



St. Luke's Church Barton Hill



LOVING JESUS **LOVING** *Our community*

Barton Hill is an area of Bristol, just to the east of the city centre and Bristol Temple Meads railway station. It includes large tower blocks of flats owned by Bristol City Council, other residential, retail and industrial premises, and is crossed by major roads, railway tracks and the Feeder Canal leading to Bristol Harbour.

St Luke's has a strong sense of identity and calling to serve the people of Barton Hill and is a huge, almost 'iconic' part of the history of area.

Church Street, off Queen Ann Road,
Barton Hill, BS5 9FB



St. Luke's Church
Barton Hill

OUR PARISH

Loving God, Loving our community

St Luke's Church has deep missional roots in the Barton Hill community, reflected in the many projects we have run over the years and continue to deliver.



St Luke's has a rich and faithful history of being a welcoming church that serves the diverse local community, often in partnership with other local organisations and faith communities.

The congregation of St Luke's has always been bold and courageous, willing to step out in faith. We run a successful Children and Families' project, and our work with older people is highly valued. We have strong links with the Wellspring Settlement, the local Mosque and the Somali Resource Centre. We are a significant voice amongst community organisations and leadership.

We offer a wide variety of popular activities that are valued and well-attended, such as the 'Parents' Café', the 'St Luke's Lunch' a thriving Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association, the 'Coffee Pot' (for older people) and a variety of community events throughout the year.

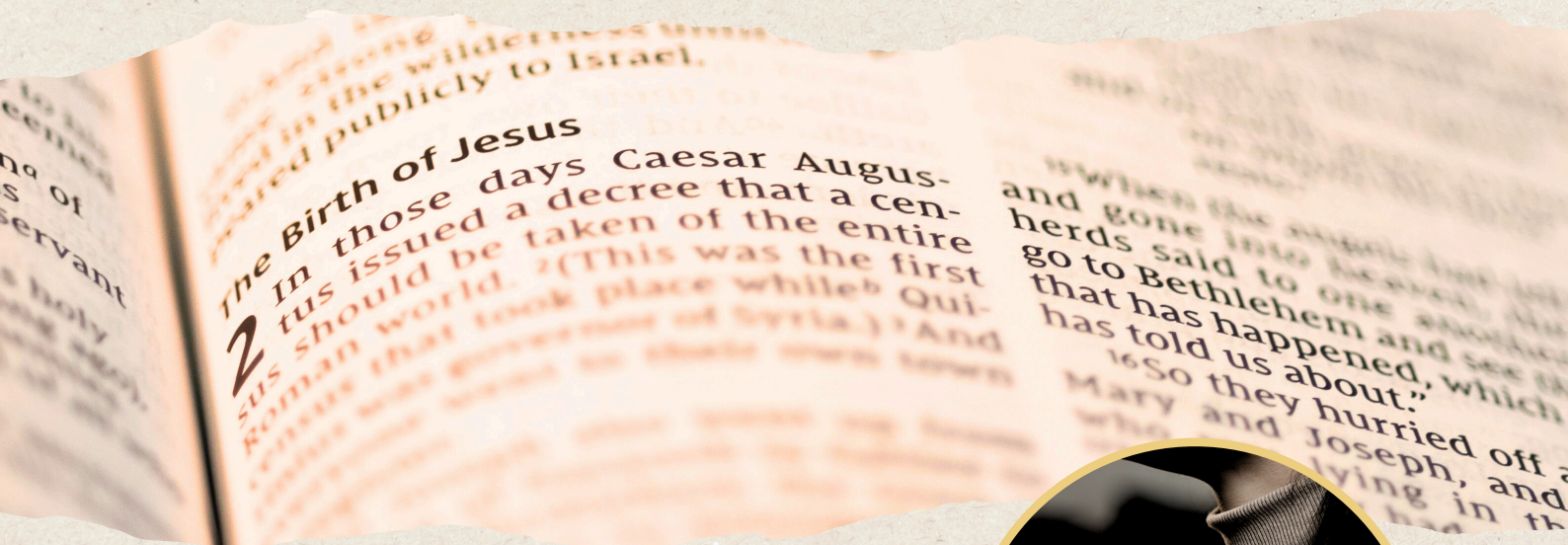


St Luke's is sometimes described as 'Not ONLY being about Sundays!' Over the years we have responded innovatively to needs as they have emerged, supporting people through life's changes, particularly when these are challenging. We look out for each other and for others who join us, offering mutual support, often thinking 'outside the box' as to how this can be achieved.



