

CHARLTON

ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS

Sunday 7 April 2019
Passion Sunday

Today's Preacher and Celebrant:

St Thomas': Revd Bennett Spong

St Luke's: Revd Liz Newman

Today's Readings:

Old Testament: Isaiah 43.16-21

New Testament: Philippians 3.4b-14

Gospel: John 12.1-8



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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



Sun 7	<p>10.00: Passion Sunday Eucharist at St Thomas'</p> <p>10.00: Passion Sunday Eucharist at St Luke's <i>Followed by Bible Study</i></p> <p>12.15: Standing Committee at St Luke's</p> <p>17.00: Prayer group at St Richard's</p>
Mon 8	<p>08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's</p> <p>17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'</p>
Tue 9	<p>08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's</p> <p>10.00: Tuesday Group at St Thomas' <i>includes The Julian Corner</i></p> <p>17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'</p>
Wed 10	<p>08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's</p> <p>10.30: Coffee Morning at St Luke's</p> <p>12.00: Holy Communion at St Luke's</p> <p>17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'</p> <p>19.30: Walk through the Old Testament St Alfege, Greenwich †</p>
Thu 11	<p>08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's</p> <p>14.30: Pilgrim Course at 32 Weyman Road †</p> <p>17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'</p> <p>18.00: Tom's Youth Café at St Thomas'</p> <p>19.30: The Cost of Discipleship Group at 10 Mayhill Road †</p>
Sun 14	<p>09.50: Palm Sunday Eucharist at St Thomas' <i>Meet corner of Heathwood Gardens & Woodland Terrace</i></p> <p>09.50: Palm Sunday Eucharist at St Luke's <i>Meet next to Co-op in The Village</i> <i>Followed by Bible Study</i></p> <p>11.30: St Thomas' APCM at St Thomas'</p> <p>14.30: Service at Time Court Care Home</p>



Thought for the week

'The Church exists to connect people at the level of their hunger for a new world.' *Rowan Williams*



Holy Week and Easter News

Holy Week – Bring a Plus-One and Flyers

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.

With this bulletin there are two flyers promoting our Holy Week and Easter services. Please keep one and come to a service in Holy Week – you won't be disappointed. And please use the other flyer to invite a friend or neighbour to come along with you.

Easter Postcards

The new Easter postcards have arrived, 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. However, we were delivered more cards than we requested – so please help us distribute them as widely as possible. Please sign the list at the back of church.

Palm Sunday

Next week is Palm Sunday and we will be starting our service at the corner of Woodland Terrace and Heathwood Gardens (St Thomas') and at the Co-Op (St Luke's) Please congregate there from 9.50am so we can process to church to recall Jesus' procession into Jerusalem at the start of Holy Week.

Messy Easter

For the first time this year we are celebrating MESSY EASTER at St Richard's on Easter Eve morning, Saturday 20th April. This is aimed at families with children 12 and below and we'll need lots of help. Please speak to Isla Carlin, Sonia Baidoo or Revd Liz if you can help out.

Easter Lilies

If you'd like to donate an Easter lily in memory of a loved one, please give your donation (any amount) to Pat Orton or the Churchwardens at St Luke's.



Thank you...

To everyone who worked so hard to make the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter Service a lovely occasion. Singers, readers, eulogizer (Bennett!!), musicians, caterers, washers up and all those who got the church looking so beautiful. It was good St Thomas' was able to host the service this year and welcome fellow volunteers and trustees.

To Judith Barlow who is working very hard in getting the St Luke's Grants Committee off the ground. This committee is there to lead the church's fundraising activity so we can make sure there is enough money for all our church is called to be and do in the coming years. It's a big job so thank you Judith for taking it on with such commitment.

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.

Bishop Karowei

Unfortunately Bishop Karowei has been hospitalized this week with a suspected pulmonary embolism. It is only a short time since he was in hospital with pneumonia. Please pray for him, his family and for his healing.

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.

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*

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

Welcare Quiz and Supper night

The annual Quiz and Supper is on 27th April at 7pm at St Thomas'. Tickets are £10, which includes a fish and chip supper (Please bring your own drink). Contact Joan Lake, or Peter & Jean Griffiths for tickets.

Marathon Sunday – April 28th

The London Marathon is wonderful spectacle, brings communities together, celebrates human achievement and raises millions of pounds for good causes. As Christian communities we recognize that the Marathon does much for the common good and it's right we should support it. Because it is on a Sunday morning, though, and because roads are closed off from early morning, it does impact on who can get to our churches. And because the runners come past St Luke's it would feel very wrong if we weren't there to cheer them on, but instead were in church worshipping a God who sends us out into our community to love and serve it. Our PCCs are therefore suggesting that the following happens this year:

St Luke's Parish Eucharist is a said eucharist only, with no sermon and an early 9.00am start. Straight after the service we will congregate outside the church, offering refreshments, giving people information about who we are and blessing the passing runners with holy water. Throughout this time Chariots of Fire and Keep on Running will be rung on the church bells.

