

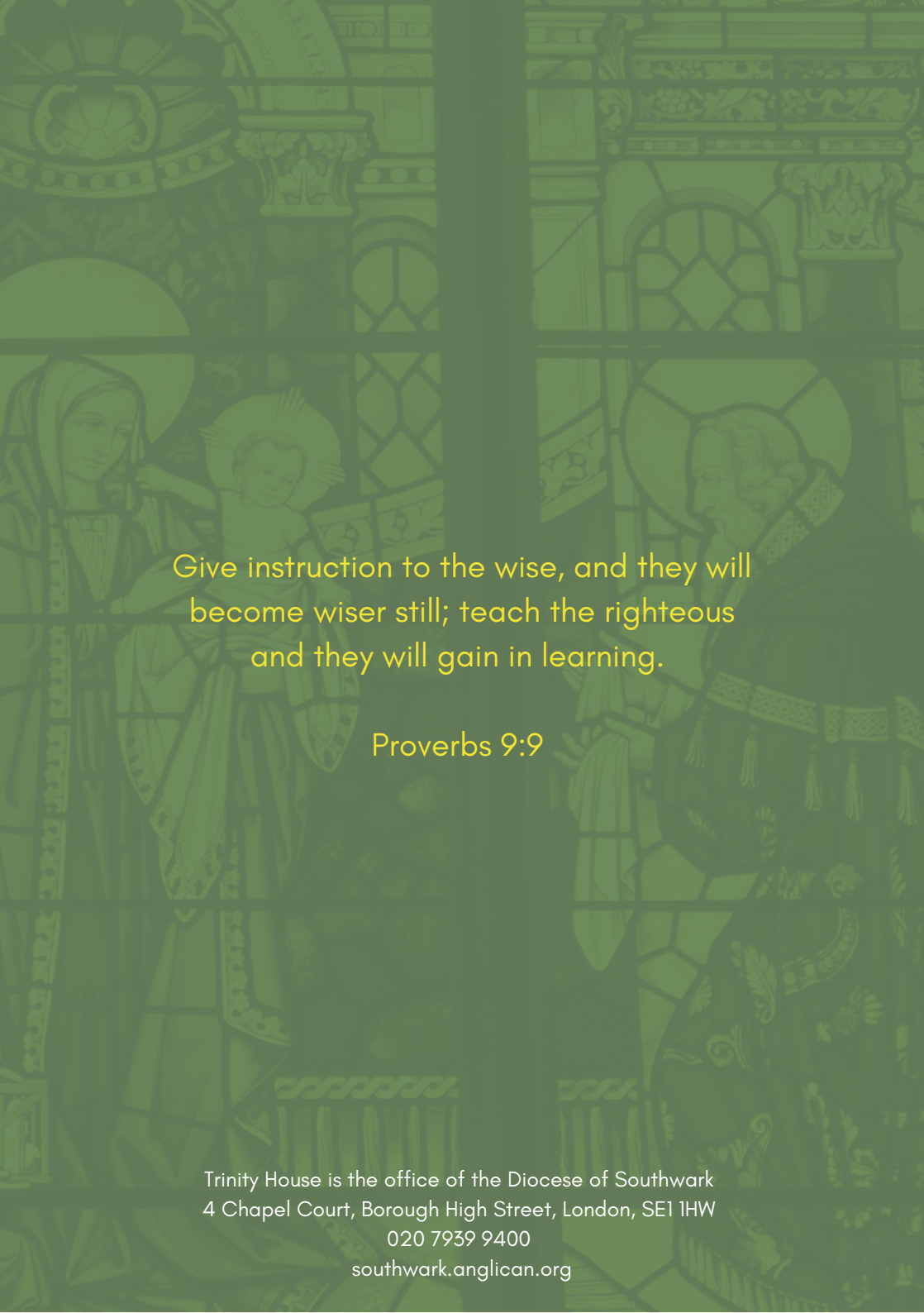


The Diocese of  
Southwark

# Spring

2026

Discipleship and Ministry  
**Events and Courses**

The background is a green-tinted image of a stained glass window. It features several panels. On the left, a panel shows the Virgin Mary holding the Christ Child. On the right, a panel shows a bearded man, likely a saint or prophet, in profile. The window has intricate leaded glass patterns and decorative borders.

Give instruction to the wise, and they will  
become wiser still; teach the righteous  
and they will gain in learning.

