



The Diocese of  
**Southwark**

# Parish Support Fund 2025

Resourcing God's mission  
in the Diocese of Southwark



# A message from Bishop Christopher



## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you to all of you and your PCCs who give generously and work in partnership to support the ministry and mission across our Diocese. Each month as I read the finance reports, I give thanks and rejoice in your faithful commitment to the Parish Support Fund (PSF), reflected once again in a high collection rate of 99% in 2023 – and in an increase in the 2024 pledges.

Hope is fundamental to every aspect of Christian discipleship: *“Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them.”* (Romans 12 v12-13). As we journey through times of anxiety and change – a general election, missional challenges and a broken world – our Lord is ever near, strengthening and guiding us, providing for our needs. We follow a Saviour who in his poverty gave us His all. He has blessed and equipped us, so that together we can resource our Diocesan family, enabling our communities to flourish through our refreshed Southwark Vision (2024–2035) **Christ Centred | Outward Focused.**

We are very grateful that the Church’s Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board has endorsed our renewed Southwark Vision and approved partnership funding of £29m over nine years for Southwark’s whole-diocese transformation programme. This will resource additional mission and growth projects, with the expectation that learning will be shared to benefit every parish in our Diocese. This work will be additional to our regular work of supporting parishes which is funded by the PSF, meaning that we can continue to prioritise parish mission and ministry going forward.

For 2024, 75% of our parishes increased their PSF pledge, with 54% matching or exceeding my request to increase pledges by the 3.3% rise in indicative costs – thank you. Once again I am requesting much of our parishes – that you would fund our projected increase in indicative costs for 2025 which is 3.5%. Our first priority has been the need to increase clergy stipends,

(which have fallen behind inflation). We continue to control central costs rigorously, but a considerable proportion of the annual increase are burgeoning property costs which support our parochial clergy. My fellow Bishops, including our newly announced Bishop of Woolwich, and I acknowledge that this increase will be challenging for some, but we are hopeful that some parishes will be emboldened to give more out of their abundance.

The PSF is a tangible expression of our calling to live a shared life, reflecting the biblical principles of generosity, proportionality and mutuality in the Body of Christ. Your pledge is not just a contribution to your own ministry costs, but impacts on others and makes a difference to our shared gospel ministry. May I ask you all to go forward in good faith and mutual respect, prayerfully open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, boldly stepping towards or beyond self-financing so that we, collectively, may continue to offer ministry beyond those communities that can readily afford it. The PSF reaffirms that all our parishes are valued, across the spectrum of tradition, conviction, and context.

May we give joyfully, committed to resourcing our apostolic mission and ministry and blessing each Diocesan community.



*“Each month as I read the finance reports, I give thanks and rejoice in your faithful commitment to the Parish Support Fund.”*

*Christopher Southwark*

WATCH BISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S  
SHORT MESSAGE AND PLAYLIST  
OF PARISH VIDEOS ▶

<https://bit.ly/3VvO4ry>

# The Diocesan Secretary writes...



## Dear Colleagues

We are hugely grateful to our parishes who have continued to give generously to the PSF throughout 2024–2025 – and deeply indebted to all the volunteers in our parishes who take on many essential roles. In November 2023, our Diocesan Synod approved a revised Southwark Vision. The Vision is not a change of direction but an evolution, setting our sights on being ever more **Christ Centred | Outward Focused**. I am excited to see how this will be worked out in the coming years.

This year's PSF stories celebrate people and parishes that are living life generously and sharing God's love with our diverse communities, even through challenging times. Each reflects an aspect of how churches are working towards our renewed vision, seeking to keep Christ as our centre but turning outwards, encouraging, supporting and learning from one another as we work to deepen discipleship, serve our parishes and heal God's world.

No vision can be delivered without resources. The Diocesan team endeavours to manage carefully the resources entrusted to it, last year keeping within our operational budget. However, we face escalating property repair costs, a shortage of skilled labour, councils maximising rises in council tax – all making it more challenging to maintain our parsonages well. This April, the Diocesan Council of Trustees used the opportunity of reduced pension costs to offer an additional 1% stipend increase beyond our 2024 budget, to help address the need for clergy stipends to keep pace with inflation. Clergy wellbeing is paramount and we have planned an additional 4% stipend increase for 2025.

