

# CHARLTON

ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS

Sunday 31 March 2019  
Mothering Sunday

*Today's Preacher and Celebrant:*

**St Thomas':** Revd Liz Newman

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

*Today's Readings:*

**Old Testament:** 1 Samuel 1.20-28

**New Testament:** Colossians 3.12-17

**Gospel:** Luke 2.33-35



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



## Diary this week:

*Including Lent activities – It's not too late to join!*



<b>Sun 31</b>	10.00: <b>Mothering Sunday Eucharist</b> at St Thomas' 10.00: <b>Mothering Eucharist</b> at St Luke's <i>Followed by Bible Study</i>
<b>Mon 1</b>	08.30: <b>Morning Prayer</b> at St Luke's 17.30: <b>Evening Prayer</b> at St Thomas'
<b>Tue 2</b>	08.30: <b>Morning Prayer</b> at St Luke's 10.00: <b>Tuesday Group</b> at St Thomas' <i>includes The Julian Corner</i> 17.30: <b>Evening Prayer</b> at St Thomas'
<b>Wed 3</b>	08.30: <b>Morning Prayer</b> at St Luke's 10.30: <b>Coffee Morning</b> at St Luke's 12.00: <b>Holy Communion</b> at St Luke's 17.30: <b>Evening Prayer</b> at St Thomas' 19.30: <b>Walk through the Old Testament</b> St Alfege, Greenwich †
<b>Thu 4</b>	08.30: <b>Morning Prayer</b> at St Luke's 14.30: <b>Pilgrim Course</b> at 32 Weyman Road † 17.30: <b>Evening Prayer</b> at St Thomas' 18.00: <b>Tom's Youth Café</b> at St Thomas' 19.30: <b>The Cost of Discipleship Group</b> at 10 Mayhill Road †
<b>Sun 7</b>	10.00: <b>Passion Sunday Eucharist</b> at St Thomas' 10.00: <b>Passion Sunday Eucharist</b> at St Luke's <i>Followed by Bible Study</i> 17.00: <b>Prayer meeting</b> at St Richard's



### Thought for the week

"Stories...told with...heroes at the centre of them...are told to laud the virtues of the heroes---for if the hero failed, all would be lost. By contrast, a saint can fail in a way the hero can't, because the failure of the saint reveals the forgiveness and the new possibilities made in God, and the saint is just a small character in a story that's always fundamentally about God." *Samuel Wells*

## **Thank you...**

To Liz Buck and team for a fantastic Schools Project event attended by Thorntree School. Lots of children learned more about Holy week and Easter and experienced the welcome and love of God at St Thomas' this week.

And thank you to Iris and Rick, our Electoral Roll Officers. The electoral roll is the closest we have to a church membership list for those 16 and above. This year in particular they have been working very hard to start a completely new list and they have carried out their role with dedication.

## **News and notices**

### **Confirmation**

Were you baptized as a child, but never confirmed? Maybe you were christened when you were little but now you think you'd like to make those promises for yourself. Or perhaps you are not sure if you were ever baptized as a child, so you'd like to be baptized and confirmed at the same time? Confirmation is about committing yourself to follow Jesus all your life. If you feel ready to make this step, then please let one of the clergy (Liz, Bennett or Joe) know. The Confirmation Service this year is at St Mary's, Woolwich on Sunday June 30th at either 6pm or 6.30pm. We will be starting preparation classes in due course, so let us know if you might like to join.

### **Praying for the church in our countries of origin**

At the back of each church you will find a sheet headed OUR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN. It would be really good for us to pray for the worldwide Church of which we are part and especially for the Church in those countries that hold a special place in our hearts. So if you weren't born in England, please make a note on the sheet of the country you were born in and we'll pray regularly for the Church in that place.

### **Rob Simson**

Many people will know that Rob Simson, Churchwarden at St Luke's and SPA, needs treatment at Guys Hospital. This will happen on 3rd April and Rob will need at least a week's recovery time after that. Please respect Rob's need for space and peace during this time and keep him in your prayers. *There will be a note in the bulletin when he is back in action.*

## **Annual Parochial Meetings, PCC and Churchwardens**

We are approaching our Annual Parochial Church Meetings at which we will be electing Churchwardens and PCC members to serve our churches over the coming year. The role of the PCC is to co-operate with the Rector in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church. The role of Churchwardens is to represent the laity and to co-operate with the Rector; to encourage parishioners in the practice of their faith and promote peace and unity between them; and to have particular responsibility for the church building.

