

## Bishop Hugh Montefiore dies

THE RT REV. Hugh William Montefiore died on 13 May, the day after his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

He was taken ill towards the end of Thursday 12 May and died in St George's Hospital, Tooting, a few hours later.

Bishop Hugh had a varied ministry in Newcastle, Ely and Coventry Dioceses before being consecrated Bishop of Kingston in 1970. He went on to become Bishop of Birmingham in 1978 where he served for nine years.

He was a member of the Urban Bishops Group and

chaired the Church of England Board for Social Responsibility (1983/1987). He was for many years an active trustee of Friends of the Earth.

In retirement he returned to Southwark Diocese where he was active as an Assistant Bishop, on various Boards and Councils, and in his local parish, right up until his death. Indeed, he was at a meeting of the Bridge Editorial Board - and in fine form - only three days earlier.

Bishop Tom said, "Hugh was a much loved and revered

presence here in Southwark Diocese. Many look back and remember, with fondness, the time that he was Bishop of Kingston.

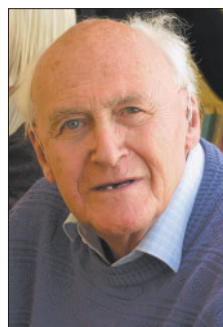
"I first knew Bishop Hugh when he was a member of the Urban Bishops' Group which in the '80s gave birth to the 'Faith in the City' report, which transformed the way in which the Church of England approached Inner City Missions.

"Amongst his many other interests, in the darkest days of the Apartheid Regime in South Africa, he involved himself by chairing the Luthuli Trust, set up to fund the education of young black South Africans in exile. His fingerprints are all over much of the good work coming out of the Church of

England since that time. We are all greatly in his debt.

"He was a man of great intellect and care and concern for those around him and the environment in which we live. I have valued his friendship and assistance in these last years and he will be greatly missed by all."

Bishop Colin Buchanan, who was Suffragan Bishop of Aston when Bishop Hugh was in Birmingham, said "In the death of Hugh Montefiore, ministering with seemingly undiminished powers until the day of his death, the whole Christian world has lost a genius, one of the greatest thinkers, prophets, and leaders of the church in the 20<sup>th</sup> century - and that world seems emptier today through his



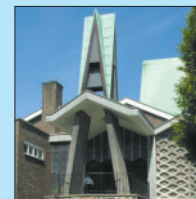
departure from us. Those who knew him loved him for who he was, and not simply for his abilities. We thank God for every memory of him."

Bishop Roy Williamson, said, "He was, in every sense of the word, a giant of a man. But I knew him also as a gentle giant, who effacingly offered godly wisdom, practical help and a sensitive pastoral understanding. Anne saw him as courtesy personified. During my time in Southwark he was a rock and, following my bereavement, a wise counsellor. I shall miss him."

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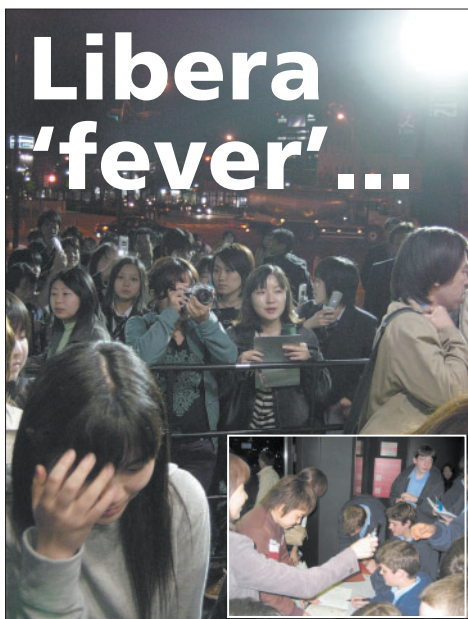
Bishop Hugh's funeral - back page

## The Centenary celebrations begin

Three events came together at Southwark Cathedral on Pentecost weekend to 'ring-in' the start of the Diocesan Centenary celebrations.

Friday evening saw the start of the Cathedral's own celebrations with a 'ceilidh' and the next day, the first ringing of a new bell (right with the Cathedral wardens). On Sunday Evensong celebrated the Cathedral's many volunteers. Then people who had walked the length of the Diocese on the Diocesan pilgrimage arrived at the Cathedral to be met by the hundreds who had come for the annual Pentecost Service.

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### Libera 'fever' ...

South Korean fans screamed at them, press photographers jostled to 'snap' them and in Japan hundreds queued for their autographs. The latest 'boy-band'? Not quite... the choir of St Philip's, Norbury, a.k.a 'Libera'.

In South Korea they played three concerts, all 'sell-outs' - one in a venue with 2,000 seats and two nights at a 2,800 seat venue. In Japan they did two sell-out concerts - the first in a venue more used to pop music with 1,000 seats. At the second, in a 2,000 seat concert hall, the applause went on for 15 minutes and the choir's schedule meant that many who queued for autographs had to be disappointed!