



The Diocese of
Southwark

A SERVICE OF SONGS

TO COMMEMORATE THE LIFE OF

**THE RT REV'D DR WOYIN KAROWEI DORGU
BISHOP OF WOOLWICH**

27 JUNE 1958 — 8 SEPTEMBER 2023

**SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2023
6.00PM**

WELCOME TO SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

A MEMBER OF THE



ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please ensure that all electronic devices are switched to silent.

PHOTOGRAPHY

You are welcome to take photographs in the Cathedral but please do not take any photographs during the service.

HEARING LOOP

Please switch your device to 'T'.

LIVESTREAMING

Please note that some of our services are livestreamed. If you would prefer not to appear in the livestream, please sit in the North Transept or the Nave close to the side aisles.

DONATIONS



There are several donation points in the Cathedral where you can make your donation, or you can simply scan the QR code, or text SOUTHWARK (Amount) to 70085 (one standard rate message is also charged). Thank you very much for your generous support of the Cathedral.

BIOGRAPHY

Bishop Karowei Dorgu's life was a tapestry woven with threads of resilience, faith, true love and a commitment to his calling. Born to George Kpunakpu Dorgu and Mrs Matilda Elizabeth Dorgu (née Torru) a Diocesan Lay Reader of Benin Diocese and an evangelist respectively, as the second twin to his sister Karara Collette Dorgu, and the 11th of 12 children, on 27th June 1958, in Burutu, present day Bayelsa State, Nigeria.

In 1987, Karowei took a significant step in his personal life, when on 15th August he married his beloved wife, Mosun, a union that would become a pillar of strength and love throughout his life journey. Their love story began in Medical School, and it was one that would endure through the ages.

Karowei and Mosun welcomed two precious sons into their lives. Their first son, Timi, was born in May 1988 in Zaria, where the parents were working in a missionary hospital, providing care to those in need. In February 1996, their second son, Joshua, was born in North London. Joshua brought immense joy and laughter to their home, filling it with the exuberance of youth and the promise of a bright future.

Tragically, on 20th January 2015, Joshua passed away just before his 19th birthday. In his memory, the Joshua Dorgu Foundation was established. The foundation has this year placed its first scholarship student at Highgate School, where Josh was a pupil. It stands as a symbol of hope and a source of support for those who aspire to learn and grow, just as Joshua did during his all-too-brief time with us.

As a loving husband and father, Karowei's family was at the centre of his world. He shared his love for faith, knowledge, and compassion with them, creating a home filled with warmth and purpose.

From his early days, Karowei showed a remarkable dedication to knowledge. Between 1979 and 1985, he pursued his medical studies at the College of Medicine, University of Lagos, earning Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees. As a general practitioner, he touched countless lives, bringing healing and hope to those in need.

Driven by a steadfast calling to serve, Karowei enrolled at Oak Hill College, a conservative Evangelical theological institution. Two years later, in 1995, he was ordained as a deacon at St Paul's Cathedral, London, by the then Bishop of London, David Hope. The following year, he ascended to the priesthood, solidifying his commitment to his spiritual mission.

From 1995 to 1998, Karowei served as a curate at St Mark's Church, Tollington Park, Islington, making an indelible mark on his parishioners. His dedication and compassion shone brightly during these formative years, prefiguring the extraordinary journey ahead.

In 1998, he embraced joining St John the Evangelist Church, Upper Holloway. During his tenure at St John's, he progressed from an assistant curate and associate vicar to a dedicated team vicar from 2000 to 2012. In 2012, he became the Vicar, or incumbent, of the church loved. On 6th March 2016, Karowei was appointed a Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral. This role was a testament to his profound faith and dedication to his spiritual calling.

