breaking out.

The majority of Crosby know a bit about God, but few have encountered the living God. Yes, God is everywhere, all the time, but what I'm talking about is the manifest experience of God's presence. When we encounter God everything changes – we receive peace, healing, joy, hope and deep deep love. Encounters aren't one off experiences; no matter how long you've been in church, there is always more of God. The question is, are you hungry?

How does encounter happen? Space. One of the greatest challenges to our daily encounter with God is distraction. From our devices to proving our lives have value. Making space for God requires you to change your habits. Whether that's letting go of control, doing something new, inviting chaos into your life or switching your phone off. Make room. Clear out the clutter for the only one that matters.

A picture was shared at one of our prayer meetings about a seed planted in a small pot. As the plant grew and flowers appeared, the pot became too small and the flower needed replanting into a bigger space in order for it to flourish. I believe this picture illustrates our spiritual lives here in Crosby (within and outside the church, myself included). Our knowledge, faith and experience of God is so often contained and safe, limited to what we already know. But this isn't the fullness of life Jesus talks about. God's calling you to break out, to make space for Him. He's calling you to a full life of flourishing and continued transformation through new encounters with Him. The question is, do you want it?

Lizzie Lowrie

Mission focus for July is In Another Place (IAP)



We also still have teams working outside of Bootle, our Assembly Team continue to go to schools in Crosby. We are looking at extending this to the Bootle area too. Our Gospel choir continue to meet in Moor Lane Methodist every

Wednesday evening. **Specific prayer points: Please pray** :In longer term plans we are looking at partnering with the Cathedrals more and with Sefton Council.

Church services and events

Our Sunday Service meet in the building & live streamed at 10.00am every week; www.stlukecrosby.org.uk , church [YouTube channel](#) by searching for stlukechurchcrosby & church [Facebook](#) There are children's resources on stlukecrosby.org.uk/resources/

Weekly prayer meeting *If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.* 2 Chronicles 7:14



This verse has inspired a few of us to meet to pray on Tuesday mornings at 7.15am! Please come & join us as we pray for half an hour & seek God's way forward for our church, our community & our land. All very welcome. We meet in the Parish Office.

Wednesday morning Holy Communion 10.30am in church – a short service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday morning, all welcome.

Prayer Course *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God, and the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus".* Doctors have studied the physiological effects of prayer and proved the reality of this scripture. Prayer reduces stress and when we pray our heart rate and blood pressure decrease and breathing regulates. So why wouldn't you want to pray more? And we have the perfect opportunity. Our church will be running Pete Greig's prayer course, based on the Lord's Prayer, and hosted by the Prayer Ministry team **for eight weeks starting on the 12th September at 7.30 pm in church.** The format will be a short teaching video followed by discussion. Please sign up on the [events page](#) on our web site or sign the form at the back of church if interested, even if you would prefer an afternoon one as that could be considered. This is for everyone, if you feel uncomfortable praying aloud or struggle to articulate your prayers please don't be put off as there will be no pressure to pray. Together we will have fun, fellowship, grow spiritually and deepen our relationship with God. **Shirley Wallin**



Prayer

Please pray for: Jeff Calvert, Trevor Trow, Gareth Cuthbertson, Jim Cross, Vicky Sutton, Mike, Owen, Ann Causer, Hannah, Beryl Collins (Jan Holmes mum,) Colin Jones, Sandra Walker, Peter and Lena Trofimchuk, June (Angelina's mum), Jackie (friend of Margaret Quayle), Dave Markham, Daniel Watson McCabe, Christine Burridge, Donald Gallagher, Maureen Mitchell, Viv Pierce, Stan Roberts, Marg Houghton, Simon Hulme and all those who are suffering with COVID-19.

Thank you Lord - baby Aidan is doing really well following heart surgery. He's making amazing progress and his mum Monique is very grateful for prayers.



Prayers for this week: Please keep the people of Ukraine in your prayers throughout this week; please pray for peace for Ukraine.

