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A TIMELINE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

Some dates are approximate or disputed
Adapted from Thomas McKenzie's *The Anglican Way*

- c.7 BC The incarnation of the Son of God
- 33 AD The death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ; Pentecost
- 50 The Council of Jerusalem, and the beginning of the schism from Judaism
- 63 Mythical visit of Joseph of Arimathea to Glastonbury
- 64 The executions of Saints Peter and Paul; Christianity banned in Roman Empire
- 167 Pope sends missionaries Phagan and Deruvian to England
- 209 Death of possible first English Christian martyr, Saint Alban
- 313 Christianity declared legal in the Roman Empire
- 314 Council of Arles— Britain sends a bishop, a priest, and a deacon
- 325 The Council of Nicaea. British clergy present. Decisions accepted in England
- 410 Rome loses control of Britain to pagan invaders
- 429 Saint Cadfan founds the Monastery of Bardsey
- 432 Death of Saint Ninian, evangelist to the Picts of what is now Scotland
- 492 Death of Saint Patrick, missionary to Ireland
- 569 Synod of Victoria denounces Pelagian heresy
- 597 Death of Saint Columba, who evangelized Scotland and North England
- 597 Augustine of Canterbury, emissary of Pope Gregory, baptizes King Aethelbert
- 615 Death of Columbanus of Ireland, a successful Celtic missionary to Europe
- 627 Paulinas, first bishop of York, baptizes King Edwin of Northumbria
- 651 Death of Aidan, bishop of Lindisfarne, and evangelist to Northumbria
- 664 Synod of Whitby: the British conform to Roman rather than Celtic standards
- 685 Saint Cuthbert missionary to Carlisle
- 793 Vikings raid Lindisfarne
- 959 Saint Dunstan crowns Edgar “King of all England”
- 1066 William the Conqueror invades England
- 1080 William sends the Pope a letter reminding him that he owes the Pope no allegiance

- 1162 Thomas Becket named archbishop of Canterbury, killed in 1170
- 1207 Pope tries to appoint his own archbishop of Canterbury, King John refuses
- 1215 Magna Carta establishes legal rights of the Church of England
- 1330s Richard Rolle, early charismatic, writes mystical texts
- 1351 King ends Pope's authority to give British benefices to foreigners
- 1370 William Langland, early evangelical, writes Piers Plowman
- 1381 John Wycliffe begins translating the Bible into English
- 1400s Period of violent unrest, including invasion of France and War of the Roses
- 1476 First printing press in England
- 1517 Martin Luther posts his "95 Theses" and the Reformation begins
- 1521 Thomas Cranmer joins Lutheran Bible study
- 1531 King Henry VIII declares himself head of the English Church
- 1532 Thomas Cranmer, a married man, named archbishop of Canterbury
- 1538 King Henry VIII approves English Bible for use in all parishes
- 1544 Cranmer publishes Great Litany
- 1549 First English Book of Common Prayer
- 1551 Cranmer publishes 42 Articles of Religion
- 1552 Cranmer introduces second Book of Common Prayer
- 1553 Mary Tudor begins forceful reconversion of England to Rome
- 1556 Latimer, Ridley, and Cranmer burned at stake
- 1558 Elizabeth I becomes Queen of England
- 1559 New prayer book, some Catholic liturgical elements reintroduced
- 1560 Geneva Bible, an inexpensive English Bible with Calvinist study notes, is sold
- 1563 The 39 Articles, based on Cranmer's work, becomes official church doctrine
- 1579 First prayer book service in North America held in what is now San Francisco
- 1581 Richard Hooker writes Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity
- 1588 English defeat the Spanish Armada
- 1604 Both Puritans and Jesuits banned in England
- 1607 First Church of England parish established in Jamestown, Virginia
- 1784 Samuel Seabury consecrated first American bishop by Scottish bishops.
- 1787 Two more American bishops consecrated, this time by archbishop of Canterbury
- 1789 First General Convention, Protestant Episcopal Church established.

