



**April 2026**

Dear Prospective Colleague,

I am delighted that that you are considering whether God might be calling you to be the next Vicar of St. Andrew's & St. Mark's, Surbiton. Southwark is a wonderful Diocese, and the Kingston Episcopal Area - covering the richly varied part of South London between Waterloo and Kingston upon Thames - is an area of great hope and Kingdom possibilities.

I have been Bishop of Kingston for just over three years. I long for us to be an Episcopal Area where people are growing in confidence in the faith. I welcome the diversity of traditions within the breadth of Anglicanism, and I am committed to the flourishing of all. We take seriously our membership of the wider Anglican Communion, notably through our link with the Diocese of Matabeleland, which is going from strength to strength.

Clergy wellbeing is at the heart of my priorities. As Bishop, I am committed to being present and alongside my clergy, getting to know them as individuals, and communicating a sense that we are part of something bigger: God's exciting mission to the world. Inviting clergy and lay people to my home for hospitality has been a key feature and joy of the last three years, and has enabled me to get to know our people and parishes better.

Working with my immediate team, we have come up with five values which communicate how we wish to be with each other, with our parishes, schools and chaplaincies, and with the wider Diocese. Therefore, as we seek to grow in confidence in God, the Church and with one another, we aspire to:

- Build strong and healthy **relationships**
- Cultivate an attitude of curiosity and **learning**
- Be honest and **transparent** in our dealings
- Encourage **creativity** and openness to new ways of doing things
- Be **effective** in getting things done

As an Episcopal Area we are committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults, and this is at the heart of our work across our parishes. I expect all our post holders to share this commitment, and to contribute to making the Church a safe and welcoming place for all.

The Parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton, is a healthy and thriving parish. The congregations have a clear sense of identity as one church, strong values that underpin all they do, motivated and engaged lay leaders, and a desire to serve their community. The new vicar will build on this strong foundation, and will need to work with the congregations and wider community to renew their vision, and to help them discern their mission priorities for the coming years. As a parish with a wealth of resources, we are hopeful that St Andrew's and St. Mark's will have a significant impact on the lives of all those in their community.

If this sounds like you, we would be delighted to receive an application from you. If you join us, you can be sure of a warm welcome from my team, along with supportive deanery colleagues.

Please be assured of my prayers as you discern whether this might be the right post for you.

Yours,

+ Martin

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Bishop of Kingston