



The Diocese of
Southwark

Kingston Episcopal Area Office

The Venerable Simon Gates
Archdeacon of Lambeth

Kingston Episcopal Area Office
620 Kingston Road
Raynes Park
London SW20 8DN

s 020 8545 2440
m 07730 363267
f 020 8545 2441

e simon.gates@southwark.anglican.org

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Dear Applicant

www.southwark.anglican.org

Vicar: Telford Park, St Thomas with St Stephen

Thank you for your interest in this post.

The Diocese of Southwark is a good place to be. The communities it serves are diverse and together make up a large population that is changing and growing. This brings challenges and many opportunities as we work together to pray, serve and witness.

The Kingston Episcopal Area, and within it the Archdeaconry of Lambeth, is a supportive, committed and relatively well-resourced part of the diocese. In particular, there is a good group of clergy and churches within the Deanery.

The Diocese, under the leadership of Bishop Christopher, has been developing new strategies to enable congregations and communities to thrive. Please find attached with this pack a document, *Diocese of Southwark Vision 2017 - 2025*. This will give you a flavour of the commitment to mission that is broad based and effective. In these documents you will see that five goals are summarised; these express our commitment to sustainability, growth, diversity, and to increasing vocations.

St Thomas with St Stephen is part of a thriving group ministry with St James, Clapham and All Saints, Clapham Park. Mission is done together with the other local churches with a particular focus on the Clapham Park Estates, which all three parishes cover. At the moment there is an additional post connected to STwSS, which will be earmarked (if the finances post Covid-19 allow) for a pioneer minister to work across all three parishes as part of the diocesan strategy to develop 100 pioneer ministers (lay and ordained in the next 5 years). The new vicar will be expected to manage a strong team of lay and ordained colleagues and work across the area sharing resources and supporting the other two churches in mission; the diocese will not expect a previous incumbency role to be essential for this post. In time, there is the potential for this to be a training post. There has been a great deal of thought in the parish about Mission Action Planning, which is key to the Diocese's vision, the time is now right for this to bear fruit.

In the deanery of Lambeth South, there are 13 diverse parishes serving the southern half of Lambeth Borough. The Area Dean writes: As a Deanery, our common desire is to have a 'light touch' when it comes to deanery initiatives, pursuing those ideas that will serve and support mission and ministry in parishes, or where a collective approach will enable and support mission to a particular area, whether deanery wide or straddling parish boundaries. We aim for Deanery Synod to be a forum for engagement with local and church issues that will enable, encourage and stimulate worship, mission and ministry in our deanery churches, and act as a symbol of our unity within the diversity of tradition within the deanery. Deanery chapter aims to provide space for mutual support, encouragement and prayer. You are most welcome to contact the Area Dean, Rev Jonathan Croucher at Christ Church Gipsy Hill - email: vicar@gipsyhill.org.uk

If you would appreciate an informal conversation about the parish, or to discuss anything in the profile, or more generally anything about Diocese, please get in touch with Romana Nelson, my PA, who will seek to arrange a time for us to speak on the phone.

With my best wishes and prayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Gates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**THE VENERABLE SIMON GATES
ARCHDEACON OF LAMBETH**