



The Diocese of  
**Southwark**

**Croydon Episcopal Area**

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13 February 2024

### Vacancy in the benefice of St John, Felbridge

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's Felbridge is a parish on the edge of the Diocese of Southwark and on the edge of East Grinstead the town to which the parish most closely relates. The Church is a very mission focused evangelical parish, and the involvement of the parish in the life of the Diocese is much valued. The Church also naturally relates to the other denominations of church present in East Grinstead and this is encouraged.

Although the church has faced challenges recently with the retirement early on ill health grounds of its Vicar, the healthy lay leadership team supported by the curate Rob has held the mission and ministry, ensuring that the church is not just marking time during the vacancy. We wish to appoint a mission minded priest to help this evangelical church to continue to thrive. You will have a traditional view of marriage and will be comfortable leading a range of worship styles, including the more informal café style evening services.

#### The Deanery

The parish is part of the Tandridge Deanery and 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.*

**Christ  
Centred  
Outward  
Focused**

The Diocese of Southwark

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## The needs of the Diocese & the wider church

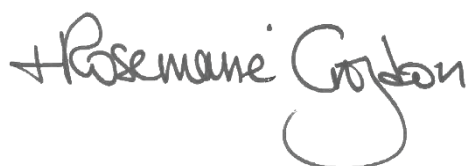
All appointments in the Southwark Diocese take place within the context of the diocesan vision: [Christ Centred, Outward Focused](#). This next evolution of our vision comes as we continue to walk together, discerning God's wisdom and guidance in our shared pilgrimage of faith. Keeping Christ as our 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. St John's pledged and paid £69,972 in 2023. With the ministry provision of a vicar, on a full stipend, the churches' indicative costs for 2023 were £83,500 and the churches' contribution represents nearly 84% of their indicative costs. The parish had an endowment fund which following the 1976 Endowments and Glebe Measure was pooled with other parishes' assets for the Diocese to pay clergy stipends, with the Felbridge vicar receiving a small annuity. The parish incorporates an estimate on the income from that fund's money in calculating their pledge and estimates that their contribution represents 100% of the indicative costs for 2023. All parishes are encouraged to give both generous and realistic pledges, in proportion to their means. Whilst the last years have been challenging for parish and diocesan finances and we are living in political and economic uncertainty, 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 expect parishes such as St John's Felbridge, which is not in a deprived area, to maintain their pattern of yearly increases each year and to give generously above their indicative costs to enable the Diocese to resource ministry in areas of severe deprivation. We would expect the new Vicar to work with the parish's clergy, lay leaders and congregations to nurture 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, flowing style with a large loop at the end of the name.

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