

## **St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh is looking for a title curate who seeks to gain experience in a lively parish church serving its local community**



### **Summary**

St Nicolas is a large parish church (founded 1170, electoral roll 312), catering for a broad spectrum of worship traditions, whilst also seeking new ways to engage with those who have little or no experience of church. Our Mission Statement calls us to be 'Caring, Sharing and Daring' - whereby we strive to show Christ's love, share the gospel message, and not to be afraid of new approaches to outreach and worship.



The parish is primarily the village of Cranleigh in Southwest Surrey (pop 13,000). Situated in beautiful rural surroundings, with views of the Surrey Hills, Cranleigh combines the intimacy of a village with the facilities of a small town.

We are looking for a curate who will help in the day-to-day ministry to the parish, be involved in mission and outreach to the community, play an active role in preaching and leading services, engage enthusiastically with our initiatives, and be willing to become a part of our family.

In return, we can offer: an experienced training incumbent; the opportunity to be part of a well-resourced ministry team; participation in a wide range of services and numerous occasional offices; and a very warm welcome into what is an active, caring and committed Christian community.

### **St Nicolas Church**

St Nicolas Church is very much at the heart of Cranleigh, and is a welcoming community where relationships and mutual acceptance of our differences are more important than narrow doctrine. Maybe because of its unique position as the only Anglican church for some miles, St Nicolas has come to reflect a wide churchmanship, and there is a range of theological and ecclesiastical traditions, reflected in the variety of services on offer. The church boasts strong choral and bell-ringing traditions, a variety of home-groups and social groups, and many people who take an active part in running the church on a daily basis.

There is a busy programme of social events, including an annual fete, Christmas Tree festivals, breakfasts and concerts. The church is fortunate to be in a financially healthy position. The Church Rooms behind the church (including the Parish Office used by the Curate and the Parish Administrator) are used daily by various groups.

### **Ministry team**

Roy Woodhams - our Rector and also the Area Dean - heads up a harmonious and well-resourced team consisting currently of a Training Curate, a part-time Assistant Curate, a Young People's Minister, 4 retired priests, and one LLM reader. These are supported by our parish administrator and vergers and an array of experienced lay helpers.

As Training Incumbent, Roy has personal experience of training curates in both of his previous incumbencies, as well as having trained 3 curates here in Cranleigh.

### **Pattern of services**

Sundays:            8 am Holy Communion  
                         10 am All Age Worship alternating fortnightly with Parish Communion  
                         11.30 am (fortnightly) DISCOVERY – contemporary service with Children's Church  
                         6 pm (fortnightly) Choral Evensong or Choral Communion

There are regular weekday offices, whilst occasional offices are a major part of our parish ministry.

Our main services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel, and we benefit from projectors and screens to facilitate our worship. The organ is the principal musical instrument at traditional services (led by a robed choir) with some use of a keyboard, and at All-Age Services we have a band with a singing group and instruments.

We have recently been exploring 'new expressions' of worship. Since return from lockdown we have been experimenting to find the right new forms of service, whilst continuing to provide for more traditional church-goers.

### **The parish**

Cranleigh, whilst claiming to be 'the largest village in England', feels more like a small market town. It has a bustling High Street of local and national shops and numerous coffee houses, as well as a weekly market. There are many opportunities for sport, leisure and cultural activities and a range of schools serving all age groups.



### **Current challenges**

- Covid lockdown took its toll on the parish in various ways and attendance has still not reverted to pre-pandemic levels;
- Young families, and volunteers to work with them, are in shorter supply, even though we employ a full-time Young People's Minister to engage in this area;
- Our buildings, whilst in good repair and lovingly maintained, were not designed for 21st century worship and require work to make them more welcoming and accessible to all.

### **The candidate**

We encourage our Curate to gain experience across the board and to get stuck into the whole spectrum of ministry and church life, within a safe and supportive environment. After the first year, we will encourage him/her to develop any particular areas where they feel led to engage. Key qualities are enthusiasm for parish work, a willingness to minister to all, and to work hard as part of a skilled and experienced clergy team.

### **Training opportunities**

Within the parish:

- To lead a variety of different styles of Sunday and midweek Worship
- Occasional Offices (average 50 baptisms, 60 funerals and 20 weddings each year)
- An extensive Ministry to the elderly
- Ministry to young people – to work alongside our full time Young People's Minister
- Fresh Expressions – Messy Church (which we are planning to restart next year after a break of 3 years during Covid) and becoming involved in our new 'Discovery Service' for families and seekers
- School Ministry – especially in our Church Primary School, as well as through links to two other state Primary schools, one state Secondary school and the independent Cranleigh School, and Rikkyo International Japanese School. Also, the opportunity to be involved in Open the Book (Ecumenical venture) in the primary schools in the Village
- To gain experience of semi-urban ministry in the large village as well as rural ministry in the outlying areas of the parish
- To get involved in First Contact outreach Ministry as residents begin to move into a number of new developments which are being built
- Being involved in Community outreach

Within the Deanery and local area, but outside the parish:

- Hospital Ministry (most notably at Royal Surrey County Hospital and Milford Community Hospital)
- To explore collaborative ministry between the other Anglican Parishes in the Deanery (we are currently developing closer (but informal) links with our neighbouring parishes)
- Strong links and full programme of events with Churches Together in Cranleigh

### **Accommodation**

We provide appropriate accommodation for our curate (and family) in a modern, three-bedroom detached property, within easy walking distance of the Church and village centre.

The title curacy is for 3 years and 1 month, a stipend will be in line with the diocesan stipend policy, and expenses will be covered.

If you would like to be considered for this post, please email [katrina.henderson@cofguildford.org.uk](mailto:katrina.henderson@cofguildford.org.uk) and cc in [DDO@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:DDO@cofeguildford.org.uk). Please include your letter of release, your interim college report, a CV, and a letter as to why you are being called to apply for this title curacy.

### **Safeguarding**

As a church, in all we do we are committed to safeguarding children, young people, victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable adults.

### **Parish Profile**

A full Parish Profile is available from our office, please contact [nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)