

CHARLTON

ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS

Sunday 23 December 2018
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today's Preacher and Celebrant:

St Thomas': Rev'd Bennett Spong

St Luke's: Rev'd Liz Newman

Today's Readings:

First Reading: Micah 5.2-5a

Second Reading: Hebrews 10.5-10

Gospel: Luke 1.39-45[46-55]



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

Diary this week:

Sun 23	10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas' 10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Luke's <i>followed by Bible Study</i> 14.00: Carol Service at Beecham Close
Mon 24	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas' 23.00: Midnight Mass at St Luke's 23.00: Midnight Mass at St Thomas'
Tue 25	10.00: Communion with Carols at St Luke's 10.00: Communion with Carols at St Thomas'
Sun 30	10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas' 10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Luke's



Thought for the week

'Peace is not the absence of trouble but the presence of Christ'.
Sheila Walsh. May we all know Christ's peace now and
throughout the year ahead.

*Wishing you a
Joyful and Peaceful Christmas*



Thank you to Cheyanne for our picture

Thank you...

To everyone who helped with the Christingle and Liz Buck for organising. It was a lovely occasion with a real positive atmosphere, fun, prayer, singing and hearing the Christmas story in a fresh way. Lots of young children, parents and grandparents!

To singers and musicians who have sung and played at Charlton Park Academy, Charlton House, Time Court Care Home, Charlton Park Care Home, 40 Littleheath, St Joseph's Court and Beacham Close. Thanks for sharing the good news with others. Some of the people we met can't get to church, others could come but don't. By going to meet them where they are, we have been guided by the love that is always looking out and going out and is never content to be stuck where it is.

To our choir and organist, John Dawson for their contribution to the Community Carol Service and the many weeks work they put into preparing for it. It is always lovely to welcome representatives from a variety of organisations to read the lessons and remind ourselves what a lively and varied benefice we live and worship in.

To Amelia Cortez for cleaning St Luke's from top to bottom ready for Christmas

News and notices

Christmas services in Charlton this week

- **Carol Service** at Beecham Close. Our final short carol service is today at 2.00pm. Carol singers welcome
- **Midnight Mass** is at 11.00pm on 24 December in both St Thomas' and St Luke's churches.
- **Christmas morning Communion with Carols** is at 10.00am on 25 December in both St Luke's and St Thomas' churches.

Post-Christmas Holiday

There is NO Morning or Evening Prayer after Christmas Eve until Monday 7th January, when it will resume.

There will be NO Coffee Morning or midweek eucharist on 26th December or 2nd January. Both will start again on 9th January.

Concert to support the Winter Night Shelter

The Charlton Ensemble return to St Thomas' church on Sunday 27th January at 7pm.

The ensemble includes some of our own members: Joseph Spooner (Cello), Nicholas Bosworth (Piano), Dominic Barlow (Piano), James Kinsella (Tenor) as well as Helen Whittington (Soprano) and Sarah Ince (Mezzo).

Tickets are £10.00. Call 07989 740252 or 020 8854 0841.

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.

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.

Keep up to date with our news

Don't forget you can find this bulletin on our website each week and linked from our Twitter feed too.

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. The Diocese 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.

Lunch is provided 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

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.

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 Thursday

Please remember in your prayers this week:

The Church: Our friends at St Mary's, Leigh; British Orthodox Church; The Children's Society; Joe, who from our Mission Action Plan will be planning an Enquirers Course; All around the world celebrating Christmas this week, especially those where it is dangerous to do so

The World: The Diocese of Manicaland; For our Government and our European partners negotiating Britain's exit from the EU; That the war in Yemen may end and people there rebuild their lives; Those living in the land of Christ's birth

Our local community: Cherry Orchard School; 40 Littleheath; Valley Hill Hub; For our guests at the Winter Night Shelter and all who volunteer; Matthew Pennycook, one of the MP's representing our Benefice

Those celebrating a birthday or anniversary last week:

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

R.I.P.: Brian Gibbons

Year's Mind: Lorraine Louise Davies