

On being 100

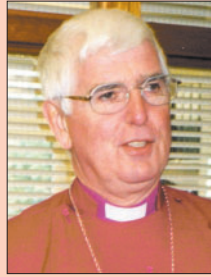
Well, it's finally here.

This year the Diocese of Southwark moves on into its second century and we hope that parishes and individuals will want to join in celebrating this important event in our history.

Many events are already planned and we hope that parishes will want to let us know about their plans for the centenary- especially the events that they are thinking of for the open week.

In this edition of the Bridge we are going to set the scene for the Centenary year by looking at the development of the Diocese and the first ten years of its history.

Bishop Tom, Bishop of Southwark during this Centenary year writes:



Welcome to this first edition of the Bridge in our centenary year. I hope that it will be a really exciting year for us all as we celebrate the many achievements of the Diocese over the last 100 years.

Already our celebrations have begun with the Servers' Festival in our Cathedral on 8 January. It was a truly inspiring event

with hundreds of people joining the new Servers' Guild as it was launched.

I really hope that this event will set the tone for the many events planned throughout the year and for our celebrations. Yet this should not just be a time of celebration – important though that will be – but a year in which we look forward and build on the exciting

history of the Diocese. It will be especially important that we all respond generously to the Centenary Appeal and lay the groundwork for our youth work of the future.

I look forward to meeting many of you during this year.

Bishop Tom

How it all began

The Diocese...

Until the time of the Reformation there were only 18 dioceses in England. Henry VIII added a further six, but one of them, Westminster, ceased to be a diocese after 12 years.

This is how the situation remained until the nineteenth century when the population explosion meant that something had to be done.

Part of Winchester Diocese...

For over a thousand years the land now covered by the Diocese of Southwark belonged to the Diocese of Winchester and the Bishops of Winchester had a palace within this part of their Diocese, near to what is now the Cathedral.

The Diocese of Winchester originally centred on Dorchester-on-Thames (from 634) and then on Winchester (from 693) and it covered the whole of Southern England from the Thames, with the exception of Kent which was divided between the Dioceses of Canterbury and Rochester. Gradually changes were made to the Diocesan boundaries and in 1877 the boundaries of the ancient diocese of Rochester were altered.

...then Rochester

At that time Rochester Diocese, which celebrated its 1400th birthday last year, lost the land covered by what is now the Diocese of St. Albans and acquired from the Diocese of Winchester, among other things, west Kent and east Surrey including all the districts along the Thames

from Plumstead to Surbiton.

Croydon remained with the Diocese of Canterbury – probably because they had a palace there at Addington!

From 1891, Rochester Diocese had a suffragan Bishop of Southwark and in November 1895 the South London Church fund was created within the Rochester Diocese to meet the needs of South London.

Then in 1897, the parish church of St Saviour in Southwark became a pro-cathedral which is like a temporary cathedral – the term is used when a local or parish church is temporarily being used as a cathedral.

Right - Southwark's first Bishop, Edward Talbot
Below - Some years later with two of his successors Hubert Burge (left) and Cyril Garbett (right)



By 1900 it was generally agreed that Southwark, because of the increase in population and the needs of the area, should become a Diocese in its own right.

...finally Southwark

In 1905 – the same year as the Diocese of Birmingham was created – the Diocese of Southwark was formed out of Rochester Diocese including the whole of the county of London south of the River Thames and the Parliamentary divisions of East and Mid-Surrey. The Bishop of Southwark was assisted in his task by suffragan Bishops of Kingston and Woolwich. In fact the Diocese came into being because the necessary provisions were tacked onto the Bill which created the Diocese of Birmingham.

The first Bishop of Southwark was Edward Talbot who was the Bishop of Rochester, but gave up the ancient See to become Bishop of Southwark.

He remained Bishop of Southwark until 1911 when he became Bishop of Winchester and Hubert Burge became the second bishop of Southwark.



The Cathedral...



Looking at our Cathedral it is hard to believe that it has only been a Cathedral Church since 1905. That's because it has existed for much much longer than that.

The main structure of today's Cathedral was built between 1220 and 1420 and it is situated on a very historic site. It is believed that there has been a church on the site for over 1000 years. Prior to that there was a Roman villa and some of the villa's pavement has been incorporated into the Cathedral floor.

St Swithun, Bishop of Winchester 852 - 867, is traditionally believed to have set up a college of priests on the site of the Cathedral although the first conclusive proof of a church comes in the Domesday Book of 1086. This records that a monastery was present during the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042 - 1066) with its own wharf for the profitable unloading of goods brought up the river. After the Norman Conquest control of the church passed to Odo, Bishop Bayeaux and then William de Warenne, Earl of Surrey.

New church

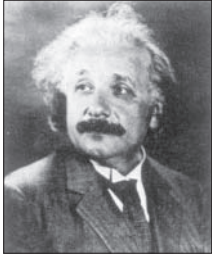
In 1106 a new church, St Mary Overie (over the river), was founded by two knights,

Centenary Photographic Competition

Full details to be announced in the March edition of the Bridge but begin to think now about the photographs that you would like to submit with the themes of 'People, Places, Prayer'.

