



The Parish of  
**West Cheltenham**

HESTER'S WAY

# ASSOCIATE RECTOR

WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
ST BARNABAS CHURCH

[WWW.WESTCHELT.ORG.UK](http://WWW.WESTCHELT.ORG.UK)

@WESTCHELT

BENHALL

ST MARK'S

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The Associate Rector role is an opportunity for a confident, humble leader to work with the Rector and staff team in taking St Barnabas into a new season of growth.

This person will be joining a parish which is committed to spreading the love of God across the whole breadth of our local communities, from young families and professionals working at GCHQ to adult refugees and those with learning disabilities.

The Associate Rector will be joining a staff team which is highly supportive of each other, with a healthy working culture which is great fun to be part of!



# STAFF TEAM



## **ROD PATERSON**

*Rector*

Rod was called to West Cheltenham as our Lead Vicar in 2018. As well as having parish oversight, he has a particular role supporting St Mark's.



## **JANICE HAMILTON**

*Community Pioneer Minister*

Recruited as our Community Pioneer Minister in 2021, Janice works particularly in the Springbank and Hesters Way areas of West Cheltenham.



## **JOSH DENLEY**

*Operations Manager*

Josh started in 2020 and looks after everything behind the scenes; bookings, events, communications, facilities, admin and more!



## **JOSH VALLANCE**

*Youth Worker*

Josh joined the team in August 2023; recruited in a joint venture with our friends at local youth charity The Rock, where he spends half his week.



## **PAULINE CARTER**

*Warden*

Pauline has been a long-standing member of St Barnabas Church, and has been a vital addition to the warden team for many years.



## **PHIL SOUTHAM**

*Warden*

Phil has worshipped around the parish over the years, so is well known to the different congregations. He currently worships mainly at St Mark's.



## **COULD THIS BE YOU?**

*Associate Rector*

*with responsibility for St Barnabas Church*

Joining the team in 2024....



## *A Note from Rod*

Thank you for your interest in joining the leadership team in West Cheltenham Parish as Associate Rector, with particular responsibility for St Barnabas Church.

This role is ideal for anyone interested in pursuing a calling to leadership within a diverse parish with a number of different community needs. You will need to genuinely value working as part of a wider team and at the same time be prepared to accept considerable leadership responsibility in seeking to grow and develop St Barnabas by building strong relationships and mentoring others. You will be passionate about spreading the love of God across the range of our communities.

We are looking for someone who is passionate about Jesus and open to the working of the Holy Spirit, who wants to join in with all that God is doing in West Cheltenham and grow and be developed themselves.

I have been Lead Vicar of West Cheltenham Parish since 2018 and I am genuinely excited by what God is already doing here and what is yet to come! If you'd like to chat with me about the role, please give me a call on 07853 632675.

*Rev Rod Paterson*



*Welcome to*

# WEST CHELTENHAM PARISH

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## OUR VISION

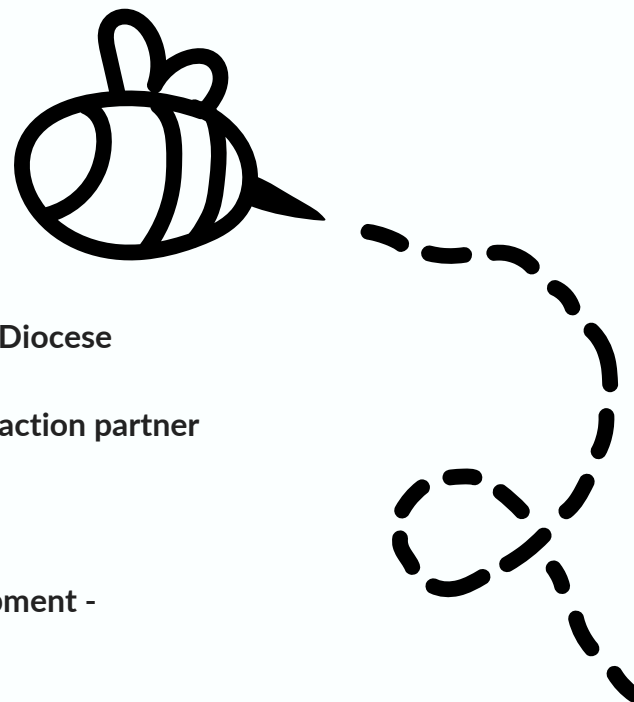
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In 2019 we came together as a parish before God and developed a vision which is strongly outward focused;

