

The St. Alban's News

"We are a God-centered, multicultural, English speaking community within the Nippon Seikokai, striving to show Christ to others by reflecting God's love in all we do."

A Special Issue of St. Alban's Newsletter

April 2001



Our New Bishop

St. Alban's joins our fellow congregations in the Nippon Seikokai Diocese of Tokyo in welcoming a new Bishop.

Bishop Peter Jintaro Ueda was chosen at the Diocesan Synod which met on 23rd November 2000, and his consecration and investiture ceremony was held at Rikkyo Women's College chapel on 31st March. The number of those able to attend the ceremony from St. Alban's was limited, but as we are situated next door to the Bishop's cathedral church of St. Andrew's, there should be many opportunities to meet our new Bishop informally before he visits us officially on 2nd December of this year.

The Right Reverend Ueda's career reflects his interest in international affairs. He was born in Tokyo in 1940 and studied first at Rikkyo University, where he took a master's degree, then at the Nippon Seikokai Seminary. Before full ordination in the Nippon Seikokai he traveled abroad, and has lived in Britain, Germany and Switzerland. During the 1980s, Rev. Ueda served several congregations in the Diocese before taking on a senior administrative role in the Diocesan Office. During this time, he was active in the Christian Conference of Asia. At his most recent post, he was the Principal of the Asian Rural Institute, a charitable organization offering training in agricultural and leadership skills to young people from developing countries throughout the World. *(text by Simon Clay, St. Alban's Vestry NSKK Liaison)*

While still Bishop-elect -



The 92nd Synod w/ Bishop Takeda



Mid-March at Diocesan Offices



WHY OUR BISHOP? WHAT EXACTLY IS THE "NIPPON SEIKOKAI"?

Although it has an English-speaking congregation, St. Alban's is neither a part of the Church of England, nor a part of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America. We belong to the Nippon Seikokai, which is the Anglican-Episcopal church in Japan. There are eleven dioceses in the Nippon Seikokai. Our diocese is the Diocese of Tokyo, headed by our Bishop, the Bishop of Tokyo.

Together with 37 other autonomous groupings of churches, provinces or national churches, which cover 161 countries of which England and the United States are but two, the Nippon Seikokai is the Japanese member of the family of churches which form the Anglican Communion. All parts of the Anglican Communion share the same basic beliefs and rely on the same church structure, with bishops (*shukyo* in Japanese), priests, (*shisai*) and deacons (*shitsuji*). In our worship we place the same importance on the Holy Scriptures, say the same Creed, and use a form of the same Book of Common Prayer. The liturgy we use at St. Alban's is actually an English translation of the Japanese liturgy which in turn can trace its roots back to the 1662 Church of England Book of Common Prayer.

While in Japan we can enjoy being part of the Japanese church, the Nippon Seikokai, while never needing to feel separated from our Anglican or Episcopal roots. After all, we're part of the same family. *(by Simon Clay)*

(top 3 photos courtesy Maria Thacker; Synod photo, Meg Nakano; Office photos, Dn.T.K. Fujii)