

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 **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.

Christmas wishes

May you know the true meaning of Christmas
From the Committee and Officers of CMEAC

A Christmas Reflection - Telling a richer story

Here's the internet's second largest women's website, BellaOnline, talking about Christmas and the three wise men:

"The names of the Three Wise Magi are not mentioned in the Bible and were added at a later date by ancient storytellers..."

Melchior was an old white man with a long white beard, bearing the gift of gold for Christ's royalty; Caspar was young and of darker hue, carrying frankincense incense for Christ's divinity; and Balthasar was a black man, offering myrrh for Christ's suffering and death".

What were the "ancient storytellers" up to, adding this to the Christmas story? Perhaps they were just giving us another exam-



ple of the white guy coming first, with all the gold. Or perhaps they wanted to enrich the story, to treasure diversity – showing all of humanity worshipping the Lord of all.

The way you read the story depends on your experience – both sweet and bitter – and it also depends on your hope, and your dream, for what the incarnation of God in Christ can mean for the world.

I work in the Mission and Public Affairs division in Church House Westminster, alongside colleagues including CMEAC's Sonia Barron and Edna Dolor. Our task, together, is the task of all Christians - to re-tell the story of Christ, and then to point to the saving richness of that story for all of us in the

world and in the church.

For that story to be both simple and rich, we need to see each other, to hear each other, as we are. It's a poorer story if it doesn't embrace us all. As Max Warren said, "Only a whole world can know Jesus Christ".

I don't know how diverse the magi were, and who brought what; but I do know that the Anglican family is diverse, has room for all, and can't afford to do without any. And I thank God for that. The Christ-child can use everyone's gift, in a nervous church, in a fractured world. Telling a richer story is the call we all share. So thank God for CMEAC's witness in enriching the story of our church, and of our lives.

The Revd Canon Paul Bayes
National Mission & Evangelism
Adviser, Archbishops' Council

The Link

Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns

Volume 2, Issue 3

Christmas 2007

Dates for your diary

- **15-17 February 2008: CMEAC Vocations Conference @ The Royal Foundation of St Katharine, London E14.**
- **16-17 May 2008. DLP Network Residential @ The Royal Foundation of St Katharine, London E14: 'Empowerment for leadership'**

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Thoughts from the DLP Network meeting at Southwark Christchurch, 29 September 2007

John Root (London Diocese)

This was my first meeting of Diocesan Link Persons. I found it really stimulating. It was good to hear of how predominantly rural dioceses are responding to the influx of migrant farm workers; and it was good that debate opened up on questions of real substance, such as how realistic and appropriate it is to expect greater numbers of minority ethnic leaders in the upper hierarchy of the church. I hope CMEAC will be a forum for genuine and open debate about how the Church of England can become more ethnically diverse in every aspect of its life; and will promote the sharing of experiences and good practice

David de Verny (Lincoln Diocese)

"I very much enjoyed meeting DLPs from other dioceses and sharing what goes on in other parts of the Church of England. What seems most striking to me is that although black and asian congregations are growing, especially in inner-city and urban areas, black and asian anglicans are not proportionately represented in any part of the church. OK, we have a black archbishop and one asian bishop but that's it. We have one black archdeacon but no other. And

where are the black and asian PCC members, churchwardens, readers and members of synods? It's just not good enough. We are betraying the Gospel and do nothing to redeem past sins by not working harder to get our brothers and sisters properly represented in all spheres of the church."

Nicholas Kerr (Rochester Diocese)

"It's been my privilege to be the Diocesan Link for Rochester Diocese in West Kent for around eighteen months, and I have attended both meetings in 2007.

Gathering with representatives from dioceses all over England is the cause both of great joy and of great frustration. It's fascinating to hear how some of the dioceses, and their bishops, are engaging with the question of ensuring Anglicans from all ethnic backgrounds have equal access and encouragement in the structures of the Church of England. Sometimes it's the cause of envy, sometimes of reassurance that one is not alone. The meetings are a great place for hearing new ideas."

Top tips for DLPs

- ★ **If you don't have a MEAC group** consider setting one up, even if you only begin with a small number. This is a good way to encourage minority ethnic Anglicans and help raise/address issues of racial justice in your diocese. Contact the CMEAC office if you need help in doing this
- ★ **Keep racial justice as a 'live' issue** by using the materials provided for use on Racial Justice Sunday by using them throughout the year
- ★ **Be seen and known.** Let people know what your role involves. When others know what you do they will know how to support you better and may even become an advocate for you and the work you do.

Tribute to the late Beverley Ruddock, DLP for Oxford



I am sure that we were all shocked to have learnt of the sudden and untimely death, on 9 October 2007, of our beloved sister, Beverley Ruddock at the age of just 60 years. Her life mirrored everything that could be held up as an example what being a black Anglican was all about. She was a terrific mother to her boys (all grown men of course – but still “her boys” that she just adored). She was intelligent and used her academic abilities as added value to ‘the mix’ of whatever she was involved in.

