

CHARLTON

ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS

Sunday 16 December 2018
Third Sunday of Advent

Today's Preacher and Celebrant:

St Thomas': Rev'd Liz Newman

St Luke's: Rev'd Bennett Spong

Today's Readings:

First Reading: Zephaniah 3.14-20

Second Reading: Philippians 4.4-7

Gospel: Luke 3.7-18



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

Diary this week:

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>
Mon 17	<p>08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's</p> <p>17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'</p> <p>19.00: Carol Service at St Joseph's Court</p>
Tue 18	<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 19	<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>17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'</p> <p>19.00: Community Christmas Carol Service at St Luke's</p>
Thu 20	<p>08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's</p> <p>17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'</p> <p>20.00: Advent Study Group at 10 Mayhill Road</p>
Sun 23	<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>14.30: Carol Service at Beecham Close</p>

Thought for the week



When Jesus' disciples tried to exclude a man who didn't follow him, Jesus challenged them, saying 'Do not stop him; for whoever is not against you is for you.' *Luke 9 v 50*. There are many people who give their time and energy, skills and enthusiasm in supporting the life of our churches. It's right that we hope they find faith, but whether that happens or not, we must be grateful for all they give freely.

Thank you...

To people who have delivered postcards to homes in the parishes inviting them to church this Christmas.

To all those volunteers who run the Wednesday Coffee Morning at St Luke's. They are welcoming and friendly and help to make Wednesday mornings the highlight of several people's week.

To the children in our churches who keep us young and from whom we have so much to learn if we take Jesus seriously.

News and notices

Christmas services in Charlton this week

Christingle

Our Christingle service is this afternoon at St Thomas' Church. There will be Nativity themed creative activities from 2.00pm followed by a short carol service at 3.00pm.

Carol Service at Charlton Park Care Home

This short carol service takes place at 2.30pm today. Carol singers welcome.

Carol Service at St Joseph's Court

Another short carol service at 7.00pm on Monday 17th December and carol singers are welcome

Community Christmas Carol Service, 7pm Wednesday 19th December

Community Carol Service – do come along - listen to the lessons, sing the carols, drink the mulled wine and appreciate all those readers who represent some of the many organizations that make Charlton what it is.

Carol Service at Beecham Close

Our final short carol service is at 2.30pm next Sunday. Carol singers welcome

Benefice Advent Study Group

Our Advent group will finish this week on Thursday 20th December. We are 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 13th & 27th 5.00 - 5.45pm
The Chapel entrance is in Sundorne Road.

Midweek Communion at St Luke's

There will be NO midweek communion on Wednesday 26th December or Wednesday 2nd January and no coffee morning either as we all have a well-earned rest!

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.

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

Walk Through the Bible – Old Testament Seminar:

Saturday 23rd February 2019 10.00 – 4.30pm – Walworth, St Peter

Bishop Karowei is hosting this day in conjunction with the Walk Through the Bible Team. The day will follow the pattern of a traditional seminar. We are subsidising the day by 50% for those living and worshipping in Woolwich so the cost will be £7.00. You will need to book through www.bible.org.uk, it will show as £14 but when you come to purchase tickets you need to put in the discount code Liverpool-Grove-OT. For those who are not aware, the ticket then becomes a life-time ticket for any Old Testament Seminar at any venue of your choice.

We will be providing lunch for all attendees. If you are not able to attend on this day but are interested in experience Walk Through the Bible, then the following Woolwich Area Churches are hosting events early in 2019 and invite you and your Church communities to join them:

Saturday 9th February (Day): Walk Through the Bible – New Testament Seminar – Deptford, St John's

Lent evenings commencing Wednesday 13th March (7.30pm): Walk Through the Bible – Old Testament Walk Seminar – Greenwich, St Alfege

Prayer Extra

A prayer from the 2016 referendum that we use to pray for guidance and stability in this time of political uncertainty:

*God of truth,
give us grace to debate the issues in this referendum
with honesty and openness.
Give generosity to those who seek to form opinion
and discernment to those who vote,
that our nation may prosper
and that with all the peoples of Europe
we may work for peace and the common good;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

*You send your prophets, Lord, to call people to your way
and to make that way clear.
Help us to follow your way,
to walk the pilgrim path of discipleship with you,
to let you clear the obstacles and obstructions from our lives,
and to worship you in spirit and truth.
Amen*



Church of England app for smartphones

Smartphone users may like to know that the Church of England has produced the #FollowTheStar app.

The app can be downloaded from the App Store and Google Play, and it contains 14 daily reflections, one for each day from Christmas Eve throughout the 12 days of Christmas.



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.

Thank you to everyone who has delivered postcards around our parishes this Christmas.

Advent activities

The **Advent Study Course** continues each Thursday until 20 December at 10 Mayhill Road.

Carol Singing & Community Services

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

- 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

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 join in these services and activities, and help share the Good News of Christmas with the community we serve.

Please remember in your prayers this week:

The Church: Our friends at St Mary's, Leigh; Open Heavens Church; Isla and Sonia who will be Create a Benefice-wide team to develop, support and enthuse a vision to nurture the faith and wellbeing of the young

We pray for our Christmas services – that new people and once-a-year attenders will find God here and return.

The World: The Diocese of Manicaland; Tearfund; 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: Thorntree School; Time Court Care Home; Friends of Charlton Park; For our guests at the Winter Night Shelter and all who volunteer; Our local Councillors representing wards in our Benefice

Those celebrating a birthday or anniversary last week:

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

Year's Mind: Vic Skinner Snr.

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