



Vacancy in the benefice of Cheam

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

The Benefice

- Much has been done in Cheam to renew the parish's focus on its mission, and there is much yet to do. This is an exciting opportunity for a priest with a sacramental and incarnational spirituality to serve a parish and community united by its locality rather than by church tradition: in Cheam, the tradition of the church is expressed through inclusive parish ministry rather than liturgical distinctiveness. The new Team Vicar will need to be able happily to inhabit the parish's tradition in a way that enables continued development of mission and evangelism and deepens involvement in the wider community.

At a time of demographic change in the locality, the new Team Vicar will need to enable the churches to take a lead in welcoming new communities. The congregations of St Alban's and St Oswald's are mutually supportive and cohesive, but have struggled to reach out to potential new church members from different cultural and ethnic groups.

The parish is looking for a Team Vicar who will work closely with the Team Rector in helping them to focus outwards more and grow the congregations upward in numbers and downward in age profile. As the parish profile recognises, the mission and outreach of the churches in the Team needs to become stronger so that gradual decline can turn back into growth. Equally, more needs to be done to develop the discipleship and prayer lives of the churches. The new Team Vicar will need to be able to encourage and resource others in ministry, developing new and existing ministries. The sacramental and incarnational life of the parish needs now to flow into works of service, the pursuit of justice and more explicit proclamation of the good news of salvation in Christ.

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 who are 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 all 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. Cheam has made a pledge for 2020 of £76,430, which is less than the Indicative costs for the parish of £152,000. This represents a significant increase from what the parish will pay in 2019 and it is an important part of the Team Rector's recognition that giving needs to be addressed across the three churches in the coming years. Under his leadership, this has begun at St Dunstan's; St Alban's and St Oswald's will need to become part of this going forward. 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