

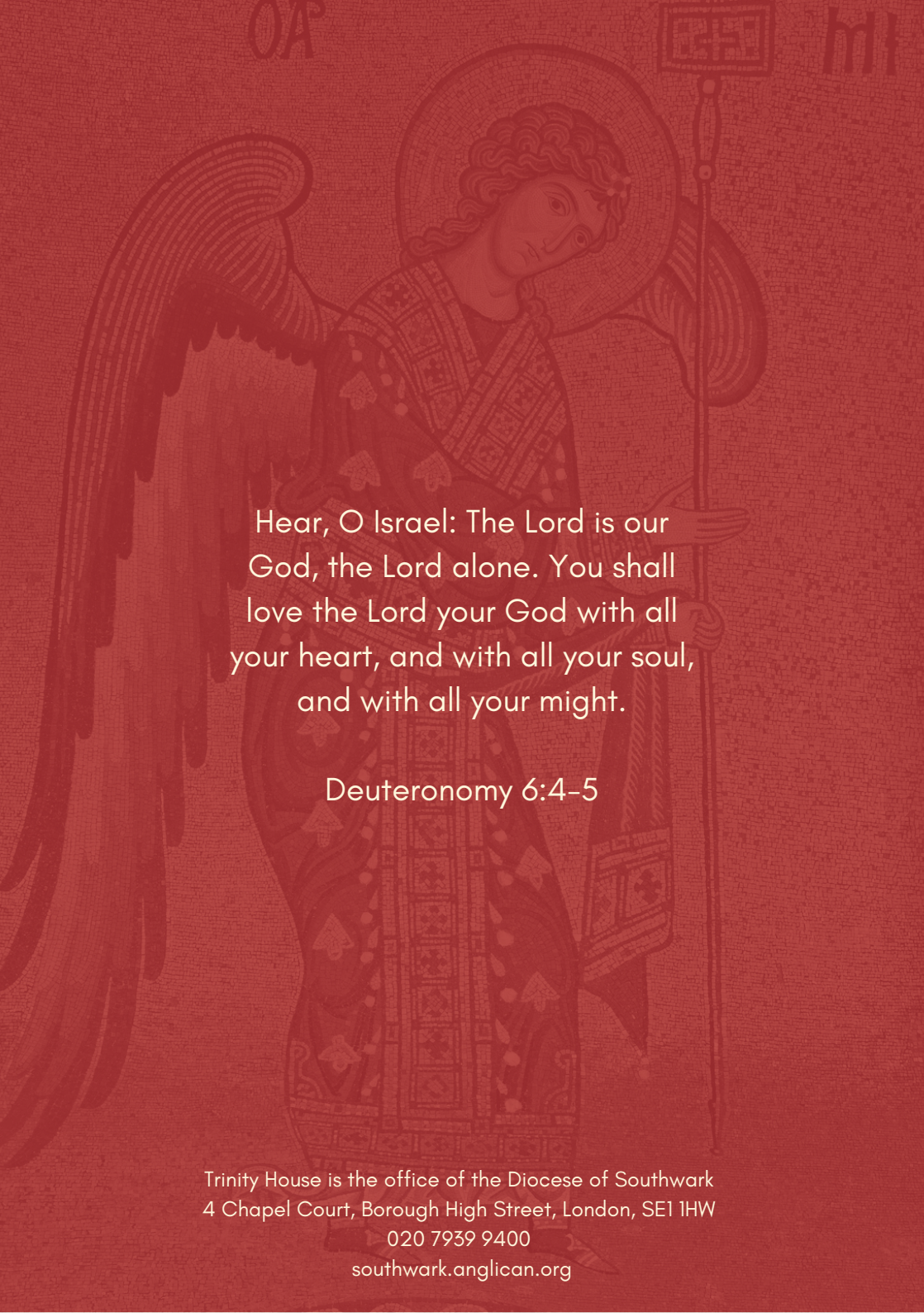


The Diocese of
Southwark

Autumn

2026

Discipleship and Ministry
Events and Courses



Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our
God, the Lord alone. You shall
love the Lord your God with all
your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Trinity House is the office of the Diocese of Southwark
4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London, SE1 1HW
020 7939 9400
southwark.anglican.org

Welcome to our Autumn 2026 Discipleship and Ministry brochure!

A new school year brings with it a chance to grow in faith and wisdom, and with them to grow in the love of God. We are delighted to share our September-December programme of events and courses to help you do just that.

