

## Governor Profile - Rev'd Canon Dr John Thewlis

After a childhood in the Pennines, a degree in history at the University of Durham and a research doctorate that led me to spend two years in Spain, I started my working life as a history lecturer at University of Hull. Marriage and parish life followed, and brought me to South London, first to suburban Croydon, then to Eltham for 15 very happy years, then here as Rector in 2001.

My interests are the parish, the school and my family. I read a lot, listen to classical music, play the organ and enjoy good discussions. It's true I'm not a schoolteacher, nor yet a parent - but I think it may be important for me not to be either of those things, if only because so many of you are the one, quite a few of you are the other and some of you are both.

I serve on a number of committees : the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC), the Diocesan Board of Finance, the Diocesan Board of Patronage, and for 27 years the Diocesan Liturgical Committee. I am the diocesan churchyards adviser : looking at the size of our churchyard, you can perhaps see why. I also chair some local trusts : the Beynon Trust, Carshalton Charities and Carshalton Educational Charities. In January 2014 I became an honorary canon of Southwark Cathedral.

I hope I bring intellectual detachment as well as emotional commitment to my role. I also hope that I am open to approaches and confidential with information that I find I'm often given. I also don't mind admitting when I've got things wrong, as sometimes I definitely do. But God's mercy and love are infinite, and as Christians we are called to know that, and to pass the good news on.