

COMMITTEE FOR MINORITY ETHNIC ANGLICAN CONCERNS

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CMEAC

Visit Our Website at:

www.cofe.anglican.org/info/cmeac

CMEAC is committed through its network of **Diocesan Link Partners** to raise the profile of minority ethnic Anglicans in parishes, dioceses and local communities and provide a link between the CMEAC national office and the diocese.

It is also committed to seeking the development and empowerment of minority ethnic Anglicans and, in particular, fostering and encouraging vocations within the Church.

If you want to know more about how you can become a Diocesan Link Partner and help CMEAC in your local Diocese, please contact **Sonia Barron, Adviser to CMEAC** at the contact details given on this page.

What Does a DLP do?

If you need help, support, have questions you need answers to then do call and talk to us or email us at the address above.

Past copies of The Link magazine

We have available in hard copy, a limited number of the past two issues; you can also read or download past copies on the CMEAC Web-link: www.cofe.anglican.org/info/cmeac/thelink.

Reflection by the Rt Revd David Hamid



Many in what I call "the island part of the Church of England" are surprised to discover that the Church has a 44th diocese with significant, historic and expanding work on the continent of Europe. The Diocese in Europe is quite distinct from the other 43 dioceses in many ways: we are the only part of the CofE which is not established by law; our congregations themselves must support 100% of their priests' costs; and we are one of the few dioceses in the CofE which is growing numerically!

We are not simply the "Brits abroad". Globalisation has brought to

Europe peoples from every part of the Anglican world. Some congregations are made up of a majority from one nationality or ethnic background, English of course, but also Tamil, Nigerian, Sudanese, Congolese, Malgache, Turkish and Ghanaian. The largest parish in membership is likely the "White Nile Congregations" of Finland, whose priest, the Revd Amos Manga, cares for close to 600 Sudanese families. Most congregations can count at least a dozen different nationalities or ethnic backgrounds among their members. Our ordinands and those in our Post-Ordination training programme include women and men of Nigerian, South African, Sudanese, Turkish, Finnish, American, as well as English ethnic origin. No wonder my chaplain calls the diocese "the Anglican Communion in miniature".

This rich diversity helps to sharpen our sense of mission in Europe. The Church is to make visible, in her life and witness, a unity which is God's will for all people. In a fragmenting

world the Church is to be a beacon of a diverse humanity living in unity. We are called to share this vision of diversity in unity in our societies and our countries. The Bible does not speak of the peoples of the world in terms of a monochrome mass. Instead, the Bible speaks of the nations. But St Paul teaches us that distinctions of race and tradition are no longer barriers to our unity (cf Col 3.11). The dream of Revelation includes people of every language, tribe, people and nation. God brings us together in our rich diversity for a common purpose, to be a sign of hope and reconciliation for the human family.

At the Lambeth Conference, Archbishop Rowan Williams introduced the bishops from many diverse cultures and contexts to indaba, a traditional African way of gathering together for purposeful discussion and sharing, leading to enhanced community life.

May indaba continue and flourish in the Diocese in Europe.

+David Hamid
Suffragan, Diocese in Europe

The Link

Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns

CMEAC Office: Issue 2

Sept 2008

Dates for your diary

- **Vocations Day Conference, 28 February 2009 at Church House, Westminster:** Please note this is a day Conference.
- **ME Ordinands' Consultation Day: 11 March 2009 at Church House, Westminster.**

Inside this issue:

- Sir Ian Blair speaks at General Synod Fringe meeting:** Vasantha Gnanadoss. 1
- Results of CMEAC Review—subsequent action plan:** Sonia Barron. 2
- Urban Youth Workers Conference, Los Angeles:** Dean Pusey 2
- Top Tips for DLPs:** given by DLPs. 3
- DLP Appointments/News:** new DLP moves. 3
- DLP visits Lambeth Conference, Sept 2008:** The Revd Dr Rosalyn Murphy. 3
- About CMEAC** 4
- Reflection:** The Rt Revd David Hamid, Diocese in Europe. 4
- Past Copies of 'The Link'.** 4

Vasantha Gnanadoss arranges General Synod Fringe Meeting, at Church House, Westminster



Sir Ian Blair and the Archbishop of Canterbury chat over lunch at the Fringe Meeting. Also pictured are Canon Ivor Smith-Cameron (who chaired the meeting) and Archdeacon Danny Kajumba.

Vasantha Gnanadoss who works for the Metropolitan Police Service and represents the Diocese of Southwark on General Synod arranged a lunch-time Fringe Meeting during the February Synod sessions in Church House, Westminster. The speaker was the then Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Ian Blair, and attendees included a selection of bishops,

clergy and laity from among the Synod members. Sir Ian spoke about the response of the Metropolitan Police Service to race issues in recent years. The Met's success in attracting more Black and other Minority Ethnic recruits was of particular interest to a number of the bishops present - facing, as they do, the challenge of achieving more diversity among the clergy of their dioceses.

At the end of the meeting, Vasantha took the opportunity to ask Synod members to support her Private Members' Motion on Race Equality.

"That this Synod, noting that in 2004 the Association of Chief Police Officers adopted a policy whereby "no member of the Police Service, whether police officer or police staff, may be a member of an organisation whose constitution, aims, objectives or pronouncements contradict the general duty to promote race equality" and "this specifically includes the British National Party", request the House of Bishops to formulate and implement a comparable policy for the Church of England, to apply to clergy, ordinands, and such employed lay persons as have duties that require them to represent or speak on behalf of the Church.'