If you're interested in exploring whether God might be calling you – or someone you know – to Lay Ministry, join us for our Lay Ministry Taster Day on 17 October at St Paul's Wimbledon Parkside. You'll meet people from all our different ministries and learn what they're about and how we train and equip people to serve God through them.

Our programme this autumn features talks and workshops exploring the Greek of the New Testament, safeguarding elderly people, mission, creation care, how churches can support their local schools, and much more. These free events are open to everyone, and are easy to book.

Thank you to everyone who spoke with such warmth and enthusiasm about the Bishop's Certificate to their family, friends, and fellow parishioners. This year's course has now begun, but it's not too early to register your interest for 2027/28. Details on the following page.

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>

The Revd Canon Wendy Robins

Director of Discipleship, Lay Ministry and Continuing Ministerial Education
wendy.robins@southwark.anglican.org

Reg Amoah

Racial Justice Training and Resources Officer
reginald.amoah@southwark.anglican.org

The Venerable Carol Coslett

Assistant Director – Lay Ministry
carol.coslett@southwark.anglican.org

Helen Medland and David Woods

Discipleship and Lay Ministry Administrators
helen.medland@southwark.anglican.org
david.woods@southwark.anglican.org

Dr Charlotte Gauthier

Assistant Director – Discipleship
charlotte.gauthier@southwark.anglican.org



**"The whole experience has been so rich...
but in ways I could not have imagined
beforehand."**



The Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship

The Bishop's Certificate is a 'life-changing' ten-month course exploring the Christian faith. It has six modules covering the Bible, church history, what Christians believe, and living as a follower of Jesus Christ. 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 of all ages, backgrounds, and traditions enjoy the Bishop's Certificate every year, including many who don't consider themselves at all 'academic'. Anybody who wants to love and serve the Lord faithfully will benefit. Most people do it for the joy of growing in faith alongside a friendly, diverse, and supportive group of fellow Christians.

The 2026/27 course has already begun, but it's not too soon to register your interest for 2027/28. To be put on our priority list for next year, email bishopscertificate@southwark.anglican.org



Prayer Group for the New Bishop of Southwark

A small online group will be praying monthly about the appointment of the new bishop between September 2026 and his or her arrival in the Diocese. You are welcome to join the group once or many times for 20 minutes of simple prayer, to which you may contribute or listen in silence.

The group meets on Zoom on the 4th Wednesday of every month at 6pm. The joining numbers are always the same:

- Meeting ID: 938 020 2434
- Passcode: Bishop

The dates, which are all Wednesdays, are:

- 23 September
- 28 October
- 25 November
- No meeting in December
- 27 January
- 24 February
- No meeting in March
- 28 April
- 26 May
- 23 June
- 28 July

If you would like to register your interest, so that you are sent a reminder every month, email richard.coe@southwark.anglican.org. Write Online Prayer Group in the subject line, and give your name and email address. But you don't need to do so – you can just join the meeting.

Mission Action Planning (MAP) Foundation Training

Various dates, online, free

We run monthly Mission Action Planning (MAP) Foundation training sessions to equip and enable you to run and facilitate a MAP away day with your church. Our training sessions take place on a Tuesday afternoon or Thursday evening.

- Tue 8 Sep, 2-3pm
- Tue 13 Oct, 2-3pm
- Thu 26 Nov, 7:30-8:30pm

To book, go to <https://tinyurl.com/5f9ydm45>

Leading Your Church into Growth Conference

Fri 11-Sat 12 Sep, 9:30am-4pm

St John Centre, Walworth (SE17 1NQ), free

Join us for two days of practical tips and inspiring talks to help your church thrive and grow like never before! The Bishop warmly commends this gathering as a hopeful and practical space for clergy, lay leaders, and congregations to think, pray, and plan for growth together.

This year, the conference is offered at the greatly reduced cost of £65 for both days, in the hope that as many as possible will be able to attend. Spaces are limited, and we encourage you to secure your place soon. You are also very welcome to share the invitation with others in your parish or network who may benefit.

Please note that refreshments are provided but please bring your own lunch.

For more info and to sign up, go to <https://tinyurl.com/bdesu5te>

Introduction to Growing Hope

Various dates, online, free

The Diocese of Southwark and Growing Hope are excited to work together to make churches across the Diocese more welcoming and accessible for children, young people and families with additional needs. Come and hear more about the training, awards and accessibility audits that are available to help you make your church more accessible for those with disabilities and neurodivergence.

