

Saint Luke's Wimbledon Park



PARISH PROFILE

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FOREWORD FROM THE BISHOP OF EBBSFLEET

St Luke's Wimbledon Park is a place of great potential. As a church for many years committed to traditional reformed evangelical principles, it is seeking to be better rooted in its community and committed to faithfully serving them in Jesus' name.

The challenge for the Vicar will be to build confidence and encouragement in the church, through clear biblical preaching and vision, while supporting their pastoral needs through a time of great change and challenge among churches locally, the nation and the Church of England in particular, and therefore help lead the church with a renewed vision to uphold and proclaim the life transforming truths of the Gospel.

There are strong local networks of support from other +Ebbsfleet Network churches, the ReNew group and the local DEF, and as an Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese I am delighted to support St Luke's in its discernment of the next chapter in its story of gospel work. Be assured that you will have my full support in the pastoral and sacramental care for your ministry.

The Rt Rev Dr Rob Munro

Bishop of Ebbsfleet



WELCOME TO SAINT LUKE'S WIMBLEDON PARK

We are a well-established, conservative evangelical church at the heart of a family-friendly community in Wimbledon. Our desire is to see lives transformed by the Gospel as we grow in our faith and in numbers. With a strong commitment to reaching out to our parish and beyond, we long to share the hope of Jesus with those around us.

We are prayerfully seeking a godly, servant-hearted and experienced Church of England minister who will faithfully teach the Bible and work together with us to develop a renewed vision and enable church growth.

We hope this Parish profile provides the information you need. Should you have any questions or would like any further information, don't hesitate to get in touch with us.



Nigel Legge and Philip Benjamin
CHURCH WARDENS







SAINT LUKE'S VISION & VALUES

OUR VISION: A Christ-Centred Church with a Heart for the Community

- Higher — A commitment to grow in faith, godliness and worshipping God
- Deeper — Seeking to grow deeper in fellowship with each other
- Wider — Reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus in word and deed

We are an outward-looking church, wanting to share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the local and wider community, while also growing in our own faith and love for the Lord Jesus.

OUR CHRISTIAN VALUES:

St Luke's is a Bible-believing church, and we affirm the Thirty-Nine Articles and the Jerusalem Declaration. A statement of the Church's core beliefs and its position on current issues in the C of E is in Annex 1.

We believe the Bible is God's inspired word, and that it is fully reliable in faith and doctrine, and sufficient for all matters of belief and practice. We have benefited from a ministry rooted in clear biblical exposition for many years and are keen for this strong emphasis on Bible teaching to be continued. We believe that the Scriptures are God's word to us today and that its teaching and authority direct the church and inform our personal lives. We aim to ensure that the gospel is clearly preached in our services.



WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR — PERSONAL PROFILE

We are looking for a minister who will prayerfully lead us and love us, teach and disciple us, helping us to grow as a church family both in spiritual maturity and in numbers as we reach out more effectively to the local community with the good news of the Gospel.

THEOLOGICAL CONVICTIONS

- A conservative evangelical, believing that the bible is the inspired word of God and the source of all truth and authority, and has a life that reflects this belief
- Upholds the Christian beliefs as expressed in the Thirty-Nine Articles and Jerusalem Declaration, including to a penal substitution understanding of atonement and upholds the church's traditional teaching on human sexuality and marriage
- Prioritises personal spiritual growth through daily private prayer, repentance and bible study
- Acknowledges the work, guidance and power of the Holy Spirit
- Recognises the urgent need for everyone to be saved through faith in Jesus and repentance and has a heart to reach out with the gospel
- Is prepared, at the current time, to stay and contend for the Gospel within the C of E

GIFTS & SKILLS

- Is an able expository bible teacher who can effectively encourage us to apply scripture to our everyday lives and who is willing to preach on contemporary issues remaining faithful to God's word
- Is a good communicator and a collaborative, encouraging and supportive leader
- Has energy and enthusiasm, combining vision with practical action
- Has a collaborative approach, can effectively manage the staff team and volunteers and is an encouraging and supportive leader who makes people feel valued and listened to



- Has experience in Parish ministry including church growth, families' work and enabling people to grow in godliness
- Will encourage us pastorally and develop the gifts of all church members
- Has a vision for outreach and has successfully implemented outreach initiatives
- Has the Christian maturity to be self-aware and self-reflective
- Can relate to everyone, regardless of age, education or background

IDEALLY WE WOULD ALSO LIKE . . .