- 1789 First American prayer book, based on the Scottish prayer book
- 1794 African Episcopal congregation becomes part of the Episcopal Church
- 1804 Absalom Jones ordained first black Episcopal priest
- 1807 English slave trade abolished through the work of William Wilberforce.
- 1817 First Episcopal seminary established in United States of America
- 1823 Reginald Heber made Bishop of Calcutta; successfully establishes churches
- 1833 Oxford movement begins in England; calls worship back to Catholic roots
- 1835 Jackson Kemper made “Bishop of the American Frontier”
- 1841 New Zealand gets first bishop
- 1855 Historic lay office of deaconess informally revived in England and US
- 1859 Charles Darwin, an Anglican, publishes *On the Origin of Species*
- 1860 Seven English clergymen tried for heresy; they are acquitted
- 1863 Bishop Colenso of Natal charged with heresy
- 1864 Samuel Crowther, a freed slave, made bishop “on the Niger,” in Africa
- 1866 Channing Moore Williams made Anglican bishop of Japan and China
- 1867 First Lambeth conference of Anglican bishops from around the world
- 1873 Reformed Episcopal Church is founded
- 1877 S. I. J. Schereschewsky made Bishop of Shanghai
- 1882 Church Army founded
- 1888 Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral establishes basis for ecumenism
- 1892 American Book of Common Prayer revised
- 1897-99 Lambeth resolutions officially add the lay office of deaconess
- 1906 Albert Schweitzer publishes *Quest of the Historical Jesus*
- 1906 Azusa Street Revival begins Pentecostal movement
- 1910 *The Fundamentals* begin to be published
- 1922 Patriarch of Constantinople recognize validity of Anglican ordinations
- 1928 New American prayer book, includes prayers for the departed.
- 1932 Anglicans and “Old Catholic” churches enter full Communion
- 1942 Publication of C. S. Lewis’ *The Screwtape Letters*
- 1944 First female Anglican priest ordained in China
- 1948 Episcopal bishops help establish World Council of Churches
- 1952 Episcopal Church spearheads the Revised Standard Version of the Bible

- 1960 Bishop James Pike of California begins to publish numerous heresies
- 1960 Fr. Dennis J. Bennett declares that he’s been “baptized in the Holy Spirit”
- 1962 Vatican II Council; several Anglicans serve as “guests” of the Pope
- 1965 Against church order, Episcopal Bishop Pike ordained a woman as deacon
- 1969 Bishop Pike dies in an Israeli desert
- 1970 Episcopal Church eliminates canon for deaconesses, now just deacons
- 1976 Episcopal Church officially allows women’s ordination
- 1979 New U.S. Book of Common Prayer approved
- 1982 General Convention takes stand against creationist movement
- 1984 Archbishop Desmond Tutu wins Nobel Peace Prize
- 1989 Barbara Harris made first female bishop in Anglican Communion
- 1992 Church of England allows women to be priests
- 1998 Lambeth Conference affirms traditional understanding of human sexuality
- 2000 Two Americans made bishops by Global South archbishops; found AMiA
- 2003 General Convention confirms nomination of first openly gay bishop
- 2006 The Episcopal Church no longer in communion with majority of worldwide Anglicans
- 2008 GAFCON Jerusalem Declaration on the gospel and human sexuality
- 2009 Anglican Church in North America founded, Robert Duncan made archbishop
- 2012 The Episcopal Church authorizes rites for same-sex unions
- 2014 Anglican Church in North America names ++Foley Beach its second archbishop
- 2017 ACNA bishops’ statement on women’s ordination as a “recent innovation to Apostolic Tradition and Catholic Order” – dual integrities restated
- 2025 Church of England elects first female archbishop, GAFCON breaks communion
- 2025 GAFCON communique – “GAFCON is leading the Global Anglican Communion.”

* This timeline has been adapted from an appendix in Thomas McKenzie’s *The Anglican Way*, with additions and revisions from gafcon.org, *The Holy Orders Task Force Final Report* (2017), and the 2017 ACNA bishops’ statement on women’s ordination.