- Wed 16 Sep, 12:30-1:20pm
- Wed 14 Oct, 12-1pm
- Tue 22 Sep, 6:30-7:30pm
- Tue 17 Nov, 6:30-7:30pm

To book, email jpicadmin@southwark.anglican.org

Caring for God's Creation: Faithful Living in a Changing World

Wed 16, 23 & 30 Sep, 7-9pm

Online, free

Join us for this cross-diocesan Season of Creation offering. Over the course of three evening sessions, we'll explore what faithful discipleship looks like in a changing world and what it means to care for God's creation today. Together, we'll explore the current picture of climate change and nature loss, reflect on the Christian call to care for creation, and discover practical ways churches and individuals can respond.

This session will be particularly valuable for Eco Church teams, parish Eco Reps, church leaders, or anyone looking to deepen their understanding of environmental issues from a Christian perspective.

To book your place, visit
<https://tinyurl.com/creationtideoffering>





How Churches Can Support Their Local Schools

Tue 22 Sep, 7-8:30pm
Trinity House, free

Church and school share a common purpose in ministering to their community and serving the common good. Both clergy and lay people can support their local schools, (church and non-church schools,) in many different ways. This course will explore some of these, sharing good practice and ideas. These will include supporting Collective Worship, RE, Global Neighbours, Eco-Church, Prayer Spaces and more!

Come along and be inspired to help develop and support this mutually-beneficial partnership between your church and local school(s). To book, go to <https://tinyurl.com/58ep6fky>. When booking, please use the event password: SDBELay4



Foundations for Social Action

Tue 22 Sep, 6:30-8pm
Online, free

Social action and social justice can seem overwhelming. Where do we start? And what do we focus on?

In fact, social action can begin with really simple acts of relationship. Sharing a cup of tea with your neighbour or praying for your local area can be just as powerful for social action as volunteering at a food pantry.

To book, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yc8mxwsa>



Starting New Things

Tue 22 Sep or Tue 17 Nov
7:30-9:30pm
Online, free

Do you feel called to pioneer new things but don't know where to start? Would you like to give your mission or outreach activity a boost, or would you like to develop your fresh expression further and want to learn more?

This two hour foundation-level training session will help you explore simple, effective and practical ways to pioneer Fresh Expressions and new worshipping communities amongst your friends, family and neighbours.

To book your place, go to <https://tinyurl.com/52kyxj3d>



Foundations for Creation Care

Thu 24 Sep, 6:30–8pm

Online, 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 your place, visit

<https://tinyurl.com/foundationsforcreationcare>



Children and Youth Ministry Foundations

Sat 26 Sep or Sat 17 Oct

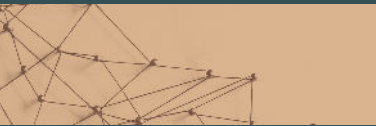
In-person, free

Are you involved in children, youth, or families ministry or thinking about it? 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.

- Sat 26 Sep – St Thomas w/ St Stephen, Telford Park (SW2 4XW)
- Sat 17 Oct – St Alfege, Greenwich (SE10 8NA)

Please note: Lunch is not provided, so do bring a packed meal. Water, tea, and coffee will be available throughout the day.

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



Children and Youth Leaders Network

October, dates/times TBC

Trinity House, free

Children and Young People (CYP) ministry can be one of the most rewarding and challenging areas of church life. Leaders often carry great vision and passion for sharing Jesus with children, young people and families, yet can find themselves working in isolation.

The Children and Youth Leaders Network is being established to bring leaders together, creating a community where they can connect, learn, share and be encouraged. Whether someone is leading a large team, pioneering something new, or faithfully serving a small group each week, there will be a place for them within the network. If you lead ministry with children and young people register interest in joining the network here <https://tinyurl.com/cypnetwork>



Catalyst 30K:

Children and Youth Ministry Training

Various dates

In person & online, free

Do you want to be equipped, empowered and resourced to serve the next generation?
Do you want to be a catalyst for change in our churches and communities?

Free and fully funded by the Church of England, Catalyst is a dynamic training course which aims to equip and connect those who work with children and young people in the local church.

