Anglicanism – Timeline (all years are CE)

JESUS – 33 – Son of God, etc

PAUL – died 64 – Missionary, Founder of many Christian communities (right from the beginning, community was central to the Church)

AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY – 594 – sent by Pope Gregory to England as 1st Archbishop of Canterbury. Beginnings of Catholic Christianity in England. (Also there was the Celtic Church – diversity of ways of being church even back then.)

(long gap)

MARTIN LUTHER – 1517 translated Bible into language of ordinary people. Beginnings of Reformation on Continent - which spread to England. People thinking ‘there’s got to be another way to do Church’.

Issues important in the Reformation: a) the authority of the Bible (importance of Scripture, in local language), b) salvation by grace – can’t earn it, c) priesthood of all believers. ‘What’s the Pope all about then?’

THOMAS CRANMER – 1532 – becomes archbishop of Canterbury. He was a leading figure in the English Reformation.

HENRY VIII – 1534 proclaims himself head of the church of England. Note that this wasn’t religious, was more political (tied up with his wish to divorce & remarry).

FIRST ENGLISH PRAYER BOOKS – Book of Common Prayer 1549, 1552. Written by Thomas Cranmer – a great creator of liturgy. Prayer Book central to Anglicanism – we have a common way to worship. England becoming protestant under king Edward VI.

LATIMER & RIDLEY BURNT BY QUEEN MARY – 1553 – England was Catholic again Many Protestant martyrs, including Hugh Latimer (a preacher) Nicholas Ridley (a scholar) as well as Thomas Cranmer were burnt to death at the stake for their beliefs. The early years of Anglicanism as a brand of Christianity were difficult ones.

QUEEN ELIZABETH I & THE ELIZABETHAN SETTLEMENT – 1558-9 Hugely important for Anglicanism: uniformity of worship, but freedom of conscience: ie we use a common form of service, but (within reason) we don’t all have to think the same.
THE 39 ARTICLES – 1563 – included in the Book of Common Prayer. These are some key statements about Anglicanism (though they show some of the contextual theological arguments of the day). Still signed by Anglican clergy today.

RICHARD HOOKER – 1600 – Key Anglican theologian: said that Anglicanism is a middle way between Pope & Puritans, between catholic & protestants.

THE CAROLINE DIVINES – 1603 – 1680 These were a bunch of key theologians during reigns of Charles I & Charles II (hence ‘caroline’). One was bishop Lancelot Andrewes. These people helped work out what it is to be Anglican.

(smaller gap)

JOHN & CHARLES WESLEY – 1738 – the beginnings of the Methodists. the Wesleys worked out a system for spiritual improvement – hence ‘Methodist’. This started a revival. The Wesleys remained Anglicans all their lives, but out of their work another denomination – the Methodists – formed.

EVANGELICAL MOVEMENT – CLAPHAM SECT 18th Century – the Anglican branch of the Evangelical Movement was known as the Clapham Sect. They founded the Church Missionary Society, the British & Foreign Bible Society & the Religious Tract Society. Keen interest in mission and in living a good life.

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE – 1780 – Wilberforce was a member of the Clapham Sect. He used pressure-group politics to end the slave trade (ended 1807.)

SAMUEL MARSDEN GOES TO NZ – 1814 – Marsden a missionary. Connected with Maori Marsden & Ruatara preached the 1st sermon, Christmas Day 1014. Maori Christianity


HENRY & WILLIAM WILLIAMS – 1840 – Both Missionaries, out from England. Continued the strong connection between Anglican and Maori – the Anglican church here in NZ was originally a Maori church, not a settler one. Henry was important in translating & persuading Maori to sign the Treaty of Waitangi. William later became Bishop of Waiapu.

SELWYN BECOMES BISHOP OF NZ – 1841 George Augustus Selwyn came out from England as the 1st Anglican Bishop of NZ. He ensured that the Anglican church here was different from that in England (not so connected with crown and government)
CONSTITUTION OF ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NZ – 1857 – our early beginnings. Synodical government – church connected to Anglican church in England, but also governed its own affairs.

CHARLES ABRAHAM becomes 1ST BISHOP OF WELLINGTON – 1858 – the beginnings of this diocese

MARY SUMNER – BEGINNINGS OF MOTHERS’ UNION - 1876 - a grass roots organisation, which now unites Anglican women all around the world. Basic, ordinary Anglicans doing basic ordinary stuff and being great at it.

(gap)

ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM TEMPLE – 1942-44 – Archbishop of Canterbury. Interested in Christian social order. ‘The Church exists for the benefit of those who are not its members.’ Anglicans are involved in making the world a better place. Temple was doing ‘public theology’ before that term was well-known.


WOMEN ORDAINED TO PRIESTHOOD IN NZ – 1977 – one of the earliest countries in Anglican Communion to do this. (much earlier than in England, which was only in 1993)

A NEW ZEALAND PRAYER BOOK – 1989 – Recognisably Anglican and very us. Key things are its use of te reo and pacifica languages, its metaphors and expressions are grounded in this land and its peoples.

1ST WOMAN BISHOP: BARBARA HARRIS – 1989 – she was an assistant bishop in the United States: another development in Anglicanism.

PENNY JAMIESON: 1ST WOMAN DIOCESAN BISHOP – 1990 – Went from a parish in Wellington to be Bishop of Dunedin. The first woman to head a diocese. (NZ leading the way again.)

REVISED CONSTITUTION:3 TIKANGA CHURCH – 1992 – the Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia. Provided for the Church to order its life according to 3 cultural streams or Tikanga.

HIKOI OF HOPE -1998 – started & led by Anglicans, travelled the length of NZ to protest about poverty and in favour of good education & health system: ‘Enough is enough’.

Canon Deborah Broome (June 2015).