Proverbs 9:9

Trinity House is the office of the Diocese of Southwark  
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[southwark.anglican.org](http://southwark.anglican.org)

## Welcome to our Spring 2026 Discipleship and Ministry brochure!

With the growing warmth and new life of spring comes a hopeful anticipation of the joys of Easter, and also a chance to grow in faith. We are delighted to share our January–April programme of events and courses to train, equip, and inspire you in your Christian journey.

If you're interested in exploring whether God might be calling you – or someone you know – to Lay Ministry in 2026, join us for our Lay Ministry Taster Day on 31 January at Trinity House. We're looking forward to welcoming our guest speaker Adjoa Andoh – not only a celebrated actor, writer, and director, but also a Reader in our Diocese!

Our popular series of Ground Flood Guides continues with an introduction to the Tyndale Bible in its 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, and an exploration of how our bodies can express our faith in worship. There are also talks and workshops exploring creation care, managing conversations, grandparenting for faith, and much more. These events are open to everyone (including clergy) 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. Open to all, this ten-month course covers the Bible, Christian belief, church history, and living your faith every day. The next course starts in Sept 2026. Email [bishopscertificate@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:bishopscertificate@southwark.anglican.org) to be put on our priority list for applications (sent out after Easter).

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 2026 and June 2027. 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.

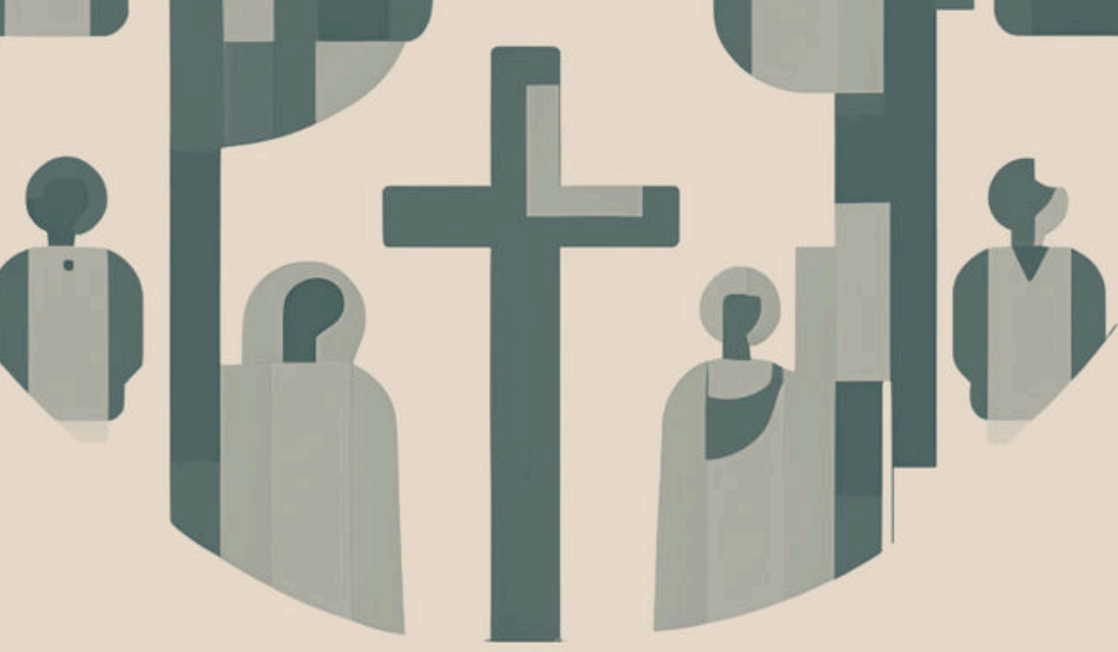
The course is for anybody who wants to be more informed and confident in their faith, read the Bible with more understanding, and reflect on their journey as a Christian. No prior knowledge is assumed, and no essay-writing is required (unless you want to!)

People exploring whether God might be calling them to ordination as a deacon or priest, or to be a Reader or Licensed Lay Minister often take the course. For Commissioned Pastoral Lay Ministers (CPLM), 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](mailto:bishopscertificate@southwark.anglican.org)



### Lay Ministry Taster Day

Sat 31st Jan, 10am–2pm, Trinity House, free

This is a chance to drop in and chat to people who are already serving as lay ministers and find out if God might be calling you to explore further. There will be stalls on Reader, Pastoral, Pioneering, and Children and Youth ministry, as well as information on chaplaincy courses, Church Army, and spiritual direction.



