

Our  
Mission  
Priorities

Nurturing  
children and  
young people

Sharing our faith  
confidently

Reaching  
isolated groups

Engaging with  
our community



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## Double Issue

# CHARLTON

ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS

Sunday 29 December 2019  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

*Today's Preacher and Celebrant:*

**St Luke's:** Revd Joe Lee

**St Thomas':** Revd Liz Newman

*Today's Readings:*

**First Reading:** Isaiah 63.7-9

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 2.10-18

**Gospel:** Matthew 2.13-23

Sunday 5 January 2020  
Epiphany

*Today's Preacher and Celebrant:*

**St Luke's:** Revd Bennett Spong

**St Thomas':** Revd Joe Lee

*Today's Readings:*

**First Reading:** Isaiah 60.1-6

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 3.1-12

**Gospel:** Matthew 2.1-12

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

## Two Week Diary



|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Sun 29</b> | 10.00: <b>Parish Eucharist for Christmas 1</b> at St Thomas'<br>10.00: <b>Parish Eucharist for Christmas 1</b> at St Luke's |
|---------------|---|

**NB: No midweek services or activities this week**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Sun 5</b>  | 10.00: <b>Parish Eucharist for Epiphany</b> at St Thomas'<br>10.00: <b>Parish Eucharist for Epiphany</b> at St Luke's |
| <b>Tue 7</b>  | 10.00: <b>Tuesday Group</b> at St Thomas'<br><i>Includes the Julian Corner for private prayer</i>                     |
| <b>Wed 25</b> | 10.30: <b>Midweek Coffee Morning</b> at St Luke's<br>12.00: <b>Midweek Communion</b> at St Luke's                     |
| <b>Sun 12</b> | 10.00: <b>All Age Eucharist</b> at St Luke's<br>10.00: <b>Parish Eucharist</b> at St Thomas'                          |



### Thoughts for the week

Christian communities... 'united by something greater than their differences, united by his friendship.' *Archbishop Justin Welby*

We should renew our desire to look for Christ with the same determination as the Magi. Whatever it takes!

*Archbishop José H Gómez*

### **RIP Pastor Gabriel Diya, Praise Emanuel Diya and Comfort Diya**

It's with massive shock and sadness that we have learned that the family who died in the swimming pool accident in Spain on Christmas Eve were Pastor Gabriel Diya of Open Heavens Church, his son Praise Emmanuel aged 16 and his daughter Comfort aged 9.

Open Heavens Church have been meeting at St Richard's Church Centre for many years. We pray for Gabriel's wife, Pastor Olubunmi Diya, their surviving daughter and for the Open Heavens congregation.

May Gabriel, Praise Emmanuel and Comfort rest in peace and rise in glory.

## **News and notices**

### **Thank you...**

...to Liz Buck and her Christingle Team for making possible our Benefice Christingle which was wonderfully well attended and a joyful celebration of Christ's birth.

...to Rob, Sacristan at St Luke's, Bella, Cheyanne and Kayden for all their serving over Christmas.

### **New Year's Eve at St Thomas'**

St Thomas' is hosting a New Year's Eve party from 8pm on December 31st. Bring your own food and drink. Bring friends and family or come on your own. We'll have a jazz pianist and a quiz, and other ideas are welcome. A warm welcome guaranteed.

### **Greenwich Winter Night Shelter Concert – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm**

Come along to support Greenwich Winter Night Shelter and enjoy a wonderful evening of popular classics for cello, voice and piano from the Charlton Ensemble.

Tickets £10. Reservations 07989 740252 or 020 8854 0841

### **RIP Bishop Ronald Bowlby**

It was with much sadness that we learned just before Christmas that Bishop Ronald Bowlby has died.

Bishop Ronnie was a good friend of our churches when he was Bishop of Southwark between 1980 – 1991, and he will be remembered across our diocese with great affection. Please remember Bishop Ronnie in your prayers with thanksgiving and pray for all who mourn his passing.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

### **Situation vacant**

A person with a disability and who uses a wheelchair is looking for a new Personal Assistant (Carer) from September. The rate is approx. £11 an hour for a 40 hour week. They must be over 25, able to drive and be flexible about hours (usually Monday to Friday) As it involves personal care, he is looking for a man.

