

CHARLTON

ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS

Sunday 24 March 2019
Third Sunday of Lent

Today's Preacher and Celebrant:

St Thomas': Revd Joe Lee

St Luke's: Revd Liz Newman

Today's Readings:

Old Testament: Isaiah 55.1-9

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 10.1-13

Gospel: Luke 13.1-9



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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 24	10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas' 10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Luke's <i>Followed by Bible Study</i> 17.00: Prayer meeting at St Richard's Chapel
Mon 25	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'
Tue 26	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' 19.30: St Thomas' PCC at St Thomas'
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 17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas' 19.30: Walk through the Old Testament St Alfege, Greenwich †
Thu 28	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 †
Sat 30	18.00: Thanksgiving service for the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter at St Thomas'
Sun 31	10.00: Mothering Sunday Eucharist at St Thomas' 10.00: Mothering Sunday Eucharist at St Luke's <i>Followed by Bible Study</i>



Thought for the week

'There are many things that can only be seen through eyes that have cried.' *St Oscar Romero*

Thank you...

To Stephan who has worked so hard on clearing the church garden at St Thomas' and to Alison Leggatt who picks up rubbish from St Luke's churchyard. Simple acts that show love and care.

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.

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.

Prayer Meeting at St Richard's

Our next Prayer Meeting at St Richard's is tonight at 5.00pm. We'll meet in the Chapel, the entrance is in Sundorne Road. We'll use the time to pray for our mission in that area, and to seek God's guidance on how we develop the Church Centre there.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting dates

Please make sure you have the dates of our APCM's in your diaries

- St Thomas' Sunday 14th April 11.30am
- St Luke's Monday April 29th 7.30pm

Annual Parochial Meetings, PCC and Churchwardens

We are approaching our Annual Parochial Church Meetings at which we will be electing Churchwardens and PCC members to serve our churches over the coming year. The role of the PCC is to co-operate with the Rector in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church. The role of Churchwardens is to represent the laity and to co-operate with the Rector; to encourage parishioners in the practice of their faith and promote peace and unity between them; and to have particular responsibility for the church building.

It's essential we have people who can take on these roles so that we can operate as churches. A strong PCC and Churchwardens play their part in helping the church grow and thrive and to become a church that is proclaiming the Gospel in word and action.

Please consider whether you will stand for election for PCC or Churchwarden. Please pray about it so you can discern whether God is calling you to this way of serving him. I will be happy to talk further with you if that will be helpful. *Revd Liz*

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.

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.

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

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.

Greenwich Winter Night Shelter Thanksgiving Service

Everyone is welcome to a Thanksgiving Service on Saturday evening at 6.00pm. St Thomas' Church will be welcoming volunteers as we thank God for their dedication over the winter.

Greenwich Sanctuary Project

The Borough of Greenwich has committed to welcoming 20 Syrian families into our borough. This is being done in partnership with a number of local organisations. So far there are 5 families being supported by this project and another 5 will be arriving later this month. As part of Greenwich Sanctuary Project, Greenwich Islamic Centre have a contract to support the families with settling in to the area and helping them with registering at the Doctors, enrolling at college and setting up home. However, we all know there is a lot more to moving to a new area, let alone a new country than these practical things. We are eager for these families to feel at home, to feel part of the wider community, to learn the language and to make friends. Having local people volunteer to help support the families is key to helping them flourish, here, in our community.

We are therefore asking for local people who:

- Can speak Arabic to help these families when they first arrive with getting to know the area, where to catch a bus, which shops are nearest and cheapest, where to buy Syrian bread etc. as well as occasional interpretation.
- Can teach ESOL, we have found language to be the greatest barrier to both finding employment and building friendships within the community. The adults in the families will be enrolled at college, but they need people who can support their learning in their homes.
- Are local and are willing and able to make friends with these families, their new neighbours, to get to know them, to help them practice speaking English and to offer them your knowledge of the local area.

There may be other volunteering roles that occur depending on the needs of the families, so if you are unable to do these specific tasks, but still eager to get involved please do still get in touch.

Please speak to Rev Liz if you are interested in knowing more.

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.

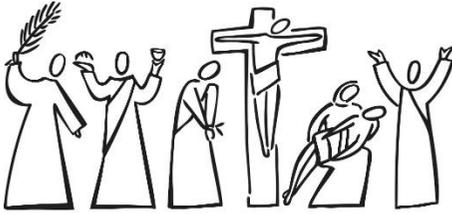
- Ministers of the Word, musicians, choir members, servers, president and preacher are all ready and prepared for their roles by 9.50 at the latest.
- That at 9.50 some reflective music is played quietly until just before 10am
- That during this period musician, servers, minister of the word, president / 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.

