



Parish Support Fund 2026

Resourcing God's mission
in the Diocese of Southwark

PSF
10
YEARS



Palm Sunday at St Paul's, Thamesmead.



Parish Support
Fund
The Diocese of Southwark

Christ Centred | Outward Focused

Reflection from Bishop Christopher

A message from Bishop Christopher

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

2025 marks the ten-year anniversary of our Parish Support Fund (PSF). This anniversary offers an opportunity for reflection on all that the PSF has enabled over the last decade – as well as enormous gratitude for all that's been given and for God's faithfulness to us over these years.

In this time, the PSF has enabled us to prioritise parish ministry, train parish clergy and support their development, to pay them stipends, care for their wellbeing, provide and sustain their homes. Through grants and diocesan initiatives, the PSF has made mission possible in places across our diocese that might otherwise have struggled. It has funded the crucial support that enables our church to function and fulfil their responsibilities.

For all of this, I give thanks to each of our parishes for their generosity. However, in real terms PSF pledges

have not kept pace with inflation despite your generosity but our costs, as yours, have risen.

As you may have heard, the National Church has proposed that dioceses increase clergy stipends to £34,950 in April 2026, a rise of 10.3% for Southwark incumbents. This is to address clergy wellbeing which we are confident will be well-received in parishes. One fifth of clergy nationally have turned to the Clergy Support Trust for additional financial support.

We are now faced with new and substantial challenges of how to resource parishes and maintain the number of clergy. Even with careful management of our Diocesan resources and some support from the National Church, our 2026 indicative costs will rise by 5.7%. I acknowledge that I am asking much of each parish in asking you to prayerfully consider increasing your pledge by 5.7% and enabling our Diocese to support parish ministry.

I wish to express my appreciation to you all – our church family of volunteers

– our self-supporting and retired ministers, our lay readers and army of lay people who enable the vital work of sharing the Good News in word and action. As we follow in the steps of our Macedonian ancestors (2 Corinthians 8:1-5), may we too seek to serve one another, resourcing our mission and ministry.

Thank you for your pledges and for your partnership and faithfulness in our Gospel work.

Christopher Southwark



WATCH BISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S VIDEO ▶

tinyurl.com/4m3nufus

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand." 1 Chron 29:14

Between 2016–2024 parishes have given **£145.2m** in pledges through the Parish Support Fund with **71%/£104m** spent on clergy stipends, NI and pension. Housing costs totalled a further **£36m**.

More than **200** people have been ordained and trained as curates in our diocese.

Nearly **20,000** DBS checks processed, help provided with **1300** HR queries and **1730** DAC (church buildings) permissions granted.

531 people have participated in the Bishop's Certificate.

More than **22,000** people were baptised and **4,000** confirmed.

49% of churches in the diocese are registered for Eco Church, with **66** bronze, **30** silver and **1** gold status awards.

Journeying onward



The Diocesan Secretary writes...

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you will be inspired by the stories of God's mission and ministry in this booklet, and the impact of your generosity through the PSF. As Diocesan Secretary, I am very mindful of conserving resources, while ensuring staff wellbeing and endeavouring that parishes, clergy and trustees receive efficient service.

PCCs' pledges are our largest funding source and we are grateful. The PSF is supplemented with income such as grants, our reserves and property sales. In 2026 the direct costs of parish clergy stipends, NI and pension, including curates and their housing amount to 73% of the indicative costs of ministry (see page 7 for more details).

In July General Synod will consider the request that all dioceses restore clergy stipends to their 2011 value and thereby improve clergy wellbeing. Our Diocesan

Council of Trustees will decide in the autumn, after considering the pledges received from parishes, whether and how Southwark Diocese can meet the proposed incumbent stipend increase to £34,950 by April 2026 (10.3% in Southwark) and provide clergy with adequate pay so that they can support the diverse parish communities they have been called to serve.

The National Church is partially funding this increase, including reducing some of our national contributions, and we continue to review costs for all support functions. Nevertheless, our 2026 indicative costs have risen by 5.7% to £94,400. I recognise this is substantial and challenging but ask that you prayerfully consider Bishop Christopher's request to mark your commitment to parish ministry and strive to match this increase.

With my thanks for all you do to serve our communities.



"Thank you for ten years of enabling mission and ministry in every corner of our diocese."

Bishop Rosemarie:

"Thank you for ten years of amazing generosity in the face of enormous challenges."

Bishop Martin:

"Thank you for ten years of faithfulness to God's calling."

Bishop Alastair:

"We've seen the fruits of a decade of incredible generosity by our parishes. As clergy wellbeing and remuneration rightly come evermore into focus, we ask that you prayerfully consider how this might be reflected in your pledge."

