

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 9 February 2020
3rd Sunday before Lent

Today's Preacher and Celebrants:

St Luke's: Revd Liz Newman

St Thomas': Revd Joe Lee

Today's Readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 9.1-4

Second Reading: 1 Cor 1.10-18

Gospel: Matt 4.12-23



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

Diary this week:

Sun 9	10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas' 10.00: All Age Eucharist at St Luke's <i>Followed by Bible Study</i> 14.30: Service at Time Court Care Home
Mon 10	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's
Tue 11	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 10.00: Tuesday Group at St Thomas' <i>includes The Julian Corner</i>
Wed 12	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
Thu 13	NB: No Morning Prayer today 19.30: Study Group at 10 Mayhill Road... <i>...studying 'Mere Christianity' by CS Lewis</i>
Sat 15	10.30: The Y Course continues at St Thomas' 11.30: Messy Church at St Richard's <i>until 14.30</i>
Sun 16	10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas' 10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Luke's <i>Followed by Bible Study</i> 14:00: Service at Charlton Park Care Home



Thought for the week

Death is not extinguishing the light. It is putting out the lamp, because the dawn has come.

News and notices

Thank you to...

... all the members of St Luke's congregation who came to St Thomas' last week so we could celebrate Candlemas together. And to St Thomas' congregation for your warm welcome. Our preacher Peter Graystone was bowled over by everyone's friendliness. And what a lovely turnout – 100 people in church!

From Revd Liz...

It has become very clear that if we're to realise the vision we have for our churches, to keep on top of all the day to day things churches have to do and respond to the challenge posed by all the new housing developments happening in our parishes over the coming years, then we need far more people from the congregations taking responsibility for a range of tasks, issues and needs.

Having spoken with the churchwardens, I also know that their role is a huge one that would be much better shared between a team of people.

I am therefore suggesting that we form a benefice leadership team, made up of people who could take responsibility for particular areas of church life and encourage others to help them. This team would support one another so that no-one feels left alone. It would spend time in prayer and reflection on the example of Jesus. It would make sure things that need doing get done.

If you feel you could be a part of this team, please speak to me or to one of the churchwardens (Jim and Miriam at St Thomas', Rick and John at St Luke's).

If we don't get enough people to form the team, I will be recommending that we reduce our vision. That is really not something I want to do, because I believe we're being called to all the many things we have embarked on or plan. But I also can't allow people to burn out or to get disillusioned.

We want to grow in faith, service and numbers. So please pray and ask yourself, could I be part of this team? Or could I help in some other way?

Ring, email or text me – 07922587263 revdlizn@gmail.com

Friends of St Luke's talk – 19 February

The first meeting of the newly formed Friends of St Luke's takes place on Wednesday 19 February, from 7.00 – 9.30pm. Joseph Spooner will give a historical introduction to the building, and there will be refreshments including cheese and wine for everyone.

The event is free to Friends, or £10 on the door.

Why not join the Friends of St Luke's to take advantage of this and other planned events? Pick up a leaflet in church.

Ash Wednesday – 26 February

The tradition for many years has been for us to take part in an Ecumenical service for Ash Wednesday. For various reasons that isn't happening this year, and so it's an opportunity to do something different. On Ash Wednesday there will be:

- Ashes to Go – offered to passers-by and commuters at Charlton station 7 – 9.15am
- Holy Communion with ashing 12 noon at St Luke's
- Ash Wednesday Worship 7pm St Richard's Church Centre.

Everyone is welcome to everything!!!

Song writing Workshop

An opportunity to create a worship song for congregational use. The workshop provides a space to work in small groups, create a new piece of music, and offer it in worship. Come as an individual or as a group. Bring an instrument, a voice and a desire to praise God. Led by Stuart Burke, who is the Music and Worship Coordinator of Emmanuel Church, South Croydon.

Saturday 22 February, 10:00am-4:00pm, Trinity House, SE1 1HW

Free. To book your place email: inistryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

Messy Church – this Saturday, 15February

Thank you to everyone who has provided items for Messy Church this week. We'll be making 'Blessings Bags' for our homeless guests at St Richard's. 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 at 11.00am on the third Saturday of each month at St Richard's Church Centre - join us - all are welcome!

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.

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.

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?

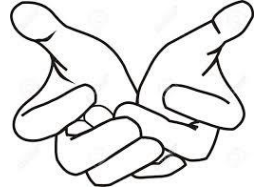
All Age Worship

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 services should look like. Thank you, Revd Liz.

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



O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, and a heavenly Father's care: and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and hate. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged enough to turn back the tempter's power. Make it a gateway to thy eternal kingdom. Amen.

Lord, teach us to value each person for who they are, seeing your image in all and your love for all. May we know that all are of infinite worth, each called to be and become themselves. Together, may we love in our brokenness, seeking your wholeness and your life. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers this week:

The Church: Our friends at St Mary's, Leigh; Our ecumenical partners from Churches Together in Charlton; From our Deanery we pray for St John's Blackheath; We continue to pray for all leading and attending the Y Course at St Thomas' and for Messy Church at St Richard's on Saturday 15th, that more people will come to know the love of Christ

The World: The Diocese of Manicaland; For the people of China, and all around the world working to contain the coronavirus, for those who are sick with the disease and those who have died; We pray for the lands in which we were born - today we remember especially Denmark, 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; Greenwich Welcare; All at Oxleas House; Greenwich Carers Centre; Charlton Park Riding for the Disabled; Our guests at the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter, and our volunteers who welcome them; All working for the Royal Borough of Greenwich

Those celebrating their birthday last week:

To be married: We pray for Emily and Luke as they prepare for their marriage at St Luke's later this month

To be baptised: We pray for those to be baptised on March 1st: Kian, Michaela and Jeremy, their families and godparents.

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: Beatrice McDougall; Richard Ajulo Sr

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.