



Parish Ministry Development Officer in the Croydon Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Southwark

Preamble

This half-stipend post is held concurrently with the post of Team Vicar (Pioneering) at St Christopher's in the Warlingham with Chelsham and Farleigh Team Ministry. Housing will be provided within the Team.

The Post

The Diocesan Vision sets out our shared vision for a future in which we will see:

- growing churches, new worshipping communities and new Christians
- deepening discipleship: engaged, prayerful and informed Christians
- growth in vocations to existing and new ministries
- generous giving and prayer supporting all we do
- justice and peace built up, and violence challenged, in our local and global community
- a shared commitment to the integrity of creation
- a church for all which reflects our diverse community in membership and leadership.

Across a varied diocese, that vision will be worked out in different ways in different places. The Croydon Episcopal Area comprises seven deaneries and about a hundred parishes stretching from Norbury in the north to the edges of Gatwick Airport in the south. The area covers the London Boroughs of Croydon and Sutton, three parishes in Bromley and a significant part of Surrey: Tandridge, the majority of Reigate & Banstead and a few parishes in Mole Valley. The Croydon Episcopal Area Office is located in Croydon. It includes some of the most, and least deprived areas in the country, with many in the middle ground of suburbia.

This post is a crucial part of the delivery in the Croydon Area of the diocese's mission and strategy. If the churches of the Area are to grow and flourish they will need to reflect on their life and mission, and learn the skills of managing change and developing new ways of worshipping God and serving God's world. Parish ministry development in this context, and across the wide variety of social and economic settings of the Area, will be an exercise in discernment and prayer as much as strategy and planning.

You will be responsible for working with clergy and parishes to encourage effective mission and the management of change. This will involve helping parishes to turn around and grow in new ways, giving encouragement and support where risks are being taken. This may include promoting and establishing ministry teams, aiding in Mission Action Planning and enabling clergy and lay people to work collaboratively in ministry and mission.

You will contribute to our aim of re-shaping deaneries for mission, working with and developing Deanery Leadership Teams, encouraging a shift to the formation of learning and missional communities across and within deaneries.

Person Specification

The person appointed will:

- be an ordained member of the Church of England with significant experience of parochial ministry in the Church of England;
- be confident in their own spiritual and ecclesiastical tradition, and be committed to the flourishing of parish life in the Diocese of Southwark in parishes of vastly diverse theological, social, ethnic and cultural perspective;
- demonstrate a theology of evangelism, mission and lay ministry involving the development of the whole people of God in ministry together;
- be committed to the development of new lay ministries in the church;
- be highly motivated, self-aware and confident of the mission of the Church of England;
- demonstrate ability to encourage people from ethnic minorities into ministry in accordance with diocesan strategy;
- be an excellent team player;
- be hardworking and flexible, working with colleagues responsible for other aspects of mission in the diocese;
- demonstrate understanding of different learning styles, and the capacity to communicate clearly to people of very different backgrounds and traditions;
- demonstrate understanding of change management and methods of strategic planning.

Terms and Conditions

- Expenses of office will be met in full.
- Travel throughout the Area will be required, including at weekends and evenings.
- Confidence in using ICT as an educational resource is essential, as well as in word processing etc.
- Hot desking space and meeting facilities are available at the Croydon Episcopal Area office in Croydon.

Accountability

You will be accountable to the Bishop of Croydon. You will meet regularly (at least quarterly) with the Area Bishop and/or Archdeacons in order to review, preview and evaluate work done and priorities set in the Episcopal Area.

You will liaise with the Diocesan Missioner to keep clergy and parishes informed of developments in and resources for mission, and work together with the Diocesan Mission Team.

You will be a member of the Area Staff Meeting, alongside the Area Deans, with whom you will work closely.