



The Diocese of
Southwark

The Bishop of Southwark

The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun

Trinity House
4 Chapel Court
Borough High Street
London
SE1 1HW

To: Beneficed and licenced clergy

t 020 7939 9420

e bishop.christopher@southwark.anglican.org
www.southwark.anglican.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Energy Costs

We are all painfully aware of the energy costs for the parishes and communities we serve, as well as for our own families. I am pleased to let you know that I have asked Bishop Rosemarie to chair a *Cost-of-Living Task Group* in the Diocese so that all aspects of the guidance coming from Government and National Church initiatives, such as Warm Spaces and night shelters, can be considered alongside opportunities for funding and Diocesan care for our staff and clergy. The first meeting takes place this week and we will be inviting feedback in the same way as we did for the *Coronavirus Task Group* not so long ago! I hope you will welcome this initiative.

Earlier in the year we were able to distribute fuel grants to stipendiary clergy and we have sufficient funds to enable a further distribution by year-end. Please contact your Archdeacon's PA in your Area Office should you wish to obtain an additional form and be considered for a further grant and do let them know if you have not made an application before as your application will then be prioritised, this includes stipendiary deacons ordained this year.

In our Diocesan housing, insulation is our first priority to assist clergy families. As we move towards the winter, we are all acutely aware of the cost to our environment of our energy uses and looking ahead we will be having a full discussion on our Net Zero Carbon planning at our March Diocesan Synod.

I am very pleased to welcome the Church Commissioners' energy grant for each diocese which has just been announced as a measure to support local churches. In a Diocese as large as Southwark, the amount for each parish will be around £1,400. We appreciate that energy costs for church buildings vary as widely as financial need across the Diocese and the extent to which our church buildings are in use in the week. We have decided to give each parish £1,400 which will be distributed through the PCC Account that we hold for each parish. There are of course some parishes that have active, regular worship in more than one building and we will retain sufficient to give additional grants to 25 parishes where Archdeacons advise more than one grant is appropriate. We realise that there may be some parishes which choose not to accept the grant in order that we may give more to others in particular need. Could you please let your Archdeacon know by **Friday 25 November** if that is the case for your parish. The energy grant will be distributed during December.

During the last very challenging two years I have been moved by the unity of purpose across the Diocese, the generosity of our parishes, the way in which Archdeacons work closely with the Diocesan Secretary and her staff as they seek to serve the parishes through the resources available and above all by our endeavour to be *Christ centred and outward focussed* in all we do. I hope you welcome these initiatives.

With my prayers and good wishes,

The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun
Bishop of Southwark