St Thomas' There will be a normal Parish Eucharist but this will start at 4.30pm instead of 10 am. The roads will be open again by this time so anyone who wants to come will be able to get to church. This will also give members of St Thomas' congregation a chance to join St Luke's congregation in The Village to offer hospitality and cheer on the runners. It will also give members of St Luke's congregation who can't get there in the morning a chance to attend the eucharist at St Thomas'.

This is an experiment this year and we will discuss and review afterwards. Please let the clergy or Churchwardens know if you are able to help with refreshments and information giving at St Luke's on Marathon Sunday. And please support our efforts to connect with our neighbours and give everyone a chance to worship on April 28th.

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.*

St Richard's Day

For the first time (in recent history at least!) we are going to celebrate St Richard's Day this year at St Richard's Church Centre in Swallowfield Road. The date will be Saturday 15th June and there will be a variety of activities, stalls, worship, refreshments etc etc. We need VOLUNTEERS to help make this happen. St Richard's Day will be a chance to show hospitality to our neighbours, let them know what our plans are for the centre and hear their views on the needs of local people. And it will be a chance to have some fun. The more person power, the better the outcome, so please speak to Revd Liz if you can help in any way. Thank you.

St Luke's Players

The St Luke's Players meet for rehearsals on Sunday afternoons at St Richard's Church Centre. New members are always welcome. Please Speak to Gwen Zammit if you'd like to know more.

Greenwich Foodbank

It has been ten years since two churches in Thamesmead collaborated to create what is now Greenwich Foodbank.

In the last two years it has provided emergency food packs to feed 7,500 adults and children. Our volunteers listen to people's problems, sometimes are a shoulder to cry on, and ensure there is someone helping them to resolve the underlying problem.

We have a number of vacancies in some of our centres which we are looking to fill. These are day time or evening opportunities, different places on different days not including Sunday. Volunteers need to be good listeners, be caring, compassionate, be able to make a cup of tea and display Christ in who they are.

Please ask Revd Liz or Rick if you'd like to know more.

Cyclone Idai appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated to the appeal for people affected by Cyclone Idai. £170 was sent to Christian Aid, in addition to the £55 donated for surgical gloves in Zimbabwe.

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 today onwards I want us to have this pattern:

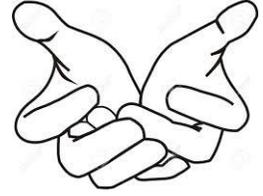
- Ministers of the Word, musicians, choir members, servers, president and preacher are all ready and prepared for their roles by 9.50 at the latest.
- That at 9.50 some reflective music is played quietly until just before 10am
- That during this period musician, servers, minister of the word, president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

Unlock shines a light in SW London

Thanks to Juliana for highlighting this item from The Bridge last month: On Saturday 27 April 'Shining A Light', the 36th Unlock London Walk will take place in south west London. This year's 7+ mile walk covers Merton, Morden and Wimbledon. As well as exploring local history and issues, the walkers will visit local churches who are all actively shining a light in the community. For further details contact Unlock. Tel: 0114 2939060 Email: office@unlockurban.org.uk Website: www.unlock-urban.org.uk

Prayer Extra



*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.*

*Teach us Good Shepherd,
to know your word,
to hear your call upon our lives.
Help us to follow where you lead,
and to give cheerfully of what we have and what we are,
so your mission and ministry may flourish through your
church, for your world.
Amen.*

*God of all time,
God beyond and behind time,
May we know what is too late and what is too soon.
May we always recognise the right time in the light of
your timeless love.
Amen.*

Please remember in your prayers this week:

The Church: Our friends at St Mary's, Leigh; All working for the Diocese of Southwark; Our Mission Action Plan and Joe who will lead on piloting an enquirer's course targeted at the de- and un-churched

The World: The Diocese of Manicaland; 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; The work of Christian Aid; For those in Iran who have died, and the people whose lives have been devastated by heaving flooding

Our local community: Fosdene School; St Joseph's Court; Charlton Society; The local Councillors representing wards in our Benefice

Those celebrating their birthday or an anniversary last week

Those who have asked for our prayers or who are sick

R.I.P.: Simon Jones

Year's Mind: Ted Jones; Carol Chipperfield

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