



The Diocese of
Southwark

Croydon Episcopal Area

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1 March 2023

Vacancy in the benefice of St John The Evangelist, Caterham Valley

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

St John The Evangelist, Caterham Valley is a striking church close to the shopping centre of Caterham Valley. While the church is well attended for major civic services such as Remembrance Day, the congregation is smaller than one would hope for in such a prominent location. The Primary School of St John the Evangelist is a thriving church school and I expect the new incumbent to be very involved in the life of the school and to develop fresh expressions of church to attract families into the life of the church.

The Deanery

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

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.

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 John's, Caterham Valley have maintained their pledge of £40,000 for 2023. This is the fourth year that the parish has offered £40,000. With the ministry provision of a vicar with a full stipend, this parish's indicative costs for 2023 will be £83,500 and this contribution represents less than half of their indicative costs. Whilst the Pandemic and subsequent cost of living crisis have been challenging for parish and Diocesan finances, we encourage all parishes to give both generous and realistic pledges, in proportion to their means, and each year to aim to take a step 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 style, with the first name "Rosemarie" and the surname "Mallett" clearly legible.

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