

# CHARLTON

ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS

Sunday 3 March 2019  
Sunday next before Lent

*Today's Preacher and Celebrant:*

**St Thomas':** Revd Joe Lee

**St Luke's:** Revd Bennett Spong

*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:

<b>Sun 4</b>	10.00: <b>Parish Eucharist</b> at St Thomas' 10.00: <b>Parish Eucharist</b> at St Luke's <i>Followed by Bible Study</i>
<b>Mon 5</b>	08.30: <b>Morning Prayer</b> at St Luke's
<b>Tue 6</b>	08.30: <b>Morning Prayer</b> at St Luke's 10.00: <b>Tuesday Group</b> at St Thomas' <i>includes The Julian Corner</i> 18.30: <b>Prayertime, Pancakes and Pilgrimage</b> at St Thomas' 19.30: <b>Choir Practice</b> at St Luke's
<b>Wed 7</b>	08:00: <b>Ashes to go</b> at Charlton Station 08.30: <b>Morning Prayer</b> at St Luke's 10.30: <b>Coffee Morning</b> at St Luke's 12.00: <b>Holy Communion</b> at St Luke's <i>includes Imposition of Ashes</i> 20.00: <b>Ash Wednesday Service</b> at St Luke's
<b>Thu 8</b>	08.30: <b>Morning Prayer</b> at St Luke's 18.00: <b>Tom's Youth Café</b> at St Thomas' 19.30: <b>The Cost of Discipleship Study Group</b> at 10 Mayhill Road
<b>Sun 10</b>	10.00: <b>Parish Eucharist</b> at St Thomas' 10.00: <b>All Age Eucharist</b> at St Luke's <i>Followed by Bible Study</i>



### Thought for the week

'If you want to test the validity of anyone's claim to inclusivity, try referring to God as she.'

*Miriam Therese Winter*

## **Thank you...**

To those who give lifts to people who wouldn't be able to get to church otherwise.

## **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.

### **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.

### **Choir Practice**

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

### **St Richard's Prayer Meeting**

The next Prayer meeting will be on Sunday 24 March



## **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](mailto: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](mailto:miriam@charlton.church)) if you need some help with this.

### **Ash Wednesday**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## **More news and notices**

### **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*

## **Freedom Pass Friends**

Have you heard of Freedom Pass Friends? Organised by the churches of the Charlton Deanery, the organisers arrange occasional events for people old enough to own a Freedom Pass.

As well as the events they organise, there is a website full of useful links and local activities to support older people. Why not take a look at <https://freedompassfriends.weebly.com>

## **While the Rector is away...**

Rev'd Liz is on leave until 13<sup>th</sup> March. Bennett (07908 786211 or email [bennett@charlton.church](mailto:bennett@charlton.church)) and Joe (07872347058 or email [joe@charlton.church](mailto: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

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our fellow  
human beings  
throughout the world who live and die  
in poverty and hunger.

Give them through our hands this day  
their daily bread,  
and, by our understanding love,  
give peace and joy.

*St Teresa of Calcutta*

O Jesus, King of the poor,  
shield this night  
those who are imprisoned without charge,  
those who have 'disappeared'.  
Cast a halo of your presence around those who groan  
in sorrow or pain.  
Protect those whose livelihoods are threatened.  
Encourage those forbidden to worship.  
Encompass your little ones  
gone hungry to sleep,  
cold and fitfully waking.  
Guide your witness for peace.  
Safeguard your workers for justice.  
Encircle us with your power,  
compass us with your grace,  
embrace your dying ones,  
support your weary ones,  
calm your frightened ones  
and as the sun scatters the mist on the hills,  
bring us to a new dawn,  
when all shall freely  
sit at table in your kingdom,  
rejoicing in a God who saves them.

*Kate McIlhagga*

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

**The Church:** Our friends at St Mary's, Leigh; Those who lead and attend Once A Month Saturdays; United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG); Our Mission Action Plan and Liz who is leading on strengthening the reach and impact of the Schools Project and increasing our congregations' support for and ownership of it

**The World:** The Diocese of Manicaland; Prime Minister Theresa May and our Government; For the peoples of India and Pakistan, their political leaders and for a cooling of the tensions between the two countries; All in Parliament, discerning a way forward in our withdrawal from the EU

**Our local community:** Cherry Orchard School; Beecham Close; 68 The Heights; For our guests at the Winter Night Shelter and all who volunteer; Freedom Pass Friends

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

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

**R.I.P.:** Wendy Barnes

**Year's Mind:** Hedley Senior; Revd Lance Harvey; Eileen Page

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