

Information for the role of Ministry Intern

St Luke's Church, Cheltenham



At first glance, St Luke's is a typical Church of England parish church in the centre of Cheltenham. Where we stand out is that over the last 9 years our weekly numbers at worship have nearly doubled to be around 100 across our 3 services. We have moved from uncertainty to secure foundations for the future. This role comes as we seek, by God's grace, to move into deeper discipleship and mission.

St Luke's is committed to ministry in the local community. Our vision is to be 'rooted in Jesus Christ' (Colossians 2.6-7) growing as disciples through hearing God speak through the Bible, and responding in prayer, worship and godly living. We actively seek to witness to our faith in Jesus, and encourage people to respond. In addition, we want all who come into contact with St Luke's to experience some sense of 'flourishing under God's love' (Psalm 52.8) whether that be through the building as a place of reflection and peace, or receiving love, welcome and support from our worshipping community.

Patrick Wheaton has been Vicar of St Luke's since 2016. He is married to Louise and they have 3 teenage children. The wider church community at St Luke's is around 170, including children, however, we do not see everyone regularly. The majority of St Luke's are over 50, but we have a stable number of families and young people. Normally we would have 7-10 from secondary school and 3-5 pre-schoolers each week. Members of the congregation are involved in leading worship and preaching. We have various midweek Bible study. We seek to offer 1 evangelistic course each year, such as Christianity Explored or Alpha. The church has an excellent reputation locally, particularly amongst immediate neighbours. Patrick leads Collective Worship each week at the school, and we run a weekly lunchtime Christian club called Faithfuel. The hospital uses the church building for Chaplaincy events, and we have been developing the church to make it more accessible for community use. We believe there is enormous potential to work from positive relationships and gentle openness to the Christian faith across the parish, to make lifelong followers of Jesus.

Overall, St Luke's punches above its weight, so to speak, given our resource base. Our worship is recognisably Anglican, but with a relaxed approach, and we would describe ourselves as orthodox on matters of faith and doctrine. Patrick is a member of the Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship linked to CEEC. We would expect candidates to hold similar convictions. St Luke's is part of a town centre benefice with St Matthew's & Cheltenham Minster. Richard Coombs is Rector of the benefice and he holds overall leadership responsibility for ministry across the churches.

In April 2024 St Luke's employed Alice Pinney as Ministry Assistant. She supports Patrick across the life of St Luke's with oversight of ministry amongst children, youth and families. Everyone else involved at St Luke's volunteers their time.

St Luke's has trained a number of interns, or similar, many of whom are now in full-time, paid Christian ministry. St Luke's provides an environment where new ideas can be tried and tested. There is great opportunity for those seeking to develop skills and experience for overall church leadership in the future, and ordination training if appropriate. A Ministry Trainee at St Luke's will find themselves with greater opportunity and more on the frontline than similar positions in a larger church. For the right candidate, we hope this will be an exciting prospect.

The role description provides a fuller outline of the Ministry Trainee scheme. We have always sought to be flexible with previous applicants, and would be open to such conversations as necessary. All applicants will need to undertake appropriate Safeguarding training and DBS check. We are not able to support applications from overseas that require any form of sponsorship.

We would encourage interested candidates to make contact with Patrick for an informal conversation, and perhaps to visit St Luke's.

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