



The Diocese of
Southwark

Croydon Episcopal Area

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**Vacancy in the Oxted Team Ministry - Team Vicar
with responsibility for St John, Hurst Green and St George, Crowhurst**

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 Appointment

This is an exciting opportunity to minister in two parishes which have been exploring how ministry rooted in the community can also lead to the growth of discipleship and committed faith. You will have to be someone at home within the full range of ministry in the Church of England as it is - with both a traditional Sunday Eucharist, and occasional café church. Your own 'tradition' in the Church of England is less important than your capacity to be with the communities and parishes as they are and for what they need in their spiritual growth and development.

There are significant opportunities to be involved in the local community beyond the worshipping congregation, and you will need to be someone who has the capacity to be in a public and visible role in the community. At a time when there is significant unhappiness in the local community about change, particularly in relation to new housing developments, the church will need to take a role in enabling a more thoughtful conversation about what a good society looks like in Tandridge district.

Your time will be mainly be split between Hurst Green, which is an area of Oxted that has been built mostly in the last century, and the small village of Crowhurst. But there will also be areas of ministry which you will lead on for the whole team.

The Deanery

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

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. In 2023 St John's pledged £65,072 and St George's pledged £7,260. With the ministry provision of a team vicar, on a full stipend, the churches' indicative costs for 2023 were £83,500 and the churches' contribution represents nearly 87% 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 Team Vicar to work with the team's clergy, lay leaders and congregations to nurture and encourage a pattern of generous giving.

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.

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, flowing style with a large loop at the end of the name.

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Bishop of Croydon