With guest speaker Adjoa Andoh – professional actor, writer, director as well as Licensed Reader at St Paul's, Herne Hill. In a career of almost 40 years Adjoa has had many leading roles with National Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company. She is perhaps currently best known for playing Lady Danbury in the Netflix series *Bridgerton*. Join us for what will be an inspiring talk on vocation both on and off the screen.

To book, email [learning@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:learning@southwark.anglican.org)



## SPIDIR Spiritual Direction Training Course

Sep 2026–Jun 2028 (exact dates TBC)

Online and in-person (Central London)

£500–600

Spiritual Direction provides a valuable opportunity for people to talk about their faith in private with a trained Director. SPIDIR is planning to start a two-year training course for those who would like to become a Spiritual Director (also known as a Soul Friend or Spiritual Accompanier/Companion), in September 2026. The course will be ecumenical but focussed on Christian practise and doctrine. It will likely combine online training sessions using Zoom, plus a number of in-person meetings in central London.

Please register interest and complete a preliminary online questionnaire at <https://spidir.org.uk/> by the end of January 2026. For any queries, please email the Revd John Philpott-Howard at [philpottHoward@aol.com](mailto:philpottHoward@aol.com)

## Vocations Forums

This is a day during which you can reflect on what kind of ministry God is calling you to. Might you have a role in a recognised ministry in the Church – as an ordained minister such as a deacon or priest, or as a Lay Minister such as a Reader, Pastoral Minister, leader of children and young people (CYP), or Pioneer? A vocations forum is an opportunity to reflect, pray, and discuss it with others. Before you attend a day like this you should have a thorough conversation with your vicar or chaplain. They will be able to help you decide whether the time is right to start exploring God's call.

- Sat 24 Jan, 9am–4pm, Trinity House, free, or
- Sat 21 Feb, 9am–4pm, Trinity House, free, or
- Sat 21 Mar, 9am–4pm, Trinity House, free, or
- Sat 16 May, 9am–4pm, Trinity House, free.

There will be further vocations forums throughout the year. Your incumbent or chaplain needs to sponsor you to attend. They can book your place by emailing [vocations@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:vocations@southwark.anglican.org)





## **Personal safety and lone working training**

Dates TBC

The Diocese is working with the Suzy Lamplugh Trust to offer personal safety training to anyone who frequently works alone in their church or undertakes pastoral home visits and would like to learn how to assess, mitigate, and manage risk.

The training would benefit anyone who wants to feel more confident in managing their personal safety and any conflict situations that might arise while lone working in ministry.

To register your interest, email [learning@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:learning@southwark.anglican.org)



## **Foundations for Creation Care**

Tue 20th Jan and Tue 21st April  
6:30-8pm, Zoom, free

Creation care – what’s it all about? In this foundation level training session – led by our Diocesan Environmental Officer, Sophie Roberts – we’ll explore why our faith calls us to care for God’s world, and how churches can take both big and small steps to make a difference.

Join us to learn how creation care can be woven into church life and everyday discipleship. Together, we’ll consider how churches can faithfully respond to the climate and nature crisis, why climate justice matters for Christians today, and how we can take practical, hopeful action.

To book, go to <https://tinyurl.com/foundationscreationcare>

## Every Day Justice: Foundations for Social Action

Wed 21st Jan / Tue 14th Apr / Wed 17th Jun / Tue 22nd Sep

6:30-8:30pm, online, free

In this interactive online workshop, we'll breakdown concepts that can seem challenging, and explore how they are biblically rooted and relevant to current social issues. In doing so, we'll discover how small practices we do every day, like praying or making friends with neighbours, and bold actions like donating our time and money, can all be part of a life shaped by God's compassionate justice. To book, go to <https://bit.ly/sd-every-day-justice>



## Unconscious Bias Training

Thur 22 Jan, 10am-1pm, or

Wed 18 Mar, 12-3pm

Trinity House, free

Unconscious bias training helps individuals and churches address issues of unconscious bias which may arise in diverse communities. This training is open to everyone, but may be especially interesting to those in positions of leadership, including clergy, Readers, CPLMs/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, email [learning@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:learning@southwark.anglican.org)

## Introduction to the Difference Course

Wed 4 Feb, 6-7pm, Zoom, free

Difference is a five-session course for you to run exploring following Jesus in a conflicted world. We live in a messy world full of division – from the level of global conflict right down to our own relationships. Difference equips you to cross divides, navigate disagreement and pursue a just and flourishing world. Come to this session to find out more and consider running in your church. To book, email [jpicadmin@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:jpicadmin@southwark.anglican.org)



