



The Bishop's Statement

Vacancy in the benefice of Sanderstead, All Saints' with St Antony's

The Bishop's Statement is 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

All Saints is an historic church, with a modern outlook on mission and ministry. The parish profile speaks of extending God's welcome to all, proclaiming Jesus and sharing in God's mission in this part of South Croydon. The outlook of the parish is to witness to the gospel and to be well-connected and active in the local community. It is hoped that once the incumbent is settled in the post, there will be an appointment of a diocesan pioneer minister who will serve the parish and the wider area and part of their ministry will be to assist in developing a worshipping congregation at St Antony's. The new incumbent needs to lead and enable the church to tell the story of faith in Sanderstead, in a way which recognises its heritage and develops the current fellowship of church and community partners while looking to a more missional future, including serving those in need and with them challenging injustice in society. The parish is well-resourced with an active and supportive team of clergy and lay ministerial colleagues. Although most members are in the 60+ age group, the church expects that the new incumbent will work with the team to attract and welcome newcomers, including families, children and young people from a range of diverse backgrounds into this growing community.

The Deanery

The parish is part of the Croydon South Deanery. The Revd Sue Thomas, Area Dean writes: *Croydon South Deanery covers the southernmost part of the Borough of Croydon. Although seen as an affluent area, hidden pockets of deprivation exist. The life of the Deanery is expressed through its synod, and synod's vision is to be an active, vibrant synod speaking positivity to the world. Using the five marks of mission as a foundation, synod has focussed on four specific areas to encourage or challenge our parishes. Clergy chapter meetings are supportive of one another and there is a great kindness of heart and openness to being there for each other, no matter our church tradition, praying together and helping one another out at times of illness or holiday.*

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. All Saints Sanderstead made a pledge of £66,300 for 2025, a 26% decrease from their 2024 pledge. This contribution was 74% of their indicative costs, decreasing from the position of covering 100% of their indicative costs and being self-financing in 2024. With the ministry provision of a vicar with a full stipend, this parish's indicative costs for 2025 will be £89,300. Whilst the last years have been challenging for parish and diocesan finances, we encourage all parishes to give both generous and realistic pledges, in proportion to their means. We expect parishes such as All Saints' Sanderstead, which is not in a deprived area, to give generously to the PSF to enable the Diocese to continue to resource ministry in areas of severe deprivation. We thank All Saints for their generosity towards PSF in the past. We would expect the new incumbent to work with the lay leaders and congregation to nurture and restore the financial position, encourage a pattern of generous giving in the parish and return to self-financing.

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, flowing style with a large, elegant loop at the end of the name.

The Right Reverend Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon

February 2025