



The Diocese of
Southwark

The Bishop of Southwark

The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun

Trinity House
4 Chapel Court
Borough High Street
London
SE1 1HW

t 020 7939 9420

e bishop.christopher@southwark.anglican.org

www.southwark.anglican.org

Vacancy in the benefice of St Matthew Redhill

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 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 Matthew's is the town centre church for Redhill, situated just across from the Belfry Shopping Centre. The church takes its responsibilities for the welfare of those in the parish seriously, running the foodbank for Redhill. Last year it sought permission to have a large portacabin in the car park to provide a larger store for the food donations. During the pandemic the need for this service to Redhill became acute and the church stepped up its work to respond to this need.

St Matthew's Church of England Primary School is situated within the parish. St Matthew's church provides foundation governors for the Local Governing Body and is involved in leading collective worship. The reader at St Matthew's is a Teaching Assistant in the School. The location of the school leads to a working together with Holy Trinity over care for the school and the families who attend.

East Surrey Welcare, part of the Diocese of Southwark Welcare has a family centre in the parish and there are close relationships with St Matthew's Church.

The congregation has a good age spread with a lively Children's Church and Messy Church, and supporting and extending this work will be a significant role for the new incumbent. Work with teenagers needs to be developed.

The Deanery

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

The Reigate Deanery is made up of 23 parishes and we embrace a diverse range of communities from quiet country villages to main town centres. Generally, the parishes of the Deanery are affluent, but there are pockets of social need. As a large Deanery we have parishes of varying church traditions which we see as a strength. By working together we support projects such as Street Pastors and the Winter Night shelter and work with other agencies in promoting Social Justice. We hold an annual workshop day to explore ways of empowering our laity and there are regular Quiet Days and Healing Services. In recent years the Deanery has been a focus for our response to the refugee crisis. Our meetings as a Chapter are times for us to share and support each other as well as sometimes having external speakers to help us in our shared ministry. You would be made most welcome amongst us.

Revd Martin Colton

The Archdeacon writes

Reigate Archdeaconry is distinct within Southwark Diocese, covering the London Borough of Sutton and most of Reigate and Banstead District together with Tandridge District of Surrey. Apart from the M25 and A25, the transport links are all into London and while Redhill and Reigate are together a distinct place, they are much influenced by the proximity of London. St Matthew's C of E Primary School serves families with as many challenges as much of inner London, but without the extra finance that comes from being in the capital city. The people of St Matthew's church take the five marks of mission seriously, including serving those in need and with them challenging injustice in society.

The churches of the Archdeaconry are responding well to the challenges of the aftermath of the pandemic, and there is much commitment to proclaiming the gospel in fresh ways and forming fresh communities of faith alongside our more traditional forms of church.

*Ven Moira Astin
Archdeacon of Reigate*

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 will be introduced across the Diocese, called the Parish Support Fund. The parish's offer for 2022 is a 10% above the cost of ministry, which is helpful. If the diocese is to maintain its mission and ministry it is essential that a parish like St Matthew's Redhill is able not only to meet its own costs, but also to contribute to ministry in places of significant social need.

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.



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31 March 2022