

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to Faith, Hope, Love: my call to Mission.

Between now and Easter I invite you to think personally about the core values of **Faith, Hope, Love** which lie at the heart of our lives as witnesses to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Faith is a gift not looked for but freely given by God. Our common **faith** in Christ, crucified and risen, invites us to discipleship and encourages us to share this Good News with others.

We have been given an imperishable **hope** that will not disappoint us. In anxious times we **hope** for change and renewal for ourselves and our communities as we grow into God's Kingdom.

We **love**, because God first loved us. **Love** is the greatest of gifts and the instrument of healing in a world of sin, loneliness and division. We try to give and receive true **love** in all our relationships with those around us.

In this leaflet are some questions that will help you to start to reflect on **Faith, Hope, Love** and there are pointers to other resources. There is a prayer to use each day and a card to help you make your own response.

Each of us is asked to respond to the God who calls us and is faithful. As we seek to deepen our discipleship and reflect on **Faith, Hope and Love** - what does the Lord ask of you?

With my prayers and blessing,

Christopher Southwark

Further resources

Further resources are available to help you to reflect on these themes. These can be accessed either by going to the Diocesan website homepage www.southwark.anglican.org and clicking on the **Faith Hope Love** logo or by contacting:

John Beaumont,
Faith Hope Love Administrator
Trinity House
4 Chapel Court
Borough High Street
London SE1 1HW
Tel: 020 7939 9414

John can provide hard copies of the information on the website.

Making a response

It would be good to set aside some time regularly during Lent to reflect on the questions and to look at some of the suggested resources. Sometimes it can be helpful to make a note for ourselves of our thoughts and ideas to look back on.

Everyone will respond to **Faith Hope Love** in different ways. However it is good to try and focus that response in some personal action to take in our Christian journey. The response card is one way to do this. Two copies are enclosed in this letter. One is to take to your local church at Eastertide. (The local clergy will advise how and when this will happen in each place). The other is for you to keep as a reminder for yourself.

“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love”

(1 Corinthians 13)



Bishop
Christopher's
**Call to
Mission**



The Diocese of
Southwark

Faith

“Jesus said to Thomas ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe’”

(John 20: 29)

- How do I express my **faith** in my personal life of discipleship through my actions and words?

Some ideas you could explore...

- a) Christian discipleship is about following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. How do I know what he is asking of me?
- b) What things do I do because I have **faith** in God? What do I choose not to do?
- c) What do I find difficult to understand about the Christian **faith**? What steps might I take to understand these better?

This could be an opportunity to choose to speak to one person whom you know, about God.

Who might that be? What might you say?

Hope

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you.”

(1 Peter 1: 3-4)

- What is the message of **hope** that I have to share with others?

Some ideas you could explore...

- a) When have I experienced fear or anxiety or a loss of **hope**?
- b) What has helped me to face those times?
- c) What resources do I currently draw on to encourage me?

This could be an opportunity to try something new, such as a retreat or quiet day or a new creative activity to sustain and resource you so that you might bring **hope** to others. This could be explored further with someone else (spiritual guidance or direction).

Love

“Let love be genuine: hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour”

(Romans 12: 9-10)

- How do I play my part within a loving community? In what ways do I show **love**?

Some ideas you could explore...

- a) Who are the people who **love** me? How do they express that **love** towards me?
- b) How do I appreciate and value others? What one thing could I do to encourage someone else?
- c) Who is the person I find most difficult to **love** in my church or community. How might I change in my attitude to them?

This could be an opportunity to review how and where you volunteer your time and gifts. What changes might or could be made in this area of your life?