

Our
Mission
Priorities

Nurturing
children and
young people

Sharing our faith
confidently

Reaching
isolated groups

Engaging with
our community

CHARLTON

ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS

Sunday 1 December 2019 Advent Sunday

Today's Preacher and Celebrant:

St Luke's: Revd Joe Lee

St Thomas': Revd Liz Newman

Today's Readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 2.1-5

Second Reading: Romans 13.11-14

Gospel: Matthew 24.36-44



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

Diary this week:

Sun 1	<p>10.00: Parish Eucharist for Advent Sunday at St Thomas'</p> <p>10.00: Parish Eucharist for Advent Sunday at St Luke's <i>Includes Children's Church</i></p> <p>11.15: Bible Study at St Luke's</p> <p>19.00: Advent Carol Service at St Thomas'</p>
Mon 2	<p>08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's</p> <p>17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'</p>
Tue 3	<p>08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's</p> <p>09.30: Diddy Disciples at St Richard'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 4	<p>08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's</p> <p>10.30: Midweek 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: General Election Hustings at Christ Church East Greenwich</p>
Thu 5	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Christmas Journey for Schools at St Thomas'</i></p> <p>08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's</p> <p>17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'</p> <p>18.00: TOMS Youth Café at St Thomas'</p> <p>19.30: Advent Study Group at 10 Mayhill Road... <i>...studying 'The Problem of Pain' by CS Lewis</i></p>
Fri 6	<p><i>Christmas Journey for Schools at St Thomas'</i></p>
Sat 7	<p>11.00am: General Election Hustings at The Assembly Rooms</p>
Sun 8	<p>10.00: Parish Eucharist for Advent 2 at St Thomas'</p> <p>10.00: All Age Eucharist for Advent 2 at St Luke's</p> <p>11.15: Bible Study at St Luke's</p>

Thought for the week



'The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.'

Henri Nouwen

News and notices

Thank you...

... to Judith Barlow for organising the refreshment rota at St Luke's and everyone who feeds and waters people after the service and then washes up!

... to everyone who feeds our guests at the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter, blows up the beds, lays the table and does the laundry.

Advent Carol Service – TONIGHT 7pm

As usual we will be marking the start of Advent with our Benefice Carol Service at St Thomas' Church. We will be joined by our friends from St Mary's Leigh and The British Orthodox Church. The service will be followed by refreshments (and the first mulled wine of the season!!) Do come along so we can reflect together on the world's need of light and prepare ourselves to meet Christ when he comes again. Please note the slightly later start time of 7pm.

Deanery 'Christmas Journey' for schools

Thank you for all the pegs and sheep shearing! Our event is this week on Thursday and Friday at St Thomas where we will be hosting and enabling six sessions of the Deanery Christmas Journey. Please keep all our schools in your prayers.

General Election Hustings

There are two sets of hustings taking place for the Greenwich and Woolwich constituency. It is a great opportunity to quiz our election candidates and let them know your priorities and concerns.

- **Wednesday 4th December, 7.30 for 8pm** at Christ Church Greenwich, Trafalgar Road
- **Saturday 7th December, 11.00am** at The Assembly Rooms, The Village

Follow the Star this Advent & Christmas



We have a full diary of services as we share the love of Jesus this Christmas with the community around Charlton. The Carol services in our local care homes or sheltered housing are listed as invitation only. Do ask if you too would like to join in. And please help us to publicise services to our local community by delivering postcards.

Christmas Postcards

As has been the case in recent years, we have ordered postcards to be distributed around our Benefice to advertise our Christmas services. They have been an effective way of inviting people to share in God's love at Christmas.

Please look out for details of how you can help us deliver the cards.

Sun 1	Advent Carol Service at St Thomas' 7.00pm <i>Open to everyone including friends from St Mary's Leigh and British Orthodox Church.</i>
Wed 4	Charlton Triangle Carol concert at St Luke's (<i>invitation only</i>)
Thu 5	Christmas Journey at St Thomas' (<i>schools and team only</i>)
Fri 6	Christmas Journey at St Thomas' (<i>schools and team only</i>)
Sun 8	Advent 2 Eucharist at St Luke's & St Thomas' 10.00am
Sun 8	Carol Service at Time Court Care Home <i>(residents and care home group only)</i>
Sun 8	Christmas Sing-along at St Thomas', 5.00pm <i>Everyone is welcome for this fun community event</i>
Tue 10	Carol Service at St Joseph's Court (<i>invitation only</i>)
Thu 12	Thorntree Christmas Concert St Thomas (<i>school only</i>)
Thu 12	Carol Service at 40 Littleheath (<i>invitation only</i>)
Fri 13	Thorntree Nursery and Reception visits to St Thomas' <i>(school only)</i>
Sun 15	Advent 3 Eucharist at St Luke's & St Thomas' 10.00am
Sun 15	Carol Service at Charlton Park Care Home <i>(residents and care home group only)</i>
Sun 15	Carol Service at Beecham Close (<i>invitation only</i>)

