

Introducing the new Archbishop of York

The Rt Revd Dr John Sentamu, currently Bishop of Birmingham, is to succeed the Rt Revd Dr David Hope as the next Archbishop of York. Here are some background notes to introduce him:

Bishop Sentamu, who is 56, was born in Uganda. He was educated in Uganda, graduating in Law from Makerere University, Kampala and is an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda. He practised Law both at the Bar and at the Bench before he came to the UK in 1974.

Here he read theology at Selwyn College Cambridge, where he gained a Masters Degree and a Doctorate. He trained for ordination at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, then part of the Cambridge Federation of Theological Colleges. Following his ordination in 1979 he served as Assistant Chaplain at Selwyn College, Cambridge. From 1979-1982 he was Chaplain at HM Remand Centre Lachmere House and Curate of St Andrew's, Ham in the Diocese of Southwark.

From 1982-1983 John Sentamu was Curate of St Paul, Herne Hill, and from 1983-1984 Priest-in-Charge at Holy Trinity, Tulse Hill and Parish Priest of St Matthias Upper Tulse Hill. He then became Vicar of the joint benefice of Holy Trinity and St Matthias from 1984-1986. Between 1987 and 1989 he was also Priest-in-Charge of St Saviour Brixton Hill. He was appointed Bishop of Stepney in 1996 and Bishop of Birmingham in 2002.

Bishop Sentamu says: "I am looking forward to working with the Archbishop of Canterbury and other bishops to lead the Church of England in its mission to the nation. It is imperative that the Church regains her vision and confidence in mission, developing ways that will enable the Church of England to reconnect imaginatively with England.

"It is important that the Church of England's voice is heard locally, nationally and internationally, standing up for justice, bringing Good News to the poor, healing to the broken-hearted, setting at liberty those who are oppressed, and proclaiming the death of Christ and his resurrection until he comes again. What an exciting prospect."

In a statement from Lambeth Palace, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams welcomed Bishop John Sentamu as Archbishop of York. "He is someone who has always combined a passion for sharing the gospel with a keen sense of the problems and challenges of our society, particularly where racism is concerned. His ministry in London and Birmingham has been praised by Christians of all backgrounds. He is a caring pastor and an exciting communicator. I look forward with great enthusiasm to working with him."

Bishop Sentamu is married to Margaret, a Senior Selection Secretary in the Ministry Division of the Archbishops' Council, and they have two grown-up children, Grace and Geoffrey. Bishop Sentamu's interests include music, cooking, reading, athletics, rugby and football.

From 1997 to 1999, Bishop Sentamu was Adviser to the Stephen Lawrence Judicial Inquiry and he chaired the Damilola Taylor Review, 2002. He has been the chairman of the NHS Haemoglobinopathy Screening Programme since 2001. Between 2002 and 2004 he was Chairman of the EC1 New Deal. He became President of Youth for Christ in 2004 and President of the YMCA in April 2005.