



Being Built Together

## Racial Justice Unit

12-13th October

The Hayes Conference Centre

Hayes Lane Swanwick,  
Alfreton, Derbyshire  
DE55 1AU

# CONFERENCE HANDBOOK



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Welcome from the Director of the RJU</b> | <b>01</b> |
| <b>Conference Schedule</b>                  | <b>02</b> |
| <b>Bio's and Network Summeries</b>          | <b>04</b> |
| <b>Staff Contact Details</b>                | <b>09</b> |
| <b>Flyers</b>                               | <b>10</b> |



# Welcome from the Director of the RJU



The Revd. Guy Hewitt  
*Director, Racial Justice*

12 October 2023

My distinguished sisters and brothers in Christ,

I want to thank you all for attending the **Being Built Together** networking event at Hayes Conference Centre, 12-13 October 2023.

I welcome you on behalf of the Racial Justice team in the NCIs and also on behalf of the Archbishops' Commission for Racial Justice and the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (CMEAC), who are at the forefront of driving the move From Lament To Action on racial justice. I also welcome those diocesan racial justice leads who are with us.

What started as an aspiration to bring together at least 100 Global Majority Heritage/UK Minoritised Ethnic members of our Church community, grew into a gathering of 140 delegates which had to be curtailed due to capacity issues. We give thanks!

I need to put on record our gratitude to the Revd Canon Dr Sharon Prentis and other members of the team (Chantelle, Brunel, Tammy and Kellie) for making this assembly possible. We profoundly regret that Sharon isn't able to be with us for the event.

Our commitment as a Church to racial justice isn't simply to reflect demographic trends, or to be socially responsive in the pursuit of equality, diversity and inclusion (both of which are commendable goals) but rather, we choose to stand against the evil and pernicious sin of racism. The racial justice mandate flows not from identity politics but from our identity in Christ reflecting the Imago Dei by being united in him.

Allow me to thank in advance, our keynote speaker Chine McDonald, writer, broadcaster, and Director of Theos, and all other presenters, worship leaders, chaplains and facilitators for your commitment to making this event the success we expect it to be.

/...2

Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ  
Direct Line +44 (0)20 7898 1836 Mobile: +44 (0)7774 813529

Email: [guy.hewitt@churchofengland.org](mailto:guy.hewitt@churchofengland.org)

Website: <http://www.churchofengland.org>

The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England is a registered charity

# Conference Schedule



**Being Built Together**  
**The Hayes Conference Centre, 12-13 October**

## Programme

### Thursday

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 10.00 - 11.00 | <b>Arrival &amp; Registration</b> ( <i>with refreshments</i> )  |
| 11.00 -11:30  | <b>Welcome</b> (The Revd Guy Hewitt):<br>Archbishop Stephen ( <i>via video link</i> )<br>ACRJ – The Revd Canon Dr Chigor Chike<br>CMEAC – Canon Dr Addy Lazz-Onyenobi<br><br>Overview of the time together – Guy  |
| 11:30 -12.00  | <b>Worship</b> led by The Revd Sonia Barron<br>Chaplains - The Revd Dr Evie Vernon & The Revd Dr Godfrey Kesari   |
| 12.00 - 1.00  | <b>Lunch</b>  |
| 1.00 - 2.30   | <b>Session 1:</b> Downing the Master's Tools: Rest as Resistance – <i>Keynote Address</i> by Ms Chine McDonald, writer, broadcaster, and Director of Theos  |
| 2.30 - 3.00   | <b>Session 2:</b> Introduction to Networks<br>AMEN – The Revd Canon Eileen Harrop, Vice-Chair, Anglican Minority Ethnic Network<br><br>UKMEOC – The Revd Julius Anozie, Secretary, UKME Ordinands and Curates   |
| 3.00 - 3.30   | <b>Coffee Break</b>   |
| 3.30 - 4.00   | <b>Session 2 (cont'd):</b> Introduction to Networks<br>Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller (GRT) Friendly Churches – The Revd Dr Nicky Chater, Chair<br>ZINAFE – ( <i>Zimbabwe National Anglican Fellowship</i> )- The Revd Lameck Mutete<br>Persian Anglican Network – The Revd Mohammad Eghtedarian<br>Teahouse –The Revd Amy Tang |
| 4.00 – 4.15   | <b>Session 3:</b> Update on GMH Youth Work – The Revd Polly Falconer and The Revd Dean Pusey  |
| 4.15 - 5.30   | <b>Session 4:</b> A Cry in the Wilderness: Strengthening the GMH/UKME voice and participation in the Church - The Rt Revd Smitha Prasadam, Chair of AMEN, The Revd Shemil Mathew, and Guy Hewitt  |
| 6.00 - 7.00   | <b>Dinner</b>   |

