



Highlights 2022

Extending the network, equipping the saints.



Agency for Evangelisation
and Catechesis
ARCHDIOCESE of SOUTHWARK

“ This annual review is intended as both a snapshot of events and initiatives and a sign of the good things we believe the Lord has in store for Southwark.





Director's Note

The foundations that we laid in 2021 are, praise God, bearing fruit. The volunteer missionary network, which together with parish plans and prayer is integral to *Some Definite Service*, has grown through the year. We also started to hold in person events once more which demonstrated the appetite for communion and fellowship, as well as a thirst for learning and formation.

If 2021 was the start of many fresh initiatives, then 2022 was a year of consolidation, strengthening and expanding. The *Some Definite Service* volunteer missionary network grew, culminating in a year-end online meeting for over 200 Deanery Mentors, Parish Leads and priests. The first cohort of the refreshed Archbishop's Certificate marched into their second year and were soon joined by a new group of students. The COME HOME campaign, delivered in December 2021, saw an offshoot with the *Calling People Home* campaign at Pentecost 2022.

Regarding *Some Definite Service*, we started the first of our planning pilots; working with parishes to develop their plans for evangelisation, catechesis and formation, through a process inspired by John 1:38-39. Given what has been experienced so far, this promises to be highly beneficial for parish renewal at the grassroots.

The Agency team, supported by the growing number of Deanery Mentors, is a true gift to the diocese and provide clear hope for the challenges we will all face together. We are delighted to share this message of hope and expectancy with you. This annual review cannot be viewed as an exhaustive account of the Agency's work in 2022; rather it is a snapshot of some of the events and initiatives being undertaken and a sign of the good things we believe, that we know, the Lord has in store for the Archdiocese of Southwark.

Dr Mark Nash

Director, Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis

Sharing the Good News (Evangelisation)

Brenden Thompson and JJ Hussem are the diocesan Evangelisation & Outreach Advisors who seek to equip, support, train and inspire our priests and parishioners through the creation of relevant resources, specific training, and active listening. In order for each of the 175 parishes in Southwark to become more missionary, needs must be understood and appropriate responses made.

Our efforts in 2022 focused on promoting the priority role of evangelisation and strengthening the network of Deanery Mentors (DMs) across the diocese. By the end of 2022, after promotion and interviews, we successfully expanded the team to 9 DMs for Evangelisation. This growth has been instrumental in preparing for the promotion of the role of Parish Leads in Evangelisation.

Throughout 2022, our main priority has been what is at the heart of *Some Definite Service*: namely, the accompaniment that is increasingly taking place across the Archdiocese through one-to-one intentional conversations. By the end of the year, our 9 DMs for Evangelisation collectively received 70 hours of one-to-one accompaniment. This aims to provide the necessary support, identify the required attitudes, skills, and knowledge, to empower the DMs to thrive as evangelists in their respective Deaneries.

To complement this personal accompaniment and to foster a sense of community among the evangelisation DMs, we initiated monthly Evangelisation meet-ups starting in October 2022. These meet-ups are conducted online due to the geographical distances, but occasionally in person, allowing DMs from across the diocese to come together, share experiences, pray, and learn from one another. In 2022, we successfully organised three of these gatherings with plans to continue them as a dynamic network-building opportunity alongside the one-to-one accompaniment.

The Rite of Election took place on 5 March at St George's. As an Agency, we were present to help with the administration, registration, photography and hospitality. Over 500 people attended the Rite of Election, including 100 catechumens (those seeking the sacraments of initiation at Easter, i.e. baptism, confirmation and holy communion) and just over 100 candidates (those seeking full communion with the Catholic Church who have already been baptised).



During Advent 2021, the Agency developed the COME HOME initiative, involving WE MISS YOU Invitation Cards, the distribution of the Ultimate Relationship booklets, and preaching webinars. For Pentecost 2022, Archbishop John, through the Agency, issued letters to all non-churchgoing Catholics, inviting their return to practice of the Faith. All resources can be seen at <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/comehome>

On Saturday, 2 July 2022, we organised the inaugural 'Evangelisation Expo' at the Amigo Hall. This event was specifically designed for individuals involved in Evangelisation, particularly those within the SDS network. More details on the Expo can be found on p.6.