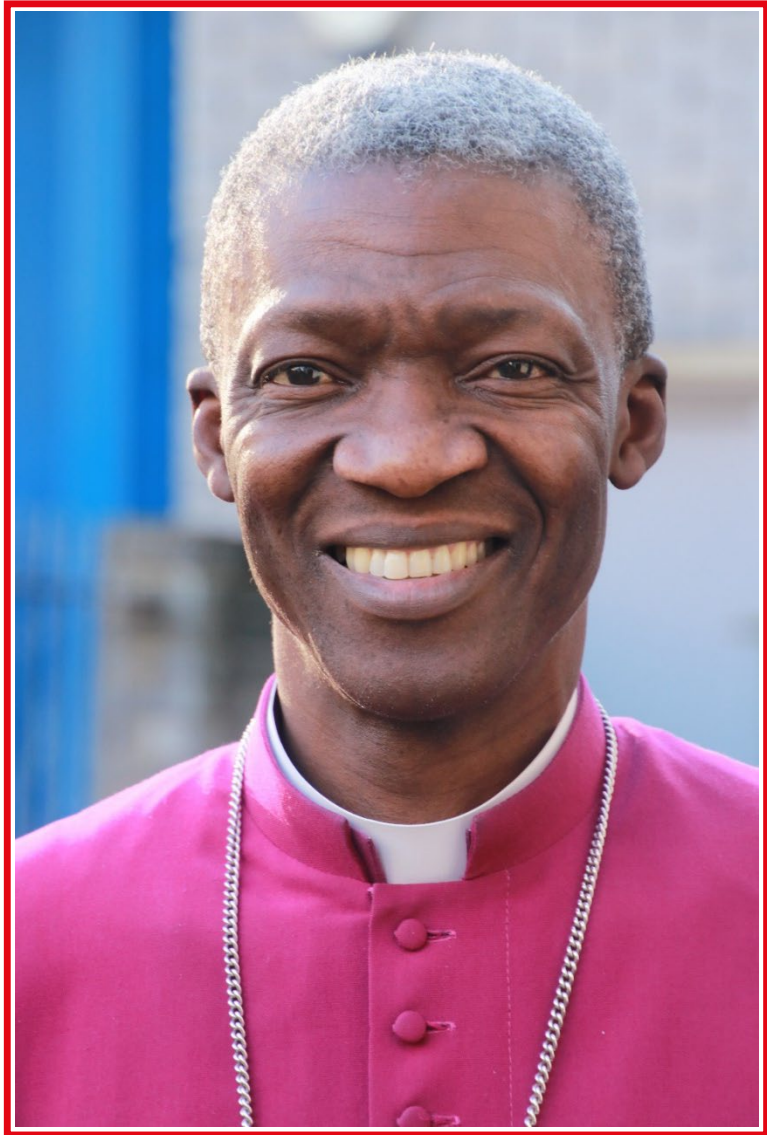
On 20th December 2016, he was announced as the next Bishop of Woolwich, within the Diocese of Southwark. The consecration ceremony on 17th March 2017 at Southwark Cathedral, led by Archbishop Justin Welby, was a defining moment not just for Karowei but for the entire Church of England. His consecration marked a historic milestone, making him the first Nigerian Bishop in the Church of England.

Karowei Dorgu was a beacon of light and a symbol of hope; and his life was a testament to the transformative power of faith, perseverance and dedication. Karowei championed justice and inclusivity, striving to make the Church truly representative of God's diverse Kingdom.

In his personal life, Karowei was a loving husband of 36 years to Mosun and a devoted father to Timi. In later years, Timi found true love and happiness, welcoming Suzie into their lives as a beloved daughter-in-love.

Bishop Karowei Dorgu departed this world on 8th September 2023, after a valiant struggle with his health. His legacy lives on in the hearts of those who loved him, we celebrate the extraordinary life he lived and the lives he touched. Bishop Karowei is also survived by five siblings; Mrs Zumo Adugbo, Chief Tamaraseri Dorgu, Mrs Stella Oganwu, twin sister Miss Karara Collette Dorgu and Mr Nana Dorgu.

In Bishop Karowei Dorgu, we found a spiritual guide, a compassionate healer, and a visionary leader. His memory will forever be etched in our hearts, reminding us to embrace faith, diversity and justice as he did. As we bid farewell to this remarkable soul, let us carry forward his torch of compassion and hope, for he has left an indelible mark on our lives and on the Church.



A SERVICE OF SONGS

Please stand to sing:

THE OPENING SONG

Faithful One, so unchanging;
ageless One, you're my rock of peace.
Lord of all, I depend on you,
I call out to you again and again,
I call out to you again and again.