Prayers for this week:

Sun... pray for ourselves as a church, for God's wisdom as we seek to respond to the issues of homelessness, poverty and debt.

Mon... for those struggling financially, for those whose income is reduced,

Tues ... the places where you live and work and spend your leisure time pray for your neighbours and neighbourhood, for your colleagues and place of work or volunteering

Wed... God's protection and provision for all who are vulnerable to traffickers planning to put them to work and exploit them, pray for those who have been coerced into slavery and are victims of human trafficking, pray for their freedom, for justice, for the charities helping to support, and that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

Thurs... children and families around the world experiencing hunger as the impact of conflict, Covid and climate change has created a hunger crisis in many countries.

Fri... continue to pray for the people of Afghanistan; for comfort and peace for all who are grieving; pray for provision to meet all their emotional and practical needs. Pray for the charities as they help to plan responses to rebuild after the earthquake.

Sat... Storyhouse Café and Church

Notices

Thankyou! to all our friends at St. Luke's for the cards, gifts, thoughts and prayers we received on our confirmation. We look forward to sharing our journey with you all.

Love Rhys and Esmee

The internment of the late June Barnard - St Luke's Rose Garden - Wednesday 10th August @ 2pm. If anyone would like to pay their respect, please meet at the Rose Garden.



Ukrainian Welcome Centre (Mersey Road Methodist) are asking if you would be able to drop off any of these essential items; soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shower gel, womens sanitary wear, razors for men - shaving cream/gel, medical supplies any over the counter ie paracetamol, calpol for children, bandages etc. Opening times – Sunday 2-5pm; Monday 2-6pm; Tuesday 12-4pm

Foodbank Shortages - Due to high demand stock of all food is low, please consider donating any of the following items: Men's & Women's Toiletries, Tinned fruit Tinned Potatoes, Tinned Veg, UHT milk (1 Litre), Long life juice/Squash, Instant noodles/pasta'n'sauce, Jam. **Thank you**



Do you have good computer skills and a few hours a week to spare? We are looking for someone to help with hall bookings (dealing with new and amending existing bookings.) For more information please contact Paul Beardwood at comms@stlukecrosby.org.uk

There will be one newsletter for the Sundays during August, please submit your articles for inclusion **no later than Wednesday 3rd August**. Email news@stlukecrosby.org.uk. Thank you.

New season soft fruit jams now available in the church and Parish office. Strawberry, Raspberry, Blackcurrant. Black cherry, Gooseberry, Raspberry and Rhubarb. Donations in aid of ARocha.

Agnes Law



Dates for the Diary

Churches together in Crosby Ecumenical Prayer: There will be no meetings in August but will resume on 1st September at St Helen's Church. You are invited to Morning Prayers with fellow-Christians. These short Services start at 9.45am followed by tea/coffee and biscuits. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Are you looking for some family fun for the Summer Holidays? We have 2 ideas for you

Narnia Escape Rooms - In Another Place are releasing the summer dates for our very own Narnia Escape Room and we recommend booking now to avoid disappointment! This summer we are opening the Escape Room every Tuesday and Thursday through July and August (advanced bookings only) and also have the following dates available for booking: Fri 29th July, and Fri 5th, Sat 13th, & Fri 19th August. Contact us to book now admin@inanotherplace.com



Shiver Me Timbers Summer Activities - 25th July – 6th August in Bootle Strand on behalf of YKids/Kingsley & Co full details online: www.kingsleyandco.org



**St Faith's Crosby
MUSIC**

Sunday 25th September at 6.30pm St Faith's Crosby Music and the Royal School of Church


Musicians are delighted to be able to invite musical members of your church communities to our regional Mozart Requiem Come and Sing Concert to sing in the massed choir. All singers and musicians from your church are most welcome to join us in the choir for what will be a spectacular event. If you would like to join the choir then use the QR code or email Director of Music on j.watson@stfaithgreatcrosby.org.uk to register your attendance.



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