
www.stlukeswolverhampton.org.uk

Who are we?

St. Luke's is a small Anglican evangelical church in Blakenhall, a socially and ethnically mixed part of Wolverhampton (approx. 48% South Asian, 38% white, 10% African-Caribbean), in the Diocese of Lichfield. The Asian population of Blakenhall is predominantly Sikh and Hindu, with small numbers of Christians and Muslims. The church membership consists of equal numbers of white and African-Caribbean, with only a few Asian members.

Our Vision is to be a gospel-spreading community through which people in our parish and beyond experience the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

The Vicar (Richard Espin-Bradley) was converted while studying Biology at University of Lancaster, worked for ICI Agrochemicals for 9 years, trained for pastoral ministry at Oak Hill College, has served in churches in Norfolk and Surrey prior to his present position which he took up in 2002, is married to Libby, has 3 daughters, and describes his theological position as reformed.

The Curate (John Martin) joins us in June 2010 after completing his theological studies at Wycliffe College, Oxford. He is married to Cassie, and they have 3 young sons.

What do we do?

Our main weekly gathering for worship is on Sunday morning, at which the average congregation numbers around 80, including 15-20 children/teenagers. The style is recognisably Anglican but informal, the music a mixture of traditional and contemporary, and the preaching mainly systematic and expository (sermons around 25-30 minutes in length).

We have four midweek Growth Groups at which church members meet with the aim of building gospel community, discussing the application of the previous Sunday's sermon, and praying for one another and the surrounding neighbourhood. There are 2 Sunday School groups, a Pathfinder group, and a midweek 14+ youth group (TNG). We have strong links with St. Luke's C of E (Aided) Primary School, which has a very strong Christian ethos. We run at least one kids holiday club a year. Groups of men and women attend the annual Northern Men's or Women's Conventions.

On Tuesdays, 'Cake & Chat' meets at the school, an informal group through which we are building relationships with a number of non-Christian (mainly Asian) school mums. We run occasional Christianity Explored (English Made Easy) courses, and have recently used The World We All Want. We have regular invitation services, and during the build-up to A Passion for Life have been training church members to be more confident in personal evangelism.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for one or two volunteers who love Jesus Christ and seek to live under His authority (as revealed in scripture and historically understood in mainstream reformed/evangelical circles). You will be prayerful, and have a desire to gain experience of gospel/word ministry and to grow in godly, servant-hearted character. Being able to mix well with people of various races and predominantly working class backgrounds is essential. You do not need to be from an Anglican background. Ideally you will be willing to spend 2 years with us, starting in September 2010 or January 2011, although both the starting date and length of service are negotiable.

What will being a Ministry Trainee (MT) involve?

In addition to assisting the clergy in some of the regular aspects of 'parish' ministry, there are three particular areas of ministry at St. Luke's that MTs could be involved with, depending on gifts and areas of interest. These are:

- children and teenagers (in particular we hope to build on the strong link with our church school by starting a mid-week, after-school, all-age service)
- women's ministry (for a female MT), especially by developing friendships with the mainly Asian mums with whom we meet at Cake and Chat
- exploring ways to develop 'missional church'

The level of involvement and responsibility given will initially depend on age and previous experience, but will be expected to grow over time.

One day a week during term-time will be taken up doing the Midlands Ministry Training Course, run by the Midlands Gospel Partnership (www.mmtc.org.uk). For MTs involved in children's ministry, a maximum of two days a week during term-time could be spent with the Birmingham City Mission Schools Team, receiving training in practical aspects of children's and schools ministry. Additional training if needed can be provided by following courses from the Open Bible Institute, or attending special events organised by (for example) Good Book Company or the Gospel Partnerships.

Your remaining time will mainly be spent developing and applying your bible-teaching skills in your agreed area(s) of ministry, and helping with a variety of practical and administrative tasks at church. If appropriate, there will be opportunities to preach on Sundays. There may also be scope to explore opportunities to broaden your ministry experience, through involvement with other local evangelical churches (e.g. student ministry, street pastors, etc).

Ministry Trainees will be trained and assisted in their work by the Vicar and/or Curate, with help from other leaders. Overall supervision of MTs will be the Vicar's responsibility, and a weekly support meeting with either the Vicar or Curate would take place, at which we would also discuss and explore areas of theology and ministry by reading suitable Christian books. You would be expected to belong to one of our Growth Groups for fellowship and bible learning.

What will the church provide?

For the maximum duration of two years (funds permitting) a grant/allowance sufficient to cover the cost of accommodation and modest living expenses will be provided. During your time with us we will encourage you to try and raise up to 40% of this from elsewhere, although success in this regard is not a condition of becoming or continuing as an MT.

All expenses will be met by the PCC, and MTs will be expected to take a full day-off each week, and 4 weeks annual leave, plus Bank Holidays. We will subsidise or pay for your attendance at one relevant residential conference a year. If you are involved in youth work, we will encourage and pay for you to join the leadership team of one of the Ventures attended by our teenagers.

Satisfactory references and an enhanced CRB check will be necessary in order to comply with our Child Protection Policy.

It is worth noting that the Diocese of Lichfield has historically been supportive of evangelicals who wish to explore ordination.

For more information

If interested, please contact Richard Espin-Bradley on 01902 340261, or at richardeb@idnet.com

If you would like to speak to one of our current or former Ministry Trainees, we will be happy to put you in touch.