



The Bishop's Statement

Vacancy in the Benefice of South Croydon (St Peter & St Augustine)

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 [Diocesan Vision](#).

The Benefice

St Peter's and St Augustine's first shared an incumbent in 2004 and became a united benefice in 2006. The two parishes have quite distinct characters. St Peter's is more traditional in outlook and liturgy, while St Augustine's has a particular ministry to people who live nearer to the margins of society, especially in dealing with issues of mental health or disability. The area of the benefice is changing markedly, attracting a much more ethnically and religiously diverse (and generally poorer) population to the locality.

The benefice is on the edge of central Croydon. As central Croydon changes, with very significant increases in population in new and converted flat developments, and redevelopment of the shopping and social core, there is an increasing sense of purpose and life to the town which will have a significant impact particularly in St Peter's parish.

The churches are aware that they need to engage missionally with this changing population and will need a priest who has a heart for mission and will be able to confidently lead the benefice in equipping God's people for mission. The new parish priest needs to have the versatility to enjoy working with two contrasting congregations and enabling each of them to realise their mission potential.

The Deanery

The parish is part of the 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, and to aim at least to meet their own ministerial costs. St Peter and St Augustine Benefice's 2026 pledges total £78,050, contributing 83% of their shared indicative costs. St Peter's pledge is £50,900 and St Augustine's £27,150. With the ministry provision of a vicar with a full stipend, this benefice'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 churches' financial positions

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" with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Right Reverend Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon

April 2026