

**SEE OF SOUTHWELL-
PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO SEE OF SOUTHWELL
AND NOTTINGHAM**

**DRAFT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT BY THE BISHOP OF
SOUTHWELL**

The See of Southwell was created in 1884 out of the sees of Lincoln and Lichfield and comprised the Counties of Derby and Nottingham (with small areas of South Yorkshire and Leicestershire). To have Southwell as the Cathedral and name of the See was in part to avoid any conflict between Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and also as Southwell housed the magnificent Minster next to which was one of the ancient summer palaces of the Archbishop of York, and therefore provided an ideal location for the centre of worship for the then new See.

Derbyshire was removed from the See of Southwell to create a separate See of Derby in 1927, leaving the See of Southwell to comprise the whole of Nottinghamshire with slight intrusions into South Yorkshire and Leicestershire.

The greater conurbation of Nottingham comprises in excess of half the total population of the whole Diocese and the seats of government of both the City and County of Nottingham are within that conurbation as are three of the District Councils within the Diocese.

Southwell suffers a lack of geographical identity outside the County of Nottingham and is often confused with Southall and Southwark. To add the name of Nottingham to the title of the See will give a greater sense of 'belonging' for those within a key centre of commerce and population of Nottingham and enable people outside the Diocese to realise where the Diocese is, giving it a more geographically recognised identity. However the title of the See of Southwell and Nottingham deliberately recognises both the high value placed, historically and currently, on the See of Southwell and the nature of the Diocese as being in part deeply rural and in part deeply urban.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Nottingham has been consulted and has no objection and indeed is supportive of the change.

Precedents for the inclusion of two places in the title of a See have already been set; Bath and Wells, St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich and Sodor and Man; and in the recent past with the See of Ripon changing its name to the See of Ripon and Leeds. The title of the Cathedral and the Dean will remain unchanged and the Diocesan Bishop will continue to live in Southwell.

On 5th February 2005, the Diocesan Synod voted by an overwhelming majority in favour of the change of name, the name change having previously been agreed by Bishop's Council. The Bishop's Council and the Diocesan Synod now ask the General Synod to allow this Petition to go forward to the Privy Council.

+GEORGE SOUTHWELL

April 2005.