

## COMMITTEE FOR MINORITY ETHNIC ANGLICAN CONCERNS

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**CMEAC**

Visit Our Website at:

[www.cofe.anglican.org/info/cmeac](http://www.cofe.anglican.org/info/cmeac)

## A Reflection

CMEAC's work is all about belonging – ensuring that minority ethnic Anglicans are fully members of their church – and this has national, as well as local, dimensions.

In terms of the National Church Institutions, CMEAC belongs within the Mission and Public Affairs Division (MPA) of the Archbishops' Council. At one level, this is about geography – Sonia and her assistant have desks surrounded by colleagues working on Home Office matters, International Affairs, Urban Mission, Evangelism, World Mission, Medical Ethics and so on. But the office layout might also express the centrality of minority ethnic concerns within MPA's overall remit.

CMEAC's public role is crucial. *The Walk of Witness* to mark the anniversary of the laws abolishing the slave trade was a very visible example, but the persistence of

racism gives CMEAC a wide concern for policy, law and the cultures of rural, urban and suburban Britain. This is all mission. CMEAC's vocation is to help the church to become more authentically Christ-like – open to all and celebrating the gifts of its members with no boundaries of culture or ethnicity. For CMEAC, public engagement is mission and *vice versa* – these are not separate activities but one.

Mission is not just what the church does "out there" but all the ways in which it grows closer to Christ. I want to encourage CMEAC's insights to touch everything MPA does so that we have a bigger story to tell about mission and the church. Truly belonging means being able to make a significant difference.

**Malcolm Brown**  
Director, Mission and  
Public Affairs Division

CMEAC is committed through its **Diocesan Link Persons**, to assisting the bishops and their dioceses in developing diocesan-wide strategies for combating racial bias within the church; encouraging them to make the issue of racism a priority concern in their programmes, and to circulate the best analyses—and other data helpful for information and education.

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 Person and help CMEAC in your local Diocese, please contact **Sonia Barron, Adviser to CMEAC** at the contact details given above.

### What Does a DLP do?

*Tell us about the work you do as a DLP for CMEAC to encourage and educate on minority ethnic issues. We need your comments and views on how we can use you more effectively to promote our work.*

### ALSO FOR YOUR DIARY

Important diary date

#### Culmination of events of the Bicentenary

GATHERING OF THANKSGIVING

**Set all free gathering**  
of thanksgiving and commitment  
to be held on  
**Tuesday 13 November 2007**  
from 11 am to 4 pm  
at  
**St John's Church, Waterloo**  
Road, London SE1 8TY

For a detailed outline of the day and to register for attendance please e-mail

[info@setallfree.net](mailto:info@setallfree.net)  
Website: [www.setallfree.net](http://www.setallfree.net)

# The Link

Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns

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### Dates for your diary

- **6-7 November 2007:** Youth Network Residential *'In the Mix 2'* residential @ Royal Foundation of St Katharine's, London E14.
- **16-17 May 2008:** DLP Residential @ Royal Foundation of St Katharine's, London E14: **'Empowerment for leadership'**.

## Support for Youth Workers



One of CMEAC's commitments, through its youth issues working group, is to develop networks supporting those who work with minority ethnic young people. Following a request from a youth worker in Birmingham Diocese, CMEAC was asked to facilitate a conference which brought together seventeen people for a 24 hour residential. This was held on the Worcestershire/Birmingham Border and provided a space for sharing some of the

joys, struggles and pains of those involved in youth-work and ministry. The group, through music, discussion, prayer and film, explored the theme 'Soundtrax'. The theme took a musical base as so much of the lives of young people and our own, is communicated through the medium of music. Each person played a soundtrack that was significant to them. Some artists included were James Brown, Bob Marley, Louis Armstrong, Donny Hathaway, Whitney Houston, Bengali worship. One of the tracks was by one of the people with us who had written a song for his own mother. This was truly music that moved our souls.

