

CHARLTON

ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS

Sunday 10 March 2019
First Sunday of Lent

Today's Preacher and Celebrant:

St Thomas': Revd Bennett Spong

St Luke's: Revd Joe Lee

Today's Readings:

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 26.1-11

New Testament: Romans 10.8b-13

Gospel: Luke 4.1-13



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

Diary this week:

Sun 10	10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas' 10.00: All Age Eucharist at St Luke's <i>Followed by Bible Study</i>
Mon 11	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's
Tue 12	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 10.00: Tuesday Group at St Thomas' <i>includes The Julian Corner</i>
Wed 13	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 10.30: Coffee Morning at St Luke's 12.00: Holy Communion at St Luke's 19.30: Walk through the Old Testament <i>St Alfege, Greenwich</i>
Thu 14	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 14.30: Pilgrim Course at 32 Weyman Road 18.00: Tom's Youth Café at St Thomas' 19.30: The Cost of Discipleship Study Group at 10 Mayhill Road
Sun 17	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

'Satan has been called a snake. Better he had been called a chameleon. For Satan is never quite the same from moment to moment'.

Walter Wink

Thank you...

To members of our local communities who have recently started giving their time, skills and expertise to our church committees to support our work and mission. We are particularly grateful to Helen Jakeways, Peter Andrews, Janet Gillman, Peter Somerville and Dave Picton.

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.

St Richard's Prayer Meeting

The next Prayer meeting will be on Sunday 24th March at 5.00pm. We use the time to listen to what God is telling us about St Richard's and what our mission in the area should be. The chapel there is a beautiful space and ideal to find time with God.



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:

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

The Cost of Discipleship

This discussion group continues during Lent each Thursday evening. 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.

The group meets on Thursday's from 7.30 – 9.00pm at 10 Mayhill Road, SE7 7JQ.

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.



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.

Updated Prayer station at St Luke's

The Prayer Station at St Luke's has been updated. The new theme is 'Forgiveness.' The prayer station can be used by people of all ages. Please take time to have a look.

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 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

O God, advocate of all who are oppressed,
You shatter our illusions of righteousness
and unmask our divided hearts,
in order that we might be filled with longing for justice and
generosity
and so may be whole.

And as justice and generosity are true marks of a heart turning
towards you,
let our actions as well as our intentions
bear witness for the longing of our hearts this Lent.
Amen *Christian Aid*

Lord help us to be patient with our children
To give them time when they need it
To listen to their views however much they differ from ours
Help us in our conversations
That we may always trust each other
As our children search for knowledge
Help us to learn with them
Amen

Word of God, you go forth & the universe is created;
Word incarnate, you speak a word & people are healed, restored
to you.
Word of the Spirit, you speak to us, to guide, to bless, to
challenge, to encourage.
Word of life, help us trust in you, & heed your call.
Amen *Fr Bill Braviner*

Please remember in your prayers this week:

The Church: Our friends at St Mary's, Leigh; Our ecumenical friends from Churches Together in Charlton; Church Mission Society (CMS); Our Mission Action Plan and our plans to pilot a Fresh Expression for children / families at St Luke's or St Richard's

The World: The Diocese of Manicaland; HM The Queen; As an important week commences in UK politics we pray for all our MP's voting on Brexit legislation; The people of Algeria where huge protests are taking place against the President ahead of elections next month

Our local community: Windrush School; St Luke's Almshouses; Central Charlton Residents Association; As the Winter Night Shelter came to a close for this year, we pray for all our guests over the winter, and thank God for the commitment of our volunteers

Those celebrating their birthday last week:

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

R.I.P.: Wendy Barnes; Chris Barlow; Stephen Ambrose

Year's Mind: Betty Baker; Cliff May

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