



**The Diocese of
Southwark**

Head of Finance

Job Information Pack

Closing date: Friday 7th August 2026

Interview date: week commencing 17th August 2026





The Diocese of Southwark

Diocesan Staff Purpose

To lead, enable, serve, support, and enable the mission of God as it is worked out in the parishes, deaneries, schools and communities of the Diocese of Southwark

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Head of Finance
Hours of work:	35 hours per week, Monday to Friday
Location:	Trinity House, Borough High Street, London SE1
Reporting To:	Director of Finance
Responsible for:	Finance Manager - Pay and Stipends Finance Manager Accounts Payable, Bank & Restricted Funds

Job Purpose:

- To provide financial control for the Diocese through the provision of statutory and management accounting, cash management and effective internal controls.
- To manage and oversee the processes for nominal, purchase and sales ledger, stipends and payroll.
- To manage the accounting system Xledger and its interaction with budget holders.
- To work closely with the Director of Finance to ensure the continued high standard of reporting and transparent accountability.

Key relationships:

- A team approach is essential to the role, both within the Finance Team and everyone in the Diocesan office.
- The Director of Giving and Parish Funding on the collection and reporting of the Parish Support Fund.
- The Finance Manager - Pay and Stipends on payment of stipends and staff, together with clergy allowances and parish fees.
- The Finance Manager - Parishes and Property, on parish reporting and assistance on queries from parishes.
- The Finance Manager Accounts Payable, Bank & Restricted Funds, on payment of suppliers and grant income
- The Vocations department on the reporting ordinands financial information for the payment of grants

Main responsibilities

1. Management Accounts

- To produce monthly management accounts.
- To process month end close-down.
- Ensure that relevant ledger adjustments are made on a timely basis.
- Ensure bank reconciliations and journals by other team members are completed on a timely basis.
- Maintain reconciliations of month end control accounts.

2. Statutory Accounts

- To prepare the annual statutory accounts in excel format.
- Provide reconciliations for all year end control accounts.
- Assist the auditors with requests for supporting information at the interim and final audit.

3. Systems and Processes

Parish Support Fund

- Maintain the parish income ledger, including reconciliation to the nominal control account. Provide colleagues with Parish Support Fund statistics and reports as required.
- Assist the Director of Giving and Parish Funding with financial information to support the continued success of the PSF.

Cash and Banking

- Review and approve bank reconciliations.
- Act as signatory on electronic banking, with countersignature by a mandate signatory.

Sales Invoicing

- Manage the invoicing process, especially in relation to rental properties with the Residential Property Manager.
- Debtor analysis with the Property Team.

Nominal Ledger

- Oversee and process Direct Debit collections, including Parish Support Fund, third party salary, rental and other collections.
- Monitor and clear suspense accounts including Direct Debit defaults.

XLedger

- Be the primary contact point and knowledge base for the accounting system XLedger, as used by the Finance Team and budget holders.
- Develop and improve reporting and functionality.

Grants

- Assist the Vocations Team with the provision of ordinands financial information to the National Church for the National Church to pay ordinand maintenance.

Payroll

- Supervise the production of payroll to time.
- Review and transmit the payroll in conjunction with another authorised signatory.
- Monthly clear down of control accounts.

Health and Safety

Employees must look after their own health, safety and welfare and be mindful of other persons who may be affected by their acts. Employees must co-operate and comply with management instructions regarding Health and Safety issues and report all accidents, incidents and problems as soon as practicable to their supervisor, manager or other senior members of staff available.

Equality and Diversity

All staff are expected to demonstrate the value of 'Respect for All' and follow any guidelines and policies relating to equality and diversity, and equal opportunities.

Environment Policy

One of our values is to have effective stewardship of our resources. We have a commitment to our the Diocesan Environment policy, and for our staff to play an appropriate part in its implementation.

Confidentiality

Maintaining confidentiality, and preserving the integrity of our work in the Diocese is very important. You will not, except as authorised by the Diocese, or as required by law or your duties, use, divulge or disclose to any person, firm or organisation any information about individuals, parishes or the Diocese, or other confidential information relating to the organisation, finances, parishes, dealing and affairs of the Diocese which may come to your knowledge during your employment.

Any Other Duties

A core value of Diocesan staff is collaborative team working. The responsibilities outlined above cannot totally encompass or define all tasks which may be required of the postholder, and you may be asked to perform any other duty as directed from time to time.

Person Specification

This post is subject to an occupational requirement that the postholder be a practising Christian under Part 1 of Schedule 9 of the Equality Act.