We discussed some of the things that young people are saying to the adults, what a Birmingham network might

look like and what would be its purpose. We also discussed CMEAC's role and its connection with such networks. The final session was spent charting a way forward.

The outcomes of the weekend were that:

- The Birmingham Network commits itself to meeting regularly, the first date was set for September.
- Concerns are raised through the Diocesan networks.
- Support be given where appropriate through CMEAC.

We hope to do something similar in other key Dioceses.

**Dean Pusey**  
Chair CMEAC Youth  
Issues Working Group

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## International Anglican Family Network

Readers will be interested to read The International Anglican Family Network's (IAFN) Trinity 2007 Newsletter. The theme of that issue is **Slavery and the Family: Past and Present** and the News-

letter includes a focus on slavery from the Transatlantic Slave Trade to the present day exploitation of migrant labour. Featured in the Newsletter is a CMEAC contribution giving an

overview on the Church of England's response to the Bicentenary. The next IAFN newsletter will have as its theme **Urban Families**. You can visit their website at: [www.iafn.net](http://www.iafn.net).

## Roadside Recovery for guns, gangs and drugs Southwark Diocese Event: 18th July 2007, Southwark Town Hall



to develop a consciousness about how the church responds, especially those from an Anglican context. After the media has come and gone what or who is left? How do young people engage the 'roadside' in a way that sustains life not end it?

We, therefore, asked friends from the **Bringing Hope project** (based in Birmingham) to come and share a day with us, speaking to a local Church of England School in South London together with a local priest in the Stockwell area of South London. Fifty people including young people, a bishop, priests and ordinary church members engaged in conversation about what *we could do to assist and enable 'roadside recovery'*.

One of the Bringing Hope team observed that "the DNA in Lon-

don is the same as in Birmingham" and the team challenged us to get real with ourselves and God in how we could respond.

The struggle for those with perceived power is how do we respond proactively rather than simply be reactive to an issue that is there - are we in denial, especially those who run our schools? The Church, as part of its nurture of young people, has a duty of care that goes beyond the school to the home, especially those who function in a parish context. It is a conversation that those who work with young people in formal and informal contexts need to engage in and try to find solutions *with* our young people, the Lord being our helper.

**Dean Pusey**  
Diocesan Youth Adviser  
Southwark

The issue of guns, gangs, knives and drugs has had a high profile in the media, especially in the cities of Birmingham, Manchester and London. For those affected by the issues whether directly or indirectly, the pain and misery is something that only God fully understands, particularly that of mothers who lose their children. In February, as a result of the peace march in South London from Peckham to Brixton, I felt burdened to begin

## Floor-filler with Faith—Bringing Love and Joy to the Club

Lorraine Dixon is a vicar who operates as a Dj and promoter in Birmingham's club scene. She also co-presents 'SOUL FOOD', a radio show devoted to Soulful, Deep and Gospel House on Birmingham's Newstyle Radio (98.7 FM local to Birmingham or online at [www.newstyleradio.co.uk](http://www.newstyleradio.co.uk)) every Saturday from 12 midnight till 2 am Sunday morning.

Known as **Dj Ayo** - which is the Yoruba word for 'joy' - Lorraine attempts to share the joy she feels in the Lord in the parties she organises in local bars and clubs. Picking up on this theme her latest bi-monthly parties are called 'LOVE JOY'. She pursues this through her project 'Taste and See the Light', which comes from

Psalm 34 verse 8 'O taste and see that God is good.'

The project (which is supported by the Diocese of Birmingham) is an attempt to reach people who may be on a spiritual journey of some sort but who would rather be moving to the latest 'phat' beats in a club at 3 am on a Sunday morning than sing from a hymnal at a Sunday service.

