



The Diocese of Southwark

Croydon Episcopal Area

The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett
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Vacancy in Betchworth & Buckland United Benefice, Rector (half stipend)

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

Betchworth & Buckland United Benefice comprises two small parishes on the A25 about 3 miles west of Reigate. The total population is about 1700, and the parishes are among the most affluent in the Diocese. The villages both see the Rector as the pastor to the whole village not just to those who attend church, and the parishes would particularly value a priest who sets a high value on visiting. The church buildings are the major landmark in their respective villages and the churches are mostly well integrated in village life. The churches offer classic middle of the road Anglican worship, and some people travel out from Reigate to attend them rather than the larger churches in the town. The last Rector put a lot of energy into growing the relationship of the churches with the families with children in the villages.

The Deanery

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

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 Betchworth and Buckland United Benefice's 2023 pledges total £56,034, with both churches increasing their pledges for 2023 to cover the two parishes' combined indicative costs. St Michael's Betchworth's pledge is £34,034 and St Mary's Buckland's pledge is £22,000. These compared to their ministry provision of a vicar with half a stipend where the indicative costs for 2023 are £33,150 and £22,100 respectively. This benefice has worked collaboratively and with generosity over the last few years to ensure that it is self-financing. All parishes are encouraged to give both generous and realistic pledges, in proportion to their means. Whilst the last two years have been challenging for parish and diocesan finances and we are living in political and economic uncertainty, we expect parishes such as Betchworth and Buckland, which are not in a deprived area, to maintain their pattern of yearly increases each year and to continue to be self-financing as a benefice and aim to be so as individual parishes. They should be able to give generously and enable the Diocese to resource ministry in areas of severe deprivation. We would expect the new incumbent to work with the lay leaders to encourage and maintain their 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. The first name "Rosemarie" is written in a slightly larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Mallett". The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

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