Urgent Appeal for Cyclone Idai

You will have seen in the news this week that Cyclone Idai has swept through Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, leaving behind a trail of destruction, killing hundreds and affecting an estimated 2.6 million people.

If you have not yet had a chance to donate to the appeal and would like to do so, there is an opportunity today through Christian Aid, a member of the Disasters Emergency Committee. Gift Aid envelopes are in both churches.



Holy Week

14 – 21 April

This Holy Week, we will have a full calendar of services in our churches. We hope you can join the journey through Holy Week:

Sunday 14th April, 9.45am: **Palm Sunday**

Parish Eucharist with Palm Sunday Procession in both St Luke's and St Thomas' churches

Monday 15th 7.30pm: **Creative Worship for Holy Week**
at St Thomas' church

Tuesday 16th 7.00 pm: **Agape**

Holy Communion and simple meal at St Thomas' church

Wednesday 17th 8.00pm: **Stations of the Cross**
at St Luke's church

Thursday 18th 8.00pm: **Liturgy of Maundy Thursday**

Includes footwashing and the Maundy Watch at St Luke's church

Friday 19th 1.00pm: **Good Friday Eucharist**

at St Luke's church *followed by walk to St Thomas'*

2.45pm: **Good Friday Reflection** at St Thomas'

Saturday 20th 10.30am - 12.45pm **Messy Easter**

at St Richard's Church Centre

Sunday 21st 10.00am **Easter Eucharist**

with the lighting of the Easter fire at both St Thomas' and St Luke's churches

Easter Postcards

The new Easter postcards will be with us soon, advertising our services over Easter weekend and pointing people to other services during Holy Week. Please sign up to distribute Easter Postcards to streets in St Thomas' Parish. There is a list available for you to choose the road you want to distribute to.

St Luke's PCC decided not to attempt a whole parish distribution this Easter, but we'd like to target streets around St Richard's. So please sign up for those roads if you can spare some time to distribute. List at the back of church.

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.

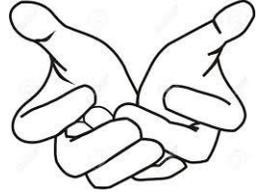
So if you've never come to a service in Holy Week before, please try it this year – you won't be disappointed. And if you're a 'usual suspect' who will be back for more spiritual nourishment this Holy Week, please see if you can persuade someone from our congregations who doesn't usually come to come with you.

Holy Week

14 – 21 April



Prayer Extra



*Shelter in the storm,
light in the darkness,
hope even in a living hell,
God be with our sisters and brothers
in Mozambique,
in Malawi,
in Zimbabwe.*

*Behind the numbing numbers are the names
of loved ones.*

*Behind the staggering statistics are life stories
still to be told.*

*God, help us be with our sisters and brothers – gather us
close so we open our spirits and share. Your world is our
global neighbourhood. Help us forge the rain-driven path
together, for only together can we weather the storms.*

*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; British Orthodox Church; Our Mission Action Plan and Miriam, Alison and Ann who are developing a Benefice discipleship plan that strengthens the knowledge, deepens the faith and builds the confidence of congregation members; For the Anglican Church around the world and all those preparing for the Lambeth Conference of Bishops next year

The World: The Diocese of Manicaland; London Assembly Member Len Duval; 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; For the people of South East Africa where lives have been lost or devastated by Cyclone Idai

Our local community: Mary Magdalene School Blackheath campus; Greenwich Foodbank; Queen Elizabeth Hospital; Charlton Triangle; All who volunteered at the Winter Night Shelter and our guests

Those celebrating their birthday or an anniversary last week:

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

R.I.P.: Chris Barlow; Stephen Ambrose; Simon Jones

Year's Mind: Alice Attram; Alan Goldsmith; Rev'd Joseph Peter Rogan

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

O God, We Grieve the Hatred

AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D (*"The Church's One Foundation"*)

O God, we grieve the hatred, the ugly, racist fear
that hurts our common living and harms those you hold dear.
For Muslims who were gathered to worship and to pray
soon found their lives were shattered as violence filled their day.

We pray for those now grieving for loved ones who are lost;
we pray for people suffering because of hatred's cost.
For all of us, now frightened by what extremists do,
we pray: O God of mercy! May we find strength in you!

We grieve our lack of courage: we tolerate the wrong
of people who are racist; we simply go along.
We let the fear continue; we're slow to challenge hate.
We say, "It's not our issue," until it is too late.

O God of love and mercy, you teach us how to be
a loving, caring people, a kind community.
May we reach out to neighbours and welcome others here
for love is what is needed to cast out pride and fear.

Biblical Reference: I John 4:7-21

Tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

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