

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 16 February 2020
2nd Sunday before Lent

Today's Preacher and Celebrants:

St Luke's: Revd Bennett Spong

St Thomas': Revd Liz Newman

Today's Readings:

First Reading: Genesis 1. 1-2.3

Second Reading: Romans 8. 18-25

Gospel: Matthew 6. 25-34



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

Diary this week:

Sun 16	10.00: All Age Eucharist at St Thomas' 10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Luke's <i>Followed by Bible Study</i> 14.30: Service at Charlton Park Care Home
Mon 17	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 19.30: St Luke's PCC at St Luke's
Tue 18	08.30: Morning Prayer at St Luke's 10.00: Tuesday Group at St Thomas' <i>includes The Julian Corner</i>
Wed 19	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 19.30: Friends of St Luke's first event with cheese and wine at St Luke's
Thu 20	NB: No Morning Prayer today 19.30: Study Group at 10 Mayhill Road... <i>...studying 'Mere Christianity' by CS Lewis</i>
Sat 22	10.30: The Y Course continues at St Thomas'
Sun 23	10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas' 10.00: Parish Eucharist at St Luke's <i>Followed by Bible Study</i>



Thought for the week

'Spiritual growth thrives in the midst of our problems, not in their absence. Spiritual growth occurs in the trenches of life, not in the classroom.' *Mike Yaconelli*

News and notices

Thank you to...

... Michael Griffiths and John Dawson, our organists who are there every week without fail, helping us to worship.

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!!!

Lent Courses

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, which this year is February 26th. Starting the following week there will be at least 2 opportunities to attend a 5-week Lent course.

- Tuesday afternoons starting 3rd March 2.30 – 4pm at the home of Jean and Peter Griffiths, 32 Weyman Road SE3 8RY
We will be following Paula Gooder's Lentwise – Spiritual Essentials for Real Life
- Thursday evenings starting 5th March 7.30pm at the home of Bennett Spong, 20 Mayhill Road SE7 7JQ. We will be reading The Screwtape Letters by CS Lewis



Both these courses will run for 5 weeks, ending the week before Holy Week
We hope to confirm a third course next week, so watch this space...

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

THIS WEDNESDAY - Friends of St Luke's talk - 19 February

The first meeting of the newly formed Friends of St Luke's takes place this Wednesday 19th 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.

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 - Blessing Bags Big Thank You!

Yesterday families packed your donations to make 15 wash bags for our homeless guests at St Richard's Church Centre.

Each toiletry bag also contained a card made during yesterday's Messy Church and we hope each guest will keep these to remember that they are in our prayers.

Thank you to everyone at St Luke's and St Thomas' who gave so generously.

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?

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



*Teach us Lord,
that we are loved and cherished
for who we are,
that we are wonderfully made in your image.
May we show others the love that you show us.
Give us hearts that yearn for those around us,
near and far,
that they may see your welcome
and your love in us.
Amen*

*Watch, O Lord, with those who wake,
or watch, or weep tonight,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ.
Rest your weary ones.
Bless your dying ones.
Soothe your suffering ones.
Pity your afflicted ones.
Shield your joyous ones.
And for all your love's sake. Amen.*

Please remember in your prayers this week:

The Church: Our friends at St Mary's, Leigh; Open Heavens Church; From our Deanery we pray for St Mary's Woolwich; For our Just About Schools Project, that through its church relationships with the schools in our benefice will grow and children will learn more about the Christian faith

The World: The Diocese of Manicaland; The work of Christian Aid; The people of Ireland where political parties begin negotiations to form a new government; We pray for the lands in which we were born - today we remember especially Sweden, 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; All living at St Joseph's Court; Valley Hill Hub; Charlton Champion; Our guests at the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter, and our volunteers who welcome them; Our local Councillors representing the wards in our Benefice

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; Cyril Ward; Augustus Attafua

Year's Mind: Bill Strong; Brian Wedderburn

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.