- Has an understanding and experience of managing people, teams and finances – possibly from commercial working
- Will want to build on the relationships we have established with other local, gospel-centred churches

OUR SUPPORT TO YOU

We realise that leading a church is hard work and often challenging. We don't expect you to do everything yourself and are committed to supporting you in the following ways:

- Prayer - we know that prayer is absolutely vital
- Practical support - our church is well managed with many dedicated and active volunteers including church wardens, the PCC, finance and building committees, safeguarding leads, life group leaders, a music co-ordinator, Sunday Club and youth leaders and those who help with catering, pastoral care and preaching
- Resources - we have a small staff team, which we hope to increase, and housing for future staff
- Personal - we will be respectful of your time, recognising that you need time for personal study and prayer, sermon preparation and your days off
- Further training - we will always be prepared to support you in this



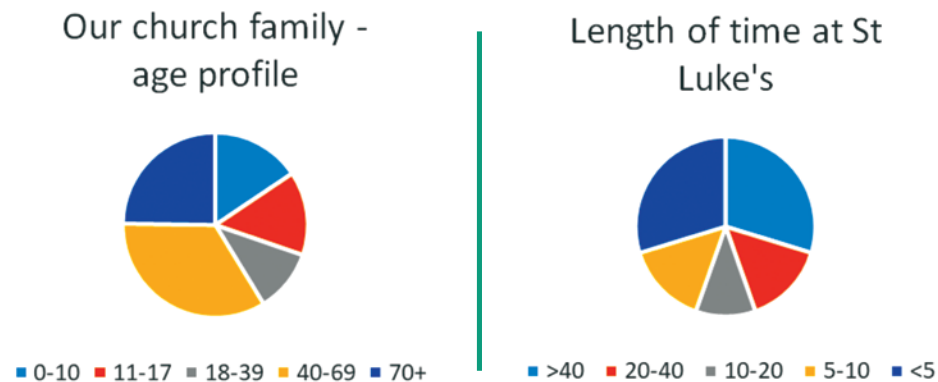
WHO WE ARE - INTRODUCING ST LUKE'S CHURCH

OUR CHURCH FAMILY: We are very much a local parish church – many walk to church and most live within 3 miles of St Luke's. There are 84 on the electoral role and on a typical Sunday we have 65 adults and 15 children and youth; ages range from newborn to 95. We have over 10 nationalities represented in the regular congregation. There are relatively few in their 20s and early 30s, representing the local demographic.

Most church members serve in some way. We are fortunate to have a very committed retired cohort, who serve faithfully and are key to the running of the church and the support of the church community

Nearly half the adult congregation has been attending for over 20 years, but we regularly have newcomers and ~30% of regular attendees have joined since the COVID-19 lockdowns. Over the last few years, we've seen a significant number in the family age range leave the church. We lost many on the fringe of church life during the pandemic and then others due to a combination of factors: moving house, theological differences - both those more liberal and those unhappy to remain in the CoE - and various pastoral issues.

Numbers attending on a Sunday declined slightly in the run-up to and during Covid, remained steady thereafter (new joiners replacing leavers), and encouragingly numbers have increased slightly during the interregnum.





St Luke's was built by a local church, with whom we still have a connection. We also have good links with a number of other local evangelical churches. More recently we've explored a potential partnership with St Andrews in central Wimbledon. We have been very encouraged by the willingness of local gospel-based churches to assist us during the interregnum and feel there is scope for stronger cross-church collaboration in future.