## Supporting Carers

Wed 4 Feb, 7:30-8:45pm, Zoom, free

In this session Southwark and Ageing (SAGE) will be looking at the importance of offering support to those who themselves care for elderly family members or friends (as distinct from those who are employed to help with caring tasks). We will be led by Paul Crowther from the Christian Charity 'Embracing Age', which has considerable experience working alongside carers. What support might churches offer to those who themselves offer so much support to older people? The session will be interesting to those aware of needs in this area, those who aim to offer help, and those who themselves have experience of caring. To book, email [learning@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:learning@southwark.anglican.org)

## Truth-telling in Sacred Spaces: A diocesan gathering on church heritage and historical injustice

Sat 7 Feb, 12-8pm

Southwark Cathedral, free

The Diocese of Southwark marks Racial Justice Sunday this year with a bold and reflective programme that encourages all to encounter our history with gospel eyes.

This event is not only for those communities directly impacted by the legacies of slavery, colonialism and racism — it is for everyone in our Diocese who believes the Church must be a place of truth, welcome, and belonging. Through keynote addresses, storytelling, and reflections from parishes across Southwark, we will explore how contested heritage affects our worship, our communities, and our witness.

To book, go to

<https://buytickets.at/diocesefsouthwark/1907951>

"If we keep quiet, the  
stones will cry out!"

Luke 19:40



### **Faith-Filled Grandparenting**

Sat 14 Feb, 10:30am-2pm

St Francis' Church Hall, Horley (RH6 9AY)

Free

Discover the joy of Faith-Filled Grandparenting at this inspiring one-day event organised by the Mothers' Union and Southwark & Ageing (SAGE). As a grandparent, you play a unique and powerful part in nurturing faith across generations. Through fun, practical teaching, we'll explore creative ways to spark meaningful conversations, strengthen spiritual identity, and grow in confidence in sharing God's love within the family. Come to be encouraged, equipped, and inspired to build faith across the generations. The session will include worship, a choice of workshops, crafts and keynote speakers. Please bring a packed lunch.



### **For Clergy: Ministry of Reconciliation Training**

Thu 19 Feb, 10am-12pm

Trinity House, free

The Ministry of Reconciliation, or sacramental confession as some know it, is a great gift to the Church. This opportunity to renew the gift of Christ's forgiveness received in baptism is away in which many Christians seek to grow in holiness, and quiet their consciences. If you intend to hear confessions regularly, you will need to be included on the register of those authorised for this ministry and attend training. This session is open to clergy only. It will be given by the Venerable Jonathan Sedgwick, Archdeacon of Southwark, and members of the Safeguarding Team.



### **Running 'Holidays at Home' for older people**

Tue 3 Mar, 7:30-8:45pm

Zoom, free

This session will offer practical suggestions and ideas to churches offering or thinking about offering 'Holidays at Home' for older people in their communities. We will hear from the Furzedown churches, who have been offering 'Holidays at Home' since 2009. This session will be of interest to both those with experience of this ministry and to those who are looking to begin this ministry in their parish.

To book on any of the above, email [learning@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:learning@southwark.anglican.org)

## Ministry & Disability - Building Teams Across Diversity

Tue 3 Mar, 12:30-13:30pm, Zoom, free

All too often we can miss whom God has put in our churches, because they do not fit our preconceived moulds. This session will help us to step back, truly look, and properly see and appreciate those whom God has provided, to begin to re-imagine local ministry, ministers, and mission. Led by the Revd Jonathan Macy, Diocesan Disability Advisor. To book, email [natalie.walters@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:natalie.walters@southwark.anglican.org)



### Water in the Wilderness: a clergy well-being retreat in Lent

Mon 9-Wed 11 Mar, Wychcroft (RH1 4NE), free

The wilderness is a classic trope in Lenten reflection, but it can often feel like a very real internal place where we are isolated and lost and stuck. This Lent, clergy are invited to take some time on this guided retreat to consider ideas of 'wilderness', within and without; and to explore, through Scripture, art, poetry, music, and silence, how our time in the wilderness can be an opportunity for profound encounter with God and self, sending us back into the world refreshed and resourced as we look to the future, and the new life promised to us.

