



29 March 2023

Vacancy in Wallington, Springfield Church, Minister in Charge

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 Church

Springfield Church, Wallington was formed over 30 years ago by people from Holy Trinity and St Patrick's Churches in Wallington. They wanted to plant a new kind of church for those who were not attracted to traditional patterns of worship, and wished to develop a different expression of church. The church has evolved as it has aged and now is working in partnership with St Paul's Roundshaw, using that building for Sunday worship rather than hiring a local school. However, whilst now worshipping in a traditional church building, the church has not lost its zeal for mission and longing to see God at work in new ways.

The Deanery

The parish is part of the Reigate Deanery. The Area Dean, the Revd Kevin Lewis, writes:

There are 14 parishes and 18 worshipping communities in the deanery of Sutton, reflecting the breadth of theology across evangelical and catholic strands, and the breadth of church style from contemporary to traditional worship. As a Chapter we celebrate that which unites us, and meet regularly to eat and share our experiences together because it is only in building relationships that we can learn from each other and work together.

The deanery consists of the entire London Borough of Sutton (plus a tiny bit of Merton), containing within it not only Sutton town centre, but also at least 6 small town centres across its largely suburban area. There is great socio-economic diversity, with not all areas reflecting the perception of Sutton as a leafy middle-class commuter-belt borough. There is increasing diversity in population, which is slowly being reflected across some of the church congregations.

We look forward to welcoming new colleagues who seek to work together across and within this theological and geographical spread, helping our parishes to adapt to a changing world as we seek to proclaim the Gospel and serve the people of Sutton.

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 churches are invited to contribute with generosity, and to aim at least to meet their own ministerial costs. Springfield Wallington made a pledge of £73,200 for 2023 which covers indicative costs of ministry provision of a vicar with a stipend, but with locally provided housing. All parishes are encouraged to give both generous and realistic pledges, in proportion to their means to enable the Diocese to resource ministry in areas of severe deprivation. We would expect the new incumbent to work with the team clergy and lay leaders to encourage and maintain their 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 black ink that reads "Rosemarie Mallett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'R' and 'M'.

The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett
Bishop of Croydon