



THE CATHEDRAL AND PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN OF SOUTHWELL

The Southwell Minster Guild of Stewards

FACT SHEET NO.4

THE DIOCESE

Based on a talk given by Brian Noake, Diocesan Secretary, in Dunham House, on Saturday 17th June, 1989.

At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 Nottinghamshire was in the Diocese of York, and Derbyshire in the Diocese of Lichfield and became the Diocese of Southwell by Order of Council on 26th June, 1884 under the Bishoprics Act of 1878. Derbyshire became a separate Diocese in 1927, and the present Diocese of Southwell is virtually the whole of Nottinghamshire. It also includes some small areas of Lincolnshire (which will be assigned back to that Diocese) and South Yorkshire.

The entry in the Church of England Year Book states that the Diocese has a population of just over one million in an area of 848 square miles; there are 317 Churches in 264 Parishes, and 235 Clergy.

In 1990 income to the Diocese from Church Commissioners and the Parishes is expected to be £4m - 85% of which will be spent on the maintenance of Ministry in the Diocese.

The Minster has Cathedral status. Salaries of Bishops, Provost and two Residentiary Canons are paid by the Church Commissioners - those of Vergers, Rector Chori and Choir by the Cathedral Council and the Vicar Choral is on the Diocesan "strength".

In the early days of the Diocese much work was done by individuals : Lady Laura Ridding, for example, concerned herself particularly with moral welfare and problems of destitute women. In 1891 D'oyly Scott Ransom and other businessmen founded the Southwell Diocesan Finance Association, i.e. a Company formed not for profit and having limited liability, to manage money and property. It was superseded in 1925 by the Diocesan Board of Finance, set up by Measure, (Act of Parliament) and common to all Dioceses. In 1977 the Board of Finance was combined with the Diocesan Synod. The Bishop is Chairman of the D.B.F. and President of Synod.

The Minster is administered by the Provost.

The Bishop is responsible for the spiritual direction and development of the Diocese, and the overall deployment of "Ministers". His personal staff are located in Bishop's Manor.

Diocesan policies are put into effect through a series of Committees, some statutory others non-statutory, serviced by staff located mainly in Dunham House. Departments there are Synodical Government, Finance, Property, Archdeacons, Registrar, (legal matters) Pastoral, Education, (aided and controlled schools) Parish Education, Youth and Childrens work, Post Ordination Training, Communications (including the Diocesan Newspaper SEE).

The Social Responsibility Groups Office is in Nottingham and its associated organisation "Family Care" is a separately constituted Company and Charity.