VOX POPS



SHIRLEY (70+ years at St Luke's)

Q: *"As our oldest member, what do you most value about St Luke's?"*

A: *"Aside from the worship, it's the wonderful family here and the feeling of being amongst family. I always know that there are people who will look out for me."*



SEB (4+ years at St Luke's)

Q: *"Having been to the church as a child and as a young teenager, what brought you back after Uni?"*

A: *"I'm not entirely sure what brought me back, but I do know that I rediscovered a warm and welcoming community at St Luke's. This has given me a reliable structure to build up what was a very weak faith, into a more resilient and trustworthy relationship with God."*



OUR STAFF TEAM



Ruth Dwyer is our Youth & Women's Ministry Worker and has been with St Luke's for 13 Years.



Dharshika Sabaratnam has been our church administrator for the past 4 years.

A number of years ago we had a staff team of 5 people and feel that to achieve our goals the current team needs to be expanded.



OUR PCC and SUB-COMMITTEES

A well-run PCC of ten meets every month except August and is supported by sub-committees for Property, Finance and Mission.

Property committee: This group meets regularly and deals with all aspects of church, hall and other property maintenance; quinquennial reviews, etc (see CHURCH & PROPERTIES).

Finance committee (and related): The finance committee deals with the accounts and other financial matters. There is a chair, a designated giving officer, and a couple of church members who help the administrator with payroll, pensions and similar matters.

Mission committee: proposes which organizations and mission partners we support from our annual giving and liaises with the mission partners.

We are currently carrying out a proactive review of our Safer Recruitment procedures. Although relatively few of our roles fall within the statutory scope, we are looking at whether our current wider volunteer selection processes could be improved.



SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding at St Luke's is treated with importance. This is not just because of legal requirements but because we want to promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults, and protect those at risk of being abused. Everyone – vulnerable or not – should be safe and made to feel safe.

Everyone who works with children or vulnerable adults has a DBS, renewable every three years, and is required to complete the statutory safeguarding training courses. The church family is reminded regularly of the reporting process and requirements by our two safeguarding officers Helen Wiffen and Jess Pearce, and a Safeguarding item is on every PCC agenda.





WHAT WE DO – CHURCH FAMILY LIFE

SUNDAY: Our 10:30 Sunday service is the focal point of our week. Together with hymns, contemporary songs, all-age songs, a Bible reading and prayers, we benefit and learn from expository preaching of a Bible passage. Services are often led by a congregation member, with others leading prayers, operating the sound desk, powerpoint etc. Music usually includes keyboard/organ and two singers, but sometimes we have guitar, flute and trumpet or saxophone too.

We have an all-age family service on the first Sunday of the month. On other Sundays the children join at the start then head out to Sunday Club and Youth Nano in the Church Hall. There is a creche room with large glass windows at the back of the church which has toys and sound loop to the service.

Holy Communion is celebrated once a month (children rejoin at communion stage) and Morning Prayer twice a month with some C of E liturgy. A 5th Sunday service will feature a themed topic or guest speaker.

We try to make sure that all our services include a clear gospel message and are accessible to visitors.

Until 2022, we held an additional, smaller, evening service, aimed at youth and young adults. Youth now meet on a Friday evening and are also proactively involved in attending and serving during Sunday morning.

We held 2 infant baptisms in 2024, and one in January 2025, as part of a Sunday morning service. There were no weddings, funerals or confirmations in 2024, but one wedding is in the diary for 2025 and we have a few interested in confirmation.

In the past we had well attended church weekends away and a group of 15-20 from St Luke's usually attend the annual Bible by the Beach conference in Eastbourne.



VOX POP



KAREN (9 years at St Luke's)

Q: *“How has St Luke's helped you grow in faith?”*

A: *“St Luke's has helped me grow in faith through its music ministry. The music is linked to the teaching, so listening to a song that's relevant to the help I need from God, helps me tap into the Bible lesson.”*

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S WORK

We have been blessed for over 15 years to have a fantastic Women and Youth/ children's worker in Ruth. We currently have 30 children and young people aged 3 - 18 years who come to a group regularly, but not all come every week. There are 10 in each age group.

