



The Bishop's Statement

Vacancy in the benefice of Christ Church, Purley

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

Christ Church Purley is a friendly, growing and thriving parish rooted in the evangelical tradition. There is a dedicated staff team, both paid and volunteered, who work hard to support the many volunteers who serve on a weekly basis in this busy church. The parish has benefitted from mature stable leadership in the previous incumbent.

Christ Church is well linked with its church primary school and with local and deanery initiatives such as the local food bank. The fact that there is now a food bank in Purley illustrates the changing demographic and social change of the community which is increasingly being reflected in the congregation. Growing diverse leadership will be a priority for the new incumbent.

Christ Church is looking forward to a new incumbent who is deeply grounded in the Evangelical and Charismatic tradition and who will lead the congregation in mission to the local community, building on what has gone before and ready to discern new possibilities for evangelism and service.

Christ Church have made a clear decision not to offer Prayers of Love and Faith and are looking for an incumbent who upholds the traditional and historic teaching of the Church on marriage.

The Deanery

The parish is part of the Croydon South Deanery. The Revd Doug McHardie, Area Dean writes:

Croydon South Deanery covers the southernmost part of the Borough of Croydon. Although often seen as an affluent area, hidden pockets of deprivation exist. As we enter a new Synod with a new Area Dean the focus of the life of the Deanery is shifting away from the Synod and towards all year round collaboration by parishes in all areas (eg wardens, safeguarding, treasurers, fabric teams etc). We are in a new season and look forward to how this develops and how Synod can be a place where there is a growing sense that parishes are there for one another in the Deanery. We aim to build on what we have had and continue to make Synod meetings a place of stimulating input across topics that equip our approaches to the real-life dilemmas and opportunities faced by our parishes. Clergy chapter meetings are supportive of one another and there is a great kindness of heart and openness to being there for each other, and learning from one another across church traditions, praying together and helping one another out. You will receive a warm welcome to Croydon South Deanery and have opportunities to bring creativity and inspiration to our shared life together.

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, in proportion to their means and to aim at least to meet their own ministerial costs. Christ Church's 2026 pledge was £122,000, which was a 6% increase from their 2025 pledge. The parish has a history of being both generous and self-financing and this pledge exceeds the parish's indicative costs of £94,400 supporting one third of a parish clergy post in a more deprived part of the Diocese. 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. We expect parishes such as Christ Church, which is not in a deprived area, to give generously to the PSF to enable the Diocese to continue to resource ministry in areas of deprivation. We encourage parishes, such as Christ Church, to work with the lay leaders to encourage and maintain 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 black ink that reads "Rosemarie Mallett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'M' at the end.

The Right Reverend Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon

May 2026