Essential	Desirable
Experience and qualifications	
The ability to communicate in a clear and lively manner both in writing and verbally	An understanding of the structure, breadth and dynamics of the Church of England
Charity accounting experience.	Graduate, a degree or equivalent level of education
CCAB or CIMA qualified.	
Experience of staff management and supervision.	
To be numerate, with proven experience in Excel, and the ability to use spreadsheets for data collection and preparing accurate reports using data	
Skills/Aptitudes	
An ability to develop, good relationships and work with representatives of the churches regardless of their church traditions	An understanding of Her Majesties Revenue and Customs (HMRC) regulations regarding Gift Aid and the process of making online tax recovery claims to HMRC
Ability to maintain a high level of confidentiality	Use of Xledger
The aptitude to understand finances, budgeting and budget management	Diocesan accounting experience
Organised, able to work to tight deadlines and manage conflicting priorities	
Character and personal qualities	
Be self-motivated, with the ability to work well both independently and as part of a team	Affinity with the aims and values of the Church of England.

DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

Head of Finance

Full time- 35 hours per week

Outline terms and conditions

Employer

You will be employed by the South London Church Fund and Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance whose registered office is at Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW.

Normal Place of Work

Your normal place of work will be Trinity House, although you will be required to visit area offices in Kingston and Croydon from time to time, and home visits may be required.

Salary

The post has the salary range of £70 - £72,000.

Probation

The appointment is subject to the satisfactory completion of a six-month probationary period.

Holiday Entitlement

You will receive 26 days annual leave per annum, increasing to 31 days after 2 years' service. There is also an entitlement to 2 local and 8 national bank holidays. The leave year runs from 1st January to 31st December.

Sick Pay

Sick Pay is paid at full pay and half pay rates dependent on length of service, details of which are contained in the contract of employment. Where the right to Diocesan Sick Pay has not been established or it has been exhausted, then Statutory Sick Pay provisions will apply.

Season Ticket Loan

An interest free season ticket loan is available upon satisfactory completion of the probation period.

Cycle to Work Scheme

The Diocese is part of the scheme that enable staff to purchase a cycle and equipment for cycling to work, through a salary sacrifice scheme

Pension

A non-contributory pension will normally be arranged with the Church Workers' Pension Fund, currently a 15% employer's contribution.

Employee Assistance Programme

A free and confidential employee assistance programme providing support to staff in a number of areas, including benefits advice, caring responsibilities, and counselling support is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Working Expenses

Reasonable out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

Termination of Employment

During the six-month probationary period one week's notice is required on either side. Thereafter you will be required to give three months' notice should you wish to resign and will receive a minimum of three months' notice.

Equal Opportunities

The Diocese has a strong commitment to equal opportunities and will not discriminate on the grounds of race, nationality, age, sex, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, religion or belief. Its employees are expected to abide by the Equal Opportunities Policy which embodies these principles.

Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures

Further details would be provided in the contract of employment that would be issued on appointment.

2. Background Information to the Diocese of Southwark

The Diocese of Southwark, founded in 1905, forms part of the Province of Canterbury in England and is part of the wider Church of England, in turn part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The Diocese covers primarily the area of Greater London, which is south of the Thames, together with the eastern part of the county of Surrey. It is one of the largest dioceses in terms of population and parishes as well as one of the most diverse.

The Diocese covers sixteen Local Planning Authorities (in part or wholly).

The Diocese seeks to be a Christian presence and to share the Christian faith in each of its parishes through the mission and ministry of its clergy, congregations, schools and chaplaincies and works to promote the common good, with a particular concern for those most in need.

The priorities of the Diocese are to release gifts, renew vocations and deepen people's life of faith. We aim to do so by effective stewardship of our resources, by collaborative team working, by respect for all and transparent accountability.

Specific aims which the Diocese is working towards at present in line with Southwark Vision are:

- to emerge from the Pandemic with renewed confidence and wellbeing.
- to recover our average weekly attendance to pre-Pandemic levels.
- to increase the number of worshipping communities, affirming parishes, communities of faith which are Fresh Expressions of Church.
- to grow our financial resource base to resource mission and ministry.
- to increase lay and clergy vocations.
- to grow leadership and representation that reflects the rich diversity of Southwark Diocese.

We seek to be Christ-centred and outward-focused in all we do.

The Diocese is committed to providing the resourcing necessary to train and house over 300 stipendiary clergy to minister in its parishes, alongside laity and clergy in secular employment.

Following on from a better-than expected financial outcome in 2020, careful cost control during the pandemic, and helped by grant income, the Diocese ended 2021 with a surplus of £4.6m. The Parish Support Fund is the bedrock of Diocesan financial resilience.

The Diocese of Southwark serves...



2.9 million people



in the 16 local authorities
of South London &
East Surrey



through 356 places of
worship — a Church of
England presence in
every community



and 104 church schools
educating more than
37,000 young people

[illegible]

As part of Southwark Vision the Diocese has successfully sought Church Commissioner funding for major grants. This has enabled us to develop innovative mission and ministry initiatives, including pioneer ministry, bi-lingual ministries and to focus our resources on initiatives in urban estates. The Strategic Development Funding has been an important contribution towards our innovations in ministry and mission.