Over 70% of our indicative costs comprise parish clergy stipends, national insurance and pension costs, housing and curates' stipends. We need you to increase PSF pledges to keep pace with rising costs if we are to maintain the levels of our stipendiary parish clergy and parish support. Unfortunately, one of our largest grant funders has cut its annual distribution to Southwark by £500,000, which has had a significant impact on our budget. However, we remain unshakable in our commitment to parish mission and have secured three new grant sources for parishes: Buildings for Mission, Net Zero Carbon grants and Give to Go Green match-funding. Please prayerfully consider what your PCC can generously share with our Diocesan family and follow Bishop Christopher's request to increase your 2024 pledge by at least 3.5% for 2025.



I look forward to meeting some of you at our new PSF meetings, hosted by the Archdeacons (both online and in person) where you will be able to learn more about the PSF and ask questions of senior staff and clergy. The dates and locations are listed below.

It is an honour and a privilege to serve our Diocese as Diocesan Secretary. In this first year, I have been encouraged by the faithfulness and resilience of our parishes in this most diverse of dioceses. I remain deeply appreciative of your generosity.

### PSF Archdeacons' Q&A sessions

Please click the link to book your session.

Reigate:	Wednesday 26 June	<a href="#">Evening zoom (6pm)</a>
Woolwich:	Monday 8 July	<a href="#">In person 3.30pm, Trinity House</a>
Kingston:	Wednesday 10 July	<a href="#">Lunchtime zoom (12.30pm)</a>
Woolwich:	Monday 15 July	<a href="#">Lunchtime zoom (12.30pm)</a>
Kingston:	Tuesday 16 July	<a href="#">Evening zoom (7.30–8pm)</a>
Croydon:	Thursday 18 July	<a href="#">Lunchtime zoom (12.30pm)</a>

Details from: [gabby.parikh@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:gabby.parikh@southwark.anglican.org)

# Stories from the Croydon Area



## A light on the hill: St Francis, Selsdon

The parish of St Francis can be found on the Monk's Hill council estate in the Borough of Croydon. The Revd Peter Wyatt is Minister in Charge. His vision is to create a church where everyone is welcome: "One of our mottos is that healing can be found in a loving community."

The church has a community hall called the 'Light House' which hosts a lunch every Wednesday, where people share a meal free of charge, provided by the church. Additionally, they run a 'Men's Shed', providing a space for men with mental health challenges and interested in practical skills to work together. The Shed has produced raised vegetable beds, fixed fences and made bird boxes. Peter recognises that contributions from other parishes help this work: "That's down to you guys... and we're very, very grateful for that."

St Francis also operates a food pantry on Fridays, offering affordable groceries to 40–50 visitors. Beyond



The Men's Shed at St Francis, Selsdon

budgeting assistance, the *Pantry* fosters a sense of family and non-judgemental support. Peter believes the church's commitment to community has been transformative, creating a welcoming space for all. He is grateful to the other parishes who contribute to the PSF as: "That really enables all our ministry to go ahead and all the good work that's been done, all the lives and the healing that is happening to individuals in this community."

## Jesus is our common thread: Christ Church, Sutton

Christ Church, Sutton became a beneficiary of the PSF after becoming an independent parish, having previously been part of the Sutton Team ministry. The vicar, The Revd Phil Brooks says: "We're very conscious of how fortunate we are because though our church has grown a lot in the last few years, giving has yet to catch up to that, which I know is a very perennial problem for churches."

Phil describes a vibrant, growing church which has 30 languages and includes a significant number of parishioners from Hong Kong. The church has provided

English classes and outreach in Cantonese. It also offers a Saturday school run by Ukrainian teachers for refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine. Phil adds: "We have people from all sorts of backgrounds – the common thread is Jesus for us. We have that fellowship in unity, and there really is no other way to find that kind of unity other than through Jesus."

As well as outreach events and work with the local community, the church's spiritual life is growing, too. Alongside Sunday services, there has also been the development of home groups, which have grown in

size and frequency. Phil recognises that this was possible due to financial support from other churches in the Diocese: "We're very grateful for the generosity of those churches which are paying above and beyond."



The Ukrainian Saturday School at Christ Church, Sutton

# Stories from the Kingston Area



## A blessing to others: St Thomas, Telford Park

St Thomas, Telford Park is a net contributor to the PSF, having once been a beneficiary. The vicar, The Revd Sue Cooke, says: "We've had more resource than we have contributed to the fund, and that enabled the church to start new activities to grow, to think about vision and values."

