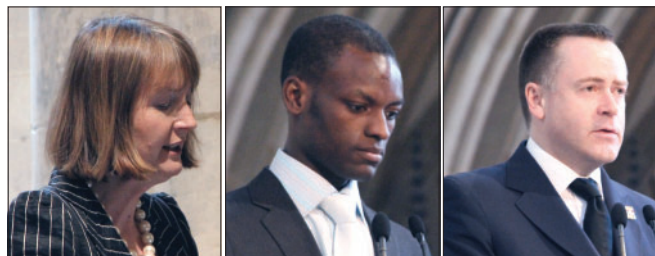


'He was the best of Southwark'

Southwark Cathedral was full to overflowing on 23 May as family, friends, MPs, Councillors and local people came to bid farewell to Southwark's Mayor, Nigerian-born Cllr. Tayo Situ and give grateful thanks for his life and work in the borough.



Harriet Harman MP; Cllr Michael Situ & Cllr Peter John

Cllr Situ died on 9 May after a brief illness. He was 56 years old and came to the UK from Nigeria in 1985. After studying accountancy at South Bank University, he ran his own business and had represented Peckham as a councillor since 2002.

The coffin was received into the Cathedral by the Acting Dean of Southwark the Revd Canon Andrew Nunn. As it was borne into the Cathedral it was preceded by the Borough's Standard of Honour, the Mace Bearer, and Deputy Lieutenant. It was followed by Councillor Peter John, Leader of the Council, who carried the Mayoral chain of office.

The first reading was read by the Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP. There was a moving tribute from Councillor Michael Situ, Tayo's eldest son, who was

elected to the council at the last election. He said that his family had lost their rock and spoke of how his father had been a true servant of humanity who lived by the principal that we are not responsible just for ourselves, but for those around us. He said that his father's legacy would live on.

Councillor Peter John spoke of Tayo Situ's warmth, humour, integrity and devotion to things that he cared about: his family, church, community and Southwark. He was, he said, the best of Southwark.

The Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, spoke of Mayor Situ's deep faith, and of how he had told Bishop Christopher that he prayed for him daily and for his ministry. He noted that the Southwark motto 'United to Serve' has something to say to us all and said that 'more



fine role models like Tayo were needed' to 'move us on from self interest to costly service for the good of others'. The full text of his sermon can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/3qq59d4>

Following the sermon the Choir of Christ Apostolic

Church, Surrey Docks sang. After the prayer of Committal and the singing of the National Anthem the Mayor's coffin was taken from the Cathedral and thirteen ministers from independent black majority churches officiated at the burial.

Peckham's new church and community centre consecrated

On Saturday 7 May the third St Mary Magdalene church in Peckham was consecrated by Bishop Christopher.

The first St Mary's Church, consecrated on 7 May 1841, suffered severe war damage in 1940 and was subsequently demolished. The second church, built in 1962, was demolished in 2010 because, although architecturally attractive, it was uncomfortable as a place of worship and could not be used for other activities.

The new building is a purpose-built church and community centre. The eastern side of Peckham and Nunhead is poorly provided with space for community activities and services. The new St Mary's will meet some of that need. In particular, the building will host new activities for young people and for the elderly.

The new building is a £1.8 million project. £750,000 was raised by selling another church building; £750,000 has been given by present and past members of the congregation and a loan of £300,000 has been given from the Diocese of Southwark which the congregation aim to repay as soon as possible.

There will be an open day for the community to view the new building on Saturday 9 July but it is hoped that many will be able attend activities in the centre and church before that date.

For further information visit www.stmaryspeckham.co.uk or phone 0207 639 4596



Bishop Christopher writes, DIOCESAN VOCATIONS DAY

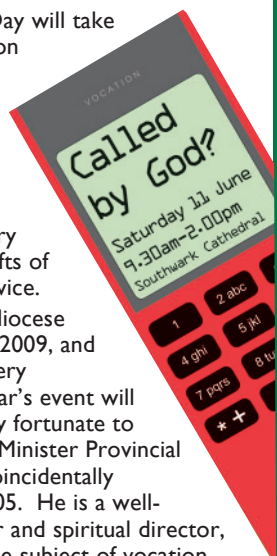
This year's Vocations Day will take place at the Cathedral on Saturday, 11 June from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm.

Everyone through their baptism is called to ministry and I hope that many people will want to explore how this ministry can be more effective. It is a central part of every congregation's life to discern the gifts of its member and to call them to service.

Over 120 people from across the diocese attended the last Vocations Day in 2009, and their comments afterwards were very appreciative. I am sure that this year's event will be equally stimulating. We are very fortunate to have as a speaker Brother Samuel, Minister Provincial of the Society of St Francis, who coincidentally preached at my consecration in 2005. He is a well-known preacher, retreat conductor and spiritual director, much in demand as a speaker on the subject of vocation. This is an event to which I attach great importance and I look forward to being able to welcome people personally to the day.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET BOOKED JUST TURN UP ON THE DAY.

Christopher Southwark



Sign of the times?

Ongoing gas main replacement has caused several weeks of road closures, traffic diversions and confused motorists in Godstone. But when drivers started using Church Lane as a 'rat-run', Godstone Rector Revd Paul Goodridge, decided to provide a little spiritual direction of his own for frustrated motorists. "It's a bit of fun, but there's a serious message too", says Paul. "This seemed like the perfect opportunity to remind passers-by that a visit to your local church is a wonderful diversion for the soul and gives you time to reflect".