In conclusion, the year 2022 was marked by significant progress in the expansion and development of the evangelisation efforts within the Archdiocese of Southwark. We successfully expanded our team of evangelisation DMs, provided extensive training and accompaniment, and organised impactful events like the Evangelisation Expo. These endeavours have brought about a greater sense of unity, shared purpose, and collaboration among those involved in evangelisation across the Archdiocese. We remain committed to continuing this journey together and look forward to further strengthening our evangelisation efforts in the coming year.

aec.rcaos.org.uk/evangelisation



Case Study: Evangelisation EXPO 2022

The EXPO witnessed the participation of 47 individuals from various parishes within the Diocese, resulting in an inspiring and encouraging gathering. The keynote address at the EXPO was delivered by Georgia Clarke of Catholic Voices, who shared important principles for effective communication about faith in the modern world. Additionally, the event included 11 stall holders (including Alpha, Sycamore, The Legion of Mary, Parish Cells of Evangelisation, among others) and provided opportunities for small group planning and discussions. The feedback from participants highlighted their appreciation for the day, particularly the stalls, the chance to connect with like-minded individuals, and the keynote talk by Georgia Clarke. We offer, here, a pair of testimonials from the event:

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It was good to realise there are similar concerns throughout the diocese and an element of similarity. It was encouraging to hear from others. There seemed to be a real sense of hope and wanting to continue the journey together.

“

I began to feel part of a network rather than acting in isolation, and it was helpful to meet like-minded individuals.

2022 Timeline



Deanery Mentor Training

On 5 February, the Deanery Mentors gathered for a day of activation and prayer at The Friars, Aylesford, as part of Some Definite Service, the new model of parish support.

MARCH



Supporting the Synodal Journey

The Agency continued to assist Southwark parishes and people in the process which started in October 2021. The diocesan phase, exploring the themes of Communion, Participation and Mission, concluded in March 2022 with hundreds gathering at the Amigo Hall.



Rite of Election

Just over 100 catechumens and a similar number of candidates attended this Rite at St George's Cathedral.

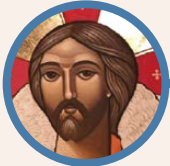
MAY



Spiritual Life for Catechists

International author, Dr Ralph Martin, in a parish/Agency collaboration.

JUNE



Calling People Home

Following on from COME HOME, Archbishop John asked parishioners to extend his invitation to those who had yet to return to Mass.

JULY



Evangelisation EXPO 2022

Our first EXPO, featured 11 stall holders, talks and small group planning with a keynote from Catholic Voices.

SEPTEMBER



Forgiveness Masterclass

Barry and Margaret from the Mizen Foundation shared Jimmy's story and a message of hope and forgiveness.

OCTOBER



The Archbishop's Certificate

Our second cohort commenced studies.



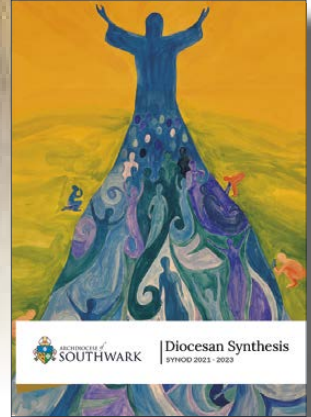
Art submission from St James' Primary School, Petts Wood

The Synod 2021-2024

With the Holy Father's invitation to the whole Church to consider the themes of Communion, Participation and Mission, the Agency was engaged to assist Southwark parishes and people in the process which started in October 2021. Resources were distributed to all parishes to facilitate spiritual conversations and delegates appointed for the vast majority of diocesan parishes.

The local listening phase concluded on 21 January and the delegates and clergy were invited to one of three online meetings, one for each area of the diocese, to offer further insight. A listening team with clergy, lay and religious membership was then convened to read all parish contributions to the Synod process. In March, an online meeting for all delegates, with Archbishop John, received the key points from the hundreds of submissions before a full synthesis was produced.

