



26 March 2024

Vacancy in the benefice of St Philip's Reigate

Statement in relation to the post, the needs of the diocese and the wider interests of the Church. In considering whether to offer this post to any applicant, the Diocesan Bishop will wish to satisfy himself that the applicant is able and willing to work positively and purposefully with the [Diocesan Vision](#).

The Benefice

St Philip's church Reigate is set in a small parish which was formed out of St Mark's Reigate about 150 years ago. It is a lively church, with many families, some of whom come in part because there are great church schools, both primary and secondary, locally which require church attendance on behalf of the parents for the children to be admitted. This presents a significant opportunity to relate to young families and to help the parents and children grow into faith.

Part of the role is to work with older children and young people across the parishes in the central belt of Reigate and Redhill. Before Covid there was a youth group at St Philip's and the church would like a new group to be formed. The incumbents of St Mark's Reigate and St Matthew's Redhill are also looking to work with this age group and are ready to collaborate with St Philip's on this.

As to churchmanship, St Philips is best described as a village church in the town. While those who are conservative evangelicals will go elsewhere, those who prefer a smaller church, whichever background they are from find a home at St Philip's.

The Deanery

The parish is part of the Reigate Deanery. The Revd Martin Colton, Area Dean writes:

The Reigate Deanery is made up of 23 parishes and we embrace a diverse range of communities from quiet country villages to main town centres. Generally, the parishes of the Deanery are affluent, but there are pockets of social need. As a large Deanery we have parishes of varying church traditions which we see as a strength. By working together we support projects such as Street Pastors and the Winter Night shelter and work with other agencies in promoting Social Justice. We hold an annual workshop day to explore ways of empowering our laity and there are regular Quiet Days and Healing Services. In recent years the Deanery has been a focus for our response to the refugee crisis. Our meetings as a Chapter are times for us to share and support each other as well as sometimes having external speakers to help us in our shared ministry. You would be made most welcome amongst us.

The needs of the Diocese & the wider church

All appointments in the Southwark Diocese take place within the context of the diocesan vision: [Christ Centred, Outward Focused](#). This next evolution of our vision comes as we continue to walk together, discerning God's wisdom and guidance in our shared pilgrimage of faith. Keeping Christ as our centre and the focus of unity, we will continue to turn outwards - seeking to support, encourage, resource and learn from one another as we serve our parishes and God's world. Church is formed when people gather around the person of Jesus Christ, drawn to worship him and join in his work as he meets human hurts and hopes. Jesus walks with us and is also waiting for us in places of mission, healing, reconciliation, learning and worship. It is important that all clergy in the diocese have a good understanding of the aims and objectives of the vision.

Finance

As of 2016, a new system of financial contributions towards the parish share was introduced across the Diocese, called the Parish Support Fund (PSF). All parishes and churches are invited to contribute with generosity, and to aim at least to meet their own ministerial costs. St Philip's pledged and paid £47,000 in 2023 to become self-financing and cover 100% of their indicative costs for their ministry provision of a vicar with half a stipend of £46,900. All parishes are encouraged to give both generous and realistic pledges, in proportion to their means. Whilst the last years have been challenging for many parishes and diocesan finances and we are living in political and economic uncertainty, we expect parishes such as St Philip's Reigate, which is the least deprived parish in our Diocese, to maintain their pattern of yearly increases each year and to grow to be more than just self-financing, and make a significant contribution to additional half-post of the youth enabler. St Philip's should be able to give generously and enable the Diocese to resource ministry in areas of severe deprivation. We would expect the new incumbent to work with the lay leaders to encourage and grow their pattern of generous giving.

Collaborative Ministry

I am looking to appoint clergy in this Area who can articulate their vision for the mission of the church in the places to which they are called, and who have a vision for the church's growth. In whatever tradition or location, I look to hear from the clergy how they will work together with lay members of the church and with their neighbouring parishes and colleagues. I am looking for people with active and developing spiritual lives who can be an example of discipleship to the people of God. I take very seriously my own responsibilities as pastor to the clergy and will always endeavour to make myself available to support them in their ministry.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Rosemarie Mallett". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Rosemarie" and the surname "Mallett" clearly legible.

The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett
Bishop of Croydon