

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 2 February 2020 Candlemas

Today's Preacher and Celebrants:

Preacher: Peter Graystone

Celebrants: Revd's Liz Newman, Bennett Spong
and Joe Lee

Today's Readings:

First Reading: Malachi 3.1-5

Second Reading: Hebrews 2.14-18

Gospel: Luke 2.22-40



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

Diary this week:

Sun 2	10.00: Benefice Eucharist for Candlemas at St Thomas'
Mon 3	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas'
Tue 4	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' 19.30: St Thomas' PCC at St Thomas'
Wed 5	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 6	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 17.30: Evening Prayer at St Thomas' 19.30: Study Group at 10 Mayhill Road... <i>...studying 'Mere Christianity' by CS Lewis</i>
Sat 8	10.30: The Y Course continues at St Thomas'
Sun 9	10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas' 10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Luke's <i>Followed by Bible Study</i> 14.30: Service at Time Court Care Home



Thought for the week

'We are a single flock under the care of a single shepherd. There can be no separate church for people with disabilities.'

US Catholic Bishops

News and notices

Welcome...

... to everyone at our Benefice Eucharist today at St Thomas' Church. It's always a joy when our two congregations worship together and today we celebrate the many blessings of our two churches working together.

It's also a joy to welcome Peter Graystone as our guest preacher today. Peter is a Christian writer who has worked and written for the Scripture Union, Christian Aid and the Church Army. He's produced many devotional texts and writes a regular column in the Church Times. More recently Peter has taken over leading the Bishop's Certificate for Southwark Diocese.

Thank you to...

... our musicians, singers, caterers, ticket sellers and general helpers, all of whom contributed to the amazing concert at St Thomas last Sunday evening. All profits are going to Greenwich Winter Night Shelter and it's looking like that will be around £1,500 – an amazing effort. And a special mention to Jim and Sheila Kinsella the movers and shakers behind such a wonderful evening.

Vocations

Do I have a vocation? Yes! Every person is called by God. God calls each of us by name and the heart of responding to our vocation is to be the unique person God calls us to be.

Calling, or vocation, is one of the major themes in the Bible. Scripture is full of inspiring stories of very ordinary people who achieved extraordinary things when answering God's call and putting it into action. Each and every one of us forms a unique part of God's loving creation and, as such, each of us has a particular calling to fulfil in God's Kingdom plan.

For some, this vocation may lead to:

- being formally **licensed** or **commissioned** as a lay minister, or
- being **ordained** as a priest or deacon.

If you would like to talk further about your calling and responding to it, please speak to or contact one of the clergy, who will be happy to listen and support.

Items needed for Messy Church in February

Messy Church's families will be making 'Blessings Bags' for our homeless guests at St Richard's next month.

St Richard's and St Thomas' give shelter to 15 homeless people once a week, as part of Greenwich's Winter Night Shelter.

Messy Church takes place on the third Saturday of each month at St Richard's Church Centre - join us - all are welcome!

We have taken advice from GWNS about the contents of our Blessings Bags and we hope our amazing congregations at St Luke's & Thomas' can gift some of the following travel/mini sized items. We only need 15 of each:-

- Travel tooth brush (the fab green grocer's opposite St Luke's sell single bamboo toothbrushes alternatively)
- Tooth paste
- Face mirror
- Tissues
- Wet wipes / skin cleansing wipes
- Hair brush / comb
- Small treat e.g. a bar of chocolate / dried fruit & nuts / biscuits
- Small note pad & lidded pen

Please label your gifts Messy Church and leave them in the office or pass them to Sonia Baidoo / Ali Edney

Deadline Sunday 9th February for gifts to be left for Messy Church.

Benefice Weekend Away – Reminder

A reminder that the benefice weekend away is happening between Friday April 17th and Sunday April 19th. Everyone who has booked to go has been told how much they owe. If you are paying all at once, please consider doing that as soon as you can. If you have chosen to pay in instalments, please remember there are now only 13 weeks before we go, so paying bit by bit will lighten the load.