If anyone is interested or knows anyone who might be, they should email [doobert@mac.com](mailto:doobert@mac.com) for further details and an explanation of the role.

### **Message from Bishop Christopher**

Dear Friends in Christ

As you will know Bishop Karowei had a period of ill health earlier in 2019 and has in recent months been making a phased return to work. It is now clear that Bishop Karowei needs a further period of recovery and so I have asked him to clear his diary of engagements and appointments for the next 2-3 months in order to assist in his complete recovery and return to good health.

I am sure that you will want to keep Bishop Karowei and his wife Mosun in your prayers at this time as he seeks to return to full health and duties in the coming months.

With my prayers and much appreciation

+Christopher

## **Regular activities in our churches**

The teams organising our regular midweek activities are taking a rest during the week of 29<sup>th</sup> December.

The Tuesday Group returns to St Thomas' at 10.00am on 7<sup>th</sup> January, and the next midweek Coffee Morning is at St Luke's on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 10.30am. The midday communion will also re-start on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

Morning and Evening Prayer will start when Rev'd Liz returns from holiday on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January, and Diddy Disciples starts up again at St Richard's on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Keep up to date with our news**

This newsletter is added to the website ([www.charlton.church](http://www.charlton.church)) every week. You can receive an email each weekend with a link to the newsletter. TO receive this please send a request to [news@charlton.church](mailto:news@charlton.church).

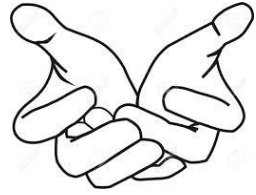
## ***Safeguarding***

*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:** *The next Newsletter will be available in churches on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January. News and prayer requests to be included can be sent to [news@charlton.church](mailto:news@charlton.church) or phoning 020 8858 8175 by 12 noon on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January.*

# Prayer Zone



## *Prayers for Christmas & Epiphany*

*As we welcome your birth  
among us, as one of us:  
we praise you, O God,  
who stooped down from the fullness of your divinity  
to the littleness of humanity;  
born on the margins of life  
to save us from the margin of death  
and fill us with your love and light.  
Amen.*

*Father, we rejoice in our fellowship  
with the shepherds, the angels, the magi,  
the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph  
and all the faithful departed.  
In your unfailing love for us and for all people,  
hear and answer our prayers through your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.*

*Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

# **Our prayers for week of 29 December:**

**The Church:** Our friends at St Mary's, Leigh; Bishop Christopher; We pray for the strengthening of bonds between our churches and community, that we might offer places of hospitality and welcome and encourage all to cross the threshold; From our Deanery we pray for St George's Westcombe Park

**The World:** The Diocese of Manicaland; Those who died and were injured in the plane crash in Kazakhstan; The work of Tearfund; We pray for the lands in which we were born - today we remember especially Antigua, praying that peace and justice will reign there and that your church there will thrive

**Our local community:** The staff and pupils at Woodhill School; All living and working at Time Court Care Home; Guiding members in Charlton; St Peter's Boxing Club; Matthew Pennycook MP; 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; Pastor Gabriel Diya, Praise Emanuel Diya; Comfort Diya

**Year's Mind:** Mabel Griffiths

# **Our prayers for week of 5 January:**

**The Church:** Our friends at St Mary's, Leigh; Bishop Karowei; Lord, we pray that you will show us how our churches can help those who feel alone or lost, and bring your light into lives lived in darkness.; From our Deanery we pray for St Alfege Greenwich

**The World:** The Diocese of Manicaland; Refugees around the world; Len Duvall, our London Assembly Member; The work of Children's Society; We pray for the lands in which we were born - today we remember especially Grenada, praying that peace and justice will reign there and that your church there will thrive

**Our local community:** The staff and pupils at Pound Park Early Years and Children's Centre; All living at 40 Littleheath; Charlton Athletic Football Club; All who work at the Thames Barrier; Clive Efford MP; 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; Pastor Gabriel Diya, Praise Emanuel Diya; Comfort Diya

**Year's Mind:** Ruth Cooke