

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?

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 ; otherwise past copies can be read or downloaded on the CMEAC Web-link : www.cofe.anglican.org/info/cmeac/thelink.

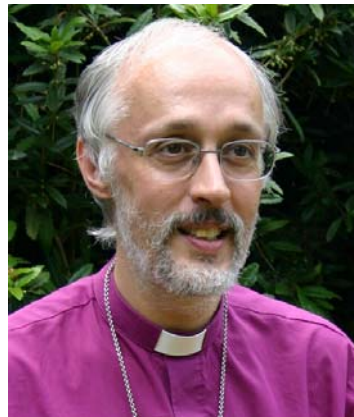
Reflection by the Rt Revd David Walker

One of my colleagues has a secretary with a good sense of humour. She has programmed her computer screen saver so that should she ever be away from her desk for more than five minutes it flashes up the message "Jesus is coming.....look busy!"

Both churches and individual Christians are good at looking busy. We look busy when we feel guilty about something and when we don't know what to do. And often it is not simply a case of looking busy, we actually find things to do that keep us fully occupied. I know I am very good at making myself busy when there is some task I'm trying to avoid.

Faced with matters of race and ethnicity the church is very good at looking busy. My task as the representative of the House of Bishops on CMEAC is to see that the church doesn't get away with busying itself with other matters;

and also our response to struggling with issues of racial diversity is not simply to busy ourselves with endless rounds of meetings and reports that never lead to any actual change. Most recently I have been working with colleagues from the



committee to turn Arlington Trotman's review of CMEAC from last autumn into an action plan for the next three years.

How can we really make a difference?

I think there is a big clue in the book of Revelation, chapter 1. St John tells us that the response to the return of Jesus is not to look busy but to know ourselves as truly loved, freed from our sins and formed into a priestly kingdom. As long as the motivation for such action as we take remains guilt or frustration or a sense of failure, we will not get very far. But let us be drawn and inspired by love, by the knowledge of our forgiveness and by determination to form ourselves into one united anticipation of God's kingdom on earth—and we've got a chance. Jesus is Coming.....*look loved!*

*The Rt Revd David Walker,
Bishop of Dudley and House of
Bishops' Representative
Member of CMEAC*

The Link

Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns

Volume 2, Issue 3

Eastertide 2008

Dates for your diary

- **16-17 May 2008: DLP Network Residential @ The Royal Foundation of St Katharine, London E14**
- **Slavery Memorial Day (23 August). This year's commemoration is the first of this newly created national day of observance.**

Diocesan Link Persons' Residential: 16-17 May 2008 at The Royal Foundation of St Katharine's, Limehouse, London E14

WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING is the theme of the address to be given by Anthony Reddie* at our DLP residential conference 16th – 17th May. We will look at how knowledge of God and the overall Gospel accounts can help us to re-interpret how we understand what we see in front of us, within us and around us.

Anthony will try to help DLPs to see the difference between knowing certain facts and having an understanding of wisdom and wise learning, which is more holistic and broader in nature than simply having knowledge.

Anthony says: *"One of the elements that has been lacking in the historic churches in Britain (including the Church of England) in terms of addressing racism is the sense that they have relied purely on intellectual modes of knowing - i.e. we have provided educational materials and learning opportunities for helping to know more about racism, prejudice and discrimination - this has been important (and it is not my intention to attack such approaches and work) but such approaches need to be underpinned by a wisdom based model of learning that is infused by the work of the Holy Spirit. Learning and wisdom are related to relationships and the overall narrative of truth of which we are all a part."*

His input will assist DLPs to see their roles as one of enabling others to interpret the nature of church as a framework for anti-racist and anti-oppressive practice and the flourishing of racial justice. This session sees DLP's not just as dispensers of knowledge but also cultivators of wisdom and understanding. There will be time for discussion and questions.

**Anthony Reddie is a Research Fellow and Consultant in Black Theological Studies for the British Methodist Church and the Queens Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education in Birmingham*



Inside this issue:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <i>DLP Residential: 16-17 May 2008—Anthony Reddie</i> | 1 |
| <i>Ordinands Consultation Day: 6 March 2008, Church House</i> | 2 |
| <i>5 DLP Tips: David de Verny, Lincoln Diocese</i> | 3 |
| <i>Did you know.....? Thoughts for DLPs</i> | 3 |
| <i>About CMEAC</i> | 4 |
| <i>Reflection: The Rt Revd David Walker</i> | 4 |

Equipping for leadership

As well as giving a theological basis for the work of CMEAC and the DLP network there will also be a training session. **Red Ochre** is a consultancy and delivery organisation offering support services to the voluntary sector, social enterprise and commercial organisations. They deliver training with voluntary organisations and faith groups and have agreed to deliver a two hour training session on **empowerment for leadership and organizational skills** completely free. Running workshops for groups like our DLP network provides an opportunity to give back something to the community. They describe their training as *"helping you perform even better at whatever you do"*. We hope that this training will help DLPs to leave feeling better equipped to return to their diocese, to carry out their (often) voluntary role with confidence.

Minority Ethnic Ordinands meet at Church House, Westminster



CMEAC's Vocations working group, in partnership with Ministry Division, held a consultation for minority ethnic ordinands in training on 6th March, 2008 at Church House, Westminster.

