



**The Diocese of
Southwark**

Croydon Episcopal Area

**The Rt Revd Jonathan Clark
Bishop of Croydon**

**c/o 6 St Peter's Road
Croydon
CR0 1HD**

e bishop.jonathan@southwark.anglican.org

www.southwark.anglican.org

Vacancy in the benefice of St John, Belmont

Statement in relation to the post, the needs of the diocese and the wider interests of the Church.

The benefice

- This is a significant opportunity to implement a new model of parish ministry in the Church of England. St John's present congregation is, as they acknowledge, an ageing group and they are very aware of the need for a new generation to become part of the church family. This role requires the skills both to sustain and care for the congregation as it is and also to explore what new possibilities there are for growing the church. It is envisaged that this pioneering ministry will take up approximately half of the time of the new incumbent, which will require significant time management skills to not become wholly absorbed by the existing structures.

St John's values its ecumenical status, though the number of Methodist members is not large. Again, it will be important over the next few years to explore how this relationship can continue as an inspiration to growth and new life in the church.

The Deanery

The parish is part of the Sutton Deanery. The Area Dean writes:

The fourteen parishes which make up the Deanery of Sutton represent a diversity of people, churches, experience and outlooks. Our church traditions range from Reform to Liberal Catholic, from Open Evangelical to Forward in Faith and include a variety of other traditions as well. We celebrate all that makes each parish distinctive but also enjoy good relationships with each other. Although we are a mainly suburban deanery, as the demographics of the area change, so the challenges of our churches have changed; Sutton has a more diverse demographic than in former years and is more reflective of the national trend in that the church now has a different place in society than previously. Each parish is facing this new situation in an appropriate way and in chapter, synod and the wider deanery life, our deanery is also finding new ways to work together to proclaim the Gospel and serve the people of Sutton. We look forward to welcoming new colleagues who will help our parishes continue to adapt to a changing world and will work collaboratively with colleagues across the deanery and beyond as we continue to explore new ways of being church in Sutton.

The needs of the Diocese & the wider church

The diocese of Southwark has engaged in a process of renewal issuing in a new vision of mission, backed up by a strategy for ministry. I am looking for priests able to work within that vision, making it real on the ground in the various contexts of the parishes they serve. As the diocesan *Hearts on Fire* vision unfolds, it is providing a challenge to all parishes and worshipping communities to ensure that their lives and activities are shaped around the call of the gospel, and our participation in God's mission in the world. 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.

Finance

As of 2016, a new system of financial contributions was introduced across the Diocese, called the Parish Support Fund. All parishes and churches are invited to contribute with generosity, and to aim at least to meet their own ministerial costs. St John's have made a pledge for 2020 of £47,000, which has remained unchanged since 2018 and is significantly less than indicative costs for the year of £81,200. Any money given over and above the church's own costs enables the diocese to resource ministry in areas of severe deprivation.

Collaborative Ministry

I am looking to appoint clergy in this Area 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 will 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.

+Jonathan Croydon