

St Luke's Church, Cheltenham

Intern Scheme 2026-27



At first glance, St Luke's is a typical Church of England parish church in the centre of Cheltenham. However, we believe it is a special place. There is the expected pattern of regular worship with around 90 adults and 10 under 18s present across services each week. There is a growing number of occasional visitors. There has been steady growth and increasing stability over the last decade, with the expected fluctuations of a local church. Worship is of central Anglican tradition, underpinned by orthodox teaching on doctrine and ethics. We offer midweek discipleship groups in a number of settings and a monthly whole church prayer meeting, as well as various means of connecting with our local community. What makes St Luke's stand out is a broad church community with a wide spread of ages, maturity of Christian faith and socio-economic background. The health and potential of St Luke's lies in a gospel-driven commitment to each other and a willingness to allow spiritually fruitful personal relationships to direct our vision and shared life. There is an emerging call to pursue wholeness in Christ as a theme for our calling and mission.

Find out more about St Luke's through the links below.

www.stlukescheltenham.org.uk

<https://www.instagram.com/stlukescheltenham/>

https://www.facebook.com/stlukeschelt/?locale=en_GB

Since 2016, St Luke's has often offered Intern roles to those seeking to explore Christian ministry in a local Anglican context. Many are now in full-time paid Christian work, or have been accepted for ordination training. Although the role might best suit someone aged 20-25, previous Ministry Trainees have varied in age from 18 to 40. We are open to being flexible.

Our intention is to create a varied programme, rooted in the local church, with support and training, that suits the needs and gifts of each Intern.

The scheme has 3 core components:

- Formal training
- Experience in Christian ministry
- Practical service in the life of the church

Formal Training

Interns are enrolled on the South Central Ministry Training Course based in Oxford.

<http://www.scgp.org.uk/training/mtc/>

The course is designed to equip people to teach the Bible to others, as well as deepening a personal love for the Lord and desire to serve Him. Trainees will also have a mentor at St Luke's who will give time to discuss and pray over matters relating to learning at MTC.

Ministry Experience

Interns will be given the opportunity to participate in different areas of ministry across the life of the church, and our mission in the wider community. According to gifts and interests this might include:

- Leading & preaching at services
- Children, youth and school's work
- Leading Bible studies and I-I Bible reading
- Pastoral visiting to the elderly
- Social media & communications
- Musical worship
- Engagement with our local Mission Partner, Cheltenham YMCA

In any of these areas you would be under the supervision of either Reverend Patrick Wheaton, or Alice Pinney (our Ministry Assistant at St Luke's).

Practical Service

As an Intern you would also assist with various areas of practical help in the life of St Luke's. This might include certain office administration tasks, opening and closing the church building for events, audio-visual support with services or even the odd bit of cleaning and tidying.

The culture of St Luke's is one where nearly every member of the church fulfils one practical role or another. Patrick and Alice are both very familiar with where the hoovers are kept. As an Intern you would be part of the team that ensures the practical needs of the church and our building, not left to do it all on your own.

Funding

We do not want finance to be a barrier to anyone participating in the Intern scheme. The role is a volunteer position with a focus on gaining experience and training. Grants are available to enable Interns to make the most of their year at St Luke's. An accommodation grant is provided to enable Interns to find somewhere to live in suitable proximity to the church. There is also a living allowance of £125 per week. Costs in relation to training, and travel to and from, will be covered, as well as general expenses in relation to involvement with church ministry.

Summary

Our commitment at St Luke's is to training Christian leaders. Our conviction is that there is no one-size fits all model for doing this. We believe we have a setting that can offer opportunities and flexibility to prepare individuals in a manner that befits them as an individual. In return, we have always experienced the blessing of new ideas and input, as well as the sense that God has grown us in ways we did not expect.

If you have any questions, would like to know more, or to get hold of an application form, please contact our Vicar, Patrick Wheaton.

patrick@stlukescheltenham.org.uk

07557105634