

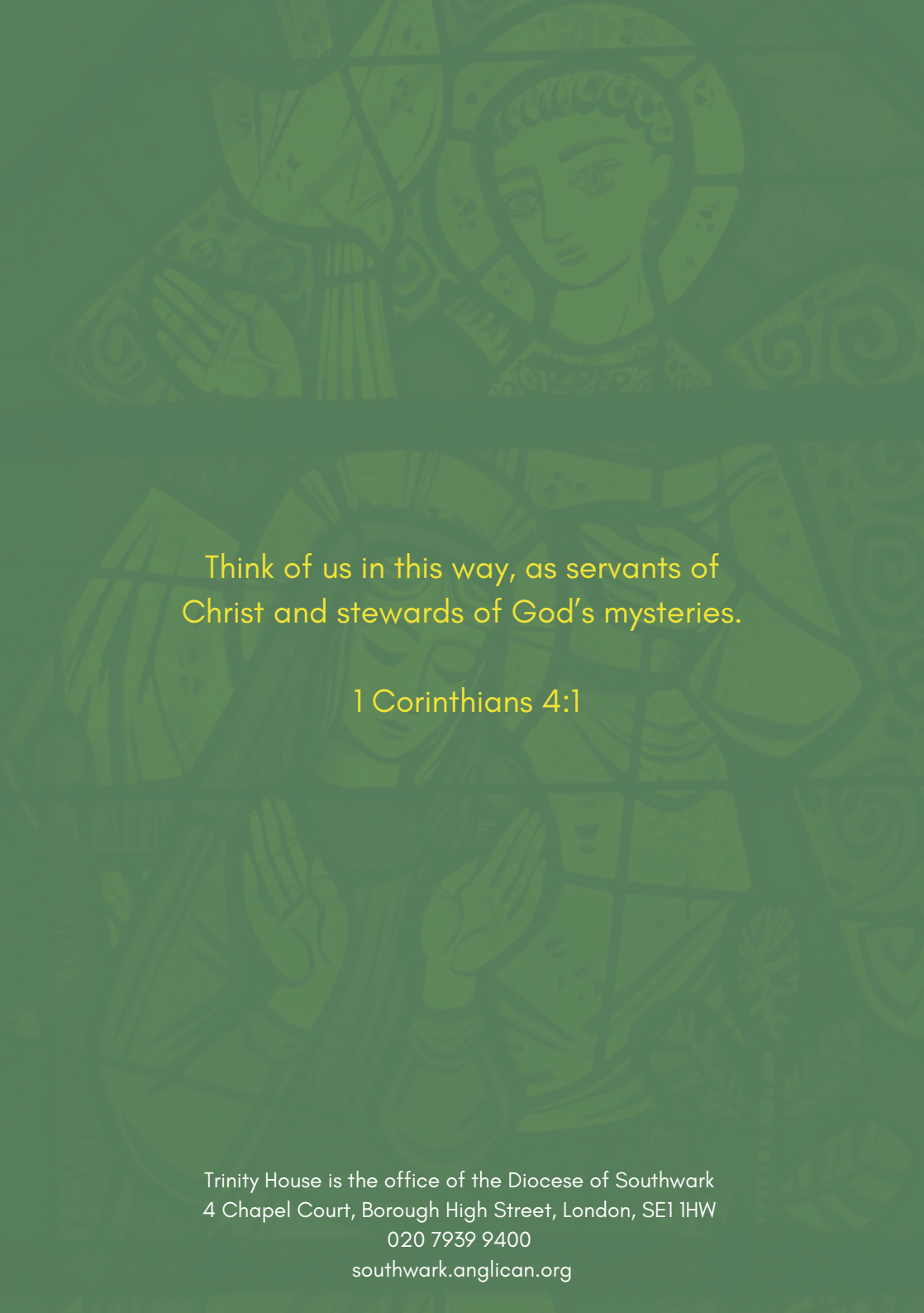


The Diocese of
Southwark

Spring

2025

Discipleship and Ministry
Events and Courses

The background of the entire page is a green-tinted image of a stained glass window. It features two figures: the Virgin Mary at the top, looking slightly to the right with a halo, and the Christ Child at the bottom, looking down with hands clasped in prayer, also with a halo. The glass is divided into various geometric and organic shapes by lead lines.

Think of us in this way, as servants of
Christ and stewards of God's mysteries.

