



St Luke's Newsletter



MAY 2021

*They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long.
They love to have the place of honour at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues,
and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have people call them rabbi.*

Matthew 23: 5-7

We find out what we hold sacred when it's threatened and the world of football, a religion to its most devoted fans, has certainly felt threatened recently.

Last month, news broke of a proposed European Super League, which would mean six of the UK's biggest teams join a mid-week competition with other heavy hitters from the continent. The idea quickly attracted widespread condemnation. Everyone from players to pundits to politicians poured out their wrath.

I read: 'It's not new to see passions run high in football, but rarely have sporting boards come in for such unanimous demonisation. In this version of events, the narrative's villains are the ruling elite – billionaire owners who, mostly fuelled by greed, want to maximise the value of their asset without any apparent care for fans, the local community, or pretty much anything else. They've made common what should be a holy thing, trespassing against an unspoken code. 'Unforgivable', chant the supporters.'

But what really led to these accusations of betrayal and heresy against the national sport? It would appear that it wasn't because of our in-built suspicion of powerful people, because large foreign conglomerates have long enjoyed investing in big clubs. As a long standing Manchester City supporter myself, I have seen the way money has changed attitudes and practices in the game. But it wasn't even a simple rejection of the amount of money in football – this, too, isn't new.

Instead, it seems that perceived injustice was at the root of the outcry. Granted, wealthy owners had some valid reasons to act, but there's a lot in the surge of public feeling that aligns with the values of our Christian faith – particularly if we compare it to Matthew 23, where Jesus dresses down the Pharisees.

The clubs involved in the planned Super League would have automatically qualified, whereas other teams would have to earn their place. In other words, the rules were hypocritical and exclusive (Matthew 23v13). The money generated would disproportionately benefit the strong, leaving behind smaller clubs. It unfairly benefited the rich at the expense of the poor (v23).

And the concept of the Super League was concocted by wealthy individuals with little attention to the fans and communities it would impact. In other words, they ignored the powerless (v4).

In the end, the weight of public pressure has proved too heavy. Justice and fairness arguably prevailed in this story. The same justice that's embodied perfectly in Jesus, who chose to identify with the poor – bringing in upside-down kingdom values where the powerless are elevated and outsiders are included.

What injustices might God overturn through us if we lived like that on our frontlines this month?

Revd Annie

Church Annual Meeting – Sunday 23rd May at 11am

Because of COVID, we have not been able to have our normal Annual Meetings for two years, so Sunday 23rd May will be an opportunity to catch up with news of the activities that your Church Council have been continuing to undertake in this time.

The Meeting will be at 11am, after Morning Service, and because of regulations, it will be held outside in the Churchyard. So, strong recommendation, bring an umbrella and your own chair.

So please put this in your diaries, and come and support the people who have been working hard throughout the last two years to keep St Luke's up and running, and hear plans for the coming months.

Outdoor Easter Service at St Lukes



Services at St Lukes in May

Sunday 2nd May

9.30 am Outdoor Family Service
followed by a Holy Communion Service in church

Sundays 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th May

9.30am Holy Communion Service in church

Sunday 6th June

9.30 am Outdoor Family Service
followed by a Holy Communion Service in church

St Luke's Charity Quiz Saturday 15th May at 7pm

Rejoice and join in! Hopefully we will soon be able to meet in person for a quiz so this is the last one on zoom.

Please do join us for a fun filled hour of shouting at the quiz master's incompetence! The Zoom link will be on the website and emailed out.

All you need is a pen and paper, a sense of humour and any nibbles you might need to keep your stamina and brain in good form. £1 per person for our church charities.

St Luke's Churchyard Working Party



Sat 19th June 2021

10.30am – 1pm

All welcome

Easter Hearts
made by our
Knitting Ninjas



Walking with Pilgrim Hearts in support of Christian Aid

We have organised 5 daily local walks which are open to everyone.

Each weekday from **May 17th -21st** we will meet at **11am** for a guided walk interspersed with prayer and silence as well as lots of opportunity for chat and a picnic.

Each walk will conclude with Evening Prayer.

Please support this mini pilgrimage by donating to Christian Aid via the link here

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/chaldonandwhyteleafedailypilgrimage>

and by joining us for the walk and/or for Evening Prayer which will also be on Zoom.

Daily details to follow by email.

Evening and Night Prayer in May

**On Zoom at 6.30pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Thursdays & Fridays**
Night Prayer on Zoom at 9.30pm Sundays

Evening and Night Prayer with music will be offered on Zoom on each week for 30 mins & will be hosted Rev Helen, Rev Sara or Leslie, our Lay Reader.

Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82053753781>

The password is unchanged but if you require it please email: vicar@chaldonchurch.co.uk