Archdeacons' PSF Q&A sessions – please register

Thursday 3 July In person, Trinity House – hosted by 6–7pm
Woolwich Area: [register here](#)

Wednesday 9 July In person, Christ Church Purley – 7.30–8.30pm
hosted by Croydon Area: [register here](#)
(Refreshments from 6pm)

Wednesday 16 July Zoom meeting hosted by Kingston Area 2–3pm –
please register: tinyurl.com/446knwuj

Further details from: gabby.parikh@southwark.anglican.org

Stories from the Croydon Area

Sharing in its success stories: All Saints with St Margaret, Upper Norwood

All Saints with St Margaret, Upper Norwood is a net beneficiary of the PSF. It has English speaking and Spanish speaking services, and close links with a local school and refugee hostel.

Vicar Antonio García Fuerte remembers during a service, a refugee was helping with the collection and donated money. Father Antonio knew they could not afford it but was presiding over the Eucharist and did not intervene. He recalled Mark 12, the poor widow who Jesus observed putting two small coins into the temple treasury. Jesus compares how little she has

contributed compared to the rich donors but pointed out she has given more than anyone; 'her whole livelihood'. Father Antonio noticed that Jesus did not intervene, he allowed the poor widow to donate.

Father Antonio brought this experience up at the PCC and it opened a door to the parish reflecting on the meaning of the PSF. He feels that it changed the way the parish approached PSF. Rather than focusing on the amount of money they were giving, the PSF became about them participating in the mission of the whole diocese and sharing in its success stories.



Father Antonio presides at a service.

Because other parishes enable All Saints' ministry to refugees and work with the school, they share in that ministry through their generosity.

Growing deeper relationships: South Beddington & Roundshaw, Sutton

South Beddington and Roundshaw is a net beneficiary of the PSF. The Vicar, Mother Berni Excell, says: "The generosity of heart in the parish and commitment to the PSF is a reflection of who we are. There's no question of saying, do we reduce what we give, or not look to upping our commitment? The two years I've been here, we've upped our commitment each year following closely in the example set by my predecessor."

The parish has two churches in the liberal Anglo-Catholic tradition. It has connections with many local

schools. Mother Berni's vision includes: "growing younger through reaching more children and families through music"; they plan to employ a children's music lead to work in partnership with schools "offering singing assemblies, music lessons and growing a youth choir. This opens up a natural extension of the strong musical tradition of the parish and commitment to children, through this gift, and enriching and nourishing our wider community."

In future, the parish are committed to growing deeper relationships with neighbours and one

another, extending their catechism and discipleship with all ages: "let's work well with young in body, mind and spirit. Invest in relationship now so as the church grows all have the tools to ask questions, pray, study and own their faith."



The church choir.

Stories from the Kingston Area



Outward focused: St Peter, Battersea

The parish of St Peter's Battersea has seen enormous change over the years – and the Church itself has changed dramatically, with a brand new building opened in 2018. Today, it's a mixed picture, Vicar The Revd Ian Luke-Macauley, tells us: "You have extreme poverty in some of our estates – and at the same time, what you might call 'extreme wealth' in other parts. Within 10 minutes walk either side of the church, you could enter both halves of the story – and that presents very particular challenges."

The Church is growing – especially through its work with children and young families. Thanks to the generosity of others through the PSF, St Peter's was able to move from having a half-time incumbent to a full-time priest in 2023. In turn, the parish has been able to increase its own giving towards the PSF, increasing its pledges substantially since 2019 and moving towards paying its full indicative costs.

Ian believes that the PSF helps churches to see the bigger picture: "We need to be able to think about and plan mission in our own communities," he said, "But the PSF helps us to have that broader focus, to recognise that the needs of our parishes are mostly outside our doors and to discern how we can be faithful in what God is calling us to do."



Investing for the future: St Andrew & St Michael, Stockwell

Stockwell Parish began its life as two parishes – St Andrew's and St Michael's – and over a number of years evolved into a single congregation. Treasurer Simon Barker reflects: "Everybody looked at each other and said, why are we all worshipping at separate times? Why don't we worship as a single parish? It's the completion of a rather long journey of two parishes coming together."

It's also home to the *Well City Church* – a congregation started in September 2024 that meets at St Michael's

Church, with support from King's Cross Church and funding from the Diocesan Investment Programme.

Stockwell Parish is currently still just about a net-receiver from the PSF, meaning that contributions from other parishes still contribute a little towards their ministry. Nevertheless, the team at Stockwell have been determined to grow their contributions to the Fund, and have made significant progress in the past six years – giving two thirds of the Church's income in the spirit of sacrificial generosity and increasing their gifts consistently above levels of inflation. Simon has been Parish Treasurer for 14 years. He remembers the old funding system – and speaks of the introduction of the PSF as a huge improvement, something that has enabled the parish to push forward with its giving.

They have also been investing for the future, improving their church hall – which will hopefully pave the way for more rental income to reduce their ongoing deficit and enable them to continue to offer a winter night shelter through the *Robes* project.



Stories from the Woolwich Area

The best is yet to come: Peckham, All Saints



All Saints, Peckham has been on quite a journey. In the 1990s, the church was at risk of closure, with a small – but faithful – congregation. From the prayers and dedication of that group, it has grown into a thriving and diverse worshipping community. The Church's youth work, is going from strength to strength and there is a growing ministry amongst people of Iranian heritage, many of whom are refugees living locally.