It's essential we have people who can take on these roles so that we can operate as churches. A strong PCC and Churchwardens play their part in helping the church grow and thrive and to become a church that is proclaiming the Gospel in word and action.

Please consider whether you will stand for election for PCC or Churchwarden. Please pray about it so you can discern whether God is calling you to this way of serving him. I will be happy to talk further with you if that will be helpful. *Revd Liz*

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting dates**

*Please make sure you have the dates of our APCM's in your diaries*

- St Thomas' Sunday 14th April 11.30am
- St Luke's Monday April 29th 7.30pm

## **Welcare fundraising events**

Friends of Greenwich Welcare invite you to a Lent Lunch at the Centre in Nightingale Vale on Tuesday 2nd April from 12.30pm to 1.30pm.

Homemade soups available. No charge but donations welcomed. Speak to Peter (8319 8676) or Joan (8319 0159) for further details.

Advance notice - The annual Quiz and Supper night will be on 27th April at 7pm at St Thomas's. Book the date now and watch for details in due course.

## **St Luke's Players**

The St Luke's Players meet for rehearsals on Sunday afternoons at St Richard's Church Centre. New members are always welcome. Please Speak to Gwen Zammit if you'd like to know more.

## **Marathon Sunday – April 28<sup>th</sup>**

The London Marathon is wonderful spectacle, brings communities together, celebrates human achievement and raises millions of pounds for good causes. As Christian communities we recognize that the Marathon does much for the common good and it's right we should support it. Because it is on a Sunday morning, though, and because roads are closed off from early morning, it does impact on who can get to our churches. And because the runners come past St Luke's it would feel very wrong if we weren't there to cheer them on, but instead were in church worshipping a God who sends us out into our community to love and serve it. Our PCCs are therefore suggesting that the following happens this year:

**St Luke's** Parish Eucharist is a said eucharist only, with no sermon and an early start (exact time to be confirmed next week). Straight after the service we will congregate outside the church, offering refreshments, giving people information about who we are and blessing the passing runners with holy water. Throughout this time Chariots of Fire and Keep on Running will be rung on the church bells.

**St Thomas'** There will be a normal Parish Eucharist but this will start at 4.30pm instead of 10 am. The roads will be open again by this time so anyone who wants to come will be able to get to church. This will also give members of St Thomas' congregation a chance to join St Luke's congregation in The Village to offer hospitality and cheer on the runners. It will also give members of St Luke's congregation who can't get there in the morning a chance to attend the eucharist at St Thomas'.

This is an experiment this year and we will discuss and review afterwards. Please let the clergy or Churchwardens know if you are able to help with refreshments and information giving at St Luke's on Marathon Sunday. And please support our efforts to connect with our neighbours and give everyone a chance to worship on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **Easter Lilies**

If you'd like to donate an Easter lily in memory of a loved one, please give your donation (any amount) to Pat Orton or one of the Churchwardens at St Luke's.

## **Greenwich Sanctuary Project**

The Borough of Greenwich has committed to welcoming 20 Syrian families into our borough. This is being done in partnership with a number of local organisations. So far there are 5 families being supported by this project and another 5 will be arriving later this month. As part of Greenwich Sanctuary Project, Greenwich Islamic Centre have a contract to support the families with settling in to the area and helping them with registering at the Doctors, enrolling at college and setting up home. However, we all know there is a lot more to moving to a new area, let alone a new country than these practical things. We are eager for these families to feel at home, to feel part of the wider community, to learn the language and to make friends. Having local people volunteer to help support the families is key to helping them flourish, here, in our community.

We are therefore asking for local people who:

- Can speak Arabic to help these families when they first arrive with getting to know the area, where to catch a bus, which shops are nearest and cheapest, where to buy Syrian bread etc. as well as occasional interpretation.
- Can teach ESOL, we have found language to be the greatest barrier to both finding employment and building friendships within the community. The adults in the families will be enrolled at college, but they need people who can support their learning in their homes.
- Are local and are willing and able to make friends with these families, their new neighbours, to get to know them, to help them practice speaking English and to offer them your knowledge of the local area.

There may be other volunteering roles that occur depending on the needs of the families, so if you are unable to do these specific tasks, but still eager to get involved please do still get in touch.

Please speak to Rev Liz if you are interested in knowing more.

## **Messy Easter**

You will see from info about Holy Week and Easter that for the first time this year we are celebrating MESSY EASTER at St Richard's on Easter Eve morning, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April. This is aimed at families with children 12 and below and we'll need lots of help. Please speak to Isla Carlin, Sonia Baidoo or Revd Liz if you can help out.