Sue shares her vision for *The Hive*, a community space. Originally a struggling commercial cafe, it now serves as a place for young and old to gather, connect and build relationships. The parish received a grant from the Diocese that helped contribute to *The Hive*. Sue emphasises that giving is about so much more than financial contributions: "We want to be able to be a blessing to others and receive the blessing ourselves as well."

Cynthia McKenzie echoes this sentiment. She works with young people as a support volunteer at St Thomas and talks about the gifts of working with young people: "Seeing that we're there for them, and we love

and we care for them, and we can demonstrate and show them in that space. So, thank you so much."

The Church's commitment to giving to the PSF is evident. Despite financial challenges, the congregation prioritises supporting other churches and fostering growth. Sue sums it up succinctly: "Now we're in a different space. Now we are able to contribute."



*The Hive at St Thomas, Telford Park*

## A joy to support other churches: St Margaret, Putney

St Margaret, Putney covers its full indicative costs through its PSF pledge. The vicar, The Revd Dr Brutus Green, is seeking to grow a church that is youth-focused; it runs a playgroup and a children's choir as well as other youth projects.

Their Music Director, Rhiannon, specialises in children's musical education and in the last year she's grown a youth choir from half a dozen to a choir of over forty-five that's about to perform Andrew Lloyd Webber's

*Joseph* in the church to a sold out audience. As Brutus says: "It's actually one of the clearest and best forms of mission because I've got a church full of children."

Brutus recognises the importance of the PSF, and remembers a time when they were considering cutting their pledge having incurred substantial costs in treating wet and dry rot in the church walls. One of their parishioners gave money to the church so that it could keep on contributing to the PSF. Brutus believes that: "Within our congregations there are people who really care about the wider Church, who really care about the parts of London which are struggling."

Part of the vision for the church is to put it on a sound financial footing so it could help itself and contribute to the wider Diocese. As Brutus says: "I am better resourced than many other churches and I think my congregation have a really strong sense that we have a duty. And actually, it's a joy to be able to support the PSF."



*The youth choir at St Margaret, Putney*

# Stories from the Woolwich Area



## Give to share the love: St Michael and All Angels, Lower Sydenham



School children participate at St Michael, Lower Sydenham

St Michael and All Angels, Lower Sydenham is an estate-based church with close links to St Michael's Church of England Primary School.

Team vicar, The Revd Ifeanyi Chukuka, believes in the importance of young people for the future of the faith. He says: "We are so open to the young and our heart, vision and body is that we and they evangelise the

young ones so that the church will continue existing and growing."

The Revd David Howland is the chaplain at St Michael's School and one of the School Governors. The church's vision is to form a real partnership with the school, as David explains: "I'm working with the school and the church to try and bring them closer together and to help the children know more about Christianity."

The church is a beneficiary of the PSF and Ifeanyi emphasises the importance of financial giving to the Church's mission, saying: "It helps us to share the good news of Jesus in those churches and communities where people cannot afford to give. And we are so grateful when churches that can afford to give more do so – because that helps to share the love and kindness of Jesus with the world."

## Beating heart of the community: St Luke, Peckham

St Luke's is a black majority church based on a Peckham estate, with community and racial justice at the very heart of its mission. It is a net beneficiary from the PSF. Every Wednesday St Luke's runs a pantry, in partnership with Pecan (a local charity), with affordable food available to locals. As Revd Sandra Schloss, vicar of St Luke's emphasises: "People can come along... be part of the community, have something to eat and also just be sociable."

St Luke's also runs a *Repair Café*, with help from Camberwell College of Art, where people can bring in items to be repaired so that they are not thrown away needlessly. Curate, The Revd Joanna Burgess, feels this helps the church to reach more people, explaining: "One of the things that I really like about the Café is it means that people from the local community are coming onto the church site. This gives us a chance to engage with people from the community who we might not otherwise meet."



Volunteers at the Repair Café, St Luke, Camberwell

Although St Luke's is a net beneficiary of the PSF, it is looking to increase its contributions year on year, as the congregation recognises the importance of the fund's support for other parishes. Sandra sums up her feelings: "I see the impact. For us, to increase our payments each year so that we can support other parishes as well, would be a good thing."

