

THE LINK

Committee for minority ethnic Anglican concerns
(CMEAC)

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Special points of interest:

- **In the Mix** Conference
- Information on **set all free** website
- Recommended reading
- The life and times of a DLP
- Walk of Witness
- Reflection

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IN THE MIX!



The purpose of the 'In the Mix' conference was to explore & reflect on questions that arose through the themes of the National Youth Strategy of the Church of England, of which there are four: young people & mission; young people & leadership; young people & worship and resourcing youth workers.

Leaders and practitioners in this area, met at this 24 hour consultation in Swanwick to share best practice, learn from and inspire each other in their work with minority ethnic young people by exploring the pertinent issues together. CMEAC believes that everyone has something they can add to the mix to help each other fulfil their potential for participation in the life of the Church.

set all free - Abolition of the Slave Trade Act Bicentenary 2007

This is the Churches Together in England project for 2007. It encourages the churches, Christian groups, and others, to generate initiatives for the bicentenary reflecting the strands of **Remember, Reflect, Respond** to be in keeping with their holistic approach. For further information log on to: www.setallfree.net

Remember - the horrors of the transatlantic slave trade

- † The abolitionists - black, white, male, female, mostly Christian
- † The role of the Church in both slavery and abolition

Reflect - on the consequences of the transatlantic slave trade and slavery

- † On racism
- † On under-development
- † On the impact on commerce

Respond - to the legacy of the slave trade

- † Take action to end modern forms of slavery
- † Effect healing and reconciliation

Justin McKenzie DLP from Chelmsford Diocese

I have been a Diocesan Link Person (DLP) for Chelmsford Diocese since 1990 and have journeyed with the Diocese in its work with Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (MEAC). Voices from the 80s and 90s cried:

"Please allow us to participate".

"Please allow us to contribute in the life of the Church."

I have seen my role as being a "voice" for minority ethnic Anglicans and have been encouraged in doing this by my Bishop. Having the encouragement and support of Bishop John has been crucial to my role.

As DLP, I have been the link between the CMEAC office and our local MEAC and the Diocesan and Bishop's offices. I have

Minority ethnic Anglicans making a stand

helped the diocese in its struggle to embrace 'difference' and 'otherness' by encouraging people to move from theoretical and intellectual engagement to practical demonstration and understanding.

It has been a particular struggle in our diocese with vocations from minority ethnic communities despite the fact that the growth in many congregations is from these very communities.

It will probably be no surprise therefore to discover that there is no senior member of the Diocesan staff drawn from among the minority ethnic community. This is in no way seeking to malign any individuals, but is rather a

demonstration of the challenge facing the church in its common life. It has often been said that the answer to some of our difficulties lies with identifying the 'gatekeepers' in the Church's life. This will ensure that the messages are delivered and worked out in our parishes.

There are two important aspects of what I do as a DLP:

- being a resource or pointing others to resources which will help them address issues of minority ethnic Anglican concerns, and
- providing leadership and encouragement for our own diocesan committee for minority ethnic Anglicans

The fact that the Bishop's Council and the Diocesan Synod has taken formal ownership of its DCMEAC strategies is a great encouragement and may see some hopes realised in the near future.

*I dreamed death came the other night and Heaven's gate swung wide;
An angel with a halo bright ushered me inside.*

And there, to my astonishment stood folk I'd judged and labelled as 'quite unfit' of 'little worth' and 'spiritually disabled'.

*Indignant words rose to my lips but never were set free
For every face showed stunned surprise, not one expected me!*
(Anon)



*Do you have a story to tell?
The CMEAC office would like to hear from DLPs for inclusion in the Easter 2007 edition. Contact details on the back cover.*

Date of the next CMEAC DLP Network meeting is Saturday, 21st April 2007 at The Endsleigh Centre, Beverley Road, Hull, HU6 7LJ

HAPPY IN MY SKIN - *youth ministry with young people from minority ethnic groups*

CMEAC is happy to recommend to readers the above publication, published in August 2006. Edited by Jenny Baker with a major contribution by Simon Bell, (former Adviser to CMEAC), it includes chapters by Dean Pusey, Southwark Diocesan Youth Worker and current Chairman of the CMEAC Youth Issues Working Group. The book explores how to develop effective ministry to young people from minority ethnic groups and looks at the social justice issues that arise for them. In addition, it looks at how those young people, marginalised from the life of the Church, find God's heart.

