



The Diocese of  
**Southwark**

**The Bishop of Southwark**

The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun

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

d 020 7939 9420  
s 020 7939 9400  
e [bishop.christopher@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:bishop.christopher@southwark.anglican.org)

[www.southwark.anglican.org](http://www.southwark.anglican.org)

30 January 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

### Parish Support Fund: Thank you!

I and my fellow bishops would like to thank you for your continued generosity to the Parish Support Fund (PSF) – not just for the last year but over the last decade. Your commitment to supporting the mission and ministry of the Church, contributing to an incredible PSF collection rate of over 99% for 2025, is a true blessing to communities across south London and east Surrey. It is through gifts like yours that we are able provide ministry and resources to serve all our parish communities, regardless of their wealth.

I rejoice that 41% of our parishes were willing to meet or exceed our request for a 5.7% rise in 2026, a rise necessary to meet our commitment to the national increase in clergy stipends which provides increased support for clergy wellbeing. The generosity from all parishes has resulted in an overall increase in the PSF of 2.5% – thank you all for seeking to honour, support and uphold our collective mission and ministries, blessed as we are with richness and diversity in our traditions and practice.

We are deeply grateful for your covenant partnership in this – and for the exceptional work and faithfulness of our PCCs, treasurers, clergy and laity in our shared mission. Over 45,000 people of all ages are part of our worshipping communities. I rejoice that each of you uses “whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10). These words from the Apostle Peter remind us that we are part of something greater than ourselves – a community of faith working together to bring hope, compassion, and light into the world.

As you will be keenly aware, challenges for our world, Church and finances are not behind us – and our diocesan team is here to enable and serve you in the midst of these challenges. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you to strengthen and develop God’s work in and through all our parishes. While crucial for clergy wellbeing, the financial impact of the clergy stipend increases for Southwark Diocese will be challenging for successive years, despite some easing of our diocesan contributions to the National Church. Consequently, we will need to review and manage our diocesan costs carefully and ask that you will continue to honour and grow our PSF contributions.

**Christ  
Centred  
Outward  
Focused**

The Diocese of Southwark

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I would be grateful if you would please share my thanks with your PCCs and congregations. I thank God for the many blessings He has given us and for the wonderful signs of hope and renewal across the breadth of our diverse diocese. I truly hope and pray that this will be an encouragement as we continue to work together to share God's love with the people of south London and east Surrey.

As we look forward, please join me in praying that God's love will be poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit and that we will continue to seek God in and for our communities – and in all things to be Christ Centred and Outward Focused.

With my prayers and esteem for you all, as ever in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'C'.

**The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun**  
Bishop of Southwark