



23 February 2024

Vacancy in the benefice of St John the Evangelist, Coulsdon

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 John's is a vibrant friendly church in the heart of Old Coulsdon. It is well connected to its local community and is keen to grow in its mission locally and more widely. The new incumbent will have the opportunity to lead the parish from strength to strength, working with both ordained and lay leaders, as well as an enthusiastic team of volunteers to further its mission to help people meet Jesus.

The parish profile speaks of a desire to develop ministry with children, families, and young people; and St Johns is a parish that is keen to grow spiritually and numerically and to be effective in sharing the Good News with the wider community, especially mindful of increasing diversity in the community and those on the fringe or outside the church, in a way which is true to its evangelical tradition.

The Deanery

The parish is part of the Croydon South Deanery and the Area Dean, Sue Thomas, writes:

Croydon South Deanery covers the southernmost part of the Borough of Croydon. Although seen as an affluent area, hidden pockets of deprivation exist. The life of the Deanery is expressed through its synod, and synod's vision is to be an active, vibrant synod speaking positivity to the world. Using the five marks of mission as a foundation, synod has focussed on four specific areas to encourage or challenge 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, no matter our church tradition, praying together and helping one another out at times of illness or holiday.

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 John's Coulsdon's 2024 pledge is £87,720 which is the same as in 2023 and has not recovered to pre-pandemic levels of £98,000. However, the parish has a history of being both generous and self-financing and this pledge exceeds the parish's indicative costs of £86,300. All parishes are encouraged to give both generous and realistic pledges. The last few years have been challenging for parish and diocesan finances and we face continued political and economic uncertainty. However, we expect parishes such as St John's, 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 quarter of 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 and restore 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 initial 'R' and 'M'.

The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett
Bishop of Croydon