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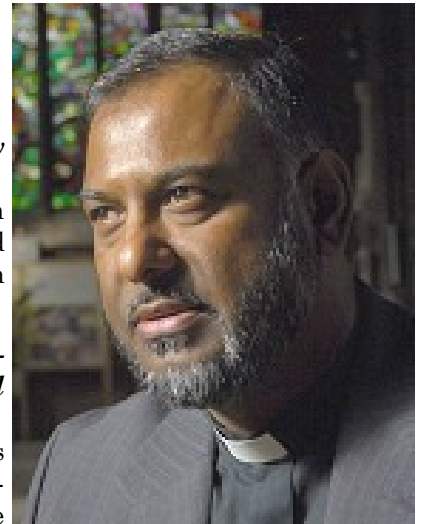
our dancing, in our sweaty, funky humanity as we are. I truly encounter God in the groove and in the funk, but that's not to say that I'm going to 'Bible bash' people. However, I do wear



my dog collar when I Dj because I feel I am engaged in service and presenting a priestly presence." As an Anglican vicar, Lorraine is pursuing a way of reaching young people beyond church walls.

You can find out more about 'Taste and See the Light' and upcoming events at the projects website:

## Rogers Govender, Dean of Manchester Cathedral, speaks to The Link



### 1. How would you reflect on your 18 months as the first minority ethnic cathedral dean?

This has been a very positive experience for me. The post has given me an amazing insight into the collaboration and interaction between Church and Civic society. As a member of a minority ethnic community, people in both Church and wider community have warmly welcomed me.

### 2. Tell us a bit about the process for appointment as dean of Manchester Cathedral and how your previous appointments prepared you for this position.

The process is confidential and done through 10 Downing Street as this is one of Her Majesty's appointments. Hence, I did not know I was being considered for this post until I received a letter from the Prime Minister in the post.

One hopes that previous parochial and diocesan experience and responses enables you to take on a senior appointment at some stage. I have served as an archdeacon and latterly was an Area Dean in south Manchester. This latter role was very helpful because it involved working with other senior colleagues and parishes over a much wider geographical area.

### 3. Was there something specific that encouraged you in pursuing this vocation?

I have always been a 'big picture' person. I have previously worked at a senior diocesan level, and this made me believe that I prefer to work on a wide canvas. I have had experience overseeing a large cathedral-type parish with a large staff complement and budgets to match. I believe that cathedrals are crucial in the mission of the Church and this belief energises and empowers me.

### 4. What would you say and do to encourage more minority ethnic young people to explore the ordained ministry as their vocation?

I believe that cathedrals are crucial in the mission of the Church and this belief energises and empowers me.

- Believe in yourself and your abilities
- Take your academic pursuits seriously
- Be willing to cross cultures and ethnic racial boundaries
- Do not be dismissive of your abilities and challenge senior leaders and bishops in the diocese to give you an opportunity to try difficult ministry challenges at a senior level. Other senior appointments become 'easier' to take on there afterwards.

## 5 Top Tips for DLP's from Zahida Mallard: GOAL

As I write this the new football season has arrived!!!!

**Go** with God into every meeting. The diocese has loads and loads of meetings, some you will be invited to as a DLP, others that you have to take the initiative and invite yourself to especially if you find out about them. Sometimes you can't go to every meeting as if like me you have a "day" job but find people who will walk alongside you and have the same passion, brief them and send them.

**Offer** to do things like sharing an experience from your network, leading prayers as well as speaking up-front.

**Always** be prepared to talk about comfortable things as well as uncomfortable ones that need to be addressed. Challenge and be heard as well as sit back and listen. Make sure when you speak at meetings that you are well briefed not just about CMEAC's agenda, but are rooted in other issues as well.

**Love**, whatever the outcome at the end of day. Sometimes when you have walked away you realise you didn't answer the questions posed very well or handled the situation right—place all things in God's hand and ask for His blessing on those who were there as well as you.

Back to the football, it's about teamwork and needs every player working together, and so it is with the Church. Be willing to work with people at all levels and make a contribution to the end result.

**GOAL**