It happened in our first decade - 1905 -1914

1905



Einstein publishes "Special Theory of Relativity"; Church and State separated in France and motor buses introduced in London

1906

San Francisco Earthquake; Provision of School Meals Act passed and the Bakerloo Line opens including the Elephant and Castle station

1907

Lumiere invents colour photography; Women in Local Government and Blood Groups identified

1908

Olympics held in London; Old age pensions and Model 'T' Ford introduced



1909

Bleriot flies the Channel/ Labour Exchanges & Selfridges founded



1910

Constitutional Crisis/Edward VII dies/Union of South Africa formed

1911

Industrial unrest/Amundsen reaches South Pole/National Insurance Act

Next month - 1914 - 1929



1912

Strikes by dockers, miners and railwaymen; the Shops Act & The Titanic sinks

1913

First newspaper crossword puzzle; Chaplin makes his first film & accidental discovery of Stainless Steel

1914

Outbreak of First World War; Introduction of paper money & Panama Canal opened

"And so over the fields to Southwarke. I spent half an hour in St Mary Overy's church, where are fine monuments of great antiquity." Samuel Pepys - 21 July 1663

William Pont de l'Arche and William Dauncey. This church was served by Regular Canons of St Augustine and part of their duties was to give relief to the sick and needy. In order to do this they built a hospital and dedicated it to St Thomas of Canterbury. St Thomas's Hospital, as it became was relocated to Lambeth and is still caring for the sick today. (Guy's Hospital, still based near the Cathedral, was founded in 1720 to care for patients who could not be accommodated in St Thomas's).

Bishop William Gifford assisted with the building of St Mary Overy and his successor, Henry of Blois, left his mark by building his Episcopal palace, Winchester Palace, two minutes walk from the Cathedral.

Fire...

In 1212 a disastrous fire hit Southwarke, which badly damaged the church, priory and hospital. Only a few traces of the Norman church remain today including a doorway in the north aisle of the nave.

The Bishop of Winchester, Peter des Roches, oversaw the rebuilding of the priory. Work rebuilding the choir and retro-choir began around 1215 and the eastern portion was ready for the consecration of a bishop in 1260. By 1273 the choir, sanctuary, aisles, retro-choir, lower tower and western bays of the nave had been completed. There was then a ten year delay in the rebuilding process, presumably due to a lack of money.

...and again!

In the 1390's disaster struck once more when a second fire caused serious damage to the building. Around 1420, the then Bishop of Winchester,

Henry Beaufort, later to become Cardinal, assisted with the rebuilding of the south transept and the completion of the tower.

The Reformation brought change to the priory church. In 1539 Bartholomew Linsted, the last prior, surrendered the buildings to Henry VIII. He and the remaining 12 canons received a pension in return for doing this. An Act of Parliament made the church a parish church, of St Saviour, Southwarke.

In 1614, tired of paying rent for the church to the Crown, the parishioners banded together and bought it from James I. They renovated it and also had the right to appoint their own clergy. St Saviour's was now the parish church of

one of London's most colourful areas.

Although the Church was later threatened by the reconstruction of the Old London Bridge and at one point subject to a vote which suggested that the building should be demolished completely the pro-restoration lobby won the day and the church of St Saviour survived. Indeed it survived so well that when it was decided that a new diocese centred at Southwarke would better cope with South Londons social needs the church began the moves that would make it a Cathedral church. In 1890 the Prince of Wales laid the foundation stone of the new Nave. In 1897 St Saviours became the pro - Cathedral and the rest, is as they say, history.



An extract from The Bishopsrics of Southwarke and Birmingham Act 1904

Proposals for New Bishopsrics The BISHOPRIC OF SOUTHWARK

1. The bishop to be bishop of Southwarke.
2. The Diocese to consist of the rural deaneries of Greenwich, Lewisham, Woolwich, Battersea, Camberwell, Clapham, Dulwich, (except the parishes within the urban district of Penge), Kennington, Lambeth, Newington, Southwarke, Barnes, Beddington, Caterham, Godstone, Kingston, Reigate, Richmond, Streatham and Wandsworth and of such other parishes as may be transferred to the diocese in the pursuance of this Act.
3. The church of St Saviour on Southwarke, subject to the rights of the patron and incumbent of that church to be the cathedral church.
4. Subject to the rights enjoyed by any person at the passing of this Act, there shall be transferred to the endowment fund of the bishopric of Southwarke such portion of the endowment or income of the bishopric of Rochester as will reduce that endowment or income from the annual sum of four thousand five hundred pounds to the annual sum of four thousand pounds, irrespective of tenths or first fruits.
5. The bishop to be subject to the metropolitan jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

We still need more stewards for the Lambeth Palace Gardens event on 2 July

This is likely to involve a short time on duty that will be rewarded with two tickets for the event!



Centenary Events

Area youth events for Year 7s and up with the theme "Jesus the living txt"

27 February - Kingston

(6-8pm at Christchurch, New Malden)

5 March - Croydon

(6.30pm for 7pm, Croydon Parish Church)

12 March - Woolwich

(6.30pm for 7pm, St John's Deptford)

8 - 15 May

Faith in the Countryside pilgrimage from Gatwick Airport to Southwarke with special Pentecost service at 6:30pm on Sunday 15 at Southwarke Cathedral

Saturday 21 May

Centenary Music Competition at Southwarke Cathedral

Saturday 28 May

A Celebration of Women's ministry in Southwarke Diocese at Southwarke Cathedral

Saturday 4 June

Readers' celebratory service at Southwarke Cathedral

Additional Cathedral events

Celebrity organ recitals - 11/25 May, 8/22 June, 6/20 July
Choral evensong on BBC Radio 4 on 6 July

Saturday 2 July

Diocesan Centenary Celebration in Lambeth Palace Gardens

Sunday 3 July

Southwarke Cathedral Celebratory Service and Fun Day.
Peal of bells - teams of ringers across the Diocese to ring short peals throughout the day.

17 - 24 September

Parishes' Open Week

12 November

Youth Advent Eucharist at Southwarke Cathedral

Date to be decided

Trinity House Open Day