- Sunday Club (3-10) meets during Sunday services, currently in two age groups – with a mix of Bible teaching, games and craft
- Youth Nano (11-14), meets during Sunday services for Bible teaching & discussion, plus once a month on Friday evenings with games, snacks and a Bible-bite talk
- Youth (14-18) meet 3 Friday evenings a month for Bible study, prayer, discussion and fellowship. All are encouraged to attend and serve at the 10.30 Sunday service (coffee, sound/powerpoint, Sunday Club).
There is a committed core of 8, plus some irregular/new attendees
- A Playgroup meets during term time on Friday mornings (see OUTREACH)



The Friday evening groups include some young people who come from non-Christian families and who only attend Sundays on special occasions. All youth and older children are encouraged to attend Christian camps in the summer holidays; Youth also attend one off events such as Sorted Nano – and historically have had weekends away.

VOX POPS



ELSPETH (11 years at St Luke's)

Q: *“What do you like best about St Luke's?”*

A: *“I like the fact that it feels like one big family and we have great leaders. We have lots of fun in Sunday Club!”*



KATE & SOPHIE (17 years at St Luke's)

Q: *“What keeps you coming to St Luke's as opposed to a church with more youth?”*

A: *“It's a smaller group with a different energy to larger groups. Everyone knows each other really well, it's not cliquy and that's so nice.”*



These are some desirable qualities our younger members hope our new vicar will have:

FROM 14-18 year olds

- God fearing
- Someone you can talk to
- Will work with all types of people
- Will have a good laugh
- A passion to share Jesus with our community
- Creative

FROM 11-14 year olds

- Someone with a dog they bring to church
- Fun, teaches us the Bible + does interactive family services
- Who can help us with our microphones and tech
- Loves Jesus and wants to worship Him
- Likes pizza
- Doesn't have a pet snake

LIFEGROUPS & PRAYER MEETINGS

We encourage everyone to be part of a lifegroup and these meet weekly or fortnightly during term time, some in person and others on zoom. There are 7 groups involving over 50 of the church family.

We hold two in-person prayer meetings each month – the main one on a Wednesday evening which is repeated the following Tuesday morning. About 25 people join one of the two.



VOX POP



TOM & ALI (10 years at St Luke's)

Q: *“How has St Luke's helped you grow in faith?”*

Tom's **A:** *“I joined my first lifegroup at St Luke's and this small group has really supported me in growing my faith.”*

Ali's **A:** *“St Luke's has taught me how to read the Bible. I thought I was a Christian, but I had never really opened the Bible until I came here.”*

PASTORAL - INCLUDING VISITING THE SICK & ELDERLY

There is a lot of informal support within the church family – particularly amongst the retired members. Several of the older members are particularly good at supporting any in need, with regular phone calls, lifts to medical appointments and help with shopping.

For more formal pastoral support and prayer, Ruth currently oversees a small team of volunteers. We would expect, going forward, the vicar to also take an active role.

The Community Hub and the “Tuesday Gang” working party who maintain the church and garden – also provide mutual support within the older congregation.



MISSION PARTNERS & COMMUNITY WORK

St Luke's has long had a policy to allocate a percentage of St. Luke's net income to support mission partners and various Christian activities locally, nationally and internationally. Mission giving has typically been 10% of our net income.

As well as giving financially, we support our mission partners in prayer and frequently invite them either in person or online to our monthly prayer meetings. Currently we are supporting the following organisations:

- Options Pregnancy Resource Centre, Wimbledon
- London City Mission • Jews for Jesus, London • Trinity Church, Central London – a church plant
- Camp XL/Gaines centre Gloucestershire– Youth Ministry
- Holy Cross Church Sheffield – local area ministry
- Crosslinks (Jane and Sena Ounate Lare) – Mission Work, France
- Rev'd Nathan Dos Santos Castro (Brazil) – mission work among poor communities
- St Patrick's Bible College, Madagascar – local ministry training

Some of the congregation volunteer at Wimbledon Foodbank. We have periodic collections for this and a regular donation box. We also support Operation Christmas Child each year.