# Our shared costs of ministry

Thank you – the PSF pledges enable us to ensure that our parishes, whether they can afford a full-time member of clergy or not, are resourced to flourish: **Christ Centred | Outward Focused.**

The 2025 indicative costs are based upon the 2024 budget updated for known movements, such as amendments in clergy and lay pension contributions, and the April additional 1% increase in stipends/salaries. It includes a further provisional 4% increase in stipends (which have fallen behind inflation) and affirms parish ministry by maintaining the numbers of parochial clergy. The indicative costs of ministry for one priest in a parish are estimated as £89,300 for 2025, an increase of 3.5% or £3,000.

As Bishop Christopher noted, this increase *“will be challenging for some, but we are hopeful that some parishes will be emboldened to give more out of their abundance. Once again I am requesting much of our parishes – that you would fund our projected increase in indicative costs for 2025 which is 3.5%.”*

All of the PSF pledges go directly towards enabling ministry in parishes, yours or your neighbour’s. We control our support costs rigorously, as we serve parishes. Please see the PCC slide deck for further details or attend one of the Archdeacons’ Q and A sessions (see page 3).



**In considering what your PCC can give may we encourage you to be generous in your pledge to support our mutual gospel ministry.**

## Submitting your 2025 pledge

Please use our online system to submit your pledge by **15 September and/or advise us of a delay.** (Our budget meeting with Trustees is 17 September).

Your parish’s personal link will be emailed to your Incumbent, PCC/DCC secretary and treasurer on Monday 1 July.

**Any questions please email Gabby Parikh directly at: [gabby.parikh@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:gabby.parikh@southwark.anglican.org)**

## 2025 indicative ministry costs for one priest £89,300

Stipend	32,000
National Insurance	2,900
Pension contributions	7,100
<b>Stipend, NI and pension</b>	<b>£42,000</b>

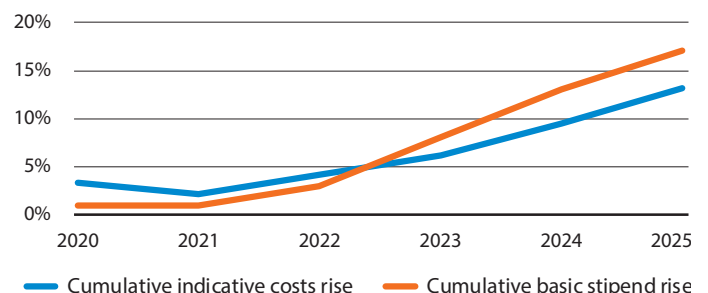
<b>Ministry housing</b>	<b>£11,800</b>
Including minor repairs, rentals and rates	

Diocesan and national training, including ordinands and mission teams	£9,200
Curates’ stipends and other ministry support	£9,700
<b>Training and other ministry support</b>	<b>£18,900</b>

Contributions to National Church	£1,900
Episcopal Area Teams	£1,600
Parish support, HR, DAC, IT and Governance	£8,400
Grants to Board of Education and Welcare	£1,900
Communications	£1,100
Safeguarding	£1,700
<b>Wider support for our parishes</b>	<b>£16,600</b>

*Please note: In addition, we are investing in Strategic Development Funding (SDF) and the Diocesan Investment Programme (DIP) which will be funded by grants from the National Church, the Southwark Vision Development Fund and the use of some of our property assets for housing.*

## Cumulative % rises in Southwark clergy stipends and parish indicative costs (2020–2025)



# Your pledge makes ministry possible across the Diocese through:



**361** stipendiary clergy with more than **20** pioneer curates, **240** PTO clergy and **239** commissioned or licensed lay ministers.



**19%** increase in people completing safeguarding training.  
**2,770** DBS checks (20% increase).



**16%** more parishes equipped to use digital giving.

**£470,000** for mission to parishes, individuals and Welcare.



**£362,000** supporting Southwark Diocesan church schools.

**170** parish proposals for church buildings recommended.



Secured **£144,000** for 'Buildings for Mission' parish grants from Church of England.

Council tax and rates paid on



more than **250** clergy properties.



Lay training – **33** short courses for **915** people.

Prayer, news, videos created by Communications team, key diocesan and national events. . . and much more!

