

THE LINK

Committee for minority ethnic Anglican concerns

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Special points of interest:

- Welcome from the CMEAC Adviser
- The Enthronement of the Archbishop of York
- A Link exclusive - a very special DLP
- The Vibrancy of George Kovoov
- News of the next Network DLP meeting

The new CMEAC Adviser

Sonia Barron, a tutor in intercultural theology at Nottingham University, was appointed as Adviser to the Church of England's Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (CMEAC) in May 2005. Sonia, who originally comes from the black Pentecostal tradition, has previously worked in education as teacher and head of department in Religious Education in schools in England and Uganda & in Theology in the University of Wales. She has worked in Uganda as a missionary teacher, and as a travelling secretary & youth officer for Mid-Africa Ministry, which now forms part of the Church Mission Society.



Mrs Sonia Barron, Adviser to CMEAC appointed in May 2005

CMEAC works to encourage and engage participation from the Church of England's black and minority ethnic populations, at every level. Resourcing, listening to and learning from the church's minority ethnic populations, the Committee also provides a forum for supporting the outcomes and mandates of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry and subsequent publications.

'I am convinced that the Church of England and its minority ethnic members have a great deal to offer each other, and I am looking forward to working with the Dioceses and with CMEAC towards empowering those members to make a greater contribution to the life of the Church and beyond' she said on her appointment. It is with this vision in mind that she welcomes all Diocesan Link Persons to the wider family of CMEAC and the Archbishops' Council.

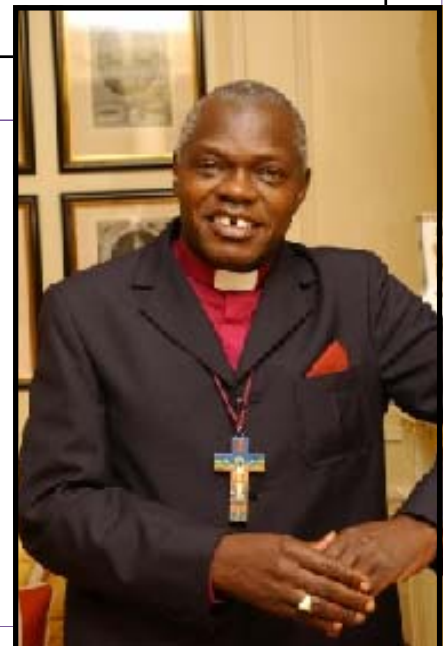
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The new Archbishop of York

Dr John Sentamu was the first Chairman of CBAC (Committee for Black Anglican Concerns) in the 1980s before CMEAC was launched in 1999. He is an outstanding role model for all Diocesan Link Persons.

Those present at his enthronement appreciated the mix of the traditional English and Ugandan elements included in the service. The Archbishop of Canterbury took and anointed each of Archbishop Sentamu's hand separately as he knelt. When Dr Williams raised him up there was a hug which brought a huge round of sustained applause.



The new Archbishop of York pictured above in his office as the Bishop of Birmingham

Commitment to Church and Community:

in conversation with Beverley Ruddock about her career, recent honorary appointments, and being a DLP

Beverley Ruddock has been a Diocesan Link Person for Oxford since the network began. Having served for over a decade on General Synod and CMEAC, she is one of the Church's leading figures in the promotion of minority ethnic leadership and racial justice. She arrived in the UK from Jamaica as a teenager, and trained as a psychologist at Reading University and University College London. She has three sons and takes time out to enjoy reading, walking, and travelling. Her most recent trip was a train journey across Canada, following the Afro-Caribbean Conference in Toronto earlier this year. Much of Beverley's work in the Church of England is with vocations.



Beverley Ruddock Diocesan Link Person for Oxford Diocese

As an advisor in her Diocese, she 'sees people and walks alongside them in their exploration of vocation'. She chairs the bishop of Reading's Vocation Fellowship, is a Selector for the Advisory Board of Ministry, and is a member of the National Vocations Forum. She also played a key part in launching the Diocese of Oxford's Agenda for Action, which seeks to locally do the work set out for the Church in the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report. Published in this year's Diocese of Oxford Yearbook, it assigns tasks and goals to specific parties to ensure everyone is appropriately accountable in the diocesan racial justice process.

I have just been drawn in to answer a specific need and as a result have become involved.

Involvement in Racial Justice & General Synod

Glynne Gordon-Carter, Secretary to CMEAC from 1987 to 2002, was the first to invite Beverley to become actively involved in tackling institutional racism in the Church of England in 1988. Beverley decided she would join her diocesan Racial Justice Group which later grew into regular services, now celebrated through her Diocesan Racial Justice Group which later grew into regular services, now celebrated through Racial Justice Sunday and local

ecumenical partnerships. CMEAC encouraged the whole DLP Network to consider standing as candidates and ensured each DLP was equipped with the knowledge and support necessary to go forward. As a DLP for Oxford, Beverley took part in a series of workshops and seminars in the run-up to the 1995 General Synod elections.

'I see people and walk alongside them in their exploration of vocation'.