For more information, dates and to book your place, go to
<https://tinyurl.com/mryzjvn7>



Photo: Tom Bradley

Annual Diocesan Service of Thanksgiving for Black History Month 2026

Sat 3 Oct, 11am–2pm

Southwark Cathedral (SE1 9DA), free

Join the Diocese of Southwark for our 19th service of thanksgiving to mark Black History month 2026! This year, we will be 'Honouring our Communities & Sharing our Stories' over the course of our celebration event. We will feature our parishes, chaplaincies, school groups and Christian initiatives who 'live life abundantly' (John 10:10), making a positive difference in the lives of Black-led/ Black-majority communities across our Diocese. Shortlisted nominees will be honoured and their work shared during the service. Come for worship, and to learn, listen and celebrate with us!

To book your place, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3bhrccfb>

Fresh Expressions Leaders

Tue 6 Oct, 7:30–9:30pm

Online, free

An evening for anyone involved in leading a fresh expression or new worshipping community. This is an opportunity to share best practice, learn about the latest resources that can help you in your ministry and learn together in community. To book your place, email pioneering@southwark.anglican.org

Safeguarding Elderly People

Thu 8 Oct, 12–1:30pm

Online, free

The session will provide an opportunity to explore the day-to-day practicalities, good practice, and questions involved in ensuring that the older people we work alongside are kept safe. What issues need to be considered as people we may have known for years become more vulnerable with age? SAGE is organising this session with the Southwark Safeguarding team to address the questions and challenges that arise locally. To book your place, email learning@southwark.anglican.org

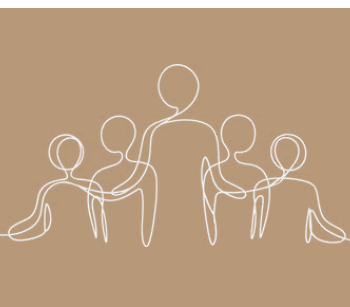


Managing Volunteers

Wed 14 Oct, 10:30-11:30am

Online, free

This session aims to help anyone who manages volunteers in parishes think through common issues such as dealing with conflicts, setting expectations and boundaries, and how to provide effective feedback. To make the session as helpful as possible, attendees are asked to share their concerns or those of their parish about working with volunteers. Please send these to the email below when booking.

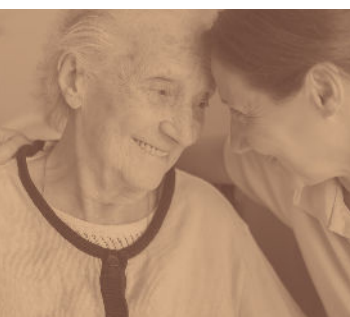


Lay Ministry Taster Day

Sat 17 Oct, 10am-1pm

St Paul's Wimbledon Parkside (SW19 6EW), free

Come and find out more about the different pathways into lay ministry in the Diocese of Southwark. This is a chance to discover what lay ministry entails and learn how you might begin exploring your own vocation.



Pastoral Care and Dementia

Sat 17 Oct, 10am-1pm

Trinity House, free

This session will explore how we as individuals can interact well with those living with dementia, and how our churches can include and support this growing group of people and those who care for them. It is designed for Pastoral Lay Ministers and those involved in pastoral care.

To book your place on any of the above courses,
email learning@southwark.anglican.org

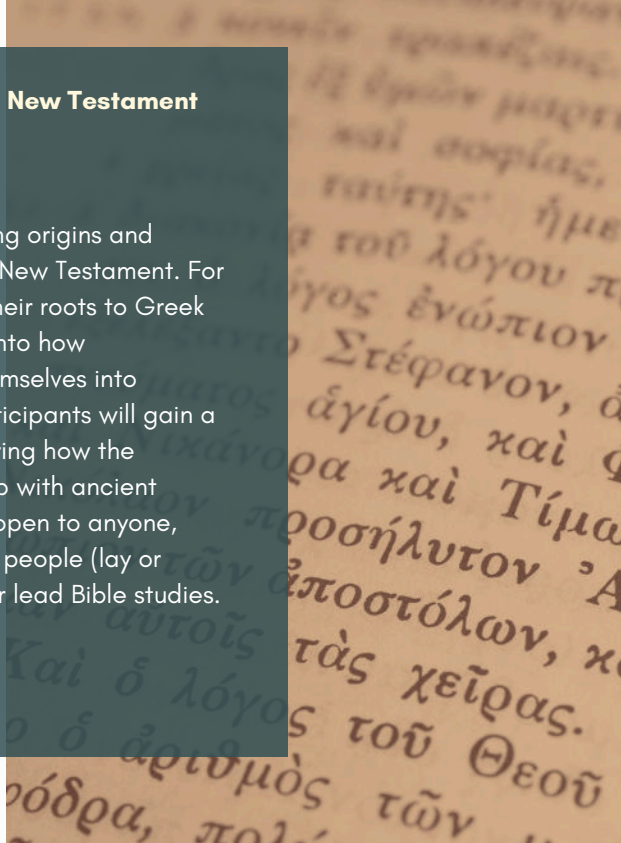
Lost in Translation: The Greek of the New Testament

