

CATHEDRAL CONSECRATED

It stands commandingly upon Stag Hill, Guildford Cathedral. And in the royal presence it was to be consecrated; since the Middle Ages, the first cathedral in the south of England to be erected on a new site; and when finished a noble temple of the Christian faith.

25 years have passed since Archbishop Lang laid the foundation stone. Now, as Queen and congregation waited, the Bishop of Guildford knocked on the west door with the pastoral staff, to be admitted into the new cathedral. For the Church of England (and Guildford itself it was a proud moment, the translation into reality of what, 25 years ago, was only a vision. In accordance with the ceremony of consecration, with a builder's pencil the Bishop marked the north pier with the sign of the cross; 'in token that the building shall be devoted to the service of Almighty God'.

When the Sentence of Consecration was read, it was signed by the Bishop.

Of the other four signatories, the first was the Queen herself. It is gratifying to Christians that in an age often too materialistic we have built Guildford Cathedral.