This motion has now attracted more than 100 signatures. If it continues to gather support it may soon be scheduled for debate at General Synod.

Vasantha Gnanadoss
Appointments' Committee
Synod Appointed member of CMEAC

DLPs—encourage your deanery and diocesan synod to be active in promoting matters of minority ethnic Anglican concerns to ensure that all diversity is reflected there.

CMEAC Review – building relationships with dioceses, identifying centres of excellence

CMEAC commissioned an independent review which was carried out by Arlington Trotman (formerly of Churches Commission for Racial Justice and currently Chair of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe).

This review of the role and impact of CMEAC and the importance of valuing cultural diversity was based on personal interviews, opinion survey and a review of CMEAC literature. These qualitative and quantitative approaches enabled the examination of a broad range of data, including results of 30 personal interviews conducted within structured and semi-structured formats

with key stakeholders, three opinion surveys, and a comprehensive literature review. This process, which was accompanied and advised by a reference group contributed to robust analyses and unambiguous conclusions.

The final Report, including 20 recommendations, were discussed and agreed by CMEAC and an action plan was drafted and will be implemented over the next three years. We aim to build/re-establish relationships with dioceses by identifying 10 centres of excellence and work with and prepare them to be part of the CMEAC strategy in sharing good practice. We will also

develop clusters of dioceses (led by one of the centres of excellence) to share diverse experience and learn from each other.

Other components of the action plan include development of a communications strategy, engaging with the House of Bishops and a piece of research on the obstacles that prevent minority ethnic Anglicans from offering for ministry in the Church of England.

Sonia Barron
National Adviser, CMEAC

“Living the Legacy” - Urban Youth Workers conference in Los Angeles, USA



of learning and understanding from sisters and brothers in an urban context, across the denominations. You can find out more about the “Living the legacy” conference at www.uvwi.org

National Youth Officer and Director of Board of Education in attendance as well as youth work practitioners from London, Birmingham and Nottingham, together with ecumenical colleagues. As a result of this trip and recognising similar need in the UK, a similar conference will be held here in 2010.

Dean Pusey
National Youth Officer, Southwark and
Chair CMEAC Youth Issues Group

In May thirteen youth work practitioners went to Los Angeles to visit the Urban Youth Workers Institute where they had six days

The follow-up event held at Trinity House (Southwark diocesan offices) was a reflection on the trip and we had the

DLPs—organise an event for minority ethnic young people in your diocese once a year. It may be better use of resources to organise the event regionally. CMEAC hopes to host a conference for urban youth workers in 2010 - watch this space.

Top tips for DLPs : given by DLPs

- ◆ I have been asked by my bishop to make a presentation to the Bishop's Council highlighting the work of CMEAC and encouraging members to pass on information to their departments. Maybe you could seek similar opportunities to speak at Bishop's council, diocesan or deanery synods.
- ◆ I was inspired and encouraged in my work as DLP. As a result of the conference in May I sent copies of the leaflet to the deaneries and key diocesan officers informing them about the work of CMEAC.
- ◆ Set up a MEAC group – Chester diocese had their first MEAC gathering, with several young people present. This is a good start and they plan to arrange a regional event for minority ethnic young people.
- ◆ Attend DLP conferences/residentials organised by the CMEAC office.
- ◆ Encourage more minority ethnic Anglicans to identify with C-of-E and CMEAC.
- ◆ Get involved with Racial Equality Networks and also work organisations on Diversity and Social Cohesion matters.

DLP Appointments/News

- ⇒ Mrs [Canon] Linda Ali has been appointed Lay Canon at York Cathedral.
- ⇒ Mr Franklin Lee, Warden at Boston College, Lincolnshire, has taken over the role as DLP to Lincoln Diocese.
- ⇒ The Revd Dr Rosalyn Murphy has moved from Durham Diocese and is now Priest-in-charge at Blackpool St Thomas, Diocese of Blackburn.
- ⇒ Mrs Dorothy Stewart has been accepted for training, following her attendance at a selection conference.
- ⇒ The Revd David de Verny, who was DLP at Lincoln Diocese, has moved to a new post at Hull University.

The Revd Dr Rosalyn Murphy, Durham DLP goes to Lambeth

Rosalyn Murphy describes her visit to the Lambeth conference where she was a co-presenter on the spouses' programme (together with Sonia Barron, Adviser to CMEAC) as “a once in a lifetime opportunity to get to know bishops' wives and leaders of our church at their best and just to be present with them was a great opportunity.”

The Lambeth conference was a gathering to really focus on the future of the Anglican Church. She continues: “We met others from the Anglican Communion and were able to see the broader face of the Anglican Church. We have the tendency just to see what's here in England but at Lambeth we had the chance to see the Church as much bigger and broader than the UK and USA.”

Rosalyn and Sonia's plenary contribution focussed on the family – acknowledging we (Anglicans) are family and at times we forget that. Generally speaking families live together, grow up in the same household, know one another, know each other's gifts etc. Our Christian family is all over the world, so unless we visit them or they visit us we don't develop the same intimacy. Part of our Christian responsibility is to get to know one another and this can only happen when we spend time together, and Lambeth was an opportunity to do just that. Rosalyn had the opportunity to touch base with Mellen Press who have invited her to explore the possibility of publishing her dissertation.

DLPs—do send into the CMEAC national office some of your good practice experience so we can share this with others on the network.