

NAMING OUR NEW PARISH

Timeline and Process

7 September 2025

Preamble

As you recall, the Rt Rev'd Todd Townshend, our Bishop, has instructed us to choose a new name for our parish by the First Sunday in Advent. This falls on 30 November 2025. This handout outlines how we hope to choose a name together. The Venerable Amanda Longmoore, our territorial archdeacon, met with our wardens and priests in July to map out the naming process. We are now consulting with Archdeacon Amanda, once again, to confirm that the process and timeline are appropriate.

Our timeline considers the parish's need for time to complete the process while accommodating major parish activities, such as the 1 November parish bazaar. We hope to finalize our new name before the deadline of the First Sunday in Advent. The name will be chosen at a Special Vestry Meeting chaired by Archdeacon Amanda. Hopefully, this meeting can take place on Sunday 23 November. We recognize that Archdeacon Amanda has a great number of commitments and, if need be, we will happily adjust our timeline to a date that works better for her.

In formulating this plan, our guiding principles have been to ensure:

- That our parishioners play a key role in the naming of our new parish within the defined parameters
- That the process respect each parishioner's right to a private vote
- That the process be demonstrably fair and transparent
- That the process remain free of peer pressure
- That the Bishop's wishes be honoured

Timeline

Sunday 7 September

- A suggestion box will be set up for name submissions.
- A handout with instructions will be provided to all parishioners.
- Name suggestions will be submitted using a provided form and will include a brief rationale for the name choice (between 1 to 10 lines) and should include the date of submission. Instructions will be listed on the reverse side.
- The instruction sheet will list names that cannot be used, specifically, the names of our various predecessor churches.
- Names of public figures or parishioners, past and present, should be avoided.
- Names should feel sacred rather than secular; avoid place names (e.g. Charlotte St Church).
- Names of Anglican churches within the Deanery should be avoided
- Individuals are asked to make only one submission and to recommend only one name on that submission.

Sunday 5 October

- Following the main service, the suggestion box will be removed and no further submissions will be accepted.
- The suggestion box will remain unopened until such time, that week, that the wardens can meet to consider its contents.
- Wardens will review submissions, remove duplicates and compile a list of potential names with their rationales.

Wednesday 15 October

- By this date, the list of names and a summary of supporting rationales will be sent to the Bishop for his consideration.
- We will respectfully request that the Bishop consider the names and rationales.
- Hopefully, he will be able to return a list of names that he deems appropriate by 7 November 2025. This will allow us to meet the timeline that he has given us, namely, choosing a name by 30 November 2025.

Friday 7 November and onward

- Having received the shortlist from the Bishop, we can begin hard-planning for *Choose A Name Sunday*.
- Volunteers will be recruited from both predecessor churches to assist with voting.

Sunday 16 November

- A handout with the Bishop's approved list of names and their rationales will be shared with parishioners for consideration during the following week.

CHOOSE A NAME SUNDAY 23 November 2025

- The vestry will vote on the Bishop's shortlist using a secret write-in ballot.
- A successive balloting method will be used.
- After each ballot, the name with the least votes will be removed.
- If the initial list is extensive, the two or three names with the fewest votes may be removed after the first ballot to streamline the process.
- Eventually, individuals will choose between the two names that secured the most votes.
- Subject to the Bishop's approval, the name with the greatest number of votes will be chosen as the new name of the our parish.
- The number of votes received by each proposed name will be shared after each ballot has been counted.
- To make this a joyful experience, food and activities will be provided as we wait for ballots to be counted.