

*John 15.8 "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples".*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Bible Reading: Matthew 25.14-30**

## Reflection

**Matthew 25.14-30** The parable that we are thinking about today is called the Parable of the Talents. A talent was not a coin but a weight. Its value depended on the type of metal which it consisted of. At the time of Jesus, a silver talent was worth about fifteen years of wages for a working man. The person who stands out in this story is the slave who received the least amount from his master but did nothing with it. The other slaves invested their talents and had twice as much to give back to their master on his return. Jesus was having another poke at the Pharisees who lived entirely by the words of their law and didn't make much progress spiritually. As Christians we have faith, and God gives us spiritual gifts to use to build his kingdom here on Earth. I have heard people say, "He hasn't given me a gift." Often, the fact is that they are using their gift in the church but do not see it as a gift. It is often easier to recognise a gift in others than to recognise the gift in oneself. God knows us, and He gives us the gifts that will be useful for our ministry in the Church. Humans are not always equal in talents, but they can be equal in effort! Spiritual effort is the thing that God is looking for, and the fruit of that effort will be rewarded.

This parable encourages us to invest our talents to be able to give more to our Master when he returns. In Matthew 25:23 we read that his Lord said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant: you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord." What will he say to you?

**Chris Parsons**

**Mission focus for November: Mary Bunn, Sierra Leone**



We have just celebrated the first 5 years of Connaught Palliative Care Unit, on World Hospice and Palliative Care Day, October 14th, with a meeting for nearly 100 people. We were able to present our achievements and future plans to the deputy Chief Medical and Chief Nursing and

Midwifery Officers, as well as other senior healthcare staff. It was great to recognise

the work and progress of the team, and the support of the hospital, the Ministry and other partners. We have treated and supported over 850 patients so far.

**Please pray with us** for future palliative training to both undergraduates and qualified staff, to increase awareness, understanding and knowledge. Thank you so much for your support, Love, Mary

## Church services and events

**Our Sunday Service meet in the building & live streamed at 10.00am every week;** [www.stlukecrosby.org.uk](http://www.stlukecrosby.org.uk) , church [YouTube channel](#) by searching for stlukeschurchcrosby & church [Facebook](#) **Archived services & talks** can be found [here](#).

**Weekly prayer meeting:** 2 Chronicles 7:14. This verse has inspired a few of us to meet to pray on Tuesday mornings at **7.14am** in the Parish office. Please come & join us as we pray for half an hour & seek God's way forward for our church, our community & our land, all welcome.

**Wednesday Holy Communion Service** – next service is on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 10.30am in church.** All welcome!

**Today Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 1.00pm** in church, there'll be an opportunity to "Come & worship" a relaxed, informal time of worshipping & listening to God. Feel free to bring your lunch, drinks available from 12.30. All welcome.

## Dates for the Diary

'What's on at St Luke's?' please see the 'church news' section of the Noticeboard.

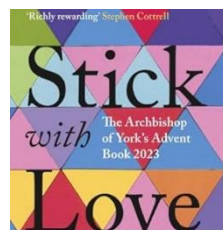
**Churches together in Crosby Ecumenical Prayer:** These short Services start at 9.45am followed by tea/coffee and biscuits. The next service is on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at St Helen's Church.** All welcome.



### St Luke's Halsall School Christmas Fayre - Friday

**1<sup>st</sup> December** - Doors will open at 3.45pm and it will finish for 6.00pm. Come along and enjoy the fun and support our school.

**Advent Book Club** will be based on Stick with Love by Arun Arora. We will meet online on the evenings of **Monday 4th, 11th and 18th Dec.** If you would like to take part, then please register using the following link [www.stlukecrosby.org.uk/events](http://www.stlukecrosby.org.uk/events)





**Big Christmas Gig – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December -Venue & Ticket details -**  
For fans of The Choir With No Name, CWNN's Big Christmas Gig will be taking place at **The Tung Auditorium, Yoko Ono Lennon Centre, University of Liverpool, 60 Oxford Street L7 3NY** (at the junction of Grove St & Oxford St). Tickets will be £12.00, concessions £10.00.

It's always a lovely, uplifting occasion! **Please see Diana on Sunday for details of the link for tickets.** Thankyou.



