



The Diocese of  
**Southwark**

16 December 2022

To clergy and lay ministers  
in Kingston Episcopal Area

## Kingston Episcopal Area Office

The Revd Canon Dr Martin Gainsborough  
Bishop of Kingston Designate

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Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you following the announcement today that I am to be the next Bishop of Kingston. This is a huge source of joy and excitement for me and I so look forward to getting out amongst you so that I might get to know you.

Advent is advancing quickly and you are, I am sure, very busy as we prepare to receive Our Lord again at Christmas. On Advent Sunday, I took part in the Advent Procession at Bristol Cathedral during which an anthem by William Byrd was sung which began 'Watch therefore, for you do not know' (cf Mark 13). The Advent themes of watching and waiting, and not knowing, have felt very real to me this Advent, particularly as I have prayed for you, for the people and communities of the Kingston Episcopal Area that I do not yet know but long to know better.

As the announcement is made today, I commit to being alongside you in the Kingston Episcopal Area, being accessible and supporting you in the joys and in the trials of ministry and life. I commit to playing my part with you in sharing the wonderful, exciting, life-giving, transformative gospel of Jesus Christ to all in our care.

I grew up in Southwark Diocese and studied in London so I can picture much of it, and that association is one of the things which has made my appointment feel so right. I give thanks that God has led me to this point and I wait with excitement and anticipation for the journey that lies ahead and the way in which our lives will now intersect.

Please pray for me and my wife Mary and children Annie, Francis, and Rosa, our last child still at home, as we prepare for some changes.

This comes with my heartfelt prayers for you, for those whom you love and the communities you serve, particularly those for whom life is very hard at the moment.

I wish you a Happy Christmas and a good break afterwards.

The Revd Canon Dr Martin Gainsborough  
Bishop of Kingston Designate

The Diocese of Southwark

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