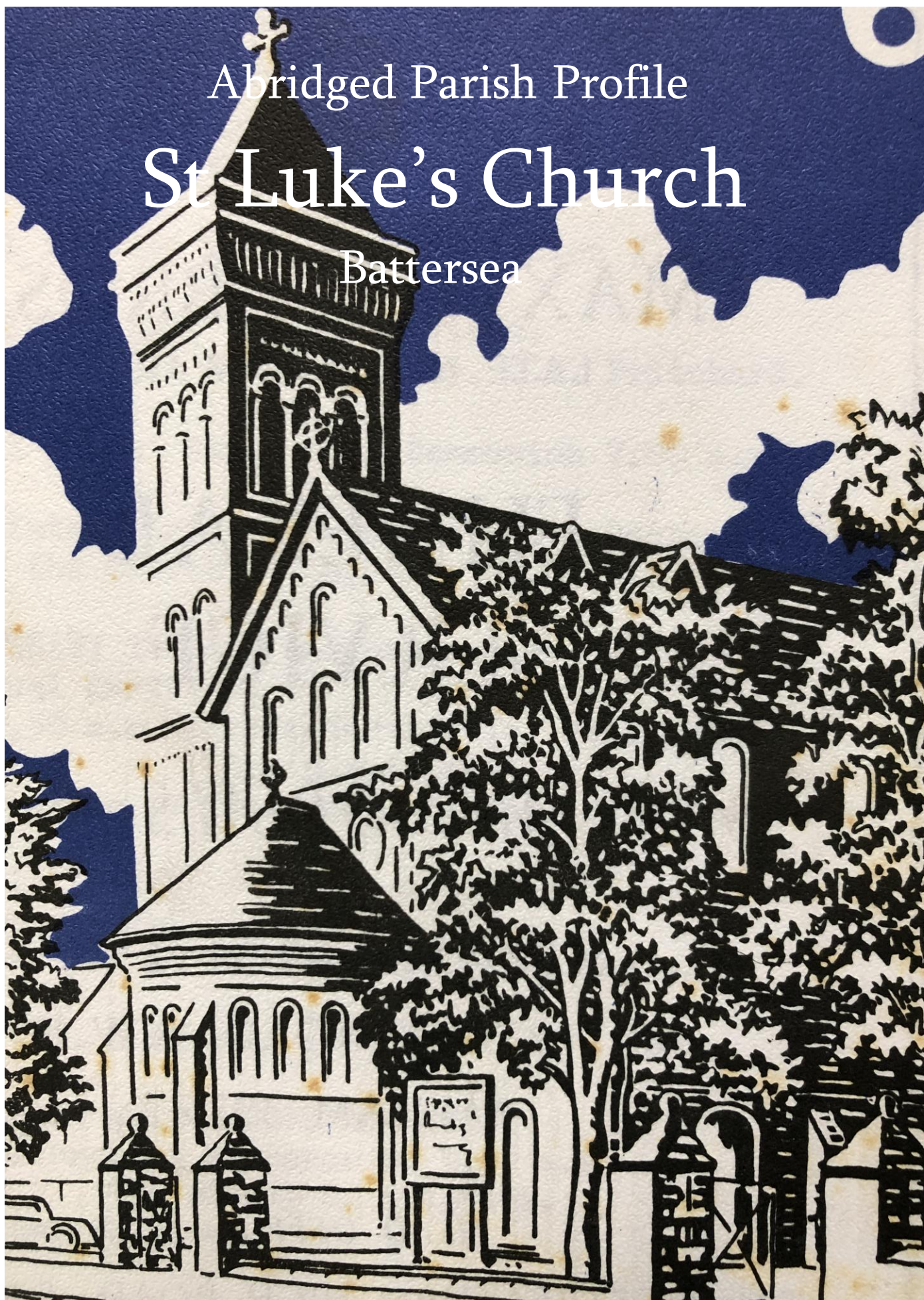


Abridged Parish Profile

# St Luke's Church

Battersea



St Luke's is a lively and thriving church situated in a residential area between Clapham and Wandsworth Commons. It is a liberal catholic church and is an inclusive church, with a generally well educated, articulate and internationally diverse congregation. We want to grow in faith and, with other local churches, to provide a stronger Anglican presence in the neighbourhood and attract a higher proportion of the parish to join the congregation.