**‘Communities and places *buzzing* with the extraordinary presence of Jesus’**

We are looking to extend this vision into the next phase across the parish, with:

- a population of over 30,000 people
- 11 schools within the parish boundary
- the only Church of England secondary school in the Diocese
- an active partnership with Family Space - our social action partner
- one of Cheltenham’s largest employers in GCHQ
- the site of a globally significant ‘Cyber Park’ development - with associated housing and retail developments
- good relationships with Christian churches of other denominations in the area



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# THE PARISH

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The Parish of West Cheltenham is a group of three sister churches located on the Western edge of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire: St Mark's Church, St Barnabas Church and St Aidan & St Silas Church.

The parish is the largest in the Diocese of Gloucester, with over 30,000 people currently living within our boundary. This is set to increase substantially between now and 2030, with over 10,000 new residents moving here as part of the Cyber Park development.

It is a demographically mixed area, containing large local authority (and ex-local authority) housing, alongside more affluent, newer housing.

About a quarter of households within the parish are local authority tenants.

The 2021 census showed that 10% of people in the area are Asian/Black/Mixed/Other and there is a large Eastern European population, with 11% of homes who have English as a second language.

In terms of the Christian faith, the census showed just 44% of residents refer to Christianity as their religion – down 14% in 10 years. 45.6% identify as having no religious affiliation.

In terms of age demographics, 19.1% of the population are 15 and under, and 12% fall into the 15-24 bracket. There are 11 schools within the parish boundary, as well as the Cheltenham Campus of Gloucestershire College.



# OUR STRATEGY

The opportunity of the Associate Rector role fits alongside a number of other exciting new strategic developments.

These developments are aimed at reshaping the faith landscape across the Parish of West Cheltenham.

## **1** Developing St Barnabas as a Community Hub

We plan to continue to grow and focus our activity in further developing St Barnabas as a thriving community hub. This will involve working more proactively with Family Space and by encouraging our congregation, and the wider parish, to work in creative partnership with all the groups who use the facilities. It will also involve making further changes to the buildings to increase our engagement with these groups - particularly with the families who attend the onsite playgroup and those walking past to the local schools.

## **2** Pioneer Work and the Cyber Park

We have a unique opportunity that will come with the new 'Cyber Park' development, including 3,000 new homes - all within our parish boundary. We aim to be the keystone community partner in West Cheltenham to serve the existing community and knit it into the new development, with Jesus as the golden thread.

## **3** Reordering St Mark's Church

We see St Mark's as a strategic base for our witness to the relatively more affluent southern part of the parish. We have plans to reorder the church so that our ministry to this community is not hindered by the building, but enabled by it.

## **4** Developing St Aidan's Church Land

Since St Aidan's Church was demolished due to structural concerns, the land on which the church stood has been empty. We have been working on plans to develop this space into something beautiful; a garden and worship space in the midst of Hesters Way.

## **5** Children and Young People

With the appointment of our new youth worker, we are excited to expand our work with children and young people both inside and outside of the church. We want to work ever closer with other new Diocesan youth initiatives across Cheltenham Deanery to provide relevant and exciting space for young people to encounter Jesus.

# ST BARNABAS CHURCH



The Assistant Rector role will have a particular responsibility for leading St Barnabas Church.

St Barnabas is based at the heart of Rowanfield and the Princess Elizabeth Way district of Cheltenham.

We are not perfect in any way but with God's Grace we are becoming more like Jesus and are open to the leading of His Holy Spirit.

We have an Electoral Roll of 50 with an average Sunday congregation of 43.

We have a relaxed and informal approach to our worship.

We are Jesus-centred, and Spirit-led.

## LAY LEADERSHIP

We are led by a leadership team of four, being the Assistant Rector, Parish Warden and two lay leaders. We have a team of people who lead services and preach on a regular basis.



**PAULINE  
CARTER**



**PAUL  
EWINS**



**KATHRYN  
MARTIN**



We are a faithful group of Christians who are friendly and welcoming to others. We are split 70/30 women to men and are mainly aged over 60.

We are completely open to change; unusual in this age group!

In the past we have had many young families and children within the church, but for various reasons find ourselves with only one regular family on Sunday mornings, with a number of occasional visitors. We have people within the congregation who are excited by the prospect of being able to use their gifts to minister to children.