My beliefs as a Christian impact on all my work ... I do the same for my job.

Beverley was successfully elected as the first Afro-Caribbean General Synod representative for the Diocese of Oxford and subsequently was appointed to CMEAC. Since then she has contributed her time as a DLP at each national CMEAC Network meetings and more than 10 Diocesan Advisory team visits as a member of the CMEAC Diocesan Advisory Team.

What do you think makes a good DLP?

- ◆ You need to make time for Network Meetings because, 'If you're not there, you don't come away with all the excitement'.
- ◆ 'Believe that you have the potential to be able to bring about change for racial justice within your Diocese'.
- ◆ You should strive to forge a strong connection with the Diocesan Bishop to ensure that minority ethnic issues feature on the agenda.

'If you're not there, you don't come away with all the excitement'

Beverley is often invited to lead racial justice awareness and training workshops and she explains to her audience CMEAC's national remit to monitor, educate & empower the Church's diverse populations on minority ethnic issues as her motivation and driver. She sees her many roles as an integrated whole: *'When I am doing training sessions or presentations, my skills as an educational psychologist are naturally used. My beliefs as a Christian impact on all my work. The selflessness with which I give my time for the Church I do the same for my job'*.

Making a difference in education and the local community

Beverley's achievements and roles as a Senior Educational Psychologist are numerous. Her specialisms are in Autism and promoting the educational achievements of Children in Care, both of which are cutting edge issues in the medical community. Of the many things that Beverley has done, she singled out two

projects in her career history that made a huge personal impact:

1. Work with Cruse Bereavement Care in Oxfordshire where she & two counsellors ran a group for those suffering the loss of someone in a sudden death over a three-year period.
2. Beverley also planned & taught several 10 week practical courses at Bracknell College for people who found themselves having to cope alone because of death or separation, enlisting the aid of a range of relevant professionals & practitioners.

On her extensive work with the vulnerable in her career and in her work for the Church, Beverley modestly commented, *'I've just been drawn in to answer a specific need and as a result, have become involved.'* The binding theme between psychology & racial justice for Beverley is her commitment to providing practical support to those in society who need specific encouragement to successfully live their lives to the full.

The Order of St Frideswide

Recognition for service to community and Diocese.

In August, Beverley was appointed as a Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Berkshire. This role is to represent the Queen at a local level in conjunction with the Lord Lieutenant, and to accompany royal visitors to the county. Her appointment is in recognition of her years of service to the community, and she will act in this capacity until she is 75. Hot on the heels of this impressive honour it was announced in November

that she would be invited by the Bishop of Oxford into the Order of St Frideswide, which honours lay people who have served their diocese in exceptional ways (similar to a Lay Canon role).

The Bishop of Oxford said, "I know that Christ Church is looking forward to welcoming them and using their gifts further in the Cathedral and the Diocese."

DLP Network meeting planned for Saturday, 25 March 2006

In a recent interview the Bishop of Oxford said of those honoured, *'I know that Christ Church is looking forward to welcoming them and using their gifts further in the cathedral and the Diocese'*. Members of this honorary Order work as ambassadors for the diocese in their parishes. Both of these honours have been bestowed on a deserving, selfless and tireless woman who has devoted her life to serving others in her community. Her conviction and strength as a leader for racial justice in the Church of England ensures she is an inspiration and

and mentor to many, and it will be a pleasure to greet Beverley and congratulate her in person at the DLP Network meeting planned for 25th March 2006.



Venue: Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham

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CMEAC

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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 problems 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 **Mrs 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, views on how we can use you more effectively to promote our work.

Vibrant Mission: the Rev Canon George Kovoor

Involvement in mission and theological training

When the Evangelical Fellowship of the Anglican Communion last met for a global conference in Kenya 2003, the Rev George Kovoor was unanimously elected as the Co-ordinator of this influential International body. He was simultaneously the Principal of Crowther Hall, the Centre for Management and Mission Studies. Recently he left this post to take up his appointment as Principal of Trinity College, Bristol. With a profound life-long commitment to Anglican mission on a world scale, he has hands-on knowledge of engagement with the Orthodox family of Churches, Black Majority Pentecostal and Charismatic Churches, and the Church in China. George has a long history of involvement with CMEAC.

Putting the gospel into practice

His work with CMEAC has gone alongside his substantial record of putting the gospel of radical equality into practice. While at Crowther Hall his work with the Church Mission Society put him at the heart of this 200-year-old organization born out of the struggle against slavery in the UK. He has planted and nourished churches in his home country of India prior to settling in the UK in 1990, and his background invigorates and buttresses his work to empower the whole people of God for the work of God.

The son of an air force officer, George earned a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the University of Delhi and went on to graduate with a BD from the University of Serampore. He was Chairman of the Theological Research



Rev Canon George Kovoor, Principal of Trinity College, Bristol

and Communications Institute, New Delhi and National Youth Director of the Church in Northern India. He's traveled to over 70 nations and is often called on to write and speak on theological issues all over the world. From 1990-1994 he led Derby's Christian Action for Racial Justice group and has been a lecturer in Nottingham University's renowned CONTRAST course.