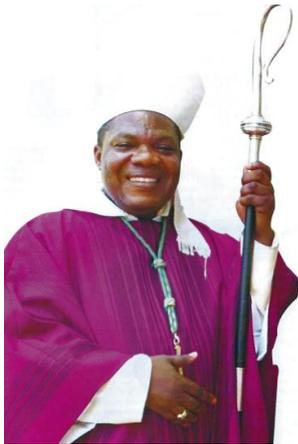
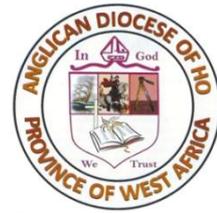


VISITING OUR FRIENDS IN THE DIOCESE OF HO, GHANA



*Bishop Matthias
K. Medadues-Badohu*

Towards the end of September Mary Nokes and Chuff Adams flew out on behalf of St James at the invitation of Bishop Matthias to join the 10th anniversary celebrations of the founding of this Anglican Diocese and of the Bishop's own consecration. They met up with other Ho friends in the UK, from Newbury, Oxford and Portsmouth.

Mary: we landed at Accra airport on the Thursday evening and were warmly greeting by the Bishop. Our first day was spent in Accra after an interesting night at a downtown hotel – I can still smell the mothballs! The Bishop had business in the city and parked us at Accra Diocesan Office where we watched the comings and goings of the many varied, but mainly clerical, visitors. A number of the cars in the car park sported a sticker saying: 'I'm proud to be Anglican'. How many of us would have the courage to do that in England? Not me, anyway!

Eventually the Bishop returned followed by a young teenage girl carrying on her head ten boxes each containing 12 cartons of fruit juice – an enormous weight. She was amazing! Lucy, the Bishop's wife needed these for a stall she runs selling refreshments and other items to the children at St George's School. This is part of a large compound containing the Bishop's house and the cathedral. The boxes had to be added to the Bishop's aged Toyota Land Cruiser already filled with five people, 10 suitcases and a 32" television. We ended up with them under our feet.



Accra – packing just a bit more into the Bishop's car

After stopping for a meal we finally left Accra about 4.00pm and into their Friday afternoon rush hour, as bad as any city in the world, then through tropical thunderstorms, and a horrific road accident which meant a 40 mile detour. We arrived in Ho about 10.30pm, exhausted but enormously impressed by the Bishop's skill and patience in driving through 100 miles of very variable roads, rain and potholes while negotiating steep hairpin bends.