



The Diocese of Southwark

January 2022

To All Clergy, Readers, Deanery Lay Chairs, Licensed Lay Workers, Parish Secretaries and Deanery Secretaries in the Diocese of Southwark

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2022

In the last two years we have been living in unprecedented times. Our world seems to have been turned upside down and two years on we seem only now to be moving out of the restrictions that have been placed upon us as a result of the pandemic. My prayers have been with you all over this period and I hope that you are feeling more hopeful for the way ahead despite the difficulties that we have encountered. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity towards my Lent Call in 2021. I know that the projects we supported have been very much heartened by the amounts we were able to send towards their ongoing work. I hope that 2022 will see similar if not greater generosity for the important projects we are supporting this year.

During the pandemic we have been forced to spend more time at home. For some this has been a time of renewed connections with those with whom they live, for others this has been a desperately hard time as they live alone and have been unable to see their friends and family. For some too the pandemic has exacerbated their sense of not really having a home or not being secure in where they have been living. So, it is appropriate that this year my Lent Call is on the theme of home and homelessness.

I have taken as the theme for this year's Lent Call these words from the prophecy of Isaiah, "My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest" (Isaiah 32:18).

In our world today so many people do not have peaceful dwelling places or secure homes and this is as true for some in our own Diocese as it is for many in our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and Jerusalem. We are featuring five projects working with those who need help around housing across the three Episcopal Areas. In addition, we are asking for your support for work to provide homes and shelter and food for those affected by the economic situation and natural disasters brought about by climate change in our four Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and the displaced in Beirut in our Link Diocese in Jerusalem.

I hope that you will encourage your congregations to observe this Lent in a prayerful way so that it deepens faith and refreshes the soul. My hope, too, is that Lent will also be prayerful and renewing for you all as you carry the leadership of your churches. Take time to think about what it means to you to feel at home and secure and how best we can help others to feel the same.

We are releasing the Lent Call materials in stages this year as we hope that this will help us to keep the material in the forefront of people's minds. Once again it will all be online, in a format that you can download and print for your church should you wish. I hope that you will do this, but I also hope that you will direct people to the website link at southwark.anglican.org/lentcall so that people can explore all the materials for themselves.

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You will find the project sheets and poster attached here already on the website. In February, we will forward to you fundraising ideas, as well as worship and project materials for our schools which you can use in Sunday School. These materials will also be shared on the website and through our social media outlets, and we will be encouraging people to visit the pages to see how best they can use the materials. We also especially wish to encourage schools, parishes and individuals to share their fundraising activities with us via social.

Finally, in March we will send to you and release the Lenten Reflections booklet which will focus on the Sunday readings for Lent and the project we are focusing on each week. During Lent, we will be encouraging people to use the material in their Sunday pew sheets and in services and Lent Groups.

I very much hope that in this way our Lent Call will be a time when people are enabled to think and pray about those who are in need of homes and security and to give thanks to God for what God has given to them.

This year for the first time we will have a giving terminal for the Lent Call in the reception at Trinity House so that we can encourage those who come into the building to give. Parishes and individuals can also donate online, as well as by cheque, which should be sent to John Jackson at Trinity House. More details about how to give can be found at southwark.anglican.org/lentcall.

Please display and use this material and encourage those in your churches to pray and to give as part of their Lenten discipline. I hope and pray that by using the relevant project sheet and reflection each week they will find new understandings of what it means to feel at home and secure and be able to consider their response to all that they have read and prayed about the project.

I very much hope as well that you will find these resources useful as you encourage those in your care to use Lent well and to give generously to the Bishop's Lent Call.

With my thanks and prayers for all that you do and for our partnership in the Gospel,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Southwark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun
Bishop of Southwark