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St Luke's is an informal church with a relatively small but committed and lively congregation. We aspire to be a home where everyone can belong. We seek to be place where every person's gifts and identity are welcomed and celebrated and we offer a warm welcome to anyone who wants to come.



OUR VISION IS DRIVEN AND MOULDED BY THE WORDS OF JESUS



- When considering Luke 4:18, we believe that we are called to 'proclaim good news (the gospel) to the poor, to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'
- We want to be true to our Lord's teaching (e.g. Matt 5) in the Beatitudes and in his call to be salt and light to the world.
- We want to be empowered and enabled to fulfil our calling in the Great Commission to 'make disciples'. (Matt 28:18-20)



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PRIORITY COMMUNITIES NETWORK

St Luke's is a part of the Priority Communities Network (PCN) and the funding for this post comes through the National Church as a result of our position in Office for National Statistics 'Indices of Multiple Deprivation' (IMD).

The PCN describes its inception in this way: 'Many communities across our Diocese have been subject to decades of under investment from national and local government leading to significant socio-economic disadvantage and marginalisation. Across the Bristol and Swindon area approximately 30 of our parishes sit within the 20% most deprived in the country when ranked using the national Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). Local churches and clergy serving in these areas often face a range of particular challenges, not least, limited resources.'

We long to turn the tide and see clergy and churches in these areas flourishing and cultivating sustainable good growth, through intentional investment and support.'

St Luke's is aware that a community never stands still and will continue to evolve, so we also maintain awareness of developments and opportunities in the area to which we could respond.

The demographics of the area reflect several big challenges, but also highlight significant areas of opportunity:

- The parish ranks as the 568th most deprived ward out 12,239 (IMD), placing it well within the 5% most deprived parishes nationally.
- The parish is a 'young' area with more than 75% aged over 45 and 27% over 20.
- 40% of people in Barton Hill are from minoritised communities.
- 24% of people are Christian, with the same percentage Muslim. 49% said they have no religion or didn't state one on the 2021 census.



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The social challenges faced by many local residents are significant:

- Almost 27% of children in the parish (that's 634 children) are living in poverty, placing them 773rd out of 12,239 parishes. (Within the top 6.3%)
- 16% of older people in the parish are experiencing income deprivation – i.e. aged 60 or over and receiving state support with their income. (Within the top 4%.)
- 16% of adults are experiencing income deprivation.
- Almost 1/3rd are living in local authority or housing association properties.



The most obvious needs we are seeing in the area are loneliness and isolation, mental health issues, health inequalities, inadequate housing, poverty and exploitation (e.g. drugs, sexual violence).

St Luke's also has increasing challenges with its deteriorating buildings. We lack warm internal space and some basic amenities.

So there is plenty to do! We trust God to lead us and to meet our needs so that we can fulfil his purpose in this place.

The opportunities to show God's love in the parish, to further His Kingdom and to transform the community and the lives of individuals motivates us. We have limited resources and people, so we hope this new role of Community Chaplain will help us build on the work we do and realise some of the opportunities we see emerging.



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OUR NEW COMMUNITY *Chaplain*



We are looking for someone who can walk beside the people of St Luke's and Barton Hill in both good and bad times; someone who can serve, in God's name, the people of our community; someone who can use their own gifts to contribute to and strengthen existing and planned activities, and who has the passion and abilities to develop new opportunities.

St Luke's is in a unique position to be the 'hub of the community' as a result of our geographical location, and the partnerships we have developed, we are well-established, widely respected, resilient and keen to develop this further with our Community Chaplain.

If you would like to know more about St Luke's and the work we do, or if you'd like an informal discussion about the role, please contact:

Revd. Nicola Coleman: revncoleman@gmail.com

The Community Chaplain job description with details of how to make your application can be downloaded [here](#).