

Prayers for 18th October 2020

Are you interested in the weather forecast? There are lots of ways in which we can – or at least try to – prepare ourselves for the day and week ahead. When I was a little girl in Whiston – a long time ago now! – there was an old man who reckoned he could predict the weather. I can't remember how accurate he was but the one thing I do remember is his prediction of 'St Luke's little summer' – 'that is, around this time every year there would be a burst of lovely summer-like weather. Well, it's coming up to that time so let's see if that happens.

The St Luke he was referring to is 'Luke the Evangelist', whose saints day is October 18th – this Sunday. Luke was a dear friend of the Apostle Paul, who mentions him several times in his letters where he is described as 'the beloved physician'. Luke is believed to be the author of the gospel which stands in his name and of the Acts of the Apostles.

Luke was a Gentile and he makes it clear in his writings that the Good News of Jesus is for all, regardless of gender, social position or nationality. How fortunate we are to have his writings! Let us pray for Luke:

Thank you Lord for the work of your servant Luke and for the clear narrative he gives to us of Jesus's birth and life. As we thank you for his skills as a physician, we thank you too for all modern -day physicians – especially those who are working so hard in this pandemic. Please continue to pass on your healing power and skill to them that they may help us all. Amen

And we pray for the recently departed Sylvia Beames and Brenda Turner and for all who are ill or may be sad and lonely, especially those who have lost family and friends recently and for whom life will never be the same again. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur this week: Howard Marshall, Jo-an White, Stanley Blackmore, Norman Hopkinson and Derek Topliss. Amen

Jan Teale