### **Worship**

Worship at St Luke's is in a central tradition with much lay involvement and is committed to being an inclusive church. Music plays a strong role in its worship. To cater for the many young families and children in the parish there is a family service every week at 9am and many baptisms.



### **Mission**

St Luke's has a strong record of commitment to both the local and wider community. It is looking to build on this by growing its congregation and its outreach.

### **The church and accommodation**

St Luke's church is a beautiful grade II\* listed building with all the original Victorian features and is in good maintenance order. The church has two organs and a grand piano. The 100-year-old organ was successfully restored by Harrison & Harrison a few years ago. The accommodation offered is nearby situated between Wandsworth and Clapham Common. It is a semi-detached 3-bedroom property with front and back gardens.



### **Community Hall and links with the community**

St Luke's Community Hall is a modern facility linked to the church. It is extensively used by nurseries, uniform groups, playgroups and much more.



**Music** plays a large part in Parish life and worship. There is a robed adult choir and currently our Director of Music is rejuvenating our Junior Choir. The standard of choral singing for a parish church with an unpaid choir is high. The church has good acoustics, allowing a successful concert programme, run by the St Luke's Music Society.



### **Finances**

St Luke's is fortunate to be financially independent. It gives a healthy contribution to the Parish Support Fund in Southwark, makes significant donations to charities locally and worldwide and employs a locally funded priest.

### **Stewardship**

The parish practises Christian Stewardship and holds an annual stewardship/planned giving campaign in Lent each year.

### **Eco Church**

St Luke's has joined the Eco Church scheme and is currently at Bronze level. The church has hosted various events on the issue and currently is looking to reconstitute its eco committee to advance our awareness and effectiveness further.

---

## **Worship**

St Luke's is of a liberal catholic tradition. Common Worship is used with reserved sacrament, vestments, crucifer and acolytes.

An average of 50 baptisms, 5 weddings and 6 funerals are conducted each year at St Luke's.

### **SERVICES**

The 8am Holy Communion service is attended by about 20 people and uses Common Worship except for the last Sunday of the month when the Book of Common Prayer is used. A sidesperson reads the lessons and administers the chalice and there is a sermon. The first Sunday of the month is followed by a light breakfast.

The 10.30am Parish Eucharist is the main Sunday service. After a special prayer and lighting of a peace candle after the first hymn, children are invited to attend Junior Church in the Hall. Both the first reading and the gospel are read by members of the congregation. Intercessions are led by members of the congregation on a rota basis and trained and approved members of the congregation administer the chalice. Junior church return to the service in time for communion. On the first Sunday of the month there is laying on of hands following Holy Communion ministered by a team.

The average attendance on a normal 10.30am service is 80 adults and a few children.

Weekday Evening prayer is held on zoom and is led by members of the congregation.

In addition to the usual Sunday services, there are evening services during the year – Advent Carol Service, Nine Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve Nativity Service, Christingle, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and an All Souls Requiem.

We are looking at ways to revive our regular Evensong service.

## SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The 9am Family Service is a Communion service aimed specifically at young families. The service is enthusiastically supported by the Director of Music who also often leads the teaching. Those to be baptised are welcomed when the promises of faith are made.

There is a weekly Play & Pray service for parents and carers, which is full of toys, coffee and biscuits. It ends with a story, singing and prayers.

There are several Café style services each year, which are well attended by families. Refreshments are served and the service is held with lots of participation from attendees.

