

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

Sunday 11th February 2024

Bible Readings : Revelation 21:1-8 & Luke 16:19-26

Heaven and Hell

Reflection

Try explaining heaven and hell to a 6-year-old. That was my challenge a few weeks back. It started with 'where do people go when they die?' So, this little one knows a lot about the universe - more than our forebears did when the scriptures were written and when a lot of church traditional thought on this topic was being formed. He knows that 'up there', beyond the clouds is the cosmos and 'down there' is the molten core of the planet. And that the universe is expanding so 'where else is there'. So, I stumbled my way through trying to find words for the unexplainable for a 6 year old. I'm sure many of us have had similar conversations.

There has been a good deal written about heaven and hell, much of it allegorical, in story form, to help us try and picture what happens to us when we die. Our human brain is trying to grasp something beyond our imagination - much as we try to grasp the idea of God: The Infinite Other, Universal Love, the Great Is are all words I have come across in literature and writings.

Again and again, I find these conversations bring me back to the Way of Jesus and walking it, the encouragement to love and love and love again. He did mention heaven and hell, but the overriding message and his life speaks of love. It's really that simple. As for my 6-year-old, we ended up reminding ourselves that to be kind is the most important thing and to know that people live on with us in our hearts even after they die, and to let God take care of them in Gods own kindness.

Rosemary

Difficult Questions – Sermon Series - . This week's topic is 'Heaven & Hell'.

There will be the opportunity to discuss the days questions/issues after the service just grab your coffee or tea and go to the Crosby Room for half an hour (be aware that there is a 12-noon service on 2 Sunday's a month so please take your coat and bags with you).

If you're not able to be in church on a Sunday or are watching online, every week we will be holding an online chat to discuss the issues around the Sunday sermon.

To join a discussion online please sign up via the website events page

<https://stlukecrosby.org.uk/events/> and a link will be emailed to you prior to the meeting. The days will change each week to give everybody a chance to take part.

Next week will be Monday at 7:30pm

More information on the forthcoming topics may be found at the foot of this newsletter.

Mission focus for February

February was the month when we prayed especially for **Ethan Miller**. We look back with gratitude for all he did during his time with us, particularly for his work with our young people. He has now moved on to pursue his PhD studies and I'm sure will be grateful for our ongoing prayers.

During his time with UCCF, The Christian Unions, we supported **Matt Thompson**. He is coming to our service on **Sunday, 18 February at 10.00** to thank us for our support over those years and to update us on his work now in our Storyhouse Café.

During February, please pray for all our mission partners, especially those for whom God has given you a particular concern.

Toybox, Janette Burridge; **Christian Aid**, Kirsten Sothmann; **A Rocha**, Jan Matthews; **Alejandro & Doris Mesco**, Arequipa, Peru, Joyce Fell; **Operation Christmas Child**, Vera de Villiers; **Children's Society**, Jo Marshall & Hilary Roberts; **Malawi**, **Liz Molyneux**, Lyn Newsham; **James & Mary Bunn**, Sierra Leone; **Hannah Spiers**, Community at the Crossing, New York; **In Another Place**, Annie Spiers. Thank you for praying and for giving generously over so many years. If you would like more information about any of our ten partners in mission, please ask us.

Maureen Cawdron

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 stlukeschurchcrosby & church [Facebook](#) **Archived services & talks** can be found [here](#).

All are welcome to the following:

Service/Event

Day, Time & Venue

- **Weekly prayer meeting** Tuesdays at **7.14am** in the Parish office.
- **Holy Communion Service** Wednesdays at 10.30am in the Crosby Room.
- **Big Picnic Worship (Family worship service)** **Today Sunday 11th February** in church at 12.00
- **Tongues of Fire Praise & Worship service** **Today Sunday 11th February at 6pm**
- **Ashing services** **Wednesday 14th February at 10.30am & 6.30pm**

Full information about each service/event is on the 'St Luke's' Noticeboard in church and on the church website.

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

- **Churches together in Crosby Ecumenical Prayer:** The next service is 9.45 am on **Thursday 15th February St Helen's church.** All welcome
- **'Lighten Our Darkness' Deanery Eco Youth Event - 7.00pm on 17th February at Holy Trinity Church Formby.** Young eco-leaders from All Saints, Mulingar in Ireland share & inspire churches in Sefton North Deanery! There is a presentation, Q&A over cake; followed by a youth gathering for Sefton North church youth groups. **Please see poster on the Church 'Community' Noticeboard for full details.**
- **Come & Worship Sunday 18th February 1.00pm in church.** Come & Worship...is a relaxed time of informal worship open to all. An opportunity to read from the Bible, pray, share experiences, listen to Christian songs. All are welcome to contribute or not as is preferred. Usual length of meeting is 45-50mins. All welcome. For more info speak to Jan or Steve Matthews.
- **St Luke's Players Pantomime 'Saving Pantoland' - Friday 23rd Feb/Sat 24th Feb/ Sun 25th Feb** - Please see poster on the 'Community' Noticeboard in Church for full details. Any problems with booking tickets please phone Amy on 07866 613439 or call to the hall between 1 and 1.30 on a Sunday. Visit www.tickettailor.com/events/stlukesplayersads/1102988 to book tickets.



