



The Diocese of  
**Southwark**

**Croydon Episcopal Area**

The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett  
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**Vacancy, Limpsfield and Tatsfield Team:**  
**Team Vicar Limpsfield Team, with special responsibility**  
**for Tatsfield and Children and Families work**

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**

Tatsfield is a village in the far East of Surrey in Tandridge deanery, adjacent to the border with Kent and Greater London, which runs into Biggin Hill to the north. With a population of about 1800 and a usual Sunday attendance of 20, it is part of the Limpsfield Team, which also includes Limpsfield and Limpsfield Chart. The Team as a whole has a full-time stipendiary Team Rector and an House for Duty Team Vicar, as well as the Team Vicar at Tatsfield. This post will involve being the Vicar of Tatsfield for 2 days a week, plus a service on Sunday morning and taking a lead for families and schools work in the Team for 1.5 days a week. The aim of this aspect of the post is to help the churches rebuild their children's work post-Covid and to bring the work of SparkFish!, the schools work charity in Reigate Deanery, into this part of Tandridge Deanery. The Deputy Head of Limpsfield Infant School was a teacher in Redhill and will be an ally in this. It is hoped that the postholder will work with those in Oxted who are seeking to enhance schools work in that team.

**The Deanery**

The benefice is part of the Tandridge Deanery. The Area Dean writes:

*Tandridge Deanery is the newest, 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.*

**Revd Michelle Edmonds**

## The needs of the Diocese & the wider church

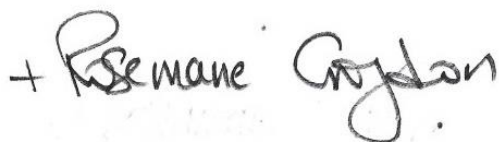
All appointments in the Southwark Diocese take place within the context of the diocesan *Hearts on Fire* vision. As this unfolds, it is providing a challenge to all parishes and worshipping communities to ensure that their lives and activities are all shaped around the call of the gospel, and our participation 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 (it can be read on screen or downloaded from the diocesan web pages).

## 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's Tatsfield made a pledge of £36,000 for 2022, which maintained their 2021 pledge following several annual increases. However, this was below their indicative costs. All parishes are encouraged to give both generous and realistic pledges, in proportion to their means, and with the ministry provision of a vicar with half a stipend the indicative costs for 2023 will be £46,900. Whilst the last two years have been challenging for parish and diocesan finances and we are living in political and economic uncertainty, we expect parishes such as St Mary's Tatsfield, which is not in a deprived area, to return to their pattern of yearly increases each year and to aim to become self-financing in the next few years. The Limpsfield and Tatsfield team ministry should be able to give generously over and above its own costs and enable the Diocese to resource ministry in areas of severe deprivation. We would expect the new incumbent to work with the team clergy and lay leaders to encourage a pattern of generous giving.

## Collaborative Ministry

I am looking to appoint clergy in this Area who are 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 are able to 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, reading "Rosemary Gordon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Above the first name, there is a small cross symbol.

16 August 2022