



The Bishop's Statement

Vacancy in the benefice of Croydon, St John The Baptist W Waddon, St George

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

Christian worship has been offered on the site of Croydon Minster for more than twelve centuries. Home to the tombs of six Archbishops of Canterbury, the Minster holds a unique place in Croydon's history and civic life. As the town's principal civic church, it hosts major diocesan and Area occasions, and the Vicar plays an important part in sustaining its relationship with the Borough's civic leadership.

The parish comprises two churches, served by three priests. The Minster congregation is diverse, confident in its open, liberal Catholic tradition, and rightly proud of its outstanding musical heritage; many of its members travel from beyond the parish. St George's, based on the nearby Waddon estate, has its own District Church Council and an Associate Vicar with incumbent status. A second Associate Vicar, based at the Minster and part-funded by the Whitgift Foundation, also serves as Chaplain to Whitgift School. The incumbent chairs the PCC and leads the staff team. The role therefore requires collaborative and enabling leadership that can unite two distinct congregations around a shared vision for mission and ministry. Particular attention will be needed to ensure St George's long-term sustainability and flourishing.

Beyond the parish, the Vicar serves on the governing boards of the Minster schools, which are currently exploring amalgamation, and acts as chair or trustee of several local charities. The incumbent is also ex officio Chaplain to the John Whitgift Foundation and a member of its Court of Governors. Overseeing significant educational and care institutions, the Foundation remains an influential presence in Croydon life. These wider responsibilities offer valuable opportunities for influence and service. Still, the successful candidate will need the wisdom and discipline to ensure that they enrich, rather than overwhelm, the parish's ministry and mission.

A central priority for the next Vicar will be to lead the parish confidently in mission beyond its existing congregation. For all its civic responsibilities and its connection with the Whitgift Foundation, the parish serves a community ranked among the most deprived 12% nationally. Rough sleeping and social need are highly visible in the town centre, and the Minster has a long-standing commitment to serving those on the margins. At the same time, thousands of people now live in the expanding residential developments of central Croydon and along the Purley Way, while many more come into the town each day for work, education and leisure, often with little or no connection to the Church. The Minster's historic presence, architectural beauty, musical excellence, civic role and open doors provide a remarkable foundation for engagement. The planned renewal of the Minster Hall offers an exciting opportunity to strengthen community life and deepen relationships with local people. I am looking for a priest who can help the congregation build on these strengths, forge new

connections across the wider community, and enable the church to grow both numerically and in the depth of its discipleship.

The parish's financial position is stronger than it has been for many years, largely thanks to Martin How's generous legacy. Nevertheless, regular planned giving remains insufficient to cover day-to-day running costs. At the same time, significant capital commitments lie ahead, including work on the organ, the Minster Hall and the windows at St George's. Fostering a culture of generous stewardship will therefore be an important part of the role. Equally important will be strengthening ministry among children, young people and families beyond the choir and serving teams, while sustaining a robust safeguarding culture in a church that welcomes vulnerable adults and nurtures large numbers of young people through its musical life.

The priest appointed will need to be as comfortable engaging with civic leaders, governors, educators and business figures as they are offering pastoral care to someone sleeping on the Minster steps. They will work closely with the Archdeacon and me, with colleagues across the Croydon Central Deanery, and with ecumenical and faith partners throughout the town. Together, we seek to see the churches of central Croydon grow in confidence, witness and service.

This is a demanding role, but also a rare opportunity to lead a gifted, generous, and diverse Christian community at the heart of Croydon during a time of significant possibility and renewal.

The Deanery

The parish is part of Croydon Central Deanery. The Revd Ruth Chapman, Area Dean writes:

Croydon Central Deanery comprises ten parishes which represent the whole breadth of Anglican liturgical styles and theological traditions. Within this breadth, the clergy of the deanery relate very well together and meet regularly as a Chapter for support, study, prayer, fellowship and food! The Deanery Synod seeks to encourage and enable parishes to keep mission at the heart of their life and this aim determines the content of Synod meetings. The deanery includes the town centre with its civic offices and extends from the more economically deprived, ethnically diverse areas to the north to the more prosperous, predominantly white middle class areas to the south.

Ecumenical relationships with other denominations in the deanery and wider Borough are strong and are facilitated by the Croydon Churches Forum (CCF). As the successor body to Churches Together in the Borough of Croydon (CTBC), CCF offers a light-touch way of enabling the churches in Croydon to get to know one another, work together on common mission where appropriate, and keep churches informed so we can pray effectively for each other. There are regular CCF Leaders' Breakfasts and evening prayer meetings where everyone is invited.

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, in proportion to their means and to aim at least to meet their own ministerial costs. Croydon Minster's 2027 pledge is £105,000, which is an 11% increase from their 2026 pledge. The pledge represents a contribution of 108% of their indicative costs and this is the first time for many years since the church has exceeded their indicative costs to support ministry in another Southwark parish. This is a welcome and generous move. Whilst the current times are 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 St John's to give generously to the PSF to enable the Diocese to continue to resource ministry in areas of deprivation. We would expect the new incumbent to work with the leadership team and congregation to encourage and maintain their pattern of generous giving. St George's Waddon makes a separate pledge to the PSF.

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 that reads "Rosemarie Croydon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'C' at the end.

The Right Reverend Dr Rosemarie Mallett
Bishop of Croydon and Acting Bishop of Southwark

October 2026