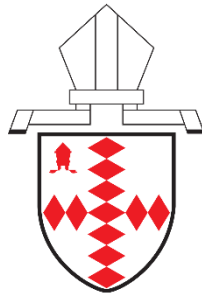


Responding to Christian Nationalism

Resource Guide for Churches



Dear colleagues,

The beauty of the church is seen most clearly in the way it gathers people into a shared life shaped by the love of Jesus. It is a place where belonging is not earned but offered, where people discover that they matter, and where community is built through grace, welcome, and shared purpose. Across generations and backgrounds, the church creates spaces where people can stand together, listen to one another, and find hope that is deeper than anything we could create on our own. When the church lives out this calling, it becomes a living sign of Christ's love—open, generous, and healing.

In this light, the current conversations around Christian nationalism can feel especially painful. They reveal how political pressures and cultural fears can fracture relationships, unsettle congregations, and pull communities away from the reconciling way of Jesus. These tensions remind us how vital it is for the church to resist being shaped by exclusion or division. The gospel calls the church to something far better: to be a community where every person—of every age, story, background, and identity—is welcomed with dignity and compassion.

To celebrate the church is to celebrate its diversity, its hospitality, and its commitment to the common good. It is to honour the countless ways people serve one another, share burdens, and work side by side for the flourishing of their neighbourhoods. When the church is rooted in the love of Jesus, it becomes a place where unity is possible, where differences are held with grace, and where every person can find a home.

We hope this resource guide will assist you within your parishes and wider as you grapple with the considerations, challenges and issues of Christian Nationalism.

The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett

Bishop of Croydon

31 March 2026

Resources and events

Upcoming events

Blessed are the Peacemakers: how Christians can bring people together in polarised times Monday 13th April 7-9pm , Event by Better Story.

In person talk in Central London with speaker: Alex Evans, from Larger Us.

[Blessed are the Peacemakers: how Christians can bring people together in polarised times | Better Story](#)

The Prophetic and the Flag

Thursday 23rd April 2026 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm

Join online 'The Prophetic and the Flag', where we explore far-right extremism and Christian nationalism and the Church response.

[The prophetic-and-the-flag-tickets](#)

Radical Hope: Young People as Hopeful Prophets for Polarised Times

Monday 18th May 2026 in person at St. Mellitus or Online

Annual Lecture by Youthscape

[The Youthscape / St Mellitus College Annual Lecture](#)

The Great Get Together- from the Jo Cox Foundation

Weekend of 19th-21st June 2026

The Great Get Together is the UK's annual celebration of everything that unites our communities, inspired by Jo Cox's belief that we have more in common than that which divides us.

Information about how to organise and event and a toolkit [Toolkit - The Jo Cox Foundation](#)

Mitzvah Day

Sunday 22nd November (organised at the end of Interfaith week).

The UK's largest faith-led day of social action. Jewish-led, we bring together people of all faiths and backgrounds, to volunteer side-by-side, building longstanding, genuine relationships. Information & Sign up [Home - Mitzvah Day](#)

Webinars

Webinar- Unpacking the theology of Christian Nationalism- Rev Dr Helen Paynter

[Unpacking the Theology of Christian Nationalism | Revd Dr Helen Paynter - YouTube](#)

Responding to Christian Nationalism- Diocese of London

<https://www.london.anglican.org/articles/responding-to-christian-nationalism-webinar/>

Resources and courses

For all the latest resources, visit our [anti-racism webpage](#)

Anti- Racism and social cohesion resources

Diocese of Southwark – ARC (Anti-Racism Charter)

This includes the ARC pack, case studies, and practical tools for building anti-racist, cohesive communities.

<https://southwark.anglican.org/antiracism/>

The Difference Course

A five-session course helping churches navigate disagreement, cross divides, and build reconciliation habits.

<https://difference.rln.global/>

[Course_overview_V7_2_digital_low_res.pdf](#)

Near Neighbours

Near Neighbours brings people together in communities that are religiously and ethnically diverse so that they can get to know each other better, build relationships of

trust, and collaborate together on initiatives that improve the local community they live in. Grants and training for interfaith and cross-community cohesion projects.

<https://www.near-neighbours.org.uk/>

Responding to community tensions

[Addressing Community Tensions: Developing shared ground](#) (report)

[Looking After One Another 2023](#) (report)

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)

Resources, articles and events for Churches across Britain and Ireland

<https://ctbi.org.uk/>

[Racial Justice Sunday - CTBI](#)

Evangelical Alliance

[Christian nationalism in the UK: a contest for the nation's soul? - Evangelical Alliance](#)

JPIT

[Responding to Christian Nationalism – Joint Public Issues Team](#)

Theos reports

Theos stimulates the debate about the place of religion in society, challenging and changing ideas through research, commentary and events.