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 7.00 - 9.00 | <b>Social/Networking Time</b>  |
| 9.00 - 9.30 | <b>Compline</b> ( <i>optional</i> ) - led by The Revd Wayne Simmonds |

### Friday

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 7.45 - 8.15   | <b>Morning Prayer</b> ( <i>optional</i> ) - led by Wayne Simmonds   |
| 8.00 - 9.00   | <b>Breakfast</b><br><i>Please vacate rooms by 9.30</i>  |
| 9.00 - 9.45   | <b>Session 5:</b> Pilgrims Progress: Challenges to GMH/UKME Ministry Progression in the Church - Chigor Chike   |
| 9.45 - 10.30  | <b>Session 6:</b> If it Wasn't for God: Wellbeing of GMH Clergy in the Church of England - The Revd Calvert Prentis, The Revd Prebendary Joseph Fernandes, The Revd Sebrina Blackstock-Miller, with Guy |
| 10.30 - 11.00 | <b>Coffee Break</b>   |
| 11.00 - 12.00 | <b>Holy Communion</b> - The Revd Folli Olokose and The Rt Revd Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy, homilist   |
| 12.00 - 1.00  | <b>Lunch</b>  |
| 1.00 - 1.30   | <b>Session 7:</b> New Wineskins: An Introduction to Intercultural Church by The Rt Revd Capt Dr Tim Wambunya, Chair, Anglican Network for Intercultural Churches (ANIC)                                 |
| 1.30 - 2.00   | <b>Closing Session:</b> The Way Forward by Guy Hewitt<br><b>Blessing:</b> The Rt Revd Smitha Prasadam   |

# Bio's and Network Summeries



## Keynote Speaker

**Chine McDonald is Director of Theos, the religion and society think tank. She was previously Head of Public Engagement at Christian Aid. She has two decades of experience in journalism, media and communications across faith, media and international development organisations.**

**She also speaks and writes regularly on issues of race, faith and gender, and is the author of 'God is not a white man: and other revelations' (Hodder & Stoughton, May 2021). Chine is a regular writer, broadcaster, panel host and media commentator and has written for the Financial Times, the Guardian, The Independent, The Big Issue, Prospect, The Mirror and contributes to TV and radio programmes such as regularly presenting the BBC's Thought for the Day on Radio 4's Today programme and appearing on BBC Sunday Morning Live.**

**She regularly speaks in and hosts panels including previously at the Cheltenham Science Festival and the Cheltenham Literary Festival. She is vice-chair of Greenbelt Festival and a trustee of Christian Aid. Chine studied Theology and Religious Studies at Cambridge University. Her upcoming book Unmaking Mary: The Myth of Divine Motherhood will be published by Hodder & Stoughton in early 2025.**  
[www.chinemcdonald.com](http://www.chinemcdonald.com)

# Bio's and Network Summeries

## Meet the Racial Justice Unit Team



### Guy Hewitt

Director of the Church of England's Racial Justice Directorate, Guy is a Barbadian British Anglican priest, racial justice advocate, and specialist in social policy and development. He held the ambassadorial appointment of High Commissioner of Barbados in London from 2014-2018. In August 2022, he was appointed as the Church of England's first Racial Justice