

CHARLTON

ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS

Sunday 9 December 2018
Second Sunday of Advent

Today's Preacher and Celebrant:

St Thomas': Rev'd Joe Lee

St Luke's: Rev'd Liz Newman

Today's Readings:

First Reading: Malachi 3.1-4

Second Reading: Philippians 1.3-11

Gospel: Luke 3.1-6



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

Diary this week:

Sun 9	<p>10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'</p> <p>10.00: All Age Eucharist at St Luke's <i>followed by Bible Study</i></p> <p>14.30: Carol Service at Time Court Care Home</p> <p>17.30: Community Christmas sing-a-long at St Thomas'</p>
Mon 10	<p>08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's</p> <p>17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'</p>
Tue 11	<p>08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's</p> <p>10.00: Tuesday Group at St Thomas' <i>includes The Julian Corner</i></p> <p>17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'</p>
Wed 12	<p>08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's</p> <p>10.00: Coffee Morning at St Luke's</p> <p>12.00: Holy Communion at St Luke's</p> <p>15.15: Charlton Triangle Carol Service at St Luke's</p> <p>17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'</p> <p>18.30: Christmas round the tree outside Charlton House</p>
Thu 13	<p>08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's</p> <p>14.30: Carol Service at 40 Littleheath</p> <p>17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'</p> <p>19.30: Advent Study Group at 10 Mayhill Road</p>
Sun 16	<p>10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'</p> <p>10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Luke's <i>followed by Bible Study</i></p> <p>14:00: Christingle at St Thomas' <i>Creative activities followed by information worship at 3pm</i></p> <p>14:30: Carol Service at Charlton Park Care Home</p>



Thought for the week

'Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing will be changed unless it is faced' – *James Baldwin*.

In this season of preparation to meet Christ, what do we need to face?

Thank you...

To Deborah Jones and Joan Lake, who braved the weather to plant shrubs along the Charlton Church Lane edge of St Luke's Churchyard.

To Claire Hennings and Team who laid on such a wonderful spread after the Advent Carol Service. Our guests from St Mary's Leigh went on their way well fed and watered and loved the warm hospitality.

To Joseph Spooner for setting the new service booklets, Marjorie Hutchinson for proof reading them and to Pat Orton for printing and stapling. A great team effort! We are renewing all our booklets - with a new welcome page and information about the saints after whom our churches are named.

News and notices

Christmas Postcards are here!

Thank you if you have already delivered postcards. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, we still 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 Tonight, 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.

Christmas Round the Tree is in Wednesday at 6.30pm outside Charlton House. This is a new informal Carol Service for the whole community.

Christingle Sunday 16 December, 2.00pm, St Thomas' Church

Our Christingle is next Sunday, where there will be activities for younger children and families.

Nativity themed creative activities at 2.00pm followed by Informal carol service at 3.00pm

Benefice Advent Study Group

Our Advent group began last week. It will continue on Thursday evenings until December 13th. 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.

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 13th & 27th 5.00 - 5.45pm
The Chapel entrance is in Sundorne Road.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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. 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

Prayer Extra Some prayers you may like to use this week:

*Bless, O Lord, us Thy servants
who minister in Thy temple.
Grant that what we sing with our lips
we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts
we may show forth in our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(Chorister's prayer)

*Lord, you know us, & love us, and call us by name.
You give everything in return for us,
and draw us to you from the furthest reaches of the world.
Give us grace that we may respond to your love with love of our own
for you and for others,
and so be fit for your kingdom. Amen*

*Lord, who brings rivers in the desert
and abundance in the wilderness,
take the poor offerings we make of our time,
our talents, our resources, ourselves;
bless and transform them for your kingdom
that it may blossom and grow among us,
for the healing of the nations. Amen*

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.*



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 Please deliver the remainder of your postcards by Tuesday this week.

Advent activities

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 9th at 5.30pm

Christingle, St Thomas', Sunday 16th at 2.00pm

Community Carol Service, St Luke's, Wednesday 19th 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; Our ecumenical friends from Churches Together in Charlton; Miriam, Alison and Ann who will be developing a Benefice discipleship plan; Judith and Rick our Safeguarding officers

The World: The Diocese of Manicaland; Embrace the Middle East; For our Government and our European partners negotiating Britain's exit from the EU; All around the world who are working for peace

Our local community: Charlton Manor School; Charlton Park Care Home; Greenwich Carers Centre; For our guests at the Winter Night Shelter and all who volunteer; All working for the London Borough of Greenwich

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: Norman Ford; David Leggatt; George Griffiths

Contacting the Rector

Liz's contact details: liz@charlton.church or 07922 587263

Prayer requests and information for next week's notices:

news@charlton.church or call 020 8858 8175 by noon on Wednesday