Mon 16	Joint PCC Christmas Social at St Thomas' (<i>PCC members only</i>)
Wed 18	Community Carol Service at St Luke's, 7.00pm <i>A service for the whole community. Readings will be given by local community members, anthems from the choir and carols for us all to join in. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies.</i>
Sat 21	Messy Church at St Richard's 11.30-2.00 <i>Everyone welcome for creative Christmas activities & worship</i>
Sun 22	Advent 4 Eucharist at St Luke's & St Thomas' 10.00am
Mon 23	Christingle at St Thomas', 2.00pm <i>Everyone is welcome</i> <i>Creative activities at 2pm, Worship at 3pm</i>
Tue 24	Midnight Mass at St Luke's and St Thomas' 11.00pm <i>Everyone is welcome at this First Mass of Christmas</i>
Wed 25	Christmas Day Eucharist at St Luke's and St Thomas <i>Everyone is welcome to this family Eucharist</i>

Christmas Sing-along

Next Sunday is the popular Community Christmas Sing-along, 5.00pm at St Thomas' church. We'll be singing carols and Christmas songs as well as enjoying mulled wine, mince pies and a craft sale. Call 07989 740252 for more information.



Advent Study Group

During Advent, the weekly study group will be reading 'The Problem of Pain' by CS Lewis.

We meet on Thursday evenings, 7.30pm at 10 Mayhill Road, SE7 7JQ

Newsletter copy deadline: News and prayer requests to be included in next week's newsletter can be sent to news@charlton.church or phoning 020 8858 8175 by 12 noon on Wednesday.

Contacting Revd Liz: Liz, our Rector, can be contacted by email liz@charlton.church or by phoning 07922 587263. Liz usually has her day off on Friday.

Greenwich Winter Night Shelter – Day Centre

The organisers of GWNS are piloting a Day Centre on Tuesday's at The Forum on Trafalgar Road. There will be 3 shifts throughout the day, and volunteers will help keep guests company, assist guests with facility use and rotas, serving tea & coffee to guests and providing additional support as directed such as with computer use. If you're interest in volunteering for this visit <https://gwns.org.uk/> or ask Rev Liz for more details.

Hedge planting at St Luke's

We have 20 new bare root hedging plants which will be planted on Saturday 7th December. Help would be very welcome with these plants and some bulbs, starting at 11:15 in the churchyard at St Luke's. Please let Deborah Jones know if you are available to help either in person or by text on 07732 173601.

News from our November PCC meetings

At St Luke's we:

- Agreed a plan for releasing our investments
- Postponed agreeing a budget
- Received feedback on the Invest in Hope Stewardship Campaign
- Agreed a space hire policy for St Richard's Church Centre

At St Thomas' we:

- Agreed a budget for 2020
- Heard a presentation about Charlton Riverside and the redevelopment of estates around St Thomas'
- Heard arrangements for the PCC Quiet Day

Safeguarding

Our churches take safeguarding extremely seriously and have adopted and implement our Diocesan procedures and guidelines contained in A Safe Church. These are in line with those agreed by the House of Bishops. For further information please see the Safeguarding noticeboard at St Thomas', St Luke's and St Richard's, or visit the website. The Parish Safeguarding Officers and Rector would be very happy to answer any questions you may have.

We all have a responsibility to make our churches safe places for all. If you have any concerns, please bring them to the attention of the Rector, Parish Safeguarding Officer, Churchwardens or a PCC member without delay.

Prayer Zone



*O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son
our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

*Eternal God,
you will come when we do not expect you.
Help us to welcome you now in one another,
to reach out to our sisters and brothers,
who are in need of care and support.
And in this way may we be found ready,
when you come again in glory.
Amen.*

Please remember in your prayers this week:

The Church: Our friends at St Mary's, Leigh; Open Heavens Church; We pray for the Y course that started at St Thomas' in October. That through it others may discover God loves them and has a plan for their life.; From our Deanery we pray for St John's Blackheath

The World: The Diocese of Manicaland; The people of New South Wales in Australia, where enormous forest fires continue to burn; Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London; We hold before God all candidates in our General Election, that the policies they promote will be for the good of all and that we exercise our vote with care and responsibility; We pray for the lands in which we were born - today we remember especially Uganda, praying that peace and justice will reign there and that your church there will thrive

Our local community: The staff and pupils at Charlton Manor School; Queen Elizabeth Hospital; Charlton Park Riding for the Disabled; Friends of Charlton Park; Our guests at the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter, and our volunteers who welcome them; Greenwich Foodbank; Charlton Park Riding for the Disabled; Friends of Charlton Park

Those celebrating their birthday last week:

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

R.I.P.: Winifred Tofts

Year's Mind: Rose Chipperfield; Ron Tingay

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.