Sat 24 Oct, 10:30am-12pm

Trinity House, free

This workshop focuses on the fascinating origins and meanings of Greek words found in the New Testament. For instance, many NT Greek terms trace their roots to Greek mythology, offering intriguing insights into how mythological concepts have woven themselves into scripture. Through this exploration, participants will gain a fresh perspective on scripture, discovering how the meaning of key translations can overlap with ancient mythological themes. This workshop is open to anyone, though it will be especially relevant for people (lay or ordained) who lead services, preach, or lead Bible studies.

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



How Well Do You Know Your Parish?

Mon 26 Oct, 12:30-1:30pm

Online, free

In this webinar we will be joined by some of the team from Church Urban Fund, who will be talking us through their popular 'Look Up Tool:' a free resource which brings together statistical data and parish boundaries to give you clear and accessible information on the demographics and needs of your parish.

Together we will explore how to get the most from the information, and how this can support grant applications, MAP and parish profile writing and the development of effective mission strategies.

To book, go to <https://BESAParish.eventbrite.co.uk>





Understanding Youth Violence

Tue 3 Nov, 7-8pm

Online, free

A session focusing on the theme of youth violence and how churches can be a part of the work of prevention. This session is for children & youth workers, volunteers and church leaders. To book, email jpadmin@southwark.anglican.org



Mission Conference - Signs of Hope

Sat 21 Nov, 10am-4pm

St John's, Waterloo (SE1 8TY)

This year our conference theme is Signs of Hope, as we see stories of growth and innovation in very different contexts and traditions across the Diocese. Come and be inspired and think through what changes (many of them small) that Christ might be nudging you to make.

The cost is £15 per person (including lunch). If the price is prohibitive do get in touch as we would not want cost to be a barrier. Group tickets are available and cost £10 per person for orders of 4 or more from the same parish. To book your place, go to <https://tinyurl.com/2eza4d98>



Lay Ministry Taster Session

25 Nov, 7:30-8:30pm

Online, free

Come and find out more about the different pathways into lay ministry in the Diocese of Southwark. This is a chance to discover what lay ministry entails and learn how you might begin exploring your own vocation. To book, email learning@southwark.anglican.org

Index

Discipleship and Ministry

The Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship	Sep 2027	4
Managing Volunteers	14 Oct	12
Lay Ministry Taster Day	17 Oct	12
Lost in Translation: The Greek of the New Testament	24 Oct	13
Lay Ministry Taster Session	25 Nov	14

Justice Peace and the Integrity of Creation

Caring for God's Creation – Faithful Living in a Changing World	16/23/30 Sep	7
Introduction to Growing Hope	Various	7
Foundations for Social Action	22 Sep	8
Foundations for Creation Care	24 Sep	9
Annual Diocesan Service of Thanksgiving for Black History Month 2026	3 Oct	11
Understanding Youth Violence	3 Nov	14

Children and Young People

How Churches Can Support Their Local Schools	22 Sep	8
Children and Youth Ministry Foundations	26 Sep or 17 Oct	9
Children and Youth Leaders Network	Oct (dates TBC)	10
Catalyst 30K: Children and Youth Ministry Training	Various	10

Pastoral Ministry

Safeguarding Elderly People	8 Oct	11
Pastoral Care and Dementia	17 Oct	12

Mission & Evangelism

Mission Action Planning (MAP) Foundation Training	Various	6
Leading Your Church into Growth Conference	11-12 Sep	6
Starting New Things	22 Sep or 17 Nov	8
Fresh Expressions Leaders	6 Oct	11
How Well Do You Know Your Parish?	26 Oct	13
Mission Conference: Signs of Hope	21 Nov	14



Christ Centred | Outward Focused