1 Corinthians 4:1

Trinity House is the office of the Diocese of Southwark
4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London, SE1 1HW
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Welcome to our new-look Discipleship and Ministry brochure!

Spring means new life and a hopeful anticipation of the joys of Eastertide, and with it a chance to grow in faith. We are delighted to share our January-April programme of events and courses.

If you're interested in exploring whether God might be calling you – or someone you know – to Lay Ministry in 2025, join us for our Lay Ministry Taster Day on 25 January at Trinity House. We're looking forward to welcoming our guest speaker the Revd Canon Derek Walmsley, author of *God Calls Everyone!*

Our popular series of Ground Floor Guides continues with an introduction to the Psalms. There are also talks and workshops exploring Ignatian spirituality, using your voice in leading worship, social justice, interfaith engagement, and much more. These free events are open to everyone, and are easy to book.

If you're feeling called to deepen your faith or explore ministry, consider joining our 'life-changing' Bishop's Certificate course beginning in September 2025. The Bishop's Certificate is a ten-month course covering the Bible, Christian belief, church history, and living out your faith every day. It is open to anyone who wants to learn more about faith and enjoy fellowship with a diverse community of participants from Southwark and beyond.

Discipleship News is our free monthly email newsletter filled with events and training opportunities from Southwark and beyond to interest, inspire, challenge, and equip you for Christian life and ministry. To subscribe, go to <https://mailchi.mp/southwark/discipleship-news>.

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September onwards

The Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship

The Bishop's Certificate is a 'life-changing' ten-month course exploring the Christian faith, taking place between September 2025 and June 2026. It has six modules covering the Bible, church history, what Christians believe, living as a follower of Jesus Christ, and putting your future into God's hands. Those who complete the course are awarded the Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship.

The course is for anybody who wants to be more informed and confident in their faith, read the Bible with more understanding, and reflect on their journey as a Christian. No prior knowledge is assumed, and no essay-writing is required (unless you want to!)

People exploring whether God might be calling them to ordination as a priest or deacon, or to be a Reader or Licensed Lay Minister often take the course. For Commissioned Pastoral Lay Ministers (SPAs), Pioneers, or Commissioned Children and Youth Leaders, the Bishop's Certificate is their first year of training.

However, anybody who wants to love and serve the Lord faithfully will benefit from this course. Most people do it for the joy of growing in faith alongside a friendly and supportive group of fellow Christians.

You can take the course either online or in person at Trinity House, and there are evening or morning groups. The cost is £220, and bursaries and payment plans are available. No one is ever prevented from taking the course because of the expense.

For more details, precise dates, and an application form, e-mail bishopscertificate@southwark.anglican.org

It's not too early to register your interest for 2025.

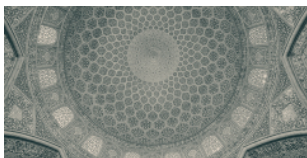


Lay Ministry Taster Day

Sat 25 Jan, 10am-2pm
Trinity House, free

If you are thinking about using your gifts and would like to find out more about how to begin exploring a vocation to Lay Ministry, then this day is for you! You'll have a chance to meet people involved in Lay Ministry and ask questions, whether your interest is in Reader, SPA/Pastoral, Pioneer, Evangelist, or Children and Young People (CYP) ministry.

Our guest speaker, the Revd Canon Derek Walmsley – former Diocesan Director of Ordinands for the Diocese of Leeds and author of the book *God Calls Everyone* – will talk about Christian vocation.



Mission and Engagement with Islam

Tue 28 Jan, 7-8pm
Zoom, free

In this online seminar, Revd Dr Yazid Said – senior lecturer in Islam at Liverpool Hope University – will explore some of the underlying theological and historical issues which shape Christian engagement with Muslims in Britain today, as well as considering some of the practical challenges posed by recent world events.

This seminar will provide participants with renewed confidence in this important aspect of our public square ministry and help us in building relationships across our parishes and communities.



Godly Play Training Day

Sat 8 Feb, 10am-1pm
Trinity House, free

Godly Play is a movement that encourages the spiritual nurture of children and adults in our churches. Children's leaders and preachers alike are welcome to join the Revd Mary Hawes, as she introduces Godly Play – storytelling and theological reflection for all ages – and helps us understand what a powerful and creative technique it can be.