She worked tirelessly to promote the issues of Minority Ethnic Anglicans nationally as well as within her own diocese of Oxford. All that she did, and all that she was, sprung from her faith in God. The brilliant thing about Beverley is that she led by example. She served her diocese well as a lay member of the General Synod and was also a member of the Bishop's Council. She was a vocation's adviser in her diocese and a National Selection Secretary for the ministry division. She was also a Deputy

Lord Lieutenant for Berkshire which meant that from time to time she was called on to represent Her Majesty the Queen. In her job she worked as a Senior Educational Psychologist in Wokingham.

The Church of England has lost a great Christian woman; CMEAC has lost a shining beacon of what being a ME Anglican is all about – being at the heart of the life of the church – locally & nationally. We have lost a true friend.

We remember her sons and her sisters; her work colleagues in our prayers. May her soul rest in peace and rise in glory.

Readers may want to see more tributes to Beverley at: www.oxford.anglican.org/communication/beverley_ruddock.html

*Extracts taken from a tribute by the Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin
Chair - CMEAC*

Culmination of Events: Bicentenary 2007

Celebration and reconciliation

'Take the Shackles off my feet: a service of celebration and reconciliation to mark the 200th anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act was an ecumenical service for Willesden Episcopal Area. This was an inspiring gathering of Christians from different ethnic backgrounds and spiritual traditions. There were contributions from the local MP Dawn Butler, the Bishop - the Rt Revd Peter Broadbent - Pastors Desmond Hall, Isaachar Lewinson and Richard Reddie of **set all free**; plus excellent music from



No Limits & video clips from Stop the Traffik. I thought the service did generate a sense of unity of people coming with very different histories, and of concern about continuing injustice in the present. We didn't know whether 50 or 300 would come; in the event there were about 70, which was a disappointment given the potential of the service.

The Preb John Root
vicar of St James, Alperton &
London Diocese DLP

Set all free : Service of thanksgiving and commitment

On Tuesday 13 November, at St John's Church, Waterloo, **set all free** held a thanksgiving gathering for all those who have been involved with them in the preparations and marking of the **bicentenary** of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. The Revd Jesse Jackson, the US civil rights campaigner, was a surprise guest speaker. Although not packed many people from the network attended the service.

Edna Dolor
CMEAC office

Important information

16-17 May 2008

DLP Network Residential

to be held at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine, London E14

Registration forms to be sent out in January 2008

Dean Pusey, reflects on *Re-Mix: Is there a legacy of slavery for young people?* held on 6-7 November 2007

The Re-mix conference, held at the *Royal Foundation of St Katharine, Limehouse*, was one that was exciting and challenging in the dialogue as well as in the way we carry out youthwork and ministry practice with those who have experienced what they see as the legacies of slavery, especially for minority ethnic young people and youth workers of African descent. This was a key conference, one that was courageous for all participants and particular thanks to all those who dared to be vulnerable.

It was evident that there were two worldviews emerging through the discussions – and they were very different. This conference was not about solutions and this was clearly heard and apparent in the disappointment expressed by some in relation to issues of process.

For some the conversation/relationship is and continues to be the process because of invisibility. There are no quick fixes but there are 'hooks' to enable people to explore further, but this will require persistence. The input of the Revd David Shosanya was extremely poignant 6 key areas identified as the legacies of slavery*. Any youthwork and ministry institution seeking to work with minority ethnic young people needs to follow up and work through what this means in their context and be an agent and facilitator of change.

There is likely to be a follow-up – perhaps a series of hearings (similar to the bicentenary hearings which formed part of the Church of England's response to the bicentenary). These may start to bridge the gulf and be the next part of a very important conversation.

We carry on in the hope of transformation both as individuals and organisations in the One who sets us all free.

*Six legacies of slavery:

1. Geographical and social dislocation
2. Identity disorientation
3. Infrastructural exclusion
4. Spiritual and temporal dichotomies
5. Historical amnesia
6. Internalised pathology

Dean Pusey: Chair, CMEAC
Youth Issues Working Group

Youth workers' views on the National CMEAC Youth Workers conference *Re-mix: Is there a legacy of slavery for young people?*



The residential conference on the legacy of slavery was for me an outstanding and important gathering of many individuals, who willingly shared their understanding and perspectives on the issue. It was very enlightening, and I left there well informed regarding a topic I admit to never really looking into; I'm proud to say that I was there.

The sessions covered over a two day period were extremely powerful, particularly the legacies as explained by the Revd David Shosanya and how it relates to today's society.

As a young black man myself, raised on the streets amongst

many other black men, I can now see and understand how and why things may be the way they are.

My intent now is to share what I have learnt with other people, and try to 'interrupt the destruction' that exists among us, by putting better things in its place; helping other to know themselves and what they can be, as well as seeking the same for myself.

Ethan Bernard
Youth Development Worker

The CMEAC conference was quite an awesome experience. I was able to hear of some of the issues faced by the older generation within the black community on an organisational level. During the conference older youth practitioners from different environments spoke of their experiences gained from working with young people.

I found that the speakers were very inspirational and also gave practical suggestions that can improve the quality of youth work that we deliver.

It was great to have a Jamaican perspective during the conference; to hear of what they are experiencing and the challenges that they are facing while delivering youth work in Jamaica.

For me the whole conference was very inspirational and has definitely made me look at youth work in a different way.

Tekla Balfour
Trainee Youth Worker

