

Southwark Vision 2024–2035: our priorities

Our vision for 2035 builds on all we have done and seeks to respond to what God is now doing in our midst.

P Parishes

We value all our parishes and are committed to enabling and serving them, so they can minister to the whole people of God in their local context.

M Ministry

We will maintain the highest possible number of stipendiary clergy and grow our lay ministries, ensuring that our parishes are served by well-resourced and well-supported ministers of all kinds.

G Growth

In the next five years, we want to see our diocese surpassing pre-pandemic levels of church attendance – and grow by a further 10% by 2035.

Y Youth & diversity

We are committed to becoming a younger and more diverse diocese – one which better reflects the communities we serve.

D Deepening our discipleship

Christ is at the heart of our faith – and we will seek to go deeper in our journey with him, replicating our learning and sharing our gifts and resources.

H Healing

We will seek God's healing for our communities and our world, prioritising safeguarding, social justice, racial justice and care for creation.

What next?

If you're interested in becoming one of your parish's representatives on Deanery Synod, talk to your current representatives, Deanery Lay Chair, Vicar or Area Dean. Alternatively, you can contact governance@southwark.anglican.org ahead of the next elections in the spring of 2026 at your APCM.



The Diocese of
Southwark



Deanery Synod Lay Representatives Elections 2026

Photo: St Thomas, Telford Park.



Your deanery needs people who can make a difference. Fresh perspectives are needed to make deaneries centres of mission and partners in the Gospel.

Christ
Centred
Outward
Focused

What is a Deanery Synod?

A Deanery Synod is the coming together of your local parishes forming bridges in the local community. They are the intermediary between each PCC and the Diocesan Synod. They focus on mission and ministry and mutual areas of concern and interest, providing a channel for information sharing through presentations, discussions and debate.

Occasionally, Deanery Synod members will also make decisions on behalf of the wider deanery. They also form the electorate for Diocesan and General Synod elections. Elections to General Synod next take place in autumn 2026. Becoming elected to a Deanery Synod is therefore not only significant locally, but also for the wider Church. The Diocesan Synod and General Synod may also refer matters to the Deanery Synod for consideration and feedback.

Deanery Synods comprise of both clergy and Lay members who are elected from their parishes. They are jointly chaired by the Area Dean and an elected Lay Chair.

How do deaneries make a difference?

Many deaneries are involved in collaborative outreach and missional activities across a wide range of areas, including Serious Youth Violence, Environmental work and refugee assistance to name but a few. Parishes are able to work together in partnership through their deaneries to make a real difference in their local areas – communities they will understand better than any one else.

Ruth Reid, Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Deanery

“Serving as a lay representative for Deanery Synod has been a truly rewarding experience. It’s given me the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with other churches, share experiences, do things together and truly see that no church is an island – we are all part of the body of Christ.”



What skills do representatives need?

Vision: for Christian faith and discipleship that is flourishing and growing in the wider church — working together.

Commitment: seeking God’s will through prayer, listening and studying together, a heart for growth, mission and engagement across boundaries.

Enthusiasm: for speaking and challenging confidently and respectfully, enabling change whilst leading and encouraging others.

Openness: to trying new approaches while learning from others, embracing change and the bigger picture.

Effective communication: including a listening ear and being receptive and open-minded with the ability to share your passion, sharing inspiring feedback to your PCC and wider church family.

It is important that the Deanery Synod, as any representative body, reflects the diversity of our church congregations in gender, ethnic origin, age, experience and church tradition. We welcome and encourage a diverse membership especially as we seek to implement the *Southwark Anti-Racism Charter*.

Christ Centred | Outward Focused: discerning Christ’s presence in our context, whilst continuing to turn outward – seeking to support, encourage resource and learn from one another as we serve our parishes and God’s world.

Do you have some of these qualities to serve our Diocese of Southwark?

If so, think about becoming one of your parish’s representative on Deanery Synod. No previous experience is required. We are especially keen to welcome younger members and people from UKME/GM heritage backgrounds.