There will be time for fellowship for those who wish for that, and plenty of space for quiet reflection for those who value the opportunity to be still. Come and sit, or sleep, or walk, or speak as you wish, within the context of simple liturgy and diverse resources which might aid you in your rest and reflection. Led by the Revd Canon Leanne Roberts, Dean of Clergy Well-being.

To make enquiries or book your place, email [learning@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:learning@southwark.anglican.org)

## Ground Floor Guide to Using the Body in Worship

Tue 10 Mar, 7:30-8:30pm, Zoom, free

Have you ever been in church and wonder why we sit, stand, bow, and kneel when we do – if we do? Why do we hold up our hands while praying or make the sign of the Cross (and why do some people do neither)? The actions we take with our body in worship can glorify the Lord just as much as the words we say or sing, but it's not often something we consciously think about.

Join us for this fascinating Ground Floor Guide to the history and meaning of how we use our bodies in worship. Led by the Revd Roxanne Eversley, Dean of Cultural Diversity.

To book, email [learning@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:learning@southwark.anglican.org)

## CYP Foundations Training

Various dates, 9am-4pm, in-person, free

Equip and grow your ministry with the Children and Young People (CYP) Foundation Training! Whether you're a volunteer, a leader, or simply exploring the role, this one-day course is designed for you. Join us to gain practical strategies, valuable resources, and peer support that will boost your confidence and energise your ministry. We'll cover essential topics like setting vision, planning, safeguarding, behaviour management, and much more to help you build a strong, sustainable foundation for your ministry. Please bring a packed lunch.

- Sat 21 Mar - Reigate
- Sat 2 May - Croydon
- Sat 20 Jun - Southwark
- Sat 11 Jul - Wandsworth
- Sat 26 Sep - Lambeth
- Sat 17 Oct - Lewisham and Greenwich

To book, go to <https://tinyurl.com/CYPFoundations2026>



### **Leading Worship: A Practical Toolkit**

Thu 26 Mar 2026, 7-9pm

Trinity House, free

A session for anyone of any tradition who leads worship, preaches, leads intercessions, or plans and delivers all-age worship or other creative liturgical services. Whether you are used to leading or assisting in worship or are new to it, there will be something for everyone. It's an opportunity to find out more, explore new approaches to liturgy, and build confidence.

This session is open to all licensed and commissioned ministers, Readers, Wardens, occasional preachers, children and young people leaders, welcomers, musicians, choir leaders, servers, and anyone interested in finding out about the resources available. It is led by the Venerable Carol Coslett (Assistant Director of Lay Ministry) and Michael Brockett (Licensed Pastoral Lay Minister).

To book, email  
[learning@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:learning@southwark.anglican.org)

### **Managing Difficult Conversations**

Mon 13 Apr, 6:30-8pm

Trinity House, free

Have you experienced difficult conversations in ministry? How do you manage challenging situations? When a conversation becomes 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 and Licensed Pastoral Lay Minister, who has extensive experience in leadership and management.

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

To book, email  
[learning@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:learning@southwark.anglican.org)



## Ground Floor Guide to the Tyndale Bible

Mon 27 Apr, 7:30–8:30pm, Zoom, free

2026 marks the 500th anniversary of the publication of William Tyndale's tremendously influential New Testament, which re-shaped the way that English-speaking people read their Bible.

Tyndale was condemned as a heretic by Cardinal Wolsey. His translations were burnt publicly by the Bishop of London. King Henry VIII spent years trying to have Tyndale arrested and executed – finally succeeding in 1536. But why was Tyndale's work so controversial?

Join us for this fascinating Ground Floor Guide to Tyndale and his works, given by Dr Charlotte Gauthier, church historian and Assistant Director of Discipleship for Southwark Diocese.

To book, email [learning@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:learning@southwark.anglican.org)



## Dementia awareness for ministers and carers

Wed 6 May, 1:30–3pm, online, free

This session is for anyone – clergy, lay ministers, or carers – who might interact with people with dementia. It will give an overview of dementia as a syndrome (types of dementia, signs and symptoms, risk factors, and red herrings), getting a diagnosis (and why it can be helpful to), what a person's journey through services might look like, and post-diagnostic support in the community and where to seek help. We'll also cover communication in dementia and co-occurring symptoms that might make care or relationships difficult in a pastoral ministry setting.

The training will be given by Grant Malyn, Dementia Clinical Nurse Specialist at the South London and Maudsley NHS trust, and supported by SAGE (Southwark and Ageing). To book, email [learning@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:learning@southwark.anglican.org)





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