Two local preparatory schools, Broomwood Hall and Thomas's Clapham, hold weekly services with a total of some 800 attending, including parents. The vicar leads the worship, the prayers and gives a short homily every week.

Very large congregations come to church for Christmas Eve, the Nativity service, Christmas Day, school Christmas carol services and Midnight Mass. Significant numbers attend the Nine Lessons and Carols service, Remembrance Sunday, Christingle and Easter Sunday.

St Luke's endeavours to maintain and develop contact with families and those who tend only to come to key services in the year.

---

*'St Luke's is at the heart of the local community serving the wider community.'*

St Luke's continues to support and help communities outside the parish including neighbouring churches. St Luke's works energetically and enthusiastically to achieve the objectives of its Mission Action Plan:

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

St Luke's supports 27 charities which are based locally and overseas and around £900 is given to each per annum. Each charity is connected to a member of the congregation. In addition, it raises around £15,000 for Christian Aid and makes a considerable contribution to the Diocese each year. Special collections and fund-raising events occur from time to time.

## WELCOMING

St Luke's Welcomers team, started in 2011, stopped during the pandemic but is reforming to ensure newcomers are welcomed at services, with a follow up communication made by a member of the team. They also arrange a social event, a 'safari supper', which newcomers are invited to attend.

## **FAMILIES, CHILDREN & YOUTH**

St Luke's employs a Families and Community Manager part-time who is responsible for running our Junior Church lessons and activities for children which include Play & Pray and a weekly Drop-In Stay and Play Playgroup.

A Book of Bible stories is given to all newly baptised children – The Lion First Bible. Increasingly, adults do not know the stories, so they are encouraged to read them when their children are very young.

## **HOMELESS**

St Luke's became one of seven local churches that would offer overnight food and shelter one night a week each to the homeless during the winter months. The project is managed and run by Glass Door, an organisation with over 30 years' experience, and re-enforces our own existing relationships with two other homeless charities, Ace of Clubs and Spires.

## **ST LUKE'S GROUPS**

To help deepen the faith and help to make individuals feel involved with St Luke's, there are two Bible study groups and Lent groups, amongst others. St Luke's also hosts 2 choral societies, a music society and monthly concerts.

## **DEBATES**

The Annual debates, which were started in 2013, are popular with a wider audience than the congregation and neighbours. Taking place in November, with distinguished panels of speakers, topics such as Climate Change, Euthanasia, Education and Multiculturalism have been discussed.

---

St Luke's is on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest, Grade II\* maintaining many of its original Victorian features. Its parish is approximately half a square mile situated between Clapham and Wandsworth Commons and the area is entirely residential mostly consisting of Victorian and Edwardian semi-detached and terraced houses.

The Churchwardens and premises manager, together with a maintenance team, ensure the church is maintained.

The Quinquennial report has recently been published which indicates that the church is in good condition and no major work is required within the next five years.

---

## Accommodation

*The Associate Priest's house is located on Canford Road, on the edge of Clapham Common, a short walk away from the church. It has a front and back garden and an attractive conservatory, a downstairs study, a first-floor reception room, three bedrooms and is gas centrally heated.*

*There are many schools in the locality providing a choice of state or private education through to 18 years.*

*There are excellent transport links near the vicarage and clergy house with proximity to Clapham South underground and Wandsworth Common and Clapham Junction rail services. For further information please see [tfl.gov.uk](http://tfl.gov.uk)*

---

## Staff

St Luke's staff include: Derek Carden (Organist and Musical Director), Patricia Cheung (Assistant Organist), Sophie Seddon (Premises Manager), Claire Healey (Parish Officer Manager) and Alison Roche (Families and Community Manager).

The Parish office (situated in the Community Hall) is staffed and open between 9.30am and 12.30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Staff meetings are regularly held between the clergy, the churchwardens and the parish office staff.