[Christianity, nationhood and the rise of Christian Nationalism - Theos Think Tank - Understanding faith. Enriching society.](#)

[Questions-of-Hope-and-Hate-Final-Report.pdf](#)

[The-Church-and-Social-Cohesion.pdf](#)

Government Report on Social Cohesion - March 2026

[Protecting What Matters: Towards a more confident, cohesive, and resilient United Kingdom - GOV.UK](#)

Interfaith resources

You might also connect with your local council Multi- Faith Network- [Borough contact information – London Boroughs Faiths Network](#)

Interfaith Toolkit: [Faiths WorkinInterg Together Toolkit+rev.pdf](#)

Interfaith Week - Sunday 8th - 15th November 2026.

You can find more information here: [Inter Faith Week](#)

[Friendship First - Interserve](#)

The Friendship First Course gives Christians the skills, confidence and resources to build Christ-centered friendships with Muslims.

Mayor of London Interfaith Network

[The Interfaith Network | London City Hall](#)

Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ)

Briefings and resources on countering extremist rhetoric and protecting inter-communal relations.

[Home | CCJ](#)

The Woolf Institute

Research and education on religion and society, including how communities navigate populism and polarisation.

[Woolf Institute](#)

Youth resources

Radical Hope: Young People as Hopeful Prophets for Polarised Times

Monday 18th May 2026 in person at St. Mellitus or Online

Annual Lecture by Youthscape

[The Youthscape / St Mellitus College Annual Lecture](#)

Youthscape

Peacemaker cards

[Peacemakers + Disruptors | Youthscape](#)

Anti- Racism Conversations

[Anti-Racism Conversations | Youthscape](#)

The Difference Course

A five-session course helping churches navigate disagreement, cross divides, and build reconciliation habits.

The Difference Course Training for youth and schools

[Difference training - Difference](#)

<https://difference.rln.global/>

The Feast - [Welcome to The Feast | The Feast~](#)

Bringing together teenagers from different faiths and cultures to build friendships, explore faith and change lives.

Other initiatives and networks

Better Story- [Home | Better Story](#)

We are a movement of Christians seeking to resist this distortion of our faith by re-centring Christ's compassion, humility, and self-sacrificial generosity in the public conversation about Christianity.

Community of the Cross of Nails

[News, Resources, and Training - Coventry Cathedral](#)

[St Phillip's Centre - Living Well Together](#)

Our work within the Christian community and across wider society enables communities and individuals to encounter one another in meaningful ways to build understanding and trust. We nurture respectful, resilient individuals and communities, and support leadership in faith communities to enrich public life. We aim to empower people of all faiths – and those with no faith – to co-operate with each other for the good of all.

[Centre for the Study of Bible & Violence](#)

The Centre for the Study of Bible and Violence is a research centre to study the overlap between the Bible and violence.

[Faith Security Training](#)

A new training scheme available for faith communities in England & Wales. Learn how to reduce the risk of hate crime, anti-social behaviour, and serious threats.

British Future

<https://www.britishfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/England-United-Toolkit.pdf>

Books

- Faithful Presence in a Fractured World A Church toolkit for resisting the Far Right, by Revd Dr Helen Paynter (Canterbury Press) released June 2026, available on pre-order
- The Church, the Far Right and the Claim to Christianity, edited by Helen Paynter and Maria Power (SCM)

Church of England

Further resources will be coming out from the national Church of England

[Home | The Church of England](#)

Helpful Southwark Diocese Resource Pages

[Anti-Racism - The Diocese of Southwark](#)

[Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation - The Diocese of Southwark](#)

[Refugees - The Diocese of Southwark](#)

[Social Action - The Diocese of Southwark](#)

[Estates Ministry - The Diocese of Southwark](#)

For more information: jpadmin@southwark.anglican.org



NAVIGATING DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

G.R.A.C.E.

A CHRISTIAN APPROACH TO DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

Ground yourself in Christ

G

Begin from prayer, humility, and the security of your identity in Christ. This keeps the conversation pastoral rather than combative.

Recognise the person first, before addressing their position

R

Many who express Christian-nationalist ideas may be motivated by fear, loss, or longing for belonging. Start with empathy and curiosity.

Affirm what is good

A

Acknowledge the values underneath their concerns (love of community, desire for stability, appreciation of Christian heritage)
Affirmation builds trust.

Clarify the Gospel (gently)

C

Offer a Christ-centred reframing: the universality of the Kingdom, the call to welcome the stranger, the danger of idolising nation, and the cross as a sign of sacrificial love rather than political identity.

Encourage an alternative approach

E

- Suggest a more authentically Christian approach
- Attending training (e.g., Difference Course, UB Training, interfaith engagement, parish study resources)
 - Checking facts before sharing information
 - Building friendships across cultures
 - Showing Christian hospitality



political movements

TEN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CHURCH IN BRITAIN

'THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE YEAST'

1 Speak humbly

Acknowledge Christian complicity (historic and contemporary).

2 Disavow violence

Speak clearly at senior denominational level.