To book your place, go to <https://forms.office.com/e/wBYPwnRH0q>

To book your place on either,
email learning@southwark.anglican.org



Ignatian Spirituality Workshop

Wed 12th Feb, 6:30–8pm

Trinity House, free

An opportunity to find some stillness and deepen your practice of prayer, using imaginative ways of praying in the Ignatian Tradition, led by the Revd Steffan Mathias.

Ignatian prayer is open to anyone, whether they feel a beginner at prayer or want to find new ways to deepen their prayer life, and uses Scripture, imagination, and reflection on the events of the day to discover where God is in the day to day.

To book email learning@southwark.anglican.org



Finding Your Voice: Using your voice in leading worship

Sat 15 Feb, 10am–12:30pm

Trinity House, free

A course for those who speak or sing in the public. The voice is one of our most valuable resources that we are born with. If nurtured and used wisely it will last a lifetime, and be one of your greatest assets.

Come along to learn some techniques for massaging those vocal chords, improve your projection and confidence when speaking or singing when leading worship or preaching to congregations.

To book your place, email learning@southwark.anglican.org



Ground Floor Guide to the Psalms

Sat 18 Feb, 7:30-8:30pm

Zoom, free

Across our Diocese and around the Christian world, we read psalms in worship every day. This session, led by the Revd Bethany Austin, Assistant Curate of St. Bartholomew, Sydenham, will introduce the psalter and consider the nature of these poems, why they were written and why we use them day by day.

In the session, we will take look at particular psalms that will help to shed new light on a familiar book.

To book your place, email
learning@southwark.anglican.org

Lay Ministry Taster Evening

Wed 19 Feb, 7:30-9:30pm, Zoom, free or

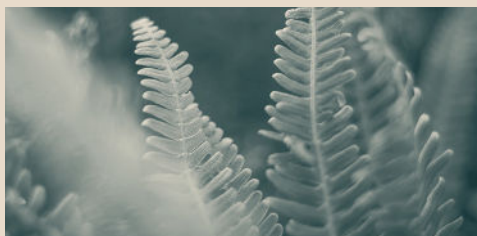
Wed 9 Apr, 7:30-9:30pm, Zoom, free

If you are thinking about how to use the gifts God has given you, then come find out more about Lay Ministry. At this taster session you can ask commitment-free questions about the different ministries, including Reader (teaching) ministry, Pastoral ministry, Pioneer (missional) ministry, ministry with Children and Young People, and Evangelist (outreach) ministry. This is a chance to hear some stories of people who have experienced these roles and been through training, and how you might begin exploring your own vocation.

To book your place email
learning@southwark.anglican.org

If you don't want to wait to ask your questions, you can get in touch with the Venerable Carol Coslett, Assistant Director of Lay Ministry, on
carol.coslett@southwark.anglican.org

"First time I've fully understood why the Oxford Movement began, and that's entirely due to the high level of detail that was included...it was a brilliant session." - Ground Floor Guide to The Oxford Movement



Spidir Open Quiet Day: Healing, wholeness, and holiness

Sat 2 Feb, 10:30am-4:30pm

Sisters of St Andrew (SE13 5DY)

Free (donations accepted)

People sometimes find that the desire for healing of the diseases of body and soul provides an entry point to a new awareness of dependence on God, not just for healing but also for an entirely new outlook on life where wholeness and balance are restored. The unfolding experience of healing and wholeness may lead us to the discovery of holiness where our entire being is drawn into transformation in Christ.

This Quiet Day will provide opportunities for creative focus, reflection and space on the themes of healing, wholeness and holiness. It will be led by Paul Stevens, a spiritual director and retired counsellor and coach. Paul is an associate of an Anglican monastic community and has been a leader of Quiet Days and courses in spirituality in Rochester and London dioceses since 2010.

To book your place, email Revd John Philpott-Howard at philpotthoward@aol.com before 10 February.



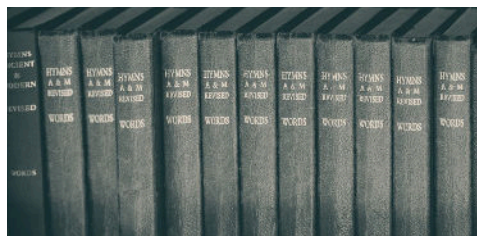
Open Doors - The Persecuted Church

Wed 26 Feb, 12:30-2pm

Trinity House, free

Over 365 million Christians face persecution and discrimination – that's one in seven believers worldwide. Come and find more about how we can pray and respond on behalf of those being persecuted for their faith. Open Doors will share about their work and about the persecutes church.

