



## The Bishop's Statement

### Vacancy in the benefice of The Good Shepherd, Tadworth

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

The Good Shepherd is a thriving, welcoming and prayerful Christian community, rooted in worship and committed to serving God and their neighbours. They are well integrated into the life of the local area and enjoy strong, positive relationships with community groups and local organisations. People of all ages are valued and encouraged to play an active part in their shared life, and visitors are greeted with openness and warmth.

At the same time, they recognise that God continues to call them forward. There are significant opportunities to deepen discipleship, to reach those who do not yet engage with church, and to grow both spiritually and numerically. They are excited about the future and are seeking leadership that will help to build on their strengths, respond creatively to their context, and to discern new ways of sharing the good news at the heart of their community.

The diocese is currently considering the formation of a united benefice with St. Andrew's Church and The Wisdom of God Church in the neighbouring parish of Kingswood. This would offer an exciting opportunity for the future, enabling the sharing of gifts, resources and vision across the parishes. While each church would retain its own identity and traditions, working more closely together would create new possibilities for mission, ministry and mutual support. For a new incumbent, this presents a rewarding opportunity to help shape a collaborative benefice, to nurture strong relationships across communities, and to develop fresh approaches to outreach and growth in a changing context.

#### 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. The Church of the Good Shepherd, Tadworth made a pledge of £74,208 for 2026, a 5.7% increase from their 2025 pledge. This contribution was 79% of their indicative costs. With the ministry provision of a priest in charge with a full stipend, this parish's indicative costs for 2026 will be £94,400. 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 and each year to aim to take a step towards become self-financing. We would expect the new incumbent to work with the lay leaders and congregation to encourage a pattern of generous giving and nurture and strengthen the church's financial position.

## 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 black ink that reads "Rosemarie Mallett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'M' and 'L'.

The Right Reverend Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon

February 2026