

# CHARLTON

ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS

Sunday 2 December 2018  
Advent Sunday

*Today's Preacher and Celebrant:*

**St Thomas':** Rev'd Liz Newman

**St Luke's:** Rev'd Bennett Spong

*Today's Readings:*

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 33.14-16

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13

**Gospel:** Luke 21.25-36



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*The Parishes of St Thomas Old Charlton and St Luke  
with Holy Trinity Charlton working together*

## Diary this week:

<b>Sun 2</b>	<p>10.00: <b>Parish Eucharist for Advent Sunday</b> at St Thomas'</p> <p>10.00: <b>Parish Eucharist for Advent Sunday</b> at St Luke's <i>followed by Bible Study</i></p> <p>18:30: <b>Advent Carol Service</b> at St Thomas'</p>
<b>Mon 3</b>	<p>08.30: <b>Morning Prayer</b> at St Luke's</p> <p>17.30: <b>Evening Prayer</b> at St Thomas'</p>
<b>Tue 4</b>	<p>08.30: <b>Morning Prayer</b> at St Luke's</p> <p>10.00: <b>Tuesday Group</b> at St Thomas' <i>includes The Julian Corner</i></p> <p>17.30: <b>Evening Prayer</b> at St Thomas'</p>
<b>Wed 5</b>	<p>08.30: <b>Morning Prayer</b> at St Luke's</p> <p>10.00: <b>Coffee Morning</b> at St Luke's</p> <p>12.00: <b>Holy Communion</b> at St Luke's</p> <p>17.30: <b>Evening Prayer</b> at St Thomas'</p>
<b>Thu 6</b>	<p>08.30: <b>Morning Prayer</b> at St Luke's</p> <p>17.30: <b>Evening Prayer</b> at St Thomas'</p> <p>19.30: <b>Advent Study Group</b> at 10 Mayhill Road</p>
<b>Sun 9</b>	<p>10.00: <b>Parish Eucharist</b> at St Thomas'</p> <p>10.00: <b>All Age Eucharist</b> at St Luke's <i>followed by Bible Study</i></p> <p>14.30: <b>Carol Service</b> at Time Court Care Home</p> <p>17.30: <b>Community Christmas sing-a-long</b> at St Thomas'</p>



### Thought for the week

'Never look down on anyone. Only God sits that high'. Jesus will come again, and we'll all have to give an account of ourselves when he does. Let's leave judging others to him.

## Thank you...

To Marjorie Hutchinson for her work on repairing our vestments at St Luke's. This is painstaking work and Marjorie completes it with love and care.

To Jim and Sheila Kinsella for organizing such a fun fundraising event at St Thomas last Saturday. The Quiz Night and singalong was wonderfully supported by local people and over £500 was raised for the work of the church.

To everyone who came along to Charlton Park Academy yesterday to sing carols at their Christmas Fair. Charlton Park Academy is a Special School catering for 11 - 19 year olds with profound disabilities. It was lovely for our churches to have a presence there and support their fundraising efforts.

## News and notices

### **Advent Carol Service Tonight December 2<sup>nd</sup> 6.30pm at St Thomas'**

This is a service for both our congregations as we start the journey together through Advent. We will be joined by our friends from St Mary's Leigh and the British Orthodox Church, and sharing mince pies and mulled wine afterwards.

### **Christmas Postcards are here!**

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, we need members of the congregations to deliver these cards and invite as many of our neighbours as possible to church this Christmas. At St Luke's and St Thomas' there are lists of all the roads in the parish, so you can put your name next to one or more road and deliver there. Please DO NOT deliver postcards anywhere else. If the road name isn't on our list, then it isn't in our parishes.

As the first service advertised is on Weds 12th, the postcards need delivering THIS WEEK – between Dec 2nd and 10th.

Please do what you can! A card you deliver may be someone's way back to church after a long absence. Or it might just start a journey that will lead someone to faith. That's worth the effort.

### **Community Christmas Singalong** Next Sunday, 5pm at St Thomas'

Our popular Christmas singalong is at St Thomas' next Sunday. Join in for an informal evening of popular songs and carols, with mulled wine and mince pies. Call 07989 740252 for more details.

### **St Luke's Masterplan Group**

The St Luke's Masterplan Group needs to consider many options in relation to St Luke's and would be very interested to hear your views. On Sunday 2 December, Joseph and other members of the Masterplan Group will be available after the service to hear your thoughts on any of the following: ease of access at thresholds; disabled access; flexibility for worship; meeting space; space for projects and work with children and young people; kitchen, office and toilet facilities; celebrating the history of the church; comfort; and maintaining a sense of sacred Christian space. You are welcome to comment on anything else, or draw a picture of what you have in mind!

### **Benefice Advent Study Group**

Our Advent group began last week. It will continue on Thursday evenings until December 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be looking at the Christian classic by Dietrich Bonhoeffer "**The Cost of Discipleship**". Among other things Bonhoeffer challenges the use of Christianity for narrow political objectives - a contemporary concern with the rise of nationalistic ideologies emerging around the world. We will meet at 10 Mayhill Road, SE7 7JQ, at **7:30 - 9:00PM**. We are anticipating a few books to be available, but participants may wish to order their own from Amazon. For further information please speak to Bennett Spong, Rob Simson, or Deborah Jones.

### **Stewardship**

Thanks to everyone who has returned a response from our recent Stewardship campaign. If you have pledged to start to give money regularly, or have changed the amount you give, this is a gentle reminder to make those new arrangements with your bank if you haven't done so already! Thanks for your generosity.