Ten next steps were highlighted (reproduced on p.9). The full diocesan synthesis can be found at: aec.rcaos.org.uk/synod



Synod Next Steps

1. Develop a shared understanding of Mission and the relationship between welcome and invitation.
2. Develop a diocesan approach to the support of charitable activity in our parishes, schools and other institutions.
3. Identify and utilise the skills and gifts of the faithful, perhaps through a charism discernment process. Increase lay-participation and the development of lay leaders, particularly women.
4. Deliver better and broader formation and education on different aspects of the Faith, notably on the Holy Eucharist, the Church and Mission.
5. Develop and sustain fresh models of Youth and Young Adult Ministry encouraging cooperation across parishes, families and schools.
6. Ensure that our institutions are properly inclusive and mirror the welcome of the Lord as they echo the proclamation of the Gospel. Particular attention should be given to racial inclusion and those on the peripheries.
7. Recalibrate priestly ongoing formation to encourage collaborative ministry.
8. Strengthen the roll-out of *Some Definite Service*, the diocesan approach to support evangelisation, catechesis and formation.
9. Focus on the development of family ministry.
10. Explore models for parish pastoral councils, drawing on the synodal process. Discern structures beyond the parish for lay and clerical cooperation.

Deepening our Love (Formation)

Formation is an answer to the call to growth and a continual process in the maturation of faith, of always bearing much fruit. Every single Christian is charged with a gradual and lifelong process in which we are ever-growing in spiritual and dogmatic formation.

The Synod Process in the parishes of the Archdiocese, echoed in other diocesan syntheses, highlighted the desire and the need for ongoing formation for all baptised and confirmed Christians. The diocesan synthesis noted that, 'initiative can often be stifled by a lack of formation, a lack of confidence or a lack of understanding of the lay vocation in the world' (§75). It also highlighted particular areas for formation and catechesis such as the 'lack of knowledge and understanding of Bible and teachings of Church which can result in a lack of spiritual growth,' asserting that 'adult formation can be joyful and exciting and [must be] appropriate to each stage of life' (§77)

Following the successful completion of the Evangelium Online course (2020-21), which was offered to support parishes in the RCIA process during the pandemic, the decision was made to offer it again in 2021-22. This time, a particular invitation was extended to RCIA catechists who might be considering the use of this resource locally.

On 30 May 2022, the Agency were delighted to work with the parish in Sevenoaks in welcoming Dr Ralph Martin for a day reflecting on the Spiritual Life for Catechists. This continued a developing tradition of targeted support for local initiatives, in addition to the courses and events delivered directly by the Agency.

The Mizen Foundation, in September 2022, at the Agency's invitation, offered a webinar for youth groups, businesses, parishes and schools regarding the foundation's core mission of forgiveness and hope. For fourteen years, the Foundation's mission has been to 'help all young people to realise their potential and build the types of communities we all want to live in', as a legacy of Jimmy Mizen's murder in 2008. It was a joy to welcome Barry and Margaret to share their message.

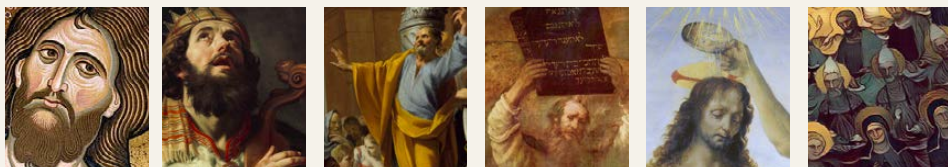
Our collaboration with the diocesan Marriage and Family Life team continued with the Growing in Faith Together sessions though 2022.

Of course, a major part of the Agency's work in adult formation is the delivery of the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) in the Archdiocese of Southwark on behalf of the Board of Studies at the

Bishops' Conference. The CCRS is a knowledge-based, internationally recognised qualification that provides participants with an understanding of the teachings of the Catholic faith.