To book your place, go to <https://jpic-awareness-session-with-open-doors-tickets.eventbrite.co.uk>



Living Generously – Encouraging a Life of Generous Giving in Your Parish

Wed 26 Feb, 12-1pm

or Tue 4 Mar 7:30-8:30pm

Zoom, free

How can you inspire a spirit of generous living in your church which reaches out into your community? Generosity transforms lives, deepens faith, and enriches our relationships with our communities. Our presentation will share case studies and practical ways for you to cultivate generosity, embracing God's call to share his blessings. Let us help make living generously a defining characteristic of your church's mission.

To book your place, go to

<https://bit.ly/LivingGenerously-AM> (26 Feb 12-1pm session) or

<https://bit.ly/LivingGenerously-PM> (4 Mar 7:30-8:30pm session)

'Sing Unto the Lord a New Song': Choosing music for worship, part 2

Sat 8 Mar, 10am-12:30pm

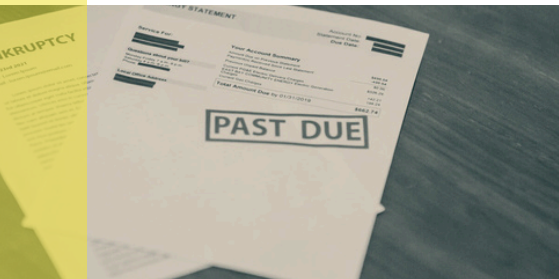
Trinity House, free

This workshop explores more new music from a wide repertoire of different styles, as well as how you would introduce a new hymn to a congregation. You will have another chance to look at new resources and music publications, and plan for different service options.

The session is open to all who would like to explore further how well-chosen hymns and songs deliver good worship – clergy, lay ministers, musicians, directors of music, choir leaders, wardens, worship leaders, anyone who might have an input in the musical life of parish worship – whether you attended part 1 last October or not.

Led by the Venerable Carol Coslett (Assistant Director of Lay Ministry), Melvin Hughes (Organist and Director of Music St Matthew's, Redhill) and Geoff Mussard (Organist and Director of Music at St Francis of Assisi and St Mary of Nazareth Churches, West Wickham).

To book your place, email learning@southwark.anglican.org



Act on Poverty

Tue 11 Mar, 7-9pm

Zoom, free

This two-hour introductory course, led by Natalie Walters, head of JPIC, to help individuals and churches gain a deeper understanding of experiences of poverty. This can be done on an individual basis, or explored before seeking to run the course in your local church.

To book your place, email JPICAdmin@southwark.anglican.org



Energy Footprint Tool Training Session

Wed 12 Mar, 12-1pm

or 6:30-7:30pm

Zoom, free

These sessions, led by Sophie Roberts, Diocesan Environmental Officer, are a chance for churches to learn about the Energy Footprint Tool, its purpose, and have a walk-through explaining how to fill it out. The tool is important for measuring church carbon footprints, helping us on the path to Net Zero Carbon by 2030. It is also an important pre-requisite for any funding for eco projects.

We encourage anyone from churches who may take part in filling out the tool to join a session if they are unsure or haven't used the tool before. There will also be opportunity for questions.

To book your place, email JPICAdmin@southwark.anglican.org



What is Pastoral Lay Ministry?

Thu 13 Mar, 7-9pm
Trinity House, free

Clergy and church communities value the ministerial support and expertise of trained pastoral lay ministers. This session, led by Wendy Stephens and Michael Brockett, offers the opportunity to find out more about Pastoral Lay Ministry and how it can help your parish and community.

Come and find out more about affirmed, commissioned, and licensed pastoral ministries and what they offer; what training opportunities are available; and how what they can offer to your community.

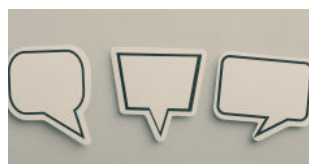


Ground Floor Guide to Confession

Mon 24 Mar, 7:30-8:30pm
Zoom, free

For many Christians the sacrament of confession or reconciliation is a profoundly nurturing part of a life of deepening faith. Confession is an opportunity to encounter the forgiveness offered by God in a unique and powerful way. It is especially appropriate to make your confession during the season of Lent.