From a few small friendships, this has grown into a regular Monday-night Bible study, with 20 people from the Iranian community already coming forward for baptism.

Like many parishes, All Saints was hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic, but things have slowly recovered – and it's a net contributor to the PSF. "God put us here for the sake of Peckham", says Vicar The Revd Greg Cushing. "But we also want to be a blessing to others. We recognise what a blessing it is to be able to have ordained ministers in a parish and if we can help others to benefit from such ministry, that's great."

And Greg senses that the best is yet to come: "There is a real recognition that something new is happening across our nation. That's in what churches are seeing in their own contexts, Sunday by Sunday – but also through churches coming together, laying aside differences and boldly proclaiming Jesus."

Serving 50,000 people: Thamesmead Team Ministry

Thamesmead Team Ministry is the largest parish in Southwark Diocese, serving around 50,000 people. It has four churches, sixteen primary schools, four secondary schools, four residential care homes and three prisons. Thanks to the PSF, the parish is served by three full-time priests (Patrick Eggleston, Jonathan Macy and Ruth Turner) and a Church Army Pioneer Evangelist (Karen Saunders), alongside a team of dedicated lay people.

It is an area with significant levels of poverty, with up to 80 people each week attending the foodbank at Church of the Cross.

"It's a bit of a shock to see the queues every single week," said Jonathan. Speaking of the PSF, he also said "We're so grateful for other parishes' generosity. We couldn't pay our way without other churches being kind and giving. Because of that generosity, we're seeing real growth across all our churches."

At William Temple Church in the Abbey Wood area, work with young people is thriving. Many who live in the



area have unpredictable and challenging lives, but the church is there to offer them a non-judgemental, safe and welcoming space. "They get to hear about God – and they take that with them into their lives," says Ruth. Karen adds, "One of our young people said, 'When I got arrested, that was the only thing that got me through, knowing that God was with me, knowing that God loves me.'"





Our shared costs of ministry



Understanding our indicative costs of ministry

Together across our churches in Southwark Diocese we seek as the body of Christ to meet the shared costs of ministry in our parishes so that our churches, whether or not they can afford a member of clergy, are resourced to flourish and be **Christ Centred | Outward Focused**.

For 2026 the indicative costs of ministry for one full time priest in a parish are estimated to be £94,400: an increase of 5.7% or £5,100. This increase includes the proposed rise in clergy stipends to £34,950 for April 2026. There are four elements to the indicative ministry costs.

2026 indicative ministry costs for one priest are £94,400		2026 costs	% change
	Stipend, NI and pensions Stipend (average cost – £34,950 as at April 2026) National Insurance Pension contributions	£46,800: 34,400 4,300 8,100	↑ 11%
	Ministry housing Including minor repairs, rentals, water rates and council tax	£12,600	↑ 7%
	Training and other ministry support Training, including ordinands, vocations and mission teams Curates' stipends and support	£19,300: 9,700 9,600	↑ 2%
	Enabling and support functions Episcopal Area Teams Parish Support, HR, DAC, IT and Governance Grants to Board of Education and Welcare Communications (incl. <i>The Bridge</i> newspaper) Safeguarding	£15,700: 1,700 8,900 1,900 1,300 1,900	↓ 5%

Please note: In addition, in 2026 a further £3.3m of restricted grants from CofE Strategic Development Fund and the Diocesan Investment Programme will be spent on parish projects. If the contributions to National Church had continued in 2026 the Enabling functions costs would have increased by 5%.

Making your parish pledge

Your pledge decision is a significant decision for your PCC and is one to be made by the whole PCC. To help you in your decision making you may find it helpful to attend one of the Archdeacons' Question and Answer sessions (see page 2) about diocesan finances and PSF who together with senior Diocesan staff will answer your questions. There is also a PCC slide presentation summarising key details.

You may find it helpful to prepare by reflecting on Philippians 4:10-20 or 2 Corinthians 8:1-15. Please consider your parish's wealth and demographics, your church's reserves and the shape of your budget. The parish pledge is a fundamental element of your mission, covering as it does the cost of ministry. Some questions to consider as you prayerfully determine your pledge:

- Are we doing our utmost to meet Bishop Christopher's

request to increase our pledge to fund the cost of ministry in our parish and support future ministry?

- Are we aware that mission in other parts of the diocese is dependent on our giving to the PSF?
- Is our pledge realistic and generous, in proportion to our resources and supportive of our diocesan family?

Submitting your 2026 pledge

Please use our online system to submit your pledge by 15 September and /or advise us of a delay. Your parish's personal link will be emailed to your Incumbent, PCC/DCC secretary and treasurer in the week beginning 30 June.

DOWNLOAD SLIDES FOR THE PCC: tinyurl.com/2s3k9rbw

Any questions please email Gabby Parikh at:
gabby.parikh@southwark.anglican.org

Thank you for your pledges to the Parish Support Fund

Over 10 years you have enabled...



Please continue to resource God's mission in our Diocese

southwark.anglican.org/giving/parish-support-fund

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