The CCRS is currently offered on Zoom alone but is being reshaped, with a growing team of tutors, to support the Archbishop's vision of missionary parishes and schools by cultivating an evangelistic spirit. Participants will be equipped to make an informed contribution to their chosen field of ministry within the Church. For more information, please visit: www.aec.rcaos.org.uk/ccrs

aec.rcaos.org.uk/formation



2022... in numbers

Website and Social Media

176284 website visits (**25986** in 2021)

3800 Youtube views (total watch time 580 hours; 47 new subscribers)

7832 Facebook reach (1178 page visits)

6700 Instagram reach (**361** in 2021) with 483 profile visits

447 Twitter followers

Courses and Events

257 participants in the 2022 diocesan Day for Catechists

275 parish delegates appointed to support the Synod Process



Some Definite Service

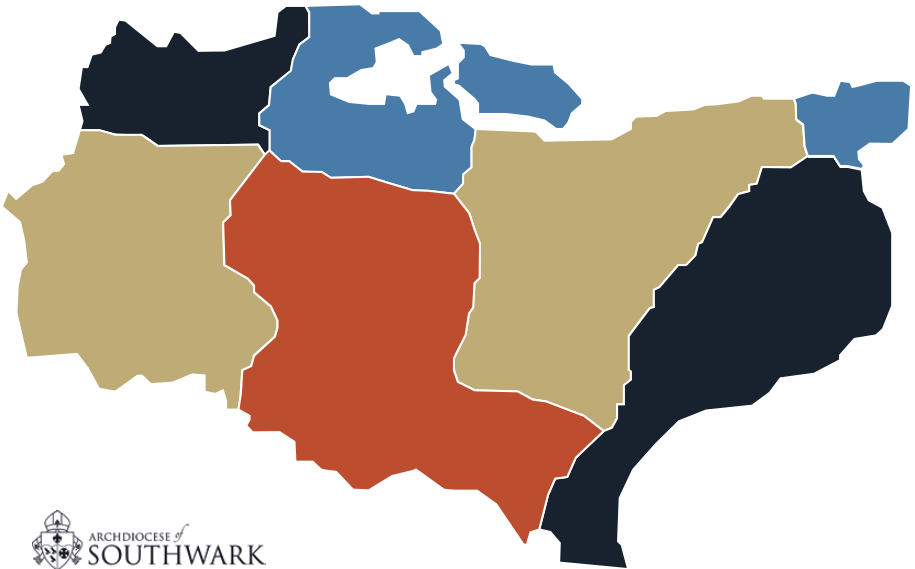
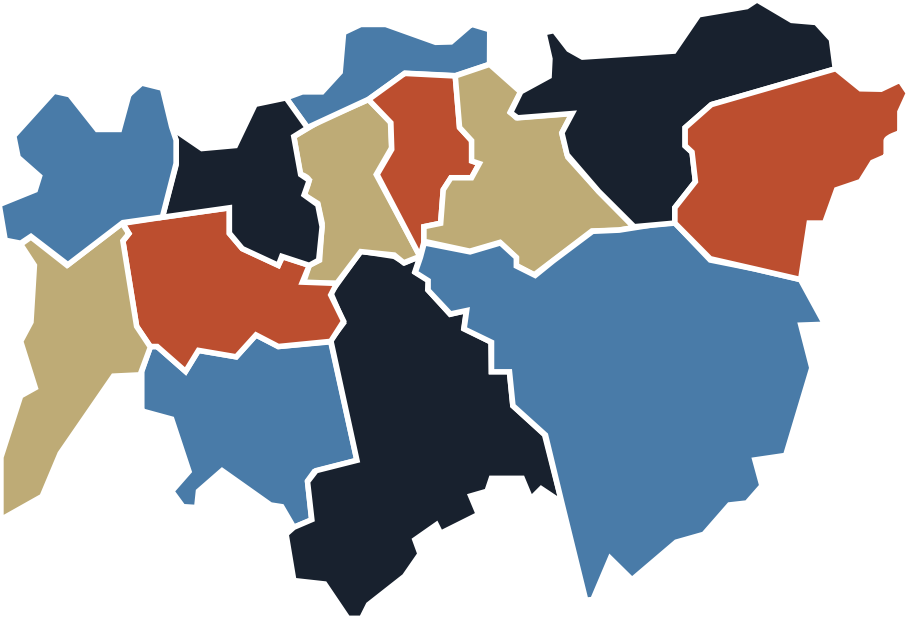
Last year we wrote how perhaps the most revolutionary aspect of *Some Definite Service* is the desire to have 60 volunteers at a deanery level. As we continue along this journey, we can see that, in fact, it is the desire to have Intentional Accompaniment at the heart of the approach that is the most revolutionary element.