This session, led by The Venerable Jonathan Sedgwick, Archdeacon of Southwark, will explore a little of the history of confession in the Church of England and seek to explain and demystify its practice. It will also provide some pointers to how confession relates to our vital work in building a strong culture of safeguarding in the Church.



Managing Difficult Conversations

Mon 31 Mar, 6:30-8:30pm
Trinity House, free

Have you experienced difficult conversations in ministry? How do you manage challenging situations? When is that conversation difficult, how do you communicate what you want or need to say, and what strategies can you use to resolve a tricky situation?

This session will be led by Michael Brockett, Diocesan Lay Ministry Consultant who is a Licensed Pastoral Lay Minister and has extensive experience in leadership and management.

This session is open to anyone involved in ministry, both lay and ordained.

To book your place on any of these courses email learning@southwark.anglican.org



Diversity training helps individuals and churches address the issues of unconscious bias which arise in diverse communities. Everyone in a position of leadership, whether lay or ordained, needs to consider these matters. This includes clergy, Readers, SPAs, Pioneers, leaders of children's and young people's groups, and PCC members.

The facilitators for these events are drawn from a team led by the Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon, and the Revd Canon Wendy Robins, Director of Discipleship, Lay Ministry and Continuing Ministerial Education.

To book your place, email learning@southwark.anglican.org

Diversity Training

Tue 1 Apr, 2-4:30pm or
Thu 1 May, 2-4:30pm
Trinity House, free

Clergy Quiet Day at Southwark Cathedral

Tue 1 Apr, 9am-6pm
Southwark Cathedral, free

Lent has been called a 'snowfall in the soul', a time for quiet reflection and refreshed commitment. Taking this image as his guide, Mark Oakley will offer two reflections during a Quiet Day for clergy.

The talks will explore the inner life of being a deacon or priest in the Church at the moment, pointing us to some wells from which to draw when souls feel parched, so that we might be able to serve the people we are called to live amongst with integrity, honesty, and an inspiring faith.

The day begins with Morning Prayer at 9am and finishes with Evening Prayer.

To book your place, email learning@southwark.anglican.org



'Thy Kingdom Come' Woolwich Area Lay Conference

Sat 5 Apr,
Ark All Saints
Academy (SE5 0UB)
Free (including lunch)

The 6th Woolwich Area Lay Conference offers great opportunity for established and emerging leaders from across the Woolwich Episcopal Area to meet with each other in fellowship for the building up and equipping of the Body of Christ.

This year's keynote speakers will be Kemi Bamgbose, National Lead Officer for Thy Kingdom Come (the season of prayer between Ascension & Pentecost) and Natalie Walters, Head of JPIC at the Diocese of Southwark.

Between the two keynote sessions there will be an opportunity to attend a variety of workshops covering a range of topics including reading the Bible, everyday discipleship, church history, modern slavery, environment and net zero, debt and social cohesion, affirmed lay ministries, estates ministry, and dedicated work with older people and with children and young people.

There will also be market stalls offering helpful information and opportunities to share ideas and find out what works and what's on offer. And an opportunity to talk further over lunch together.

Tickets available from w/c 13 January from the Woolwich Area Office. Contact Richard Coe at richard.coe@southwark.anglican.org





Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation: What does it mean and what part can you play? For anyone involved in Lay Ministry

Sat 12 April, 10am-1pm
Trinity House, free.

Marks of Mission 3,4 and 5 look at Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation, but what does it all mean? It is sometimes overwhelming when we look at the brokenness we face in our world to know how we can respond.

Come to this session, led by Natalie Walters, head of JPIC, and discuss themes such as poverty, the environment, and modern slavery, and hear what that looks like in the Diocese of Southwark. We will then reflect on how we as lay ministers can respond to God's mandate in this area.

To book your place, email JPICadmin@southwark.anglican.org



Save the date:

**Bereavement Care Awareness
(for Lay Ministers)**

Sat 28 Jun, 10am-1:30pm
Trinity House, free.

The Bereavement Care Awareness training has been produced as part of Care for the Family's bereavement training for churches. It is useful for any Pastoral Minister or Reader interested in supporting bereaved people – whether they are already engaged in bereavement support or are considering the possibility of developing it.

The workshop is interactive and is designed to equip and empower people and churches in supporting those who have been bereaved. There will be PowerPoint presentations, teaching, and group work.

Booking information will be included in the Summer 2025 brochure, or sign up to Discipleship News to receive the link as soon as it is available.

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