



The Bishop's Statement

Vacancy in the benefice of St Andrew's, Kingswood

The Bishop's Statement is 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

Kingswood parish has two churches each within a population centre of about 1000 people. St Andrews church is in an area which includes a significant number of very large residences. This presents particular challenges and opportunities for mission. Alongside this group of people are much more 'ordinary' communities, near Kingswood Station and in Lower Kingswood. In Lower Kingswood there is a second church, the Wisdom of God, which was built in the early 20th century as a memorial to the Freshfield family, but has the advantage of being near where people live. Here the challenges of pastoral ministry are to build up and encourage the small worshipping community of the church in outreach to their neighbours.

The parish of Kingswood is to be part of a benefice with Tadworth, the larger neighbouring village, whose area was originally in the Kingswood parish. As associate priest in the benefice the new priest for Kingswood will be part of a team with the Vicar of Tadworth, and will be the focus for pastoral care Kingswood.

The Deanery

The parish is part of the Reigate Deanery. The Revd Martin Colton, 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.

The needs of the Diocese & the wider church

All appointments in the Southwark Diocese take place within the context of the diocesan vision: [Christ Centred, Outward Focused](#). This next evolution of our vision comes as we continue to walk together, discerning God's wisdom and guidance in our shared pilgrimage of faith. Keeping Christ as our centre and the focus of unity, we will continue to turn outwards - seeking to support, encourage,

resource and learn from one another as we serve our parishes and God's world. Church is formed when people gather around the person of Jesus Christ, drawn to worship him and join in his work as he meets human hurts and hopes. Jesus walks with us and is also waiting for us in places of mission, healing, reconciliation, learning and worship. It is important that all clergy in the diocese have a good understanding of the aims and objectives of the vision.

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. The parish of Kingswood made a pledge of £49,000 for 2025, the same pledge as in 2024. With the new provision of a House for Duty priest this contribution will be 104% of this parish's indicative costs, which for 2025 will be £47,300. Whilst the last years have been challenging for parish and diocesan finances, we encourage all parishes to give both generous and realistic pledges, in proportion to their means. We expect parishes such as Kingswood, which is not in a deprived area, to give generously to the PSF to enable the Diocese to continue to resource ministry in areas of severe deprivation. We would expect the new incumbent to work with the lay leaders and congregation to nurture and maintain 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 black ink that reads "Rosemarie Mallett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'M' at the end.

The Right Reverend Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon

February 2025