---

## Committees

The following committees form a structure which enables the organisation to run smoothly:

**Standing Committee** – ensuring matters at the PCC meetings are carried out.

**Finance Committee** – monitoring budgets and improve the financial health of the church.

**Stewardship Committee** – overseeing the planned giving scheme.

**Mission & Outreach** – allocates money put aside by the PCC for local and overseas charities.

**Pastoral Leadership Team** – overseeing the pastoral care of the congregation and local community.

**Fabric Committee** – maintenance of the church.

**Hall Management Committee** – overseeing the use, maintenance and redecoration of the hall and grounds for the benefit of the hall users and neighbours.

**Health and Safety Committee** – to ensure that the church, hall and the grounds are safe for all users.

There is also a Welcomers Team, Christian Aid Team and Hymn Choosing Group.

---

## Community Hall

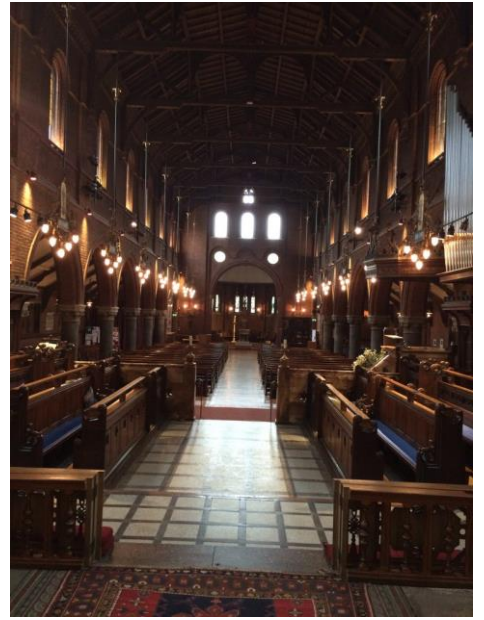
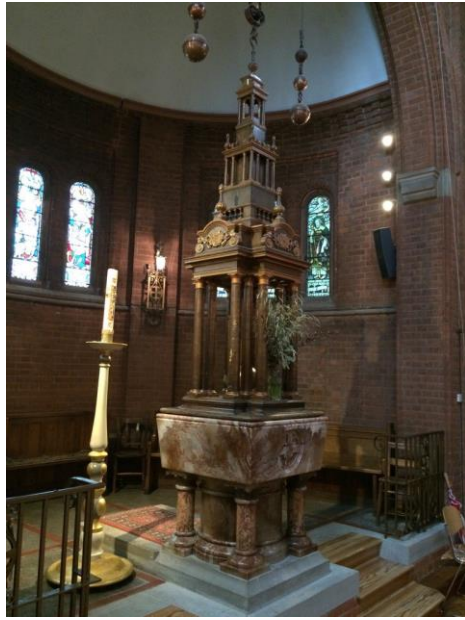
This is a modern facility which was built with the help of a Lottery grant, as well as a number of years of church fund raising. It is linked to the church and includes an airy medium-sized hall as well as three other rooms of varying sizes, a kitchen, the parish office, basement storage and a large, secure and very sought after garden known as “The Garth”. There is also an attractive outdoor paved area between the Hall and the Church with a well-stocked and maintained flower bed.

The Hall is used both by the congregation and the wider community: there are two term time nursery schools as well as regular activities for children and adults. The Hall is also used extensively by the Uniformed Groups, from Cubs and Rainbows through to Scouts and Guides, for a weekly Church-run Playgroup and is also provided at very reduced rates to charities. It is in use each Sunday morning for Junior Church and is host to many one-off bookings from local families for children’s parties or post baptism lunches, as well as the occasional wedding reception or extended family gathering.

There is a Hall Committee which makes decisions about use and care of the Hall. The Church employs a Premises Manager who works in the Parish Office and handles all lettings as well as day to day management and maintenance of the premises.

The Hall is a vibrant place at all times and on all days of the week.

---



S  
T  
L  
U  
K  
E  
S  
  
B  
A  
T  
T  
E  
R  
S  
E  
A

