



28 November 2022

Vacancy in St Margaret, Chipstead, Rector

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 Margaret, Chipstead is a village church, which for over the last twenty years has drawn members from nearby towns to its particular style of worship. The new Rector will need to balance these two aspects of the church - the need to be the Rector for the whole village with its four distinct areas, as well as helping the gathered church grow in their love for and service of God.

Before the pandemic the church had three Sunday morning services - an 8am BCP communion, a Common Worship communion service with hymns that suited well the classic village congregation and a late Sunday morning more informal service with contemporary Christian worship songs. There was significant work with children and young people, and the parish still employs a part time youth worker.

Since the pandemic, and with the illness of the last Rector and in the vacancy of over a year, the church has not yet returned to this pattern of services, but it is probably what is needed to enable the different congregations to return to their different worship styles.

Chipstead village is quite unusual, in that it is relatively close to London, only 10 minutes' drive from the shops of Coulsdon, but has a distinct rural feel to it. The rectory is a mile away from the church, along on a country Lane, and can feel quite isolated. The new Rector will need to bear this in mind and have a good support network already in place.

The Deanery

The parish is part of the Reigate Deanery.

The Area Dean, the Revd Martin Colton, 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 [Hearts on Fire vision](#). As this unfolds, it is providing a challenge to all parishes and worshipping communities to ensure that their lives and activities are all shaped around the call of the gospel, and our participation in God's mission in the world. The other strategic document affecting the whole diocese is the [Strategy for Ministry](#). Under this banner the diocese is emphasising the call to growth, both numerical and spiritual, to a renewed partnership between all members of the church in ministry, and to increased collaborative working beyond parish borders, and particularly in deaneries. As the [Strategy for Ministry document](#) will inform diocesan and Area policy over the next few years, it is important that all clergy in the diocese have a good understanding of its aims and objectives.

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. St Margaret Chipstead's 2023 pledge was £100,000, which was a 17%/£20,000 decrease on the three previous years offers. The parish has a history of being both generous and self-financing and this pledge exceeds the parish's indicative costs of £83,500. All parishes are encouraged to give both generous and realistic pledges. The last two years have been challenging for parish and diocesan finances and we face continued political and economic uncertainty. However, we expect parishes such as St Margaret's Chipstead, which is not in a deprived area, to give generously and to rebuild their pledge restoring it to their previous level which was financing a post for half a stipend elsewhere in the Diocese. This will enable the Diocese to continue to resource ministry in areas of severe deprivation. We would expect the new incumbent to work with the lay leaders to encourage 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, flowing style. The first name "Rosemarie" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and the surname "Mallett" follows it. The signature is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett
Bishop of Croydon