In 2019 the Diocese was awarded a second major grant this time for six specific projects in places identified across the Diocese where there is a clear opportunity for growth and where lessons learned can be replicated to good effect across the Diocese and the wider church. As the Church of England report “Church Growth - From Evidence to Action” makes clear, there is ‘no single recipe for growth’. Yet, there are common factors and as such, we are embarking on diverse approaches in both intervention, church tradition and expected outcomes, whilst ensuring appropriate monitoring and oversight.

The statutory work of the Church and support to the parishes is provided by the staff of the Diocesan office, located in Trinity House, Southwark who work collaboratively with parishes, parish clergy and officers alongside Archdeacons.

Trinity House houses the Diocesan office where most of the executive and professional staff of the Diocese are based. Trinity House is under the overall direction of the Diocesan Secretary who reports to Bishop Christopher, our Diocesan Bishop. Trinity House is just off Borough High Street, within a quarter of a mile of Southwark Cathedral.

In 2016 our governance structure was streamlined to align policy and resource decision-making in a new Diocesan Council of Trustees (DCT). The governance of the Diocese is held by the DCT which incorporates the Diocesan Board of Finance, Bishop's Council, Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee, and Diocesan Parsonages Board, with co-terminus membership. The DCT delegates the day-to-day management and leadership of its activities to the Diocesan Secretary who is accountable directly to it and who meets with both the Senior Management Team (comprising Departmental Heads, of which the Deputy Diocesan Secretary is one) and monthly with Archdeacons. In addition, more granular oversight by the DCT is exercised through its two committees, the Policy and Finance Committee (PFC) as well as the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC). These committees each have distinct responsibilities for scrutiny and oversight; the PFC for resource spend and performance against objectives, and the ARC in its ongoing appraisal of risk, including investment risks.

The staff who work across the whole Diocese have a core purpose and values that set out their role in supporting the Diocese achieve its Strategic objectives. These are known under the banner of 'Lead, Enable, serve' and are summarised in the table that follows below.

SOUTHWARK VISION 2024 – 2035

Christ Centred | Outward Focused

Southwark is a diverse and vibrant Diocese in so many ways, from the energy of the inner city to the beauty of the Surrey Hills. We are one of the largest Dioceses in the Church of England, serving the people of South London and East Surrey. We take joy in the distinctiveness and variety of God's gifts and people. You will find churches that offer welcome, care and dignity in Christ's name to their parishes; chaplains walking along side those in education, hospitals, and prison; and pioneering communities seeking to reach out and serve in new ways.

Our vision is founded on mutual commitment, speaking well of one another and walking together in the pilgrimage of faith. Supporting, encouraging, and resourcing each other in our common task, we seek to be a Diocese that is Christ centred and outward focused.

Our priorities are:

P

Parishes

We value all our parishes and are committed to enabling and serving them, so they can minister to the whole people of God in their local context.

M

Ministry

We will maintain the highest possible number of stipendiary clergy and grow our lay ministries. We will ensure that our parishes are served by well-resourced and well-supported clergy, including self-supporting ministers. We will continue to foster and grow our lay ministries including new pipelines for children and youth workers in ministry.

G

Growth

We will grow our existing churches, including revitalisation initiatives, and establish new worshipping communities. We want to see our Diocese surpassing pre-pandemic levels of attendance in the next five years, to include mixed ecology of worship patterns Sunday to Saturday and grow a further 10% by 2035.

Y

Youth & Diversity

We are committed to becoming a younger, more diverse Diocese. We wish to see our churches evolve to better reflect the communities in which they serve and the gifts of the whole people of God.

D

Deepening our discipleship

Christ is at the heart of our faith and we will only grow by being intentional about going deeper in our journey with him, replicating our learning and sharing our resources.

H

Healing

We will seek God's healing for our communities and our world. Christ's call for healing and reconciliation requires us to grapple with many of the issues that we face including safeguarding, social justice, racial justice and care for creation.



Diocesan Staff Values

The staff who work across the whole Diocese have a core purpose and values that set out their role in supporting the Diocese achieve its Vision and priorities. These are known under the banner of ‘Lead, Enable, serve’ and are summarised in the table that follows below.

Effective Stewardship of resources
Respect for all

Collaborative Team Working
Transparent Accountability

DIOCESAN STAFF PURPOSE

To serve, support, lead, and enable the mission of the God as it is worked out in the parishes, deaneries, schools and communities of the Diocese of Southwark.

DIOCESAN STAFF AIMS

- ✘ To support our parishes and clergy so that they are energised, equipped and empowered through specialist advice, leadership in ministry, training and development, good housing and by building effective relationships.
- ✘ To meet our statutory and regulatory obligations, and to be proactive in leading and disseminating good practise.
- ✘ To evaluate and allocate resources effectively, in line with the vision, aims, values, and policies of the Diocese.
- ✘ To resource, and support mission and evangelism, vocational discernment, training and ongoing development for lay and ordained ministries.
- ✘ To ensure that all our structures, policies, practices and the way in which we communicate are fit for purpose now and in the future, through regular review and continuous improvement.