Because of unforeseen circumstances there may be a couple of places still available – speak to Revd Liz if you're interested. And do start thinking about how we can entertain ourselves on the Saturday night we're away! Talent show? Karaoke? Singalong film? Quiz?

All Age Worship

Our all age worship service (and booklets) at St Luke's are long overdue a rethink, and at St Thomas' the PCC recently decided to introduce an all age service on a monthly basis. An all age service is just what it says – for everyone. It is not a service aimed just at children. That doesn't mean that it will be everyone's favourite service, but it will, I hope, be a place where we consider the needs of others, remember that we worship with our whole selves and understand that we are different from one another but all precious in God's sight. It's a eucharist where we try our best to include everyone and are prepared to prefer other's needs above our own.

Over the next few Sundays there is a simple questionnaire inside your newsletter. Please fill it in and place in the All Age box. Your responses will help us plan what these service should look like. Thank you, Revd Liz.

Situation vacant

A person with a disability and who uses a wheelchair is looking for a new Personal Assistant (Carer) to start ASAP. 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 for further details and an explanation of the role.

Lighting at St Luke's

In case you worry nothing seems to be happening and that we'll soon be sitting in complete darkness, here's an update! Everything is sorted for the lighting system at St Luke's to be completely replaced. We have the plans drawn up and the contractors ready to go. But we just want to have a few more attempts at raising money from grants to help with the costs before we say 'go ahead'. We've already received a grant from Allchurches, but that only makes a small dent in the total bill. If we can raise some more grant contributions that means we'll need less of our money for the lighting and we'll be left with more for the many other things we want to do. So thanks for your patience and understanding. The lighting WILL get done, we promise! *Revd Liz and the Churchwardens*

Weekly Activities in our Churches

Every week in our churches, there are opportunities for us to get together and share fellowship.

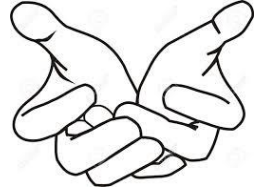
- **Tuesday Group** Come to St Thomas' from 10am on Tuesday's for a chance to share time with friends and make new friends over refreshments. There are leisurely activities you can join in, and you can also stay for lunch. The Julian corner from 11am is an opportunity for silent prayer.
- **Midweek Coffee Morning** Wednesday's between 10.30am and 12 noon is the weekly coffee morning. Pop in for a cuppa and a natter. It is also a good opportunity to look round our historic church.
- **Midweek Communion** Holy Communion is celebrated after the coffee morning on Wednesday's at St Luke's at 12 noon.
- **Morning and Evening Prayer** Monday's to Thursday's each week, Morning Prayer is said at 8.30am in St Luke's. Evening Prayer is said at 5.30pm in St Thomas'. This is a lovely way to bookend the day.
- **Diddy Disciples** For our youngest members, Tuesday's from 9.30 – 11.00am at St Richard's Church Centre.

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



Nunc dimittis

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant
depart in peace according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation;
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end.
Amen.*

*Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us
to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.*

Please remember in your prayers this week:

The Church: Our friends at St Mary's, Leigh; Miriam, Sheila, Kathy, Roberta & Rob our SPA's and Peter SPA emeritus; From our Deanery we pray for St Michael's Blackheath; We hold before God Diddy Disciples and Messy Church, that through these Fresh Expressions of Church, more people will come to know the love of Christ

The World: The Diocese of Manicaland; Our London Assembly Member Len Duvall; The people of Idlib in Syria where 200 air strikes have taken place in 3 days; Our own country and our European neighbours, that God's love will show us how to heal the divisions we face; We pray for the lands in which we were born - today we remember especially South Africa, praying that peace and justice will reign there and that your church there will thrive

Our local community: The staff and pupils at Royal Greenwich Trust School; Greenwich Foodbank; All working at Queen Elizabeth Hospital; New Charlton Community Centre; Charlton Society; Our guests at the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter, and our volunteers who welcome them

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

R.I.P.: Pat Sax; Calvin Clarke; Cyril Ward; Mary Tutor; Augustus Attafua

Year's Mind: Duncan Hamilton; Armored Griffiths; Reginald Scutt; Patricia Irving; Maurice Horseley

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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.