



The Diocese of
Southwark

Croydon Episcopal Area

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Vacancy for Priest-in-Charge (Team Vicar Designate) at Croydon, St Andrew & Associate Priest, Croydon Minster

Bishop's Statement in relation to the benefice, the needs of the diocese and the wider interests of the Church.

In considering whether to offer this post to any applicant, the Bishop will wish to satisfy himself that the applicant is able and willing to work positively and purposefully with the Diocesan Vision (<http://southwark.anglican.org/downloads/southwarkvision/southwark-vision.pdf>).

The Benefice

This is an exciting time for St Andrew's Croydon. A small parish in the Catholic tradition, situated in the southern part of Croydon Town Centre, St Andrew's is now part of a partnership with the parish of Croydon Minster which is on track to form a new Croydon Town Centre Team Ministry, along with St George, Waddon and the Minster itself. The Minster and St Andrew's are also developing close relationships with St Michael & All Angels, the other parish in the town centre. This development will give St Andrew's the opportunity to serve the whole of Croydon at a time of significant change. Much of the town centre is being developed for new residential housing, while plans continue to develop for a renewal of the retail and business centre. At the same time, the churches are looking for new opportunities to reach out to these new communities and to serve the civic and commercial life of Croydon.

St Andrew's is a parish in the Catholic tradition, but within that tradition ready to experiment with new possibilities for church life and growth. The renewed church worship space and meeting facilities make a space which is still to be fully explored in its potential to serve the church's mission. The priest to be appointed must be comfortable with that tradition and also comfortable with testing how it may develop and grow. There is a particular hope that the church may play a key role in serving children and young people.

The Whitgift Foundation is one of Croydon's oldest institutions, founded by Archbishop John Whitgift to educate children and care for the elderly and sick. It presently expresses those aspirations through its schools and care homes. The Vicar of Croydon is *ex officio* chaplain to the Foundation. The priest to be appointed will assist the incumbent both in directly participating in the pastoral and liturgical duties of chaplaincy to the Foundation and also by releasing the incumbent from some duties across the Team so that he can give attention to his Foundation role.

The Deanery

The parish is part of the Croydon Central Deanery. The 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 deprived economically, ethnically diverse areas in the north to the more prosperous, predominantly white middle class areas to the south. The centre of Croydon is about to undergo a major transformation, and the churches of the deanery, especially those closest to the town centre, have an important role to play in reaching out to what will be an expanding, predominantly younger population.

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. 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 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.

Finance

From 2016 a new system of financial contribution has been introduced across the Diocese, called the Parish Support Fund. Parishes are informed of the indicative costs of ministry in their context. In the case of St Andrew's (a 0.5 post) this is £40,600 for 2020. St Andrew's has made a pledge to contribute £13,600 for the year (a little less than was offered in 2016-2018 and in line with 2019). All parishes are asked to be both generous and realistic in their contributions to the PSF. In recent years St Andrew's has struggled to meet the pledge that it has made, but it is good that they have set themselves a challenge to do so. The financial position is indicative of some of the challenges which the parish faces and we recognise across a diverse Diocese that some parishes will be in a position to contribute more than their costs in order to support others.

Collaborative Ministry

I am looking to appoint clergy in this Area able to 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 will 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.

+Jonathan Croydon