You are my rock in times of trouble,
you lift me up when I fall down;
all through the storm your love is the anchor —
my hope is in you alone.

WORDS and MUSIC:
Brian Doerksen

Please be seated for:

THE FIRST READING

Philippians 4.4-9

Read by Suzie Dorgu

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Please stand to sing:

THE SONG

I love You, Lord
For Your mercy never fails me
All my days, I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

'Cause all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father
I've known You as a Friend
And I have lived in the goodness of God

'Cause all my life You have been faithful, oh yes You have
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
With my life laid down, I surrendered now
I give You everything, oh Lord
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
With my life laid down, I surrendered now
I give You everything, oh Lord

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God
I'm gonna sing

'Cause all my life You have been faithful, oh yes You have
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

WORDS and MUSIC:

Fielding, Johnson, Cash, Ingram & Johnson

Please be seated for:

THE SECOND READING

Romans 12.9-21

Read by Tomi Ashaye

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Please remain seated for:

A TRIBUTE

Ifeanyi Oganwu

Please stand to sing:

THE SONG

These are the days of Elijah,
Declaring the word of the Lord:
And these are the days of Your servant Moses,
Righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trial,
Of famine and darkness and sword,
Still, we are the voice in the desert crying
‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord!’

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun, at the trumpet call!
Lift your voice, it’s the year of jubilee
And out of Zion’s hill salvation comes!

These are the days of Ezekiel,
The dry bones becoming as flesh.
And these are the days of Your servant David,
Rebuilding a temple of praise.
These are the days of the harvest,
The fields are as white in Your world!
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard,
Declaring the word of the Lord!

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun, at the trumpet call!
Lift your voice, it’s the year of jubilee
And out of Zion’s hill salvation comes!

There is no God like Jehovah.
There is no God like Jehovah!

(repeat)

Continued overleaf.

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun, at the trumpet call!
Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes!

WORDS and MUSIC:
Robin Mark

Please be seated for:

THE THIRD READING

Romans 1.1-2, 8-12

Read by Timi Abidde and Elaye Abidde

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures;

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

Please remain seated for:

A TRIBUTE

Karara Collette Dorgu LLM

Please remain seated or kneel for:

THE PRAYERS

Led by **The Venerable Dr Joe Ajaefobi**
Canon Ade Ademola FSJ

The response to the prayers is:

Lord, in your mercy,
All Hear our prayer.

Please stand for:

AFRICAN PRAISE

Please remain standing for:

THE BLESSING

The Bishop of Southwark

Please remain standing to sing:

THE FINAL SONG

I stand amazed in the presence
of Jesus the Nazarene,
and wonder how he could love me,
a sinner, condemned, unclean.

How marvellous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvellous! How wonderful!
Is my Saviour's love for me!

For me he prayed in the garden
and bowed to the will divine;
he had no tears for his own griefs,
but sweat drops of blood for mine.

He took my sins and my sorrows,
he made them his very own;
he bore the burden to Calvary,
and suffered and died alone.

When with the ransomed in glory
his face I at last shall see,
'twill be my joy through the ages
to sing of his love for me.

WORDS and MUSIC:
Charles H. Gabriel

*The family thank you for joining them today and for all your support.
Tributes can be left at www.forevermissed.com/bishop-karowei-dorgu*

*Please leave the Cathedral by the north-west doors and the Millennium
Courtyard. Please consider supporting the Cathedral by giving using
the contactless donation points if you have not set up a regular
payment. Thank you for joining us. We look forward to welcoming you
back.*

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SOUTHWARK

◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

Welcome to Southwark Cathedral. Set on the south bank of the River Thames in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.

The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie. With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation the Priory became a parish church and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.

As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this church has a momentous and proud history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens.

In the 20th century this cathedral was at the heart of the new movement in theology termed 'South Bank Religion'. This movement asked challenging questions of people about faith in the modern age which continue to be explored at Southwark Cathedral which describes itself as 'inclusive: faithful: radical'.

Whatever has brought you here today, you are most welcome. Become part of the life here if you can; it will change your life as you encounter with us our living God.

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