



The Bishop's Statement

Vacancy in the benefice of St Mary The Blessed Virgin, Addington

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 an applicant, as Acting Diocesan Bishop, I must be satisfied that they are able and willing to work positively and purposefully with [Southwark Vision](#).

The Benefice

Thank you for taking the time to read this profile. I hope that, as you do so, you will prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to serve as the next Vicar of St Mary's, Addington.

Across the Diocese of Southwark, we are committed to being a Christ-centred and outward-looking Church: proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, nurturing disciples, serving our communities with generosity and compassion, and building churches that are spiritually vibrant and financially sustainable. Every new appointment is an opportunity to join in God's mission, and I believe this is an exciting moment for St Mary's.

As it approaches 950 years of faithful Christian witness, St Mary's continues to offer a ministry deeply rooted in worship, hospitality and service. This profile reflects a church that treasures its Anglican tradition, values excellent music through its robed choir, welcomes families through Messy Church and Junior Church, and serves its community through the Welcome Place and weekly lunch club. Many members travel from beyond the parish because they have found St Mary's to be a place where faith is nurtured and they truly belong—a wonderful testimony to the warmth and faithfulness of this church family.

Alongside these strengths, the parish is realistic about the opportunities ahead. Like many churches, St Mary's is called to grow both spiritually and numerically, welcoming new people into the life of the Church and helping them become disciples of Jesus Christ. It is also committed to strengthening financial stewardship so that it can meet the full cost of its ministry, including its Parish Share, while continuing to invest confidently in its mission and future. These are significant challenges, but they are also opportunities to inspire generosity, deepen discipleship and build a sustainable future.

The next Vicar will find committed lay leaders, a supportive PCC, dedicated staff and volunteers, and a congregation eager to work together in God's mission. I hope to appoint a priest who is rooted in prayer and the love of Christ; someone who will preach and teach the Scriptures faithfully, offer compassionate pastoral care, encourage generosity as an expression of discipleship, develop the gifts of others, and lead with humility, wisdom and joy. Above all, I am seeking someone who will love the people of St Mary's and help them discern all that God is calling them to become.

If, as you read this profile, you find your heart stirred by the possibilities at St Mary's, I encourage you to pray, seek wise counsel and be in touch. We would be delighted to explore with you whether God may be calling you to this remarkable parish at this important moment in its life.

The Deanery

The parish is part of Croydon Addington Deanery. The Revd Prem Premraj, Area Dean writes:

Croydon Addington Deanery comprises significant socio-economic diversity, ranging from leafy suburbs to areas high on the index of multiple deprivation. In addition, parts of the deanery relate more easily to the neighbouring borough of Bromley whereas others are firmly Croydon based. All parts of the deanery enjoy excellent transport links and Central London is easily accessible as is the beautiful Surrey and Kent countryside. Despite our diversity there is a genuine desire and move towards increasing collegiality and a growing awareness of the ways in which we can share our gifts for the benefit of all. The clergy meet regularly for worship and the sharing of joys and sorrows and deanery synod, as well as conducting its business, has an ongoing programme of inspiring and informative speakers. The voices of the laity are greatly valued as we work together for the furtherance of God's kingdom in this part of S E London.

The needs of the Diocese & the wider church

All appointments in the Southwark Diocese take place within the context of [Southwark Vision](#). 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 Mary the Blessed Virgin Addington made a pledge of £72,204 for 2026, a 5.7% increase from their 2025 pledge. This contribution was 76% of their indicative costs. With the ministry provision of a vicar with a full stipend, this parish's indicative costs for 2027 will be £97,200. 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 church's financial position.

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.



The Right Reverend Dr Rosemarie Mallett
Bishop of Croydon and Acting Bishop of Southwark
September 2026