



The Diocese of
Southwark

Croydon Episcopal Area

The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett
Bishop of Croydon

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Vacancy in the benefice of St Mildred, Addiscombe

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 Mildred's is a very busy and well-resourced parish with a strong choral tradition. It is well connected and active in its local community. The new incumbent will have the opportunity to build on these excellent links, and working together with the leadership, will need to be able to develop a clear Christ-centred and outward focussed mission strategy for the parish that fully engages with all five marks of mission. The parish profile speaks of a desire to 'see our church grow in both numbers and diversity.' The new incumbent will need to be able to lead, teach and disciple the church so that they might be equipped to confidently share their faith with the increasingly diverse community in the area.

The Deanery

The parish is part of the Croydon Central Deanery and the Area Dean writes:

Croydon Central Deanery comprises ten parishes which represent the whole breadth of Anglican liturgical styles and theological traditions. Within this breadth, the clergy of the deanery relate very well together and meet regularly as a Chapter for support, study, prayer, fellowship and food! The Deanery Synod seeks to encourage and enable parishes to keep mission at the heart of their life and this aim determines the content of Synod meetings. The deanery includes the town centre with its civic offices and extends from the more economically deprived, ethnically diverse areas to the north to the more prosperous, predominantly white middle class areas to the south.

Ecumenical relationships with other denominations in the deanery and wider Borough are strong and are facilitated by the Croydon Churches Forum (CCF). As the successor body to Churches Together in the Borough of Croydon (CTBC), CCF offers a light-touch way of enabling the churches in Croydon to get to know one another, work together on common mission where appropriate, and keep churches informed so we can pray effectively for each other. There are regular CCF Leaders' Breakfasts and evening prayer meetings where everyone is invited.

Revd Geoff Dumbreck

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 Mildred's has pledged £66,000 for 2024. With the ministry provision of a priest, on a full stipend, the parish's indicative costs for 2023 will be £86,300 and the parish's contribution represents 76% 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. When the PSF began in 2016 St Mildred's increased its pledge and was self-financing for four years until 2021. We would expect the new Vicar to work with the team's clergy, lay leaders and congregation to nurture and encourage a pattern of generous giving and return to this level of pledge.

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 'M'.

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Bishop of Croydon