WHAT WE DO - OUTREACH

We hold a number of seasonal and one-off special services during the year and see this as part of our outreach strategy. During the interregnum we've been very grateful for the support of local ordained and lay ministers, which has enabled us to continue to offer these services.



Our regular pattern of special services has often included:

- Easter: a Good Friday ‘Quiz Trail’ service or similar event for families, a more contemplative ‘Hour at the Cross’ Service, and on the Sunday, a Family Service/Holy Communion and an Easter Egg Hunt
- October - a guest focused Harvest Service and lunch with fun activities/games; an alternative Pop Up ‘Light Stop’ event at Halloween (over 100 people, mostly guests, popped by)
- November - a Remembrance Day service, including playing the Last Post in our memorial garden.
- Christmas - various services attracting many guests including a Family Service/Scratch Nativity play, a Christingle service (including local uniformed organisations), a Lessons & Carols by Candlelight service with a church choir, a Crib Service & Holy Communion on Christmas Eve plus a Christmas Day ‘All Age’ service. Many of these had c150 attendees, with over 900 total attendance in December last year

We typically join a local community group ‘The Cresidents’ for the annual Christmas tree lighting with carols event on the main street, and provide a choir to sing carols at the local Farmers Market and raise money for the food bank. In the summer we hold picnics or BBQs after family services. Other events have included a lunch for the Coronation, film nights, wreath making or special talks.



Christingle Service



VOX POP

TIM (8 years at St Luke’s)

Q: “Having recently come to faith, how did St Luke’s help you come to know Jesus as your Lord and saviour?”

A: “Consistent delivery of sermons with direct biblical referencing followed up with pastoral care from the Assistant Minister.”



BAPTISM COURSE /MARRIAGE PREP

There are many young families in the area and we quite often have people come to church wanting their children baptised. Baptism preparation for the parents is taken seriously and very much seen as a way to share the gospel and encourage participants to become part of the church family. Those wishing to get married at St Luke's would also be required to undertake Marriage Preparation.

PLAYGROUP

Playgroup runs during term time on Friday mornings, for parents and their babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers. We restrict numbers to ~20 families so that we can build relationships and encourage wider integration into church life. There's always a waiting list.

COMMUNITY HUB

This is held every Tuesday in church, offering coffee/cake, conversation and a quiz. Everyone is welcome, but advertising to date has just been by word of mouth. Most attendees are church family but we regularly have a few from outside the church . There is potential to expand this.

The church is open and coffee available most mornings for anyone walking in (provided a volunteer church sitter is available alongside the administrator). Church sitters sometimes help with preparing service sheets, Sunday club craft etc.

EVANGELISM TRAINING + INFORMAL EVANGELISM

With Covid and the ensuing hiatus we haven't run any formal evangelism courses for several years. Courses such as Alpha, Christianity Explored and Hope Explored have been held in the past and we hope to offer these again in the future.

We do encourage church members to have gospel conversations with others and invite neighbours and friends to events. Welcome Teas are held periodically for newcomers — most recently in March 2025.



WHERE WE ARE - THE PARISH & WIDER AREA

THE PARISH

Our parish is a pleasant residential area, mostly built around 1910, with predominantly terraced family houses - most of which are owned; some rented. Residents are typically professionals who moved into the area to start a family.

The population in 2021 was 5,205. In 2019 — 10% of the population were over 65. The ethnic mix (21%) is greater than the social mix and the official poverty rate is low with 5% child poverty, 9% old age poverty. There is a small amount of social housing within the parish at 4.1%.

