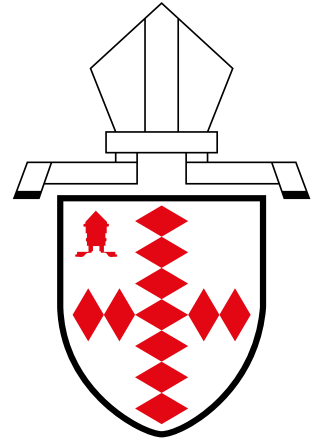


News Release

from the Diocese of Southwark



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For immediate release

Thursday 2 February 2023

The Bishop of Kingston consecrated at Canterbury Cathedral

The new Bishop of Kingston, The Revd Canon Dr Martin Gainsborough was consecrated on Thursday 2 February, at Canterbury Cathedral.

Bishop Martin succeeds The Rt Revd Dr Richard Cheetham who retired last year, in October 2022 and his consecration follows the announcement approved by His Majesty The King on 16 December 2022.

On the eve of his consecration, Bishop Martin said, “This is a hugely exciting moment. I am deeply conscious of the trust the Church has put in me and pray that I will be worthy of it. I think particularly of the clergy and parishes in the Kingston Episcopal Area with whom I will share in God’s mission in this place. My prayers are for them. I think also with thanksgiving of my family and friends, those who have supported me along the way, of colleagues old and new. The God who has come to us in Jesus Christ is doing a new thing!”

The service attended by bishops, clergy and laity from across the country was described by Bishop Martin as “beautiful and very moving” as friends, family and parishioners joined to celebrate his consecration.

The consecration concluded with a round of applause from the congregation, which was described as “utter joy” by The Most Revd The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

The Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun said, “I rejoice that Bishop Martin is now part of the Episcopal team and know that his deanery gatherings over the coming weeks will be an opportunity for him to be welcomed into each and every community in the Kingston Episcopal Area. I commend him and his family to your continued prayers.”

The service was livestreamed and a recording can be watched here: <https://bit.ly/3wOKz3x>

Short Biography of The Revd Canon Dr Martin Gainsborough

1991-1992	Research Assistant, BBC Monitoring, Caversham
1992-1996	Asia-Pacific Editor, Oxford Analytica
1996-2001	PhD Research
2001-2012	Academic roles in universities of Warwick, London and Bristol

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2010-2013	Curate, St Luke's Barton Hill
2012-2018	Professor of Development Politics, University of Bristol
2013-2016	Priest-in-Charge, St Luke's Barton Hill, Bristol
2016-2018	Canon Theologian at Bristol Cathedral
2019-Present	Chaplain to the Bishop of Bristol and Residentiary Canon

Ends

Note to editors:

Pictures: Photo attached.

Credit: Eleanor Bentall.

For hi-res images, contact Editor & Communications Manager, Vernia Mengot on email: vernia.mengot@southwark.anglican.org or mobile: 079 49679401

The role of an Area Bishop in the Diocese of Southwark is to assist the Diocesan Bishop in mission and the oversight of pastoral care of parishes in each of the Episcopal Areas of the Diocese.

Kingston Episcopal Area, the part of South-West London which runs south of the Thames from Waterloo to Kingston, and from Streatham to Kew, is both rich in history and brimming with energy. It includes more than 100 parishes, nearly 50 church schools, four universities, two major prisons and 10 Parliamentary constituencies, as well as a large number of important sites including the Royal Park at Richmond and the site of several Saxon coronations at All Saints, Kingston. It is characterised by contrasts, with places of substantial wealth alongside others of deep hardship, upmarket housing close to night shelters and foodbanks, and people from a wide range of ethnicities, religions and backgrounds living in close proximity while many thousands of others commute in daily.

Lambeth Archdeaconry covers the whole of the London Boroughs of Merton and Lambeth, extending from Morden and Wimbledon in the south to the London Eye and South Bank Centre in the north. Its 62 churches reflect the whole range of Anglican experience in a wide range of contrasting contexts which include the vibrant multi-cultural communities of Lambeth and Brixton and an innovative eco-Church at St Mary, Lambeth. It also includes the major transport hub at Waterloo and the much-loved green common spaces at Wimbledon, Clapham and Mitcham.

Wandsworth Archdeaconry is an area of great contrast in which 69 churches cover the full range of ecclesial traditions, style and theology, within a wide variety of social contexts and alongside many other faiths. It covers the London boroughs of Wandsworth, Kingston and the half of Richmond borough that is south of the Thames. Alongside three universities, two major hospitals and one of the largest prisons in the UK, it includes Nine Elms (one of the largest urban developments in Europe), a pioneering ministry in the arts round Battersea Power Station, the lively markets, stalls and shops of Tooting, the UNESCO World Heritage Site at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, and also ancient churches like St Mary's, Barnes which was dedicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury on the way back from signing the Magna Carta.

For more information, contact Vernia Mengot, Editor & Communications Manager at: 07949 679401 or vernia.Mengot@southwark.anglican.org

About the Diocese of Southwark

The Diocese of Southwark serves 2.8 million people in the 16 Local Authorities of South London and East Surrey through 356 places of worship - a Church of England presence in every community - and 106 church schools educating over 37,000 young people. It embraces many diverse communities and a large number of major institutions, many with global significance. <https://southwark.anglican.org/>