3 Avoid stereotypes

E.g. of Muslim illiberality or White working class racism.

4 Promote dialogue

But be attentive to hijacking by bad actors.

5 Be curious

The causes of far-right ideology are complex and nuanced.

6 Tackle key drivers

Such as deprivation and marginalisation.

7 Be prophetic

Demonstrate radical love; practice creative nonviolent protest.

8 Fund youth work

To help prevent the radicalisation of young people.

9 Build biblical literacy

Theological education and the training of ministers matters.

10 Learn from history

Draw on the wisdom of dissenting traditions.

Credit: Helen Paynter, Centre for the Study of Bible and Violence

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

St George's Day

Could you host an event around music, dance, and food celebrating our multi-cultural identity in England reflecting how diverse communities celebrate the day?

[Celebrate cross of St George as symbol of unity for everyone in England – bishops – The Diocese of Southwark](#)

Here are some resources you might use for your St George's Day Service and celebration:

[George, Martyr, Patron of England | The Church of England](#)

[Resources for St George's Day](#)

[St George's Day Resources – Churches Conservation Trust](#)

[47 ideas for St. George's Day activities – Happy St. George's Day](#)

Community activity ideas for St Georges Day

[St George's Day | Religious Studies – Patron Saints | BBC Teach](#)

BBC Video for Children

More resources will be added to our dedicated webpage [here](#).

Please share with us your stories and pictures of your St George Day celebrations and services: Communications@southwark.anglican.org



The Diocese of
Southwark

Stories of Identity and Inclusion to Celebrate St George's Day will take place at All Saints' Kingston on **Sunday 19 April (4-7 pm)**, just before St George's Day.



Stories of Identity and Inclusion to celebrate St George's Day

**Sunday 19th April 4-7pm
at All Saints Kingston**



The Diocese of
Southwark

Organised by
Kingston Episcopal Area
Racial Justice Group

Free entry - register via
allsaintskingston.co.uk
Or scan here:



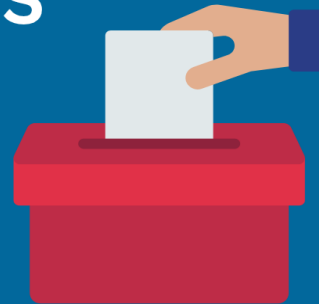
And we really do mean all are welcome: part of the problem with the flags was that they were a confrontational statement and not an invitation to conversation, learning and sharing. I pray that we all feel sufficiently held in our own identities in Christ, that we are then open to learning about others, especially those others who seem most different from us.



ELECTIONS

LOCAL ELECTIONS 2026

Local Elections, will
take place **7 May**
2026.



Local elections across England will take place on Thursday 7 May 2026, with more than 4,850 council seats being contested across 134 councils. These elections shape decisions about housing, social care, transport, environmental action, youth services, and the wellbeing of our neighbours.

Are you ready, registered and ID Ready? Here are some key dates and requirements:

These dates apply across England for the 2026 local elections:

- **Election day:** Thursday 7 May 2026
- **Register to vote by:** Monday 20 April 2026 (midnight)
- **Apply for a postal vote by:** 5pm, Tuesday 21 April 2026
- **Apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (photo ID):** 5pm, Tuesday 28 April 2026

As well as the practical items you may consider praying for the elections, looking at the manifestos, objectives and views of local civic leaders and parties to help inform your decision.

**Scan the QR Code for election
information and resources
information about registering
and voter ID.**





Local Elections - How churches can help!

Local Elections, will take place **7 May 2026**.



**ELECTION
DAY**

Key dates and requirements

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How can Churches help prepare?

- **Share practical information** in newsletters, noticeboards, and services about how to register, what ID is needed, and key deadlines.
- **Host non-partisan spaces** such as community Q&A sessions, hustings or candidate forums, ensuring all parties are invited and treated fairly.
- **Support accessibility** by helping people apply for voter ID, offering lifts to polling stations, or signposting accessible voting options.
- **Encourage reflection and prayer** for wisdom, justice, and compassionate leadership in local communities.





How can your church support the local elections?



Is your Church a polling station?



Being a polling station means your church gets to be a hub for the community on election days. This will also bring a large footfall into your church space.

This is a great way to serve and welcome your community in.

Could you **open the church building- non polling space** for quiet reflection?

Could you offer **hospitality** by having tea, coffee and refreshments for the polling day team?

Are your **notice boards** up to date with what is happening in your church and who's who board?

Is your church yard or building **welcoming** visually to those who may come in?

What other activities may be taking place in the other parts of your church on Polling Day, can they be **signposted** for people who might be interesting in joining.



Is your **website** up to date if local individuals google?

For more information around elections for individuals and churches please check out our website page by scanning the QR Code





The Diocese of
Southwark

To get in touch please contact jpadmin@southwark.anglican.org or
racial.justice@southwark.anglican.org