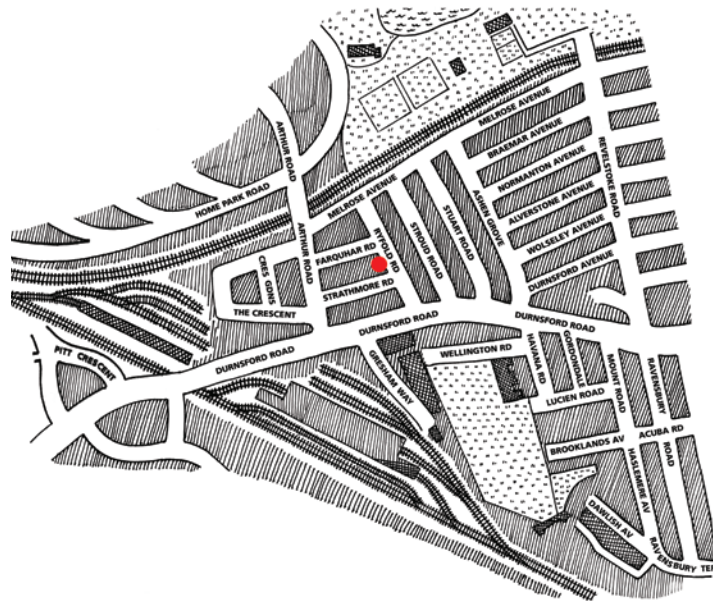
Transport links are good. The District line tube is a 3 minute walk from the church and one stop from Wimbledon mainline station, where frequent trains to Waterloo take 17 minutes.



The area also has good bus links and Wimbledon town centre, Wimbledon Village, Earlsfield and Southfields are all within walking or cycling distance.

The local high street, Arthur Road, has a range of small shops including a Coop, coffee shops, restaurants and beauty salons, with a pub close by. The local doctors' surgeries are excellent.

Wimbledon Park is five minutes' walk from the church, and offers a large playground and lots of sporting facilities including tennis courts, mini-golf and sailing & canoeing on the lake. Another recreation ground next to the Wimbledon Park Primary school is in the parish. There are a number of holiday and weekly clubs for children in the area.



We have a catholic church and mosque within the parish. A network of street community groups and local societies contribute to the “community” feel in the area.



Shops and Restaurants at the bottom of Arthur Road

—

Wimbledon Park playground and tennis courts



THE WIDER AREA

There is good shopping (with parking) in Wimbledon, numerous gyms, including a very good local authority gym with two pools, two cinemas and two theatres — one for children, as well as a wide range of sports and other clubs, such as Merton music foundation.

Wimbledon Common is a short cycle away and can (almost) feel like the countryside, while the real countryside is just — 30 minutes down the A3, accessible from Wimbledon Park without going through a single traffic light! Other attractions include an annual classical music festival, a book festival and of course the Wimbledon tennis championships.

The area has a wide choice of state and independent schools, with the Ofsted outstanding Wimbledon Park primary school in the parish, though not formally linked to St Luke's, and several CoE primary schools in neighbouring parishes. St Cecilia's, a nearby comprehensive, has a strong Christian foundation and St Luke's regularly supports the Christian Union there. The parish is in the catchment of several highly regarded church-based state secondary schools including Lady Margaret, Fulham Boys and Greycoat Hospital, plus other Ofsted "outstanding" or "good" local schools and the Tiffin Grammar schools in Kingston. There is also a good choice of local nurseries.



Carol singing at the Farmers' Market



Rehearsing for the 'All age' Nativity service



OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

St Luke's has many core strengths – including strong evangelical theology, taught for many years; a welcoming and committed core membership across age ranges; a parish with lots of potential, especially for family and seniors work; strong finances; well-managed buildings; and an excellent womens'/ youth worker.

The last few years have had challenges including our curate moving on, the pandemic and the impact of the wider C of E challenges, together with the loss of a number of key families. There is a genuine appetite for growth and for further expansion of the ministry team with a curate or assistant, after a new minister is appointed.

Care will be needed to ensure that growth supports rather than overwhelms the current congregation, but we hold onto God's promise in Isaiah 40 that "Those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength." We know and trust that God can use St Luke's powerfully.

OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE

- Growing our training and discipleship programme including outreach and enquirer courses, discipling new joiners and mentoring of more mature Christians. Have more people trained and equipped to serve in church life and more confidently reach out to the local area
- We know that there are evangelical Christians in the parish who choose to worship elsewhere - we would love them to join us
- Expanding our children's and youth work - the area is full of families
- Developing our relationship and links with the primary school in the parish where Ruth has recently been invited to speak at assemblies
- More effectively advertising events and keeping in touch with people. We are updating our website and Facebook page but could use IT better
- Further outreach to local retired people - our strong senior's membership is a foundation for this
- Men's discipleship



- Continuing to develop links and opportunities for working together with other local evangelical churches
- Developing a constructive and respectful relationship with our Diocese, while remaining faithful to our core beliefs

CHALLENGES

- Most working members of the congregation have young children and demanding jobs requiring working long hours, making volunteering or Lifegroup membership challenging
- The many children's sports and drama clubs, which run on Sunday mornings are a particular challenge for outreach, but also retaining teenagers
- Reaching out to and engaging with busy young professionals in the parish, most of whom are cash rich and time poor
- Thinking about mid-term succession planning on key practical church issues such as property maintenance and catering, with fewer such practical skills in the current younger congregation
- Prayerfully deciding which opportunities to focus on first – given resource constraints



A typical, after service, 'bring and share' lunch



"Catching up" after a service



VOX POP



DENISE (early 2 years at St Luke's)

Q: *“What brought you to St Luke’s and what were your first impressions?”*

A: *“I was new to the area and looking for a spirit filled church where I could join a church family in which my family and I would grow. From the first warm welcome, I was accepted as a family member, and much more than just a member of the congregation.”*

CHURCH & PROPERTIES

THE CHURCH

St Luke's church was designed by Sir Thomas Graham Jackson and is grade II listed. It was constructed in 1909, at the same time as the surrounding houses, and is built of red brick with stone dressings and a tower/spire at the north-west end.

It is traditional in style with nave, chancel and aisles including a lady chapel. The area under the gallery at the west end has been enclosed and glazed to make a meeting room which doubles as the creche during Sunday services. At the rear of the church there is a kitchen/coffee area in one corner and an office in the other corner.

The pews were replaced with smart chairs about 12 years ago in order to make more flexible use of the church space for outreach and community events. The audio-visual equipment was renewed about 8 years ago and there is a large retractable projection screen in the chancel which is used for most services.

The internal church lighting was totally updated in 2018.



A church hall was part of the original construction and two integrated rooms and a kitchen between the hall and church were subsequently built. The hall is used for children's and youth work, the Friday play-group, and is rented out to various local groups and for private events. There is also a small but well-tended garden perfect for outside activities such as BBQs in the summer.

The Quinquennial inspection of the church building took place in September 2024 and notes that the church is generally in good condition for its age. Some small areas of external brickwork and some slates/ridges have been identified as needing attention; these issues will be addressed in the medium term.

We are fortunate to have a very experienced Property Management Committee who look after the fabric and maintenance of the church buildings, the house and flats. Various building work on the church has been undertaken over the last 12-18 months as part of an ongoing maintenance programme.

VICARAGE

A new vicarage was built in the 1960s by the Diocese next to the church on Farquhar Road. It is a large 4 bedroom family town house on 3 levels with sitting room, dining room, family room and kitchen on the first floor. The kitchen was replaced 6 years ago. The ground floor has a study, utility room and cloak room with shower and an integral garage. There is a large garden to the rear.

After an inspection of the vicarage last summer by the diocesan surveyor, no work was recommended, though some redecoration is probably required.



The Vicarage



CHURCH PROPERTIES

The church owns a house and 6 flats (three houses subdivided) in the neighbourhood which have been left as bequests by members of the congregation (some with restricted covenants). Two flats are used for housing a parishioner and a staff member; the others are currently let commercially. The house is presently rented by an ex-curate who is now a vicar at a nearby church.



A typical road in the parish



FINANCES

St Luke's has received several substantial legacies in recent years, both in cash and property. When not needed for parish staff or vulnerable parishioners, rental incomes from the properties have provided valuable income, enabling us to employ staff and support mission to a greater extent than would otherwise have been possible.

