

The Diocese of
Southwark

The Bishop's Statement

Vacancy in the benefices of Whyteleafe, St Luke and Chaldon, St Peter and St Paul (in plurality)

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

This vacancy is formally for the post of Rector of St. Luke's, Whyteleafe and St Peter and St Paul's, Chaldon (held in plurality), but locally, the postholder will be known as Vicar of St. Luke's. This is a half time post that will focus solely on the ministry and mission of St Luke's church and Whyteleafe parish.

The village of Whyteleafe is a well-established, bustling, semi-rural/suburban community, with a range of shops, services and local groups catering to the residents, especially the growing number of young families. The new incumbent will have the opportunity to lead the parish from strength to strength, developing the good work that has been put in by the former incumbent and dedicated lay leaders in building links and partnerships with the local community. The church building is well kept and welcoming, and is well loved and well used by the community, offering wonderful opportunities for Christ centred worship and ministry and outward focussed witnessing and mission to the wider community.

Historically, St. Luke's, Whyteleafe and St Peter and St Paul's, Chaldon work closely together and since 2019 have been a Benefice. The appointment some 6 years ago of both churches' vicars was on a part-time shared responsibility basis and has developed into each focusing on their respective churches. Both positions are based on a 3 day week as a basis for the original shared responsibility for both churches which was hitherto undertaken by a single vicar. This successful collaboration, which includes regular weekly meetings to discuss issues of mutual interest, will continue to be a major influence on developing both churches. Chaldon's Parish Profile is attached to the advertisement, for information.

Chaldon and Whyteleafe are also in a group ministry known as 'The Caterham Group Ministry'. The Group is held lightly and involves meeting for prayers with the incumbents in the three other Benefices.

The Deanery

The parish is part of the Tandridge Deanery. The Revd **Michelle Edmonds**, Area Dean writes:

Tandridge Deanery largest (by area) and most rural deanery in the Diocese of Southwark. It was formed from the former deaneries of Caterham and Godstone in late 2016, and consists of 26 churches, serving small towns and villages. The churches of the deanery still occupy a central place in their communities, often with a breadth of churchmanship reflected in their congregations, and with many opportunities for engagement with their parishes through occasional offices and other

events. Stretching from the edge of Croydon to the southernmost parishes in the diocese, bordering West Sussex, the deanery is socially and demographically mixed. It covers the same area as Tandridge District Council, which presents us with good opportunities for working together. We also work closely with our neighbouring deanery of Reigate in organising events for the Archdeaconry, including conferences for clergy and for lay people, and days on specific issues (such as support for carers, for example). Our current Mission Action Plan is organised under headings devised by our Synod - Inclusive, Collaborative, Supportive - and highlights communications, events, training and networking as our priorities. Our Synod meetings are lively and engaging, with the first, themed half of the evening being open to all, and our Chapter meetings are warm, friendly and honest. You would be made most welcome among us.

The needs of the Diocese & the wider church

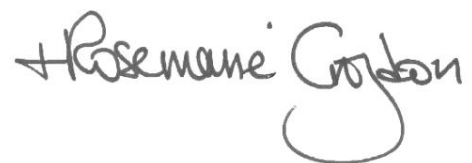
All appointments in the Southwark Diocese take place within the context of the diocesan vision: [Christ Centred, Outward Focused](#). This next evolution of our vision comes as we continue to walk together, discerning God's wisdom and guidance in our shared pilgrimage of faith. Keeping Christ as our 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. St Luke's Whyteleafe made a pledge of £26,000 for 2025, a 2% increase from their 2024 pledge. However, this contribution was 58% of their indicative costs. With the ministry provision of a vicar with a half stipend, this parish's indicative costs for 2026 will be £47,200. Whilst the current climate is challenging for parish and diocesan finances, we expect parishes such as St Luke's, which are not in a deprived area, to maintain their pattern of yearly increases and make generous steps towards become self-financing. We would expect the new incumbent to work with the lay leaders and congregation to nurture and restore the financial position and encourage a 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 dark ink, reading "Rosemarie Mallett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Rosemarie" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and the surname "Mallett" is written below it, also in cursive. The signature is positioned to the right of the main body of text.

The Right Reverend Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon

September 2025