

*Rutt was a gifted linguist, and during his years in Korea came to be regarded as an authority on Korean poetry; in addition to writing several books on the subject, he composed some poetry of his own in Korean. In 1964 he received the Tassan Cultural Award, 10 years later was made an honorary DLitt of the Confucian University of Seoul, and on leaving Korea was awarded the Order of Merit, Peony Class.*

*Although he was a bishop in Cornwall for only five years, he quickly came to terms with the Cornish language and was Bard of the Gorsedd of Cornwall in 1976. He translated the Communion service into Cornish.*

*Another special interest and skill was knitting, of which he published a definitive history in 1987. He sometimes resorted to this craft to relieve the tedium of meetings and often wore a knitted episcopal mitre.*



*Cecil Richard Rutt was born at Langford, near Biggleswade in Bedfordshire, on August 27 1925. He was educated at the local grammar school, from which he went straight into the wartime Royal Navy.*

*On demobilisation in 1947 he went to Kelham Theological College, a monastic seminary, to prepare for Holy Orders and in 1951 became a curate at St George's church, Chesterton in Cambridge.*

*There he took the opportunity to read for a degree at Pembroke College, and, on completion of this and of his curacy, he volunteered for missionary service in Korea, where a civil war had recently ended.*

*He spent the first four years learning the language and engaging in general missionary work before becoming parish priest of Anjung, near Seoul. Two years later he moved into Seoul to become Warden of St Bede's House — a centre for a new approach to mission work in an urban and university setting.*

*His next appointment, in 1964, was as rector of St Michael's Seminary, where he was responsible for the*

*training of Korean priests; he also served as Archdeacon of West Kyonggi.*

*In 1966 Rutt was appointed Assistant Bishop of Taejon, and two years later he succeeded the much-loved John Daly as Diocesan Bishop. In a population of 24 million, there were only 4,500 Anglicans with 15 clergy and 50 churches, and these were scattered over an area of some 80,000 square miles. Thus he travelled vast distances to small, isolated groups — many of which had no resident priest. Jesus Abbey was established as another pioneering missionary centre, and Rutt became highly respected by the non-Christian population for his great learning as well as his evident spirituality.*

*He was episcopal secretary of the Council of the Church of South East Asia from 1968 to 1974.*

*In 1974, however, it seemed appropriate that a Korean should become Bishop, and Rutt, with a heavy heart, returned to England. Fortunately, as it seemed at the time, his style and high churchmanship appealed to the then Bishop Graham Leonard, who was also to become a Roman Catholic. Leonard nominated Rutt as his suffragan.*

*Succeeding Ronald Ralph Williams as Bishop of Leicester in 1979 was by no means an easy assignment for a man of Rutt's background and outlook. Williams — a low churchman and archetypal establishment figure — had played a prominent part in Leicester's civic life, whereas the new bishop was reserved and more concerned with the developing of the church's spiritual life. In this he persevered, and over the course of a decade came to be recognised as an outstanding pastoral bishop.*

*Rutt was as sensitive to the needs of the villages as he was to the demands of the city, and under his leadership Launde Abbey, the diocesan retreat and conference centre, was revived. He was also highly regarded by Leicester's growing ethnic population. On one occasion, having discovered that a woman from Korea was in a Leicester hospital and that he was the only person capable of speaking to her in her native language, he spent a regular hour at her bedside over several weeks. Rutt was chairman of the Religious Communities' Advisory Council and also a member of the Anglican/Orthodox Joint Doctrinal Committee.*

*He was appointed CBE in 1973.*

*Richard Rutt married, in 1969, Joan Ford. She died in 2007*