



The Diocese of
Southwark

March 2026

KS2/KS3 New Bishop of Southwark Consultation resource

Thank you for enabling the voices of children and young people to inform the selection of the next Bishop of Southwark. The following plan can be used in a number of ways (e.g. school council, pupil leaders of worship group, as part of class or tutor-based worship, etc.) and adapted to context. If the latter, frame the following plan with normal routines for class-based worship and the opportunity for prayer at the end.

Context

The current Bishop of Southwark, Christopher Chessun, is retiring in a few months' time. A bishop is a very important role - they are leaders in the Church. People from many different churches will be thinking very deeply about who they think should be the next Bishop of Southwark.

To help them in their thinking, those involved in deciding who the next bishop will be would like to hear from people who live in Southwark Diocese (a diocese is an area of churches that a bishop looks after - there are 41 of these in England). The Diocese of Southwark is quite large and covers all of South London and East Surrey - see picture on slide). Those thinking about who the next bishop should be would love to hear your thoughts. Before we ponder what we would like the next bishop to be like and to care about, it will be good to explore a little more about what a bishop does.

A bishop's role is to lead and support churches in the **Five Marks of Mission**. These 'five marks' are a summary of what many Christians feel the Church should be all about and do. These five marks are: TELL - TEACH - TEND - TRANSFORM - TREASURE.

Tell: to tell the good news of Jesus

Teach: to teach, baptise and help new believers to grow in their faith

Tend: to respond to human need by loving service

Transform: to make the world a fairer, more just place for all; to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

Treasure: to treasure and look after the planet

These have been incredibly important to Bishop Christopher. For instance, he has campaigned regularly for an end to violence and war in the Middle East. Which of these do you think are most important?

Resources

- [New bishop colouring sheet](#)
- [New bishop activity sheet](#)
(with consultation questions)
- [KS2/KS3 New Bishop of Southwark PowerPoint](#)

Reflection

The next Bishop of Southwark will be a leader in the places where we live, learn and play. I wonder what kind of leader you would like to see?

- Describe what you hope your new Bishop will be like (*no more than five words*)
- What do you think will be the most difficult thing the new bishop will have to do? (*name just one thing*)
- What do you think the new bishop's most important first jobs might be? (*no more than three things*)
- Is there anything else that you think is important for the people making decisions about this to know?

Response form link

www.tinyurl.com/southwarknewbishop

Please respond via the consultation form by **12pm on 1 April 2026**.

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for loving our diocese and everyone in it.

Please help us while we look for a new Bishop. Show us the right person who will listen to you, care for people, and help us follow Jesus every day.

We pray for Bishop Christopher as he gets ready to retire. Thank you for all the ways he has helped us. Please give him rest, happiness, and lots of your peace.

Help all the people making big decisions. Help our churches, schools, and families to pray and listen to you. And help us to trust that you are with us and will guide us.

Amen.