St Nicholas’ Church, Thames Ditton

Needs and Person Specification

As the parish profile makes clear, St Nicholas’ Church, Thames Ditton, has a number of strengths: a beautiful building, a committed team, strong participation from the congregation and recently growing work with families. However, we also face some challenges:

a. Our challenges going forwards

The main challenge for our church today is to maintain and develop participation within the community, especially among children and young people. We want to look outwards and reach into the Parish to grow our congregation and bring new people to Christ. We are looking for a priest who can equip us for this journey and lead and inspire us.

Our Parish is home to many professional people who commute and are time-poor. We hope that our new priest will be able to engage with this community of people and bring imagination to the job of reshaping our services and introducing new events to appeal to those who may not have the time or inclination to attend traditional worship. Although services are usually traditional, accompanied by the organ and with the clergy fully robed, we are very open to new ideas and ways of doing things.

This journey of outreach may be unsettling for some in our congregation, so we hope that our new incumbent will be able to balance courage in moving forwards with sensitivity to those who have worshipped regularly at St Nicholas’.

b. The Person to lead us

In our new incumbent, we are seeking someone who can demonstrate the ability and the appetite to succeed in the following five areas of Ministry, which address directly the challenges we face as we go forwards:

i) To equip us for a journey

- To lead, inspire and encourage us as we continue our journey of growth, by taking what we have already achieved and channelling our talents to revitalise our mission in the parish.

- To be an efficient manager of all areas of church life.

ii) To be a distinct presence in the village

- To be outgoing, socially confident and approachable, someone who enjoys being involved in village life, thereby giving St Nicholas’ a distinct presence in the village.

- To be at ease talking to people, encouraging others to see the church as an inclusive body.

- To build productive relationships with our wider community, including businesses, schools, youth groups etc.
iii) To be willing to explore new forms of service
   • To have a vision for our future but also to have an understanding of the needs of our congregation.
   • To have an imaginative approach to worship and a willingness and courage to try new forms of service in order to engage those seeking something more in their lives.

iv) To be a preacher and teacher
   • To be able to preach informatively and imaginatively, leading our spiritual journey and challenging us with inspiring perspectives.

v) To be sensitive to our roots
   • To support the work of the Churches Together in the Dittons, to encourage ecumenism within our local churches and to play an active part in sustaining our excellent relationship with the United Reformed Church in Thames Ditton, with whom we have a covenant of shared activities.
   • To listen and to have the courage, energy, conviction and sensitivity to lead us through change.

In Summary
We are, of course, setting our sights high. We are looking forward to considering an applicant who feels that he or she would be able to lead us on an exciting journey to expand the work of the church and who will be inspired and led by the Holy Spirit to come to St Nicholas’ Church in Thames Ditton.