

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 22 December 2019
4th Sunday of Advent

Today's Preacher and Celebrant:

St Luke's: Revd Liz Newman

St Thomas': Revd Bennett Spong

Today's Readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 7.10-16

Second Reading: Romans 1.1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1.18-25



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

Diary this week:

Sun 22	10.00: Parish Eucharist for Advent 3 at St Thomas' 10.00: Parish Eucharist for Advent 3 at St Luke's
Mon 23	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 14.00: Christingle at St Thomas' 17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'
Tue 24	23.00: Midnight Mass at St Thomas' 23.00: Midnight Mass at St Luke's
Wed 25	10.00: Christmas Morning Eucharist with Carols at St Luke's 10.00: Christmas Morning Eucharist with Carols at St Thomas'
Sun 29	10.00: Parish Eucharist for Christmas 1 at St Thomas' 10.00: Parish Eucharist for Christmas 1 at St Luke's



*Wishing all our readers
a joyful and peaceful
Christmas*



Thought for the week

Switch off the TV... shut your eyes; breathe deeply; do nothing but listen to the things you can't hear. Nurture your inner slob. You might even find you begin to pray - by enjoying the intimacy of God's presence and the fragile beauty of each passing moment.

Bishop Stephen Cottrell

News and notices

Thank you...

...to John Dawson and our Benefice Choir for their musical contribution to the Community Carol Service.

...to St Thomas' Tuesday Group men for cooking such a delicious Christmas lunch this week.

...to all our Greenwich Winter Night Shelter volunteers having a well-deserved rest over Christmas as *Crisis* take over looking after our guests for a week.

...to Sonia Baidoo and her Messy Church team for a wonderful Messy Christmas at St Richard's Church Centre yesterday.

Services etc. after Christmas

Following a very busy period leading up to Christmas, we'll be taking a rest from some of our regular activities over the next couple of weeks.

- There will be **no morning or evening prayer** between Christmas Eve and Sunday January 12th. They will start again on Monday 13th January 2020
- **Diddy Disciples** at St Richard's Church Centre starts again on Tuesday 14th January 2020
- The **Midweek Coffee Morning and Communion** at St Luke's will take a rest on January 1st and return on Wednesday 8th January.
- There will be **no Tuesday Group** at St Thomas' on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve, but the group restarts on 7th January.

A message from Rev'd Liz

I will be away from Monday 30th December for 2 weeks, returning on Monday 12th January, so I will be unable to respond to any messages until my return.

Praying for a blessed Christmas for all in our congregations, those on the edge of them and the women, men, boys and girls that live and work in our parishes. May we all know Christ's peace and joy.

Keeping up to date with our news

This newsletter is added to our website every week at www.charlton.church.

You can receive an email each week with a link to the newsletter. To receive this please send an email to news@charlton.church.

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.

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



*A prayer for our nation:
God of hope,
in these times of change,
unite our nation
and guide our leaders with your wisdom.
Give us courage to overcome our fears,
and help us to build a future
in which all may prosper and share;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.*

Please remember in your prayers this week:

The Church: Our friends at St Mary's, Leigh; All working for the Diocese of Southwark; We pray for our working in partnership with Charlton Together and Charlton Neighbourhood Plan, so that our community may be a place where all can live well; From our Deanery we pray for Old Royal Naval College Greenwich

We pray for those visiting our churches this Christmas, that they will encounter the Light of the World and follow.

We pray for our Benefice Christingle on Monday 23rd December, for the team leading and families attending, that through this service the light of Christ will be shared and spread.

We pray for Stephen Cottrell as he prepares for his consecration as Archbishop of York.

The World: The Diocese of Manicaland; Christians living in the land of Jesus' birth, preparing to celebrate Christmas; Len Duvall, our London Assembly Member; The work of Embrace the Middle East; Our new government and Prime Minister and all newly elected MP's, that they will work to heal the divisions and inequality in our country; We pray for the lands in which we were born - today we remember especially Ghana, praying that peace and justice will reign there and that your church there will thrive

Our local community: The staff and pupils at Windrush School; All living and working at Charlton Park Care Home; Greenwich Street Pastors; RG51 Scout Group; Our local Councillors representing wards in our Benefice; 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; Mary Tutor

Year's Mind: Lorraine Louise Davies

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.