

CHARLTON

ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS

Sunday 17 March 2019
Second Sunday of Lent

Today's Preacher and Celebrant:

St Thomas': Revd Liz Newman

St Luke's: Revd Bennett Spong

Today's Readings:

Old Testament: Genesis 15.1-12,17-18

New Testament: Philippians 3.17 - 4.1

Gospel: Luke 13.31-35



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



Diary this week:

Including Lent activities – It's not too late to join!



Sun 17	10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas' 10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Luke's <i>Followed by Bible Study</i> 14.30: Service at Charlton Park Care Home
Mon 18	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas' 19.30: St Luke's PCC at St Luke's
Tue 19	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 10.00: Tuesday Group at St Thomas' <i>includes The Julian Corner</i> 17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'
Wed 20	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 10.30: Coffee Morning at St Luke's 12.00: Holy Communion at St Luke's 17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas' 19.30: Walk through the Old Testament <i>St Alfège, Greenwich</i> †
Thu 21	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 14.30: Pilgrim Course at 32 Weyman Road † 17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas' 18.00: Tom's Youth Café at St Thomas' 19.30: The Cost of Discipleship Group at 10 Mayhill Road †
Sun 24	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



Before the service we speak to God

During the service God speaks to us

After the service we speak to one another!

Thank you...

Last month we hosted the World Day of Prayer service at St Luke's. Thank you to Liz, Rob, Alison, Pat and Yvonne who all helped co-ordinate and facilitate the service that focused this year on Slovenia.

Bennett Spong, Rob Simson and Liz Buck who took up residence at Charlton Station for over 2 hours early on Ash Wednesday morning for 'Ashes to Go'. Offering ashing to people on their way to work, college, the shops or walking the dog is a great way to meet people where they are with the Gospel of Christ and a wonderful way for our benefice to have a presence at the heart of our community. Over 70 people received ashes that morning, so thanks Bennett, Rob and Liz for making that possible.

News and notices

Brexit

This is a time of great uncertainty for everyone as we wait for a clear way forward for our country in its relationship with the EU. It now looks likely that our exit from the EU will be delayed, but even when there is greater clarity, it is still difficult to know how life will be here in the UK in the weeks, months and years ahead.

As Christians, committed to the love of those we agree with and those we don't, we need to pray for unity and work to bring about the best possible way forward for the communities we serve in Christ's name. We need to pray for the healing of the divisions which have been caused by the political turmoil of the last three years, for our nation, for the countries that remain in the EU and for our world.

Praying for the church in our countries of origin

At the back of each church you will find a sheet headed OUR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN. It would be really good for us to pray for the worldwide Church of which we are part and especially for the Church in those countries that hold a special place in our hearts. So if you weren't born in England, please make a note on the sheet of the country you were born in and we'll pray regularly for the Church in that place.

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

Thanks to people who contributed to the isolation and loneliness boards that have been in our churches for several weeks. We'll be using this information in developing a loneliness project as part of our Mission Action Plan.

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.

Bring a Plus-One in Holy Week

Everyone who attended services during Holy Week last year commented on how enriching and moving it was to come together every day and focus on Jesus' road to the cross. But we also noticed that it tends to be 'the usual suspects' who come to services outside of Sundays, and we just felt sorry that more people hadn't been able to experience the variety of worship in this most important week for Christians. So if you've never come to a service in Holy Week before, please try it this year – you won't be disappointed. And if you're a 'usual suspect' who will be back for more spiritual nourishment this Holy Week, please see if you can persuade someone from our congregations who doesn't usually come to come with you.

Prayer Meeting at St Richard's

Our next Prayer Meeting at St Richard's is next Sunday at 5pm.

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

Rob Simson

Many people will know that Rob Simson, Churchwarden at St Luke's and SPA, needs treatment at Guys Hospital. This will happen on 3rd April and Rob will need at least a week's recovery time after that. Please respect Rob's need for space and peace during this time and keep him in your prayers. There will be a note in the bulletin when he is back in action.

Welcare fundraising events

Friends of Greenwich Welcare invite you to a Lent Lunch at the Centre in Nightingale Vale on Tuesday 2nd April from 12.30pm to 1.30pm.

Homemade soups available. No charge but donations welcomed. Speak to Peter (8319 8676) or Joan (8319 0157) for further details.

Advance notice - The annual Quiz and Supper night will be on 27th April at 7pm at St Thomas's. Book the date now and watch for details in due course.

Worship at St Luke's

Those people who take any part in leading worship at the 10am eucharist need to be focussed on the God we have come to worship, prayerful and open to God's Spirit. Those things are very hard to achieve when there is last minute rushing around or distractions that can wait until after the service has ended, which there often is at St Luke's.

From the first Sunday in April (7th) onwards I want us to have this pattern.

- Ministers of the Word, musicians, choir members, servers, president and preacher are all ready and prepared for their roles by 9.50 at the latest.
- That at 9.50 some reflective music is played quietly until just before 10am
- That during this period musician, servers, minister of the word, president / preacher pray silently together in the Lady Chapel. Choir may join or may remain in the choir vestry
- That just before 10am the group moves from the Lady Chapel into the choir vestry for the prayer before the service and the Minister of the Word then welcomes the congregation and the service begins.

I hope achieving this calm and prayerful atmosphere before our worship begins will also help congregation members to prepare themselves for worship. I hope we can all respect that those leading the service will be praying for the 10 minutes beforehand and that any conversation with them needs to wait until after worship ends. Many thanks.

Good to be back

Thank you to everyone who did so much in our churches while I was many miles away in Taiwan. Although we wouldn't say our holiday was restful, it was a complete break from our usual lives and so refreshing in that sense. Taiwan is a fascinating place and the people are delightful. It was lovely to discover the Anglican cathedral is only a 10-minute walk from our son's flat and we attended the English language eucharist there twice. We were asked if our churches would pray for the Anglican Church in Taiwan, and so our Taiwanese sisters and brothers are included in our prayers today. It feels good to be back and I am looking forward to all God has in store for us. *Revd Liz*

Prayer Extra

In your prayers this week, please hold before God the people of New Zealand.

We also pray for our own country, and our political uncertainty

Loving God,

We pray for the dead and bereaved,

the injured and traumatised

after Friday's terrorist attack on the mosques of Christchurch.

We ask for your comfort for our Muslim sisters and brothers in New Zealand and all who suffer through the sin of Islamophobia.

And we pray for those whose hearts are filled with hatred – that their plans will be defeated and that they may know what they have done.

Amen.

God of reconciling hope,

as you guided your people in the past

guide us through the uncertainties of the present time

and bring us to that place of flourishing

where our unity can be restored,

the common good served

and all shall be made well.

In the name of Jesus we pray.

Amen.

Please remember in your prayers this week:

The Church: Our friends at St Mary's, Leigh; Open Heavens Church; Bible Society; Rick Newman who has recently been elected Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod; Our Mission Action Plan and Liz Newman who will lead on developing a 'Holiday Church' project at St Richard's to build relationships with local young families; For the Anglican Church in Taiwan, sharing the gospel of God's love. For the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit as a new Bishop is selected to lead mission and ministry there.

The World: The Diocese of Manicaland; Sadiq Khan Mayor of London; Our Prime Minister and all MP's who continue to debate Brexit, and that God's love and healing power may help repair the divisions in our country

Our local community: Woodhill School; Doctor & Dental Surgeries in our Benefice; Charlton Parkside Community Hub; 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; Simon Jones

Year's Mind: May Resterick

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