

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 8 December 2019
2nd Sunday of Advent

Today's Preacher and Celebrant:

St Luke's: Revd Liz Newman

St Thomas': Revd Joe Lee

Today's Readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 11.1-10

Second Reading: Romans 15.4-13

Gospel: Matthew 3.1-12



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

Diary this week:

Sun 8	10.00: Parish Eucharist for Advent 2 at St Thomas' 10.00: All Age Eucharist for Advent 2 at St Luke's 11.15: Bible Study at St Luke's 17.00: Community Christmas Sing-along at St Thomas'
Mon 9	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'
Tue 10	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 09.30: Diddy Disciples at St Richard's 10.00: Tuesday Group at St Thomas' <i>includes The Julian Corner</i> 17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'
Wed 11	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 10.30: Midweek Coffee Morning at St Luke's 12.00: Holy Communion at St Luke's 17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'
Thu 12	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas' 18.00: TOMS Youth Café at St Thomas' 19.30: Advent Study Group at 10 Mayhill Road... <i>...studying 'The Problem of Pain' by CS Lewis</i>
Sat 14	07,30: Breakfast and postcard delivery at St Luke's
Sun 15	10.00: Parish Eucharist for Advent 3 at St Thomas' 10.00: Parish Eucharist for Advent 3 at St Luke's 11.15: Bible Study at St Luke's



Thought for the week

God made humans in his own image, and humans returned the favour. *Frank Wedekind*

News and notices

Thank you...

... to the whole Christmas Journey Team, from both our churches. What a wonderful example of 2 congregations and members from other Deanery churches working together to tell the story of Jesus to so many children in such an engaging way. We need to be HUGELY grateful to Liz Buck for the enormous effort she has made to make it all happen.

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 Sing-along

Tonight 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.

Christmas Postcards / Publicity

Michael Hurley writes: Why is this mission important? Because although we might assume that everyone knows about Christmas and can see that there is a church building standing here, we must never underestimate the power of a personal invitation. Our church is not a secret society but a community of believers who have received good news to be shared with the whole world. As Christ taught us, we are "the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

continued ...

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Urgent call for volunteers

We have printed 5,000 colourful postcards with information about our Christmas services and an invitation to residents of the parishes to join us in welcoming the Christ child. These need to be carried on foot, door to door, and dropped through the letter boxes of houses in the surrounding neighbourhood before December 18th.



St Luke's Delivery

At the back of the church today you will find stacks of these postcards separated into bundles of 50 and 20 and someone ready to add your name to a sign-up sheet with a list of streets in the parish where the cards must be delivered. We are urging everyone who is able to help to sign up to deliver these postcards. It's important that volunteers not only take cards home today but also sign the sign-up sheet, indicating the streets they will be covering, so that we don't duplicate our efforts. There is no need to knock on doors when delivering these cards. You simply drop the material through the letterbox and move along to the next house.

We are asking that people start delivering these cards in the coming week so as to get the word out as early as possible. However, at **7:30am next Saturday morning, December 14th**, we are inviting all who are able to meet at St Luke's for a breakfast of American pancakes with maple syrup and sausages, coffee and tea, after which we will fan out on foot in groups of two to deliver the remaining postcards to any homes not yet covered. We hope all of you can aid this vital work as part of your Advent preparation.

St Thomas' delivery

Also at St Thomas' you will find the cards in bundles of 20's and 50's and the sign-up sheet.

Please take some, sign the sheet to let us know which streets you're covering and invite our neighbours to worship the light that shines in the darkness.

Advent & Christmas diary



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>
Sat 14	Breakfast and postcard delivery 7.30am at St Luke's
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>
Sun 29	Christmas 1 Eucharist at St Thomas' & St Luke's 10.00am



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

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.

Alison Leggatt writes: I would like to thank all in the Charlton Benefice for their prayers, support, friendship and food since my shoulder operation on 28 October. The NHS has done me proud too of course. I'm making good progress but there's more work and exercise to come.

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.

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.

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.

Prayer Zone



*Enable us Lord, to spot the signs
of your kingdom, your activity,
your presence and your call -
in the world, the church,
in one another and in ourselves.*

*Make us to know that we are your family,
and teach us the family language of love,
that we may become fluent. Amen.*

*Help us, Lord, to be with you
in all that you seek to do in and for the world;
make us to be bearers of kingdom fruit,
that your love, your peace,
your kindness, your grace,
may be seen in us and through us,
and that we may see you
in those to whom you send us. Amen.*

Please remember in your prayers this week:

The Church: Our friends at St Mary's, Leigh; British Orthodox Church; We pray for plans to develop a mental wellbeing project at St Luke's, that through it people will find refreshment, belonging, purpose and hope; From our Deanery we pray for St Mary's Woolwich

The World: The Diocese of Manicaland; All attending COP25 (Conference of the Parties) in Madrid, that governments around the world will take urgent action to tackle Climate Change; Len Duvall, our London Assembly Member; 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 China, praying that peace and justice will reign there and that your church there will thrive

Our local community: The staff and pupils at Thorntree School; Oxleas House; Greenwich Welcare; Valley Hill Hub; Charlton Champion; Our guests at the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter, and our volunteers who welcome them

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: Grace Hills; Norman Ford; David Leggatt

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.