## **Worship at St Luke's**

Those people who take any part in leading worship at the 10am eucharist need to be focussed on the God we have come to worship, prayerful and open to God's Spirit. Those things are very hard to achieve when there is last minute rushing around or distractions that can wait until after the service has ended, which there often is at St Luke's.

From the first Sunday in April (7th) onwards I want us to have this pattern.

- Ministers of the Word, musicians, choir members, servers, president and preacher are all ready and prepared for their roles by 9.50 at the latest.
- That at 9.50 some reflective music is played quietly until just before 10am
- That during this period musician, servers, minister of the word, president / preacher pray silently together in the Lady Chapel. Choir may join or may remain in the choir vestry
- That just before 10am the group moves from the Lady Chapel into the choir vestry for the prayer before the service and the Minister of the Word then welcomes the congregation and the service begins.

I hope achieving this calm and prayerful atmosphere before our worship begins will also help congregation members to prepare themselves for worship. I hope we can all respect that those leading the service will be praying for the 10 minutes beforehand and that any conversation with them needs to wait until after worship ends. Many thanks.

## **Surgical Glove for Zimbabwe**

A message from Joan to thank everyone who donated money towards the cost of purchasing these gloves. Joan was able to transfer £55 which has been gratefully acknowledged.



# Holy Week

## 14 – 21 April

*This Holy Week, we will have a full calendar of services in our churches. We hope you can join the journey through Holy Week:*

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 9.45am: **Palm Sunday**

Parish Eucharist with Palm Sunday Procession in both St Luke's and St Thomas' churches

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm: **Creative Worship for Holy Week**  
at St Thomas' church

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> 7.00 pm: **Agape**

Holy Communion and simple meal at St Thomas' church

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm: **Stations of the Cross**  
at St Luke's church

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm: **Liturgy of Maundy Thursday**

Includes footwashing and the Maundy Watch at St Luke's church

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 1.00pm: **Good Friday Eucharist**

at St Luke's church *followed by walk to St Thomas'*

2.45pm: **Good Friday Reflection** at St Thomas'

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> 10.30am - 12.45pm **Messy Easter**

at St Richard's Church Centre

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 10.00am **Easter Eucharist**

with the lighting of the Easter fire at both St Thomas' and St Luke's churches



## Easter Postcards

The new Easter postcards have arrived, advertising our services over Easter weekend and pointing people to other services during Holy Week. Please sign up to distribute Easter Postcards to streets in St Thomas' Parish. There is a list available for you to choose the road you want to distribute to.

St Luke's PCC decided not to attempt a whole parish distribution this Easter, but we'd like to target streets around St Richard's. So please sign up for those roads if you can spare some time to distribute. List at the back of church.

## Bring a Plus-One in Holy Week

Everyone who attended services during Holy Week last year commented on how enriching and moving it was to come together every day and focus on Jesus' road to the cross. But we also noticed that it tends to be 'the usual suspects' who come to services outside of Sundays, and we just felt sorry that more people hadn't been able to experience the variety of worship in this most important week for Christians.

So if you've never come to a service in Holy Week before, please try it this year – you won't be disappointed. And if you're a 'usual suspect' who will be back for more spiritual nourishment this Holy Week, please see if you can persuade someone from our congregations who doesn't usually come to come with you.

# Holy Week

## 14 – 21 April



## **Please remember in your prayers this week:**

**The Church:** Our friends at St Mary's, Leigh; Inclusive Church; Our Mission Action Plan and Liz leading on plans to pilot a discussion group targeted at the un- and de-churched; For the children of Thorntree School who visited St Thomas' last week, and those from Charlton Manor who will visit St Luke's this week - both schools are learning more about Easter.

**The World:** The Diocese of Manicaland; Our Prime Minister and all MP's who continue to debate Brexit, and that God's love and healing power may help repair the divisions in our country; For the people of South East Africa where lives have been lost or devastated by Cyclone Idai

**Our local community:** Pound Park Early Years and Children's Centre; Greenwich Welcare; Oxleas House; New Charlton Community Centre; All who volunteered at the Winter Night Shelter and our guests; All working for the Royal Borough of Greenwich

**Those celebrating a birthday or anniversary last week:**

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

**R.I.P.:** Stephen Ambrose; Simon Jones

**Year's Mind:** William Benson; Emeric Sutton; George Crapnell; Linda Lodge; Jackie Wood

*Prayer requests and information for next week's notices:  
news@charlton.church or call 020 8858 8175 by noon on Wednesday*