"a valuable and beneficial day yesterday. I found the program very helpful."

This consultation was organised to give ordinands time to reflect on

their vocational journey, selection and training and their hopes for serving their curacy.

Christopher Lowson, Director of Ministry Division, was part of the team that welcomed ordinands to Church House and shared his desire to further increase the number of minority ethnic ordinands and told of the Division's collaborative work with CMEAC's Vocations working group.

"Thank you very much for organising the consultation day. It was a helpful gathering. Also it was useful to have insights of what is going on in the wider Church."

Malcolm Brown, Director of Mission and Public Affairs – the Division where CMEAC sits,

was also present with us for the day and was particularly interested to hear ordinands' experiences – having been Principal of the Eastern Region Ministry Course, an ecumenical course based at Wesley House, Cambridge before taking up his post at Church House.

Feedback from discussion groups

"Thanks for last Thursday's consultation day. I found it useful – it is always good to meet with other ordinands and share experiences. Thanks for your encouragement as well"

deployment. After each address there were small group discussions for ordinands to reflect on what they had heard and to share their own experiences.

All discussion groups highlighted the need for support networks to help ordinands

"many thanks again for organisation of such a super event. It was quite an interesting experience."

in training – especially where they feel isolated and may be the only one in the college/course.

"The consultation has stirred a number of things in me, and as part of one of my modules, I'm hoping to lead a seminar on the question on race and the church."

Some other key points from these discussions were:

- * The Church of England needs to recognise that one size does not fit all.
- * Of the 400 selectors there are only 9 of minority ethnic background.

"my specific minority ethnic experiences were not being nurtured other than what I could make of it myself I believe this is an example of God at work in my life. God wants my wholeness and through his acts of grace I am brought nearer to an understanding of his love for me."

- * Language needs to be more inclusive of ethnicity as it has become with gender.
- * We should be celebrating diversity not grouping everyone together.
- * We need to tackle our prejudices in the same way we expect others to tackle their racism.

"ordinands need to be warned in advance about the intense workload with regular assignments, practical projects, group presentations, tutorials, reading, etc. It is very difficult to have time for people when there is such work pressure"

"It is important to acknowledge differences and how these can be managed. There needs to be clarification about the integrity of the working agreement... Although I am finding it difficult I feel that God may have sent me to this parish for a purpose and maybe I need to be prepared to do whatever that might be."

At the end of the day the Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chair of CMEAC, gave a reflection on the day itself and asked ordinands to think about their vocation and calling. She reminded us of Jesus words **"I am here among you as one who serves"** and that service is at the heart of our

vocation. She concluded with the words from Philippians 3:12-16 **"I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."**

Top tips for DLPs by David de Verny



- * **Be enthusiastic!** It is a privilege to be a Diocesan Link Person and a great responsibility because you represent your diocese to the Anglican Minority Ethnic (ME) community and you represent that very community to your diocese. Remember: you represent a growing number of people in the church. You are their voice!
- * **Learn to speak in public!** Lose your shyness: you have to address gatherings of people and you have to do that effectively. Discover that talented, charming, tough person in you who can put over important points to the bishop, the diocesan or deanery synods succinctly and with wit and passion.

Make allies among clergy and lay people of any ethnicity and persuasion.

- * **Get to know** your diocesan bishop, the suffragans and archdeacons. Make allies among clergy and lay people of any ethnicity and persuasion. Join or be on the mailing list of any ME support groups in your area and nationally. Get to know the board members of CMEAC. Regularly keep in touch with Sonia, Edna and Rose. Don't hesitate to ask questions and ask for support.

- * **Study and pray.** Train yourself theologically and spiritually. To be a DLP is an opportunity to grow spiritually, intellectually and as a human being. Be clear about your own motivation to do this job.

- * **Be persistent.** Don't give up easily and don't be satisfied with glib answers or put-downs! Remember: we are ALL sisters and brothers of Jesus. It is part of your job to remind those who forget that!

*The Revd David de Verny
Chaplain for Migrant Workers and
Diocesan Link Person for Lincoln*

Did you know.....?

As the person appointed DLP by your Diocesan Bishop for your diocese you should meet with your bishop at least once a year to let him know what you have been doing to ensure that minority ethnic issues has profile in the life of the diocese. It would be good for you to get an appointment in his diary now before he is too booked up. Why not try and get an appointment for June/July and report back on the DLP residential conference? You will certainly have a lot to talk about then. Why not forward a copy of The Link to him?

As DLP you are the link between the CMEAC national office and the diocese, and you can help raise the profile of minority ethnic Anglican people in the diocese by encouraging diocesan officers to include these issues on their agenda, e.g. start with the officer for CME training and the DDOs.

You don't have to try to do everything on your own. What about working with nearby dioceses to organise events which promote minority ethnic Anglican concerns at all levels – CMEAC would be happy attend and support these events.

You don't have to try to do everything on your own.

If you need more copies of The Link for circulation you can make photocopies or ask us to send you more.

We are here to support you – just ask and we are happy to help.

Why not try and get an appointment [with your Diocesan Bishop] for June/July