



The Diocese of
Southwark

Croydon Episcopal Area

The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett
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Vacancy in the benefice of St George, Shirley

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 George's is a vibrant, welcoming and Inclusive Church in the liberal catholic tradition. The new incumbent will have the opportunity to lead the parish, working together with ordained and lay leaders as well as an enthusiastic team of volunteers in developing a bold mission strategy that engages with all 5 marks of mission.

The parish is in the middle of a redevelopment project that will significantly improve its facilities and opportunities for mission. It is vital that the new vicar will be able to support the redevelopment team while not losing sight and taking hold of the wider missional opportunities within the parish. We are looking for a vicar who will engage missionally with the increasing change in ethnic diversity in the community.

The Deanery

The parish is part of the Croydon Addington Deanery and the Area Dean, Debbie Forman, writes:

Croydon Addington Deanery comprises significant socio-economic diversity, ranging from leafy suburbs to areas high on the index of multiple deprivation. In addition, parts of the deanery relate more easily to the neighbouring borough of Bromley whereas others are firmly Croydon based. All parts of the deanery enjoy excellent transport links and Central London is easily accessible as is the beautiful Surrey and Kent countryside. Despite our diversity there is a genuine desire and move towards increasing collegiality and a growing awareness of the ways in which we can share our gifts for the benefit of all. The clergy meet regularly for worship and the sharing of joys and sorrows and deanery synod, as well as conducting its business, has an ongoing programme of inspiring and informative speakers. The voices of the laity are greatly valued as we work together for the furtherance of God's kingdom in this part of S E London.

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

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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 parishes and churches are invited to contribute with generosity, and to aim at least to meet their own ministerial costs. St George's Shirley has pledged £37,200 for 2024, which is a welcome increase after a 10% drop in 2023. With the ministry provision of a priest with a full stipend, this parish's indicative costs for 2024 will be £86,300 and the parish's contribution represents 43% 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 Vicar to work with the 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 style with a large, looping initial 'R' and a distinct 'M'.

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