

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

Sunday 4th February 2024

Bible Reading: Haggai 2:1-9

Reflection

How often have you heard people say, 'The church is not what it used to be.'? We know that the number of people attending church services has steadily declined over the years. Many people do not see the relevance of the church except when there is a national disaster, then they seek out a church as a source of help and security. Also, technology has enabled some to watch the service without having to step outside their door.

Haggai was a minor prophet who spoke for only three months. It is said that the word of the Lord did not come 'to' him but 'by' his insight, rather than by revelation. The people were depressed and upset that they could not obtain the materials to rebuild a temple that would look as grand as Solomon's Temple. They felt that the building that they were constructing was small and substandard. No doubt the older people were saying, 'You should have seen the Temple that we had previously! Morale was low and they were discouraged. They started to improve their own houses instead. The words from Haggai came to encourage them to start rebuilding. It was better to honour God by building a smaller Temple where he could dwell among His people, than not building one at all.

So, size does not matter to God as long as we are honouring Him with what we are trying to build. God encourages us by saying that we should be strong, and not be fearful for He is with us, and His Spirit is in the midst of us.

Chris Parsons

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)** **Sunday 11th February** in church at 12.00 noon.

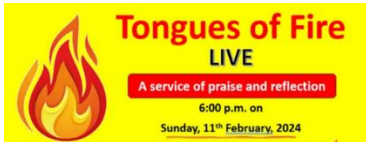
Full information about each service/event is on the 'St Luke's' Noticeboard in church and on the church website.

Over the next few weeks at our 10.00am Sunday service our **sermon series** will be covering the following **Difficult Questions** – 'Decline of the Church', 'Heaven & Hell', 'Creation of Race', 'Sin & Atonement', 'Heresy'. **The topic for today Sunday 4th February is 'Decline of the church'**

'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 8th February here at St Luke's Church** All welcome
- **Lent Reading** – Colin Stephens has a bookstall, after the 10.00am service on Sunday 11th February, with a selection of books for reading during Lent.

- **This is one not to miss....**



The Prayer Ministry team are delighted and privileged to host this event at **6.00pm on Sunday 11th February here at St Luke's Church**. An opportunity to invite friends and family. The worship band leader Mike

is the husband of Beth Anderson, vicar of St Nicholas, Blundellsands. There will be hymns and gospel stories from St Luke's gospel which are not mentioned in the other three gospels. The stories will be told in between the songs. It will be ecumenical and is an hour-long event with refreshments at the end.

Shirley Wallin

- **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
- **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

- **Lakeside** - we **won't** be meeting on Tuesday 6th February; our next meeting will be in March.
- **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.
- **Cinemas showing Christian films in February** –
 - **'The Chosen'** - originally a drama series for tv about the life of Christ, is being shown in local cinemas- **Season 4 - episodes 4 to 6** will be showing at cinemas on Thurs. 15th February only. **Season 4 episodes 7 to 8** will be showing at cinemas on Thurs. 29th February – For details and to book please visit: thechosentv.co.uk
 - **'Ordinary Angels'** (PG) based on a remarkable true story is opening in cinemas nationwide on **Friday 23rd February**. For details and the trailer please visit ordinaryangels.movie

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.

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