Contributions are from practitioners working with black, Asian and Traveller communities.

(ISBN 1-904024-81-5 Published by Christian Education Publications)

Happy in my Skin – a Personal Review by Simon Bell

Happy in my Skin is a project that grew from a series of discussions and connections in youth ministry from my time with CMEAC. The book contains seven wonderful case studies that reflect a range of approaches to and experiences of youth ministry that serve as a cultural mosaic in and of themselves. Dean Pusey writes a brilliant exegesis of the exile narratives from a young black perspective and there are chapters from

Richard James, a youth worker in south west London, Dorn Henry, who served as CMEAC's youth officer, Nick Adams, a youth worker from Islington, Ravi Sangra who works with young Muslims in Birmingham and many others. It includes a glimpse of the ongoing cycle of racism that Traveller young people sustain daily and brings us to the forever startling reality that working with young people on the margins of society is full of difficult ethical choices.

What I loved about the project, and I think is clearly reflected in the book, is that we found the capacity to hold all of our diverse voices, views and experiences of youth ministry in a single text.

MAKING OUR MARK - Redemption, Restoration, and Resurrection

Making our Mark is a specific Church of England response and contribution to the Churches Together in England project - **set all free: Act to end Slavery**. The Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns is taking the lead in helping address the legacy of slavery from a Church of England perspective. **Making our Mark** is the Church of England's official response to the 200th Anniversary of the

This initiative has two main components—**Dialogues** (Bicentenary Hearings) and **Journeying (Walk of Witness)**. The **Hearings** provide an opportunity for participants to listen to stories of both black and white church members experience, which are a direct legacy of the transatlantic slave trade. It is hoped that through this process there will be the

beginnings of healing and reconciliation as a result of the telling

ness and Commitment. This walk will give substance to the Church of England's apology passed by a General Synod motion in February 2006. Participants of the Walk of Witness include Anglican

CMEAC
Walk of Witness
Saturday,
24 March 2007

Hearings and Walk of Witness

Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 2007. It offers the chance to begin the process of laying foundations on which people can begin to build afresh in a relationship of mutual respect and understanding. Its goal is also to illuminate the Church's complex role in the history of the slave trade and to

affirm that the Church stands against enslavement of all kinds.

and hearing of the story.

The project will culminate in the **Walk of Witness** heritage trail through London. This walk will take place on **24 March 2007** led by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York together with Archbishops of the Church in the Province of the West Indies and of West Africa. The Walk concludes with an **Act of Repentance, Forgive-**

leaders, ecumenical partners and members from all Dioceses are welcome. Those who want to be part of this Walk of Witness should visit:

www.makingourmark.org.uk

Everyone is welcome.

COMMITTEE FOR MINORITY ETHNIC ANGLICAN CONCERNS

CMEAC

Church House
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3NZ

Phone: 020 7898 1443

Fax: 020 7898 1431

Email: sonia.barron@c-of-e.org.uk

bernadette.marren@c-of-e.org.uk



A Reflection

In preparation for the Commemoration of the **Abolition of the Slave Trade Act Bicentenary 2007**, consider the following reflection -

• Jesus did not specifically address the issues of slavery, but He had a lot to say about equality in relationships. His words spoke against oppressive & dominating relationships and proved the inspiration for many anti -

• Jesus' message of love, peace and justice invariably resonates with the last, the least and the lost, and underlines that "*in as much as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me*" (Matthew 25:40).

• Jesus' first sermon recorded in the gospel of Luke, quoted the words of the Prophet Isaiah "*He has sent me to bring release to*

the captives.." Let us remember to "*do justly, to love mercy, and walk humbly before God*". In this way we will be in keeping with the church's mission to restore, recognise and perfect "*the image of God*" in all people and break the chains of slavery today.

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 of racism – including theological 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.

Dates of CMEAC DLP
Network meetings 2007 -
Saturday, 21st April at The
Endsleigh Centre, Hull &
Saturday, 29th September
at Christchurch, Southwark

TOP TIPS FOR DLPs

1. Become a resource
2. Point the way for others
3. Provide leadership
4. Encourage your local MEAC group
5. Find your 'voice'
6. Be pragmatic
7. Don't be afraid of the challenge!

By Justin McKenzie, DLP Chelmsford