

CHARLTON

ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS

Sunday 24 February 2019
Second Sunday before Lent

Today's Preacher and Celebrant:

St Thomas': Revd Bennett Spong

St Luke's: Revd Joe Lee

Today's Readings:

Old Testament: Genesis 2.4b-9,15-25

New Testament: Revelation 4

Gospel: Luke 8.22-25



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

Diary this week:

Sun 24	10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas' 10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Luke's <i>Followed by Bible Study</i>
Mon 25	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's
Tue 26	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 10.00: Tuesday Group at St Thomas' <i>includes The Julian Corner</i>
Wed 27	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 10.30: Coffee Morning at St Luke's 12.00: Holy Communion at St Luke's
Thu 28	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 18.00: Tom's Youth Café at St Thomas' 19.30: The Cost of Discipleship Study Group at 10 Mayhill Road
Fri 1	10.30: World Day of Prayer at St Luke's
Sun 3	10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas' 10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Luke's <i>Followed by Bible Study</i>



Thought for the week

'If you are humble, nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are.'

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Thank you...

To Miriam Kakembo and Liz Buck for organizing the rotas at each church for readers, intercessors and Ministers of the Word. Such important 'work behind the scenes' helping us worship God when we gather.

News and notices

Confirmation

Were you baptized as a child, but never confirmed? Maybe you were christened when you were little but now you think you'd like to make those promises for yourself. Or perhaps you are not sure if you were ever baptized as a child, so you'd like to be baptized and confirmed at the same time? Confirmation is about committing yourself to follow Jesus all your life. If you feel ready to make this step, then please let one of the clergy (Liz, Bennett or Joe) know. The Confirmation Service this year is at St Mary's, Woolwich on Sunday June 30th at either 6pm or 6.30pm. We will be starting preparation classes in due course, so let us know if you might like to join.

World Day of Prayer

St Luke's Church is hosting the World Day of Prayer (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer) on Friday March 1st at 10.30am. We will need to provide three readers as well as refreshments. If you can help to facilitate this important occasion in any way, please contact Liz Buck (lizb@charlton.church) or speak to the clergy.

St Richard's Prayer Meeting

This won't be running until Rev'd Liz is back from holiday. The next meeting will be Sunday March 24th 5 – 5.45pm at St Richard's Chapel, Sundorne Road.

Choir Practice

Following a short break, Choir practice will start again on Tuesday 5th March, 7.30pm at St Luke's. New members are welcome as we begin items for Easter

Isolation and Loneliness

Feeling isolated or lonely is one of the worst feelings. God has made us to live in relationship with others and when we feel the lack of human contact it can make us very low. As part of our mission at St Thomas' we are hoping to do something to help with this problem. But as a start we thought it would be a good idea to ask everyone who comes into our churches, to tell us about organisations and projects and places that already help people who are lonely or isolated. They don't have to be set up for that purpose – as long as they achieve the goal of helping people feel less isolated or lonely, we want to hear about them. In each church is a board for you to tell us who is helping already. Please write down all the places you can think of – local or national. Thanks.



Lent 2019

Lent is a period of self-examination and reflection. Following Christ's example, we may fast or give something up in order to help us focus on the things that help us live well. We might give more generously or take something up during Lent that helps us move closer to God. We might spend more time praying as we approach Holy Week and remember how much it cost Christ to bring us back to the Father.

In order to help us keep a Holy Lent, the following is being offered in the Benefice:

Walk through the Old Testament

To join with other Anglicans in the Deanery for Walk through the Old Testament – a series of 5 sessions to be run at St Alfege Church, Greenwich and helping us gain a deeper understanding of the Old Testament. They take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings, beginning on 13th March. The cost is £14 a head for all 5 sessions and this entitles you to lifetime membership of Walk Through the Bible.

Please email Revd Caroline Risdon on caroline.risdon@st-alfege.org.uk to book your place. We wouldn't like anyone who would like to go to be prevented by the cost, so please speak confidentially to Miriam Kakembo (miriam@charlton.church) if you need some help with this.

Pilgrim Course

A daytime course at the home of Jean and Peter Griffiths, facilitated by Liz Newman. We will be following the Pilgrim Course from the Church of England, with prayer, Bible study, discussion and video clips. Everyone is welcome.

We'll meet on Thursday's from 2.30-4.00pm, starting on Thursday 14th March. Please let Peter know if you will be attending by ringing him on 0208 319 8676

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 6th March.