## **St Richard's Prayer Group**

Over the coming months and years, we need to make important decisions about St Richard's Church Centre, part of St Luke's parish in Swallowfield Road. We have committed to developing it as a centre for mission, of service to its community and where a new congregation can emerge. There will be many steps on the way, but all those steps need to be guided by God's Spirit.

So, starting in the new year, St Richard's Chapel will be open on the second and fourth Sunday of the month between 5pm and 5.45pm for prayer. How we use the time can vary, but the purpose of that time will be to listen to God, so the vision and plans that emerge for St Richard's will serve the community lovingly, make new disciples and proclaim the Good News.

Anyone and everyone is welcome to come to the prayer group. The first 2 meetings will be: Sunday January 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> 5.00 - 5.45pm  
The Chapel entrance is in Sundorne Road.

## **News about our news**

As well as picking up a printed copy in church, this bulletin can now be downloaded from our website each week. Do let your friends and family know it is available. A link is sent by email each Saturday to all who'd like to receive it – sign up by emailing [news@charlton.church](mailto:news@charlton.church). The link is also sent out on Twitter – follow us [@churchcharlton](https://twitter.com/churchcharlton).

*There's lots of ways to keep up to date with news from our churches*

## **A notice about the notices**

In the interests of keeping our notices as brief and to the point as possible, please speak to the president or one of the churchwardens BEFORE the service if you have something to be announced and they will do it on your behalf. And please remember you can email notices to [news@charlton.church](mailto:news@charlton.church) by midday of the Wednesday before the Sunday.

## **New prayer station**

The prayer station at St Luke's has been updated with the theme 'Thanking God.' Do take time to have a look.

## **Charlton Riverside – Let's influence what is built**

The part of Charlton next to the river, stretching from Derrick and Atlas Gardens (near Makro) to the Maryon and Morris Walk estates right next to St Thomas', is going to be developed, with thousands of new dwellings. Plans for the first stage of development – Derrick and Atlas Gardens – have been drawn up by a developer called Rockwell, but Greenwich Council Planning Committee threw out their proposals because they were not in keeping with the council's vision for the area: not enough social housing, not enough community provision, blocks too high and dense etc etc. It was felt the developers were trying to make as much money as they could at the expense of creating a place where a community could develop rather than just a place to live. Since RBG threw out Rockwell's proposal, the Mayor of London has 'called in' the decision, which means that he will make the final decision about whether Rockwell's proposals are acceptable or not.

If you care about the quality of this development – all of which will be in our parishes – and want the new community that will live there to have the best chance of flourishing and making it home, then you need to make your voice heard by writing to the Greater London Authority. Please speak to Rick or Liz Newman TODAY who can give you more information about how to do this.

## **Stronger Together - How faith groups can help reduce youth violence**

Thursday 6th December 9.30 to 2pm, The Gallery, The Woolwich Centre, 35 Wellington Street, London SE18 6HQ. This is a free event but you must register your attendance via Eventbrite by Tuesday. If you don't know how to do this, please speak to Michael Griffiths or Revd Liz.

## **Prayer Extra**

*Give us wisdom and courage, Lord, in our stewardship of your gifts; help us to understand the true worth of the creation, of our time, our resources, and our abilities. May we be humble enough to acknowledge your kingship over all, and strong enough to act upon it. Amen*



# Advent and Christmas services and activities

Please join in the activities and services that will help us share the Good News of Christ's coming with our community.

**Delivering Postcards** during week of 2 December

## Advent activities

Our **Advent Carol Service** is tonight at St Thomas', 6.30pm, when we will be joined by our friends from Leigh and British Orthodox Church. The **Advent Study Course** continues each Thursday until 13 December at 10 Mayhill Road.

## Carol Singing & Community Services

Short **services with carols** will be taking place at:

- Time Court Care Home, Sunday 9, 2.30pm
- Christmas Round the Tree, Charlton House, Wed. 12, 6.30pm
- 40 Littleheath, Thursday 13, 2.30pm
- Charlton Park Care Home, Sunday 16, 2.30pm
- St Joseph's Court, Monday 17, 7.00pm
- Beecham Close, Sunday 23, 2.00pm

*Please join in and boost the Carol Singing at these events*

## In our churches

**Christmas Sing-a-long**, St Thomas', Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> at 5.30pm

**Christingle**, St Thomas', Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm

**Community Carol Service**, St Luke's, Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm

**Midnight Mass**, St Luke's and St Thomas',

Christmas Eve at 11.00pm

**Communion and Carols**, St Luke's and St Thomas'

Christmas Day, 10.00am

*Please sign up to join the group of Carol Singers and to deliver postcards – and help share the Good News.*

## **Please remember in your prayers this week:**

**The Church:** Our friends at St Mary's, Leigh; All who attend and organise Once a month Saturday's; Judith Clark, Youth for Christ and all planning our Youth Group at St Thomas'; Canon Andrew White (the 'Vicar of Baghdad')

**The World:** The Diocese of Manicaland; Christian Aid; For our Government and our European partners negotiating Britain's exit from the EU; For refugees around the world, both those who have moved to another land and those displaced in their own country.

**Our local community:** Royal Greenwich Trust School; St Joseph's Court; Charlton Society; For our guests at the Winter Night Shelter and all who volunteer; Len Duval our London Assembly Member

**Those celebrating their birthday or anniversary last week:**

**Those who have asked for our prayers or who are sick:**

**R.I.P.:** Paul Crosby

**Year's Mind:** Rose Chipperfield; Ron Tingay; Grace Hills

### ***Contacting the Rector***

*Liz's contact details: [liz@charlton.church](mailto:liz@charlton.church) or 07922 587263*

*Prayer requests and information for next week's notices:*

*[news@charlton.church](mailto:news@charlton.church) or call 020 8858 8175 by noon on Wednesday*