- **The World Day of Prayer invites you to All Saints with St Frideswyde Church at 11 am on Friday March 1st.** Come to join other Christians of Crosby to share

the faith experience of Palestinian Christian women, their daily lives under occupation, to pray with them and turn those prayers into positive action. Palestinian goods will be on sale. All welcome. **Please see poster on the Church 'Community' Noticeboard.**

- **Quiet Day at Rydal Hall** After experiencing the wonderful blessing of a quiet day at Rydal Hall last year, Jan & Steve are organising this one led by Rev David Wilmot, chaplain of Rydal Hall & Rector of Grasmere & Rydal. **When: Sat 2 March Time: 10am-4pm (arrival from 9.30) Theme:** Seeing God in all of life **Cost:** £25 including a soup & sandwich lunch & refreshments during the day. All are very welcome & lift sharing can be arranged nearer the time. For more information or to book a place (full payment when booking please), contact Jan Matthews tel: 07944 671454 or email: Jan.matthews3@gmail.com

Notices

- **Funeral of Glenys Linford** – this will take place on **Friday 23rd February** at 11:00ish. It will be held at St. Mary's Church in Roade, followed by a reception in the local area. **Please can you let Amanda know if you plan to attend** so that the family can book accordingly. Thankyou.
- *Thank you for packing Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts in 2023!* **From Samaritans Purse** - "This past season, the UK sent shoebox gifts to children in need in the following countries and regions: Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Romania, Serbia, The Balkans, Central Asia, The Middle East, West Africa. You are part of a global family that sent 11,330,126 shoebox gifts this season— including 237,735 from the UK! Thank you for your amazing partnership. Each shoebox gift brings so much joy, shows a child they are loved, and gives them an opportunity to hear the Gospel."
- **RNIB fundraiser** – to sponsor Deb Roberts who is running in the London Marathon, raising money for research and assistance for people losing or without their sight, please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/page/deb-roberts-1699304373709>

Prayer

Please pray for the families & friends of Glenys Linford, Cardie de Villiers and Patricia Critchley who have recently died.


Please pray for... Barbara Naylor, Joyce Whetnall's son Roger, Mary Porter, Melissa Sunter, Hannah, Gareth, Zachary and the unborn child, Ian & Gill Lowrie, Vera de Villiers, Margaret Austin (aunt of Mark Waters), Jean Besson, Frances Hargreaves, Judith Page, Amanda, Peter Dobson, Lyndsey Moore, Alejandro and Doris Mesco, Dave Rogers, Peter Wilson (Jan's husband), Lisa (friend of Bev Seel), Peter Gilroy, Karen Boyd, Maureen & Kenneth Harrison, Vicky Sutton, Mike, Ann Causer, June (Angelina's mum), Jackie (friend of Margaret Quayle), Dave Markham, Daniel Watson McCabe, Viv Pierce, Stan Roberts.

Please continue to pray for... *the people of Ukraine as the war continues, and the people of Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. Pray for the future of the Holy Land.*

Contact details:

Vicar: Rev. Amanda Bruce

 revamandabruce@gmail.com


 0151 932 9253

Newsletter email: news@stlukecrosby.org.uk

Charity No: 1128698

Parish Administrator: Gaynor Robertson

 office@stlukecrosby.org.uk

 0151 931 3119

Website www.stlukecrosby.org.uk

Difficult Questions Sermon Themes:

Some people have been asking what theme we're taking in our Difficult Questions sermon series each week, so that they can have a think about it and do some research prior to the Sunday. Below you will find a list of what themes are coming up when over the next few weeks until Easter.

Date	Theme	Date	Theme
11 th Feb	Heaven and Hell	10 th March	Mothering Sunday
18 th Feb	Mission Sunday	17 th March	Heresy
25 th Feb	Racial Differences	24 th March	Palm Sunday
3 rd March	Sin & Atonement	31 st March	Easter Sunday

We've already looked at Unity & Disagreement, Political Involvement as Christians and The Decline of the Church. You can access those sermons [online](#).

Some of the dates are obviously seasonal days and festivals, but we will have explored 7 themes this term to some extent. After Easter we will return to the Lectionary until Trinity Sunday following which we will be exploring the Book of Nehemiah. In the Autumn we will return to more Difficult Questions and will publish a new list for your use then.

Keep thinking and asking!

Every blessing, Amanda