What do we mean by this? That each Parish Lead and Deanery Mentor is accompanied by a specific person through one-to-one meetings, who takes the time not only to listen to them but to see how together, they can move forward in the universal but unique call to holiness and mission. This accompaniment does not stop at this one level, it is not merely a personal accompaniment, but the person who is being accompanied also accompanies someone themselves, allowing for a second-generational mindset to exist across the Archdiocese.

The purpose of *Some Definite Service* (SDS) is to enable the flourishing of what is already happening on the grassroots level and to expand our vision to see what else is possible. The methodology of Intentional Accompaniment will allow this to happen, providing both support and open communication throughout the diocese, overcoming the potential for all of us to work in silos.

During 2022 we were able to have two in-person Deanery Mentor training days, in Aylesford and the Amigo Hall respectively. These days give the opportunity to come together and experience the tangible reality of the Volunteer Missionary Network, one which is present not just over the internet. The DMs received training on:

- the '1,2,3,4' model
- 'dealing with difficult situations' /conversations with priests
- Fact Finding and Bridge Building in assisting parishes to participate in the Parish Plans



The DMs have grown with establishing relationships with the priests in their Deaneries and have, more recently, been able to meet and accompany their Parish Leads.

Parish Leads

We had the first Parish Lead Discovery Faith Studies led by Deanery Mentors and which signalled the growing of the next level of connection and the network in motion.

Having a Deanery Mentor has been invaluable whilst working in the role of Parish Lead. It's easy to get a bit lost when problems arise. Having a Mentor as an outside ear to listen, give me advice and pray for me has made me feel encouraged to see projects through. Knowing she's there makes me feel a lot more confident in my role (EM).

On 8 December 2022 we had a *Some Definite Service* Network Gathering with Archbishop John Wilson. In addition to the Agency team we had over 50 priests join us as well as over 150 appointed or prospective Parish Leads.

This was a great evening where we were able to begin to see the scale of *Some Definite Service* and how powerful it is when we come together to pray.

Parish Plans

Each parish, as part of *Some Definite Service*, is encouraged to develop a simple plan for Evangelisation, Catechesis and adult Formation. 2022 saw the beginning of the pilot Parish Plans, going through the process of vision, reality and plan in the area of Catechesis. This process is drawn from John 1:36 and goes through 3 sessions for each of the areas of focus, plus a session on SDS.

1. Some Definite Service
2. Vision (what is the Lord's will for our parish and what are our hopes?),
3. Reality (what is our context and our current situation?) and
4. Plan (what can we concretely undertake in these three areas).



We are already starting to see fruit from the pilot parishes as they showed an increased awareness of what is possible, what the Lord can and will do with our simple yes.

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We were a guinea-pig parish for the programme. I will admit that I was somewhat sceptical about it all. It seemed to be a lot of talk and reflection without any substance. I was wrong. As we progressed through the programme it became apparent that we were not being as effective as could be in what we were doing. We decided to focus on our baptismal programme and have made some changes to it... Early indications are that it was successful and well received (BM).

The local plans, shared with the Agency, allow for visible connections between parishes where similar priorities and situations arise. Each parish will consider the good work already undertaken while seeing the opportunities where growth is possible. An ongoing cycle of review and revision will respond to changing circumstances and needs.

Over the next couple of years, each parish In the Archdiocese, moving when ready, will undergo this simple planning process in the three areas of Evangelisation, Catechesis and Formation. We are expectant to see the fruits!

For more information: www.aec.rcaos.org.uk/sds

Echoing the Mystery (Catechesis)

The Child and Youth Catechesis Advisor, Ingrid La Trobe, continues to respond to individual enquiries for assistance in parishes across the diocese. While many of these meetings take place on Zoom, she also visits parishes in person to provide support to both catechists and priests where needed. In order to provide concrete examples, the Agency retains two sets of resources for priests and catechists to view (sacramental, family and Liturgy of the Word for Children), one is available to view at Bowen House by appointment, the other can be viewed in parishes by prior arrangement.

