



**Vacancy in the Oxted Team Ministry - Team Vicar
with responsibility for St Mary Oxted and St Peter Tandridge**

Bishop's Statement in relation to the benefice, the needs of the diocese and the wider interests of the Church.

The Appointment

This is an exciting opportunity to minister in two parishes which have been exploring how ministry rooted in the community can also lead to the growth of discipleship and committed faith. You will have to be someone at home within the full range of ministry in the Church of England as it is - both a traditional Sunday Eucharist, and café church. The vicar in Oxted and Tandridge needs happily to occupy something of the traditional status and position of a country parish priest, while also enabling the church to move into what future lies beyond Christendom. Your own 'tradition' in the Church of England is less important than your capacity to be with the communities and parishes as they are and for what they need in their spiritual growth and development.

There are significant opportunities to be involved in the local community beyond the worshipping congregation, and you will need to be someone who has the capacity to be in a public and visible role in the community. Ministry in the CofE schools is an essential part of this role, as is creative engagement with Oxted School. At a time when there is significant unhappiness in the local community about change, particularly in relation to new housing developments, the church will need to take a role in enabling a more thoughtful conversation about what a good society looks like in Tandridge district. As the district council offices are located in Oxted, that task may have particular resonance for the new Team Vicar.

The Deanery

The benefice is part of the Tandridge Deanery. The 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

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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.

The needs of the Diocese & the wider church

All appointments in the Southwark Diocese take place within the context of the diocesan 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 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.

Finance

As of 2016, a new system of financial contributions was introduced across the Diocese, called the Parish Support Fund. All parishes are invited to contribute with generosity, and to aim to meet their own ministerial costs. St Mary's and St Peter's have offered for 2019 £60,100 and £29,940 respectively, which is slightly more than the costs of ministry for the two parishes. Giving over and above the costs of ministry allows the diocese to support ministry in places of severe deprivation.

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