



## The Bishop's Statement

### Vacancy in the United Benefice of South Norwood, Holy Innocents & St Mark

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 united benefice comprises of the two parish churches of Saint Mark and Holy Innocents, both serving very similar communities, with high levels of local community cohesion and connection but also significant social deprivation. For the mission minded priest, we are looking to appoint, there are plenty of opportunities for outreach.

St Mark's Church is located adjacent to the parish primary school providing an obvious link to the children and young families in the area. Holy Innocents in on the High Street with a youth and family Hub nearby which serves the many young people in the community.

The new incumbent, I hope, will look to spend a good part of their time focused on the community beyond the parish as well as the with the present congregations and their dedicated lay and ordained leaders. They will also need to pay attention to the needs of the church buildings to ensure that they are warm and welcoming spaces. I would expect that a new incumbent will prioritise working together with each of the congregations as well as other local churches to engage fully with the local community in ministry and mission, so that new believers may be brought to faith, and faith in the community is rekindled in outreach and social action.

#### The Deanery

The parish is part of the Croydon North Deanery. The Revd Canon Joyce Forbes, Area Dean writes:

*Croydon North Deanery consists of eleven parishes with twelve churches. We are an urban deanery, where the demographics of the area has been changing over time, so the challenges of our churches have changed. This has led to our deanery finding new ways to work together to proclaim the Gospel and serve the people of Croydon North, including our Deanery Leadership Team (DLT). We see ourselves as an outward looking deanery and therefore look forward to welcoming new colleagues who will help our parishes continue to flourish and adapt to a changing world and will work collaboratively with colleagues across the deanery and beyond as we continue to explore new ways of being church in Croydon North.*

*We celebrate all that makes each parish distinctive and also enjoy good relationships with each other. Within this breadth, the clergy of the deanery relate very well together and meet regularly as a Chapter for support, study, prayer, fellowship, and sharing of food. This good relationship and trust we have developed was even more evident when we got together during 2020 to discuss, across the deanery, involving all the parishes in planning how we as a deanery can celebrate Black History.*

*Our ecumenical relationships with other denominations in the deanery and wider Borough which are facilitated by the Croydon Churches Forum (CCF). CCF offers a 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. Holy Innocents and St Mark's Benefice's 2025 pledges total £20,650, contributing 23% of their shared indicative costs. St Mark's pledge is £15,000 and Holy Innocents £5,650. 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 dark ink, reading "Rosemarie Mallett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, elegant loop at the end.

The Right Reverend Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon

**September 2025**