In addition to her work as one of the diocesan Synod contacts, in 2022, Ingrid provided reader training workshops at the Cathedral, delivered a talk on the Catechism in Balham, spoke to seminarians in Allen Hall on the reality of Sacramental Catechesis in parishes today and delivered a workshop for Westminster Diocese on Family Catechesis.

As an entry-level short course leading to the Archbishop's Certificate, The Catechist Training course was completed, and is now being edited and developed for an online training platform for launch anticipated in September 2023.

Ingrid continues to support the regular meetings of the 'Baptism Collaborative', a interdiocesan group of catechists and diocesan employees, looking to develop baptism preparation and follow-up. She also administers the Diocesan Facebook group for Catechists which is a valuable resource for the sharing of good practice.

In the early part of 2022, in the vein of national collaboration, Ingrid attended the Annual NBRIA conference in York looking at the new Prayer and Liturgy guidelines for schools and attended the Adult Formators Conference at Hinsley Hall, where, together with colleagues, she shared the work of *Some Definite Service* with fellow Adult Formators from diocese across the country. Ingrid was able to attend, together with our Catechesis Deanery Mentor for Merton, Eleanor Bowman, the Third International Congress on Catechesis held in Rome in September 2022.

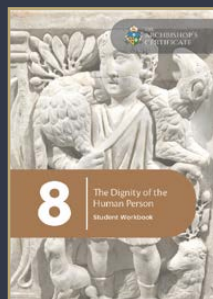
Deanery Mentors participated in Agency-led Discovery courses and, additionally, the Catechist Deanery Mentors meet monthly as a team.

aec.rcaos.org.uk/catechesis



In October 2022 we registered a new cohort of 25 students for the Archbishop's Certificate. This is the first time we have offered the course every year, rather than every two years. Registration for the 2023-25 course, beginning in October 2023 is already open and can be found at aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert.

Students are accompanied by individual tutors for the duration of the course. Zoom teaching sessions are offered every 2 months and study days at the Amigo Hall are a moment to gather as a community of learners for mutual support and prayer amongst some wonderful teaching from both the Agency staff and visiting lecturers. The distinct nature of this two-year journey is reflected in the following comment:



“

I am loving the course because, as you rightly point out, it is helping me to deepen my understanding of the Catechism which in turn is bearing fruit by deepening my faith. The Holy Spirit works in wonderful ways.



Case Study: The Diocesan Day for Catechists

Our annual Catechist Day, held at the Cathedral, returned in 2022 after an enforced break because of the pandemic. Originally due to be held in June, train strikes meant it had to be rescheduled for November. We had over 250 catechists from across the Diocese in attendance.

Fr Marcus Holden gave the keynote address: *Unlocking the Seven Doors of Evangelisation* – the mission of the Catechist to a packed Amigo Hall (with the talk streamed downstairs for those who couldn't fit). The first workshop '*Some Definite Service*' enabled all attending to learn more about the diocesan-wide approach to becoming a more missionary Archdiocese. At lunch we ran a bookshop selling off stock from the CCF bookshop which was very well supported. A further two sessions after lunch gave the catechists a choice of four workshops at each, all of which were near or at capacity.

One of these workshops, led by Mary Harvey, saw the launch of our new 'Additional Needs Network', this network will be overseen by Chris Henley who has been appointed as our Additional Needs Mentor.

The day finished with Mass in the Cathedral and a presentation ceremony for those who had completed the CCRS and the Diocesan Catechetical Certificate during the pandemic. It was a joy to be able to publicly acknowledge the work and commitment to personal formation shown by these students. Feedback included 'loved the day', 'amazing to see so many people there', 'the talks were enlightening and educational', 'it was a great day. Thank you for all your hard work. You inspired me and filled me with energy to take the faith to my fellow parishioners' and 'I loved the opportunity to be back as a community of Catechists. Looking forward to next year's event.'

Support material from the talks are available on our website:
<https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/day-for-catechists-2022>

The next Day for Catechists is scheduled for 30 September 2023. We look forward to seeing you there.



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