Between 7am and 9am Bennett will be ashing people at Charlton Station as they go to work, return from night shifts or just go about their day. He would appreciate help to invite people to be ashed, to give out blessing cards and MAP postcards and to be generally friendly. If you would like to do this, you need to feel comfortable with being outward looking – focused on the people passing by. And wrap up warm – it might be cold! Please let Bennett if you are interested. Last year over 50 people received the imposition of ashes in those 2 hours, so it is a wonderful act of witness.

The imposition of ASHES will also happen at St Luke's at 12 noon on Ash Wednesday and at a service at 8pm. Sadly it's not possible for us to join with our sisters and brothers from the ecumenical churches this year, but do come to St Luke's at either 12 noon or 8pm to start Lent with this traditional form of penance.



Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday 5th March 6.30 - 8.30pm. You are warmly invited to St Thomas' for a 'Prayertime, Pancakes and Pilgrimage' gathering as take some quiet time before the beginning of Lent to listen for what God might have us hear. This will be followed by a pancake or two and an opportunity to share our ideas about ways in which we can learn how to share our faith more confidently.

Putting people's names on the Intercessions List

People who are ill, dying or facing trying times often appreciate having their name on the intercessions list so we can pray for them as church communities. However, we MUST get their permission before doing so, otherwise we may be breaking confidentiality or acting against their wishes. If the person concerned doesn't have capacity to make this decision, then their next of kin must give their permission or their name to be added to our prayer list. And if someone you ask says no, don't forget you can still bring them before God in your personal prayers.

Electoral Roll revision 2019

Parishes in the Church of England are required to compile an electoral roll, and these have to be fully revised every six years – which happens this year. Being on the electoral roll entitles lay members to vote in the annual parochial church meeting but beyond this legal technicality it means far more than that. For individuals, being on the electoral roll is the nearest we have to being signed up as a member. It is also a requirement for anyone wishing to stand for the PCC. For individual churches the electoral roll is also a way of ensuring we have up to date details as well as provides a basis for reckoning the number of regular and committed worshippers. There is no catch; the roll is not publicly available other than to comply with the need for it to be completed and displayed for at least fifteen days ahead of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in order to check for accuracy.

During the period of preparation of the roll, members on the previous roll need to apply to be included - inclusion is not automatic. The PCCs needs to ensure that reasonable efforts are made to let everyone on the old electoral roll know that a new one is being prepared and new people are especially encouraged to apply. The enrolment form will be available shortly.

Iris Ford - Electoral Roll Officer - St Thomas'

Rick Newman Electoral Roll Officer - St Luke's

While the Rector is away...

Rev'd Liz is on leave until 13th March. Bennett (07908 786211 or email bennett@charlton.church) and Joe (07872347058 or email joe@charlton.church) can be contacted about urgent pastoral matters. Please leave them a message if you don't get hold of them first time. Churchwardens can be contacted about other church matters.

Prayer Extra

You may like to use these in your prayers this week

Dear Father in heaven
let us be peacemakers
more ready;
to call people friends than enemies
to trust than to mistrust
to love than to hate
to respect than despise
to serve than be served
to absorb evil than to pass it on
Dear Father in heaven
let us be more like Christ
Amen

Wherever you go,
God is sending you.
Wherever you are,
God has put you there.
Christ who indwells you has something He wants to do
with you where you are.
Believe this,
and go in His love,
His grace,
and His power.
Amen

Please remember in your prayers this week:

The Church: Our friends at St Mary's, Leigh; Miriam, Sheila, Kathy, Roberta and Rob our SPA's and Peter SPA emeritus; Our Mission Action Plan and Judith who is leading on the setting up of an open access Youth Café and monthly youth discipleship group at St Thomas' in partnership with Greenwich Youth for Christ

The World: The Diocese of Manicaland; Our Government and all in Parliament, discerning a way forward in our withdrawal from the EU; The people of Nigeria where parliamentary and presidential elections take place this weekend; The work of The Children's Society

Our local community: Thorntree School; 40 Littleheath; Staff who maintain our many parks in Charlton; Clive Efford one of the MP's representing our Benefice; For our guests at the Winter Night Shelter and all who volunteer

Those celebrating their birthday or an anniversary last week:

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

R.I.P.: John Edney; Dennis Layell; Wendy Barnes

Year's Mind: Rosina Burton

*Prayer requests and information for next week's notices:
news@charlton.church or call 020 8858 8175 by noon on Wednesday*