



The Diocese of
Southwark

Kingston Episcopal Area Office

The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough
Bishop of Kingston

Kingston Episcopal Area Office
Trinity House
4 Chapel Court
Borough High Street
London SE1 1HW

bishop.martin@southwark.anglican.org
020 8545 2443

March 2026

Dear Prospective Colleague,

I am delighted that that you are considering whether God might be calling you to be the next Team Rector of Furzedown, including St Alban and St Paul, and Vicar of St James, West Streatham.

Southwark is a wonderful Diocese and the Kingston Episcopal Area, covering the richly varied part of south London between Waterloo and Kingston upon Thames, is an area of great hope and Kingdom possibilities.

I have been Bishop of Kingston for just over three years. We put a lot of emphasis on teaching and learning with a focus on the whole people of God. I long for us to be an Episcopal Area where people are growing in confidence in the faith. I welcome the diversity of traditions within the breadth of Anglicanism that we see in the Kingston Episcopal Area and I am committed to the flourishing of all. We take seriously our membership of the wider Anglican Communion, notably through our link with the Diocese of Matabeleland, which is going from strength to strength.

Clergy well-being is at the heart of my priorities. As Bishop, I am committed to being present and alongside my clergy, getting to know them as individuals and communicating a sense that we are part of something bigger: God's exciting mission to the world. Inviting clergy and lay people to my home for hospitality has been a key feature and joy of the last three years: that is, while we work hard in Kingston we also seek to relax and enjoy each other's company.

Working with my immediate team, we have come up with five values which communicate how we wish to be with each other, with our parishes, schools and chaplaincies, and with the wider Diocese. Therefore, as we seek to grow in confidence in God, the Church and with one another, we aspire to:

- Build strong and healthy **relationships**
- Cultivate an attitude of curiosity and **learning**
- Be honest and **transparent** in our dealings
- Encourage **creativity** and openness to new ways of doing things
- Be **effective** in getting things done

If you join us, you can be sure of a warm welcome from my team along with supportive deanery colleagues.

Like the Church of England more broadly, our resources as a Diocese have become increasingly stretched over the past few years. This means that we are seeking to be wise, strategic and creative in the way we resource mission and ministry in the Kingston Episcopal Area.

Over the coming years, we anticipate that the Diocese will need to work closely with the new Team Rector to explore ways in which the three churches in the team can work together more closely. This is likely to involve planning a new pattern of ministry, as well as considering how best to deploy the

gifts of lay and ordained leaders across the team. With this in mind, I am looking for a new Team Rector who has experience of leading through change, will have an appetite for thinking about the 'bigger picture' across the team, and will be excited about developing a renewed vision for Furzedown.

If this sounds like you, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please be assured of my prayers as you discern.

Yours,

A handwritten signature consisting of a plus sign followed by the name 'Martin' in a cursive script.

Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough
Bishop of Kingston