At the end of 2024 we held £175,000 in cash balances (some in restricted funds), and had roughly £200,000 invested. The PCC has been reducing the amount of our reserves over the years so that resources can be used to support the church and mission work.

In previous years the PCC chose to contribute less than the Parish Support Fund requested by the Diocese, providing support direct to other evangelical church ministries within Southwark with the balance. For 2025, the PCC will be contributing the full parish share of £89,300 to the diocese, although a proportion of this will be given via the Ephesians Fund.

FINANCIAL FIGURES

During 2023 (2024 figures not yet final), the income available to support our ministry was:

Congregational Donations and gift aid: £105,000

Surplus from letting the church houses and the hall: £95,000

Interest and investment income: £6,000

The main areas of expenditure in 2023 were: Contribution to Southwark Diocese: £63,000

Staff costs: £44,000 Mission grants: £31,000 Running costs: £78,000

The PCC is sympathetic to spending more to support ministry. The current financial position is relatively strong, though to sustain spending it will be necessary to reverse the decline in giving which we have seen over recent years. Recent spending on roof repairs has reduced our reserves and further work on the fabric of the church may be required in the medium term.

ANNEX 1: CORE BELIEFS

The PCC of St Luke's Church affirms the following statements:

St Luke's is an Anglican Evangelical Church. Our understanding of the Christian faith is in keeping with the historic formularies of the Church of England. In particular we are committed to the following beliefs and their implications:

- We believe that the Bible is God's full and final Word, and as such is an accurate record of God's message to us, through which God communicates everything we need for Christian discipleship and maturing today. We are committed to following the Bible's teaching in our beliefs and lifestyles, enabled by God the Holy Spirit (see 2 Timothy 3:14-16)
- We believe that the substitutionary sin-bearing death of Jesus Christ on the cross is God's appointed method of providing salvation from his judgement. We are committed to sharing this good news of forgiveness and eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ, with all people, irrespective of their religious background (see Acts 1:8).
- We believe that human sexuality is a good gift of God in Creation, and that God calls Christians to live either in celibate singleness, or in faithful heterosexual marriage.
We are committed to supporting single and married Christians as we seek to be a faithful local congregation (see Hebrews 13:4; James 1:27).
- We believe that from conception, all human beings are created by God with equal worth and dignity, regardless of age, sex, race, or disability. We are committed to celebrating God-given diversity and reflecting that in our congregation (see Galatians 3:28).
- We believe that the Christian faith should be defended against error whether that be from inside or outside the Church.
- We are committed to standing for the truth of the Gospel alongside other like-minded Churches (see Jude 3)

Our actions and decisions are made in the light of the above.

OUR POSITION ON CURRENT ISSUES WITHIN THE C of E:

Prayers of Love & Faith

Everyone, regardless of their sexual history or orientation, is welcome at St Luke's. However, like many evangelical churches, we are not able to agree with the C of E's current proposals for Prayers of Love and Faith which are incompatible with our Core Beliefs. The PCC has produced a statement on Marriage & Human Sexuality.

Women in Ministry

St Luke's is a generously complementarian church. We have employed a part-time women's ministry worker for over ten years and women are involved in leading worship, prayers and services, home groups, assisting with the distribution of Communion, and taking their place on the PCC and as Church Wardens. A clear majority on the PCC recently voted against a review of our previously adopted position to be under alternative episcopal oversight. However, we acknowledge that some in our congregation have mixed views on this issue.

Relationship with the Church of England

Many in St Luke's are life-long Anglicans and have a deep love for the Church of England, its liturgies and traditions. Despite the current divisions and issues within the Anglican Communion, we believe that at this time it is right to remain and contend for the Gospel within the C of E. We wish to maintain a constructive and respectful relationship with our Diocese, while remaining faithful to our core beliefs.

St Luke's is under extended episcopal oversight of the Bishop of Ebbsfleet.