



CROYDON CENTRAL DEANERY NEWS

Christ Church, Emmanuel, Croydon Minster,
St Andrew, St George, St Matthew,
St Mary Magdalene with St Martin,
St Michael with St James,
St Mildred, St Peter & St Augustine

March 2026

Consultation on the next Bishop of Southwark:

The Rt Revd Bishop Christopher Chessun will be retiring this summer. We are preparing to begin our search for the next Bishop of Southwark and want to ensure that the views of as many as possible across our communities are heard. There is an anonymous online survey for you to participate:

<https://anglican.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93d78026f4ce1cbc8277537f4&id=a0eb42fafd&e=b573be9356>

It should take no more than 5-7 minutes to complete and closes at noon on **1st April 2026.**

May God bless us and guide us as we seek the next Bishop of Southwark. With my thanks and prayers for all that you do and for our partnership in the Gospel,

The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett

Bishop of Croydon & Chair of the Vacancy-in-See Committee



Rev Ruth and husband Richard with Bishop Rosemarie

Welcoming our new AREA DEAN

The Rt Rev Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon, commissioned Rev Ruth Chapman as Area Dean, and presented her to the Synod. Rev Ruth serves at St Matthew's.



Also welcoming ... Rev AMY SYKES as Associate Vicar at St George's, Waddon. Amy comes to us from serving both as a curate at St Michael's, Tilehurst, and as a volunteer chaplain in a premises for women leaving prison.

Snippets from the Minutes of February's Deanery Synod

Our guest speaker, LEONDRE DOUGLAS, is a senior education leader and diocesan adviser with extensive experience across Church of England schools. He currently serves the Diocese of Southwark as Secondary School Faith Adviser and Chaplaincy Development Officer, leading diocesan strategy for Religious Education, Collective Worship, SMSC, Christian ethos and FE/HE chaplaincy. Leondre told us that the Croydon Central Deanery has a population of 105,934 residents. Its median age profile is 37. Over 100 languages are spoken. 48.4% of residents identify as Christian, 7.3% as Muslim, 5% Hindu, 0.6% Buddhist and 0.3% Sikh. 31% have no religion. The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education's vision for Croydon is to provide emotionally safe, inclusive, trauma-aware chaplaincy that supports the spiritual, personal, and communal wellbeing of learners.

Appointment of MARTIN HANN as a governor of Archbishop Tenison School. As Colin Webster has completed his 4-year term and wishes to step down, the Deanery Synod were asked to appoint Martin Hann from Holy Saviour Church, West Croydon.

Rev Michael Nayagam gave us an update on homelessness on the night shelter in Croydon, which is now up and running at West Croydon Baptist Church. He asked Synod to please spread the word for volunteers. There is a dedicated web page to register and choose the shift you wish:

<https://app.betterimpact.com/Application?OrganizationGuid=83287034-913f-4ef1-92a6e82b099393de&ApplicationFormNumber=1?>

What's happening in our Deanery?

- 21st March, 10-1 pm Grand book and cake sale @ St Peter's Hall, Ledbury Rd, CR0 1EP
- 15th June, 7.30 pm The Sixteen 2026 Choral Pilgrimage @ Croydon Minster, CR0 1RN
- 20th June, 1-7 pm Music & Food Festival @ St Mildred's, CR0 7EB

Next Synod – 2nd June 2026 - 8.00 pm @ Christ Church, Sumner Road, CR0 3LJ

Guest speaker: Sophie Roberts, our Diocesan Environmental Officer