



**The Diocese of
Southwark**

Kingston Episcopal Area Office

The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough
Bishop of Kingston

Kingston Episcopal Area Office
Trinity House
4 Chapel Court
Borough High Street
London SE1 1HW

bishop.martin@southwark.anglican.org
020 8545 2443

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Dear Prospective Colleague,

Thank you for considering if God may be calling you to this role.

Christ Church and St John the Evangelist is an important parish in the Archdeaconry of Lambeth with a long history of working for social justice and inclusion and where the Eucharist is at the heart of worship. The parish is strategically placed between Clapham and Stockwell and ministers to some of the poorer estates in the Episcopal Area. That said, no area stands still and like other parts of the Borough the parish has seen a process of gentrification too.

After 28 years of fruitful ministry of the previous incumbent, now is the time for a new incumbent to renew this work and help the church grow. This will need to be handled sensitively, honouring and listening to the existing congregation, taking stock of what is sustainable and what is not, and together with the PCC agreeing an exciting and life-giving vision that will bless the community and make Christ known to this generation.

A commitment to social justice and inclusion is likely always to be a hallmark of this parish but there is a need also to help people grow in confidence as disciples - as there is in other parts of the Diocese too. Much work has been done in the past seeking to discern the future of St John's building. This has not progressed owing to planning issues but, in time, the building will need to come back onto the agenda.

This is not a post for a first incumbent. As a result, I am looking for someone who has successfully completed at least one incumbency post, with the maturity and patience to help the church navigate the changes that inevitably lie ahead. You won't be in a hurry but will commit to people and place for a number of years, taking time to get to know the community and listening to God's prompting as to what the 'new season' might bring.

You will work imaginatively and courageously with the congregation to help discern how it will connect with those who are currently distant from the Church. The answers to such questions are not straightforward or obvious. Therefore, a willingness to try new things, to take calculated risks, to fail and try again, all the while trusting in God who is faithful, will definitely come in handy.

Meanwhile, I commit to being alongside the new vicar and the people of Christ Church and St John the Evangelist, listening, praying and journeying with you in the service of the gospel.

For the right person, this is an incredibly exciting and worthwhile role. Might it be you?

My prayers for you in your discernment,

+ Martin

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The Diocese of Southwark

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