**This year, from Friday  
8<sup>th</sup> until Saturday  
23<sup>rd</sup> December, Father**



Christmas is coming to town! We really want to encourage you to come along with your family, church members and all their little ones to visit him in his fairy tale themed Grotto in Bootle Strand Shopping Centre. We also want to give you the option, whilst you are here, to visit our amazing interactive Nativity for absolutely free! Every family in attendance will receive full colour, high quality Nativity book full of fun facts they can take away and read. Tickets start at just £6 and are available here: <https://bit.ly/BootleGrotto2023> Please book early to avoid disappointment.



**Toy Service at St Luke's** – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December, please bring an unwrapped toy. Toys will be distributed to local children who may not otherwise receive a Christmas gift.

## Notices

**Update from Amanda** – Amanda is home from hospital having had spinal surgery on Wednesday. All went very well and afterwards she felt no sciatic pain for the first time since last January. She now has to heal and recuperate which will take some time. She will mainly be in Preston with family to do that. We may see her, off duty, between now and Christmas, but we aren't expecting her back to church work until January. She wanted us to pass on her thanks for so many prayers and wishes of blessing over the last few days. She says, "God was a very tangible and practical presence in hospital with me; I felt your prayers surrounding me with God as he provided peace and healing. There were even what seemed like angels once I was on the ward, bringing food and hot chocolate! Thank you all!"

**Christmas Services** We are looking for volunteers to fill different roles to ensure that our Christmas services run smoothly. We will need sides people, readers, communion servers and people to serve refreshments at different services over the festive period. If you can volunteer to help at one of the services, then please sign up on the chart at the back of church which will be available from Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. Many thanks,

**Debbie Burke**

**Thankyou!** – 84 boxes, 12 bags of knitter’s items, 3 bags of Ann’s hats and a bag of fillers were delivered to Orrell Park Baptist church from St Luke’s church. Thank you all, Jan & Vera.



**Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendars** are at the back of church. Reverse advent calendars allow you to donate or give something each day. **Please return all food boxes to church no later than 3rd December. Thankyou!**

**Helping others in our community** This month marks national Trustees Week celebrating the contribution of nearly one million trustees across the UK. A drive is underway for new trustees to join Citizens Advice Sefton, welcoming people from all walks of life to volunteer as trustees to help oversee it and provide non-executive leadership. The charity helps thousands of local people each year with free advice and support on a range of subjects. Trustees ensure it operates within Charity Commission rules and manages its resources and finances responsibly for the benefit of our local community. The role involves committing several hours a month including a trustees' meeting every 2 months. More information on its website: <https://seftoncab.org.uk/news/> If you are interested in becoming a trustee, email for more details or to arrange an informal discussion to: [recruitment@seftoncab.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@seftoncab.org.uk) **Graham Hignett**

### **Prayer**

**Please pray for...** Mary & Andrea (mother and sister) of Julia who has recently died.

**Please pray for ...** Margaret Austin (aunt of Mark Waters) Jean Besson, Frances Hargreaves, Shirley Sutcliffe’s dad, Judith Page, Agnes Terry, Amanda, Pauline & Bob Lea, Peter Dobson, Lyndsey Moore, Glenys Linford, Alejandro and Doris Mesco, Dave Rogers, Peter Wilson (Jan’s husband), Lisa ( friend of Bev Seel), Peter Gilroy, Karen Boyd, Kenneth Harrison (Chris Parson’s Brother in Law), Vicky Sutton, Mike, Ann Causer, June (Angelina’s mum), Jackie (friend of Margaret Quayle), Dave Markham, Daniel Watson McCabe, Viv Pierce, Stan Roberts, Marg Houghton.

**Please pray for ...** the people of Nepal and Afghanistan following the recent earthquakes, the people of Ukraine as the war continues.


**Prayer for Israel and Gaza from Tearfund** “Dear God, We cry out to you on behalf of the people seriously affected by the conflict in Gaza and Israel. Our hearts break at the devastation and suffering that we see, and we know it breaks yours, too. We ask that you stretch out your mighty hand to bring an end to this war. We cry out for people who have been injured or traumatised, who have lost loved ones or their homes. Please provide everything they need and be their comfort, their hope, their healer, and their safe refuge. We pray for your peace to reign. We look to you as our Saviour and the hope of the world.” Amen.

For more prayers from Tearfund for Israel and Gaza please visit [here](#)

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