



### Vacancy in the benefice of St Luke Reigate

Statement in relation to the post, the needs of the diocese and the wider interests of the Church.

#### The Appointment

St Luke's is a thriving, community-based church which has grown in numbers and in confidence under the previous incumbent. Its informal style and family atmosphere have enabled many to feel at home who might have found a larger or more formal church difficult to engage with. The church's outward focus has encompassed both service and proclamation, and that combination needs to continue to be held together as it continues to serve its parish and to grow. Very encouragingly, new people have become part of the community through the online worship during lockdown, and have begun to come to the church since it re-opened for worship.

Although Reigate does not have any areas of significant deprivation, St Luke's parish does include areas of relative poverty, and has quite a different feel from other parts of the town. Although it was resourced by a plant from St Mary's some years ago, it now has its own distinct identity and mission. The new incumbent will need to listen to the people and to the needs of the community, and then have the confidence to enable the church to grow into whatever its next phase of mission will look like.

#### The Deanery

The parish is part of the Reigate Deanery. The former Area Dean (and parish priest of St Luke) wrote:

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. We are learning that there is much to be gained from being a large Deanery as we are able to draw upon a wide range of expertise to support one another and to embrace new ways of working together. The aim of our Deanery is that we be not so much defined by our meetings, as by our actions. We aim to make both Chapter and Synod meetings gatherings which express a shared enthusiasm and energy for the missionary work we share. Support for projects such as Street Pastors and our Winter Night Shelter have shown us how we can start putting this into practice. We hold an annual workshop day to explore ways of empowering our laity. There are regular Quiet Days and Healing Services. In recent months the Deanery has been a focus for our response to the refugee crisis. You would be made most welcome amongst us.

## The needs of the Diocese & the wider church

The Diocesan Vision sets out our shared vision for a future in which we will see:

- growing churches, new worshipping communities and new Christians
- deepening discipleship: engaged, prayerful and informed Christians
- growth in vocations to existing and new ministries
- generous giving and prayer supporting all we do
- justice and peace built up, and violence challenged, in our local and global community
- a shared commitment to the integrity of creation
- a church for all which reflects our diverse community in membership and leadership.

Across a varied diocese, that vision will be worked out in different ways in different places. In every setting, though, we are expecting each parish to reflect in some way all of the Five Marks of Mission; to be encouraging and developing the ministry of the whole people of God; and to be working collaboratively with fellow Anglicans, other Christians and their local communities in the service of the gospel.

## Finance

Each parish across the Diocese is asked to contribute to the Parish Support Fund realistically and generously, and with an aspiration where possible to sustaining its own ministry costs. St Luke's pledge for 2021 was £35,000; the offer for 2022 is £36,500. Indicative costs for the parish are £81,900. In the light of the pandemic particularly it is recognised that finances are severely stretched everywhere, but generous contributions from all parishes are essential in order to support our mission and ministry. The increases in PSF contribution are very encouraging, especially as increases have continued through the period of the pandemic, and they will need to continue on that trajectory.

## Collaborative Ministry

I am looking to appoint clergy in this Area who are able to 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 are able to 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.

+Jonathan Croydon

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