## SUNDAYS

We gather as church every Sunday at 10.30am. We share communion on 4th and 5th Sundays, and cafe church once a term!



## WORSHIP

Recorded worship is currently projected on the screens, meaning we are able to use a diverse range of songs and styles. Our desire is to return to live worship in the future.



## BIBLE & PRAYER

We have a variety of Bible Study and Prayer groups meeting throughout the week - both in church and in people's homes.



## PARISH

We love being part of a wider parish, playing a key role in hosting parish events like prayer days, worship nights and celebrations.

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# OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

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For many years, we have been welcoming our local community into our church halls. During the COVID 19 period, however, it became increasingly clear to us just how strategically placed our buildings are. Situated in the Rowanfield neighbourhood they form a bridgehead into the Hester's Way and Springbank communities - with the local infant and junior schools just down the road. God seemed to be showing us the potential for a true community hub.

After much prayer and reflection, and through God's grace, we were able to raise £50,000 to build an accessible toilet and kitchen servery within our church building for the first time since the church was built.

This has led to both the church building and the halls now being used every day of the week. We work particularly closely with our community action partner and local charity 'Family Space', running various drop in meetings alongside their full-time playgroup.



# A COMMUNITY HUB

## Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees

teach refugees skills to pass their driving theory tests

## Drop Off & Drop in

for parents & carers to have a drink and chat after the school run

## Family Space Playgroup

operates every day from the halls

## The People's Community Choir

rehearse in the church, and have put on fundraising music days for the parish

## Guides, Brownies & Rainbows

provide a safe, active space for young people to grow together

## Local People

for birthday parties, family get-togethers and more



**St Barnabas Church**  
West Cheltenham

## Arle Townswomen's Guild

offer support, stability and community to women in the local area

## Stay & Play

for local families, run jointly with Family Space

## Winter Warmer

for people to gather together in a warm, safe space

## Local & National Elections

use the church as a polling station each year

## Cheltenham Silver Band

use our hall and put on regular concerts for the congregation and local community

## NHS Groups

run diabetes prevention clinics and courses for the local community

# ABOUT YOU

This is a tremendous opportunity for the right person to join with us to shape the next phase of our service and outreach into our communities across the parish.

You will contribute to the life of the parish as a whole, utilising your strengths and gifts; particularly those of nurture and discipleship.

You will be excited by the responsibility and freedom to grow St Barnabas Church. We would love to see children and young families back in St Barnabas, so you should have a passion for seeking and working with this demographic.

Your heart will be moved by the same desire we have to develop St Barnabas as a community hub, to come alongside our community in acts of service and sharing the good news of the gospel.

The pandemic has resulted in our local schools using our resources less and less and we would want you to be passionate about building these connections again.

## So we are looking for someone who is:

- \* *A person of faith and prayer, prepared to invest in their own relationship with God.*
- \* *Able to communicate the Good News effectively with a diverse range of people and groups.*
- \* *A people person, who has a strong desire to work with non-church families and local schools.*
- \* *Energised, enthusiastic and excited by the opportunities this post offers!*
- \* *A genuine team player, with a track record of working collaboratively with a team.*
- \* *A team leader, able to lead by example and with good grace. An encourager of lay leadership.*
- \* *A person with the vision to see what we are capable of, see our situation and discern what Jesus would have us do.*
- \* *Sensitive to the Holy Spirit.*
- \* *Missional in outlook.*

# LIVING HERE



## ACCOMMODATION

We anticipate that the newly appointed person will move into a 4 bed semi-detached property on Brooklyn Road - round the corner from St Barnabas, and at the centre of the Parish.



## CHELTENHAM

On the edge of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, we are surrounded by wonderful countryside. As well as an array of shops and eateries, there is a museum and art gallery, two concert halls and three theatres, plus events such as Literature, Science, Music, Jazz and Food festivals as well as a Christian Arts Festival, and of course 'the' Cheltenham Festival, held annually at the racecourse.

Birmingham and Bristol are just an hour away.





The Parish of  
**West Cheltenham**

**Thank you for reading this profile.**

**May God speak to you as you  
consider your next steps.**

*O gracious and holy Father, give me wisdom to perceive  
you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes  
to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to  
proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus  
Christ our Lord.*

**Amen**



**St Barnabas Church**  
West Cheltenham



**St Mark's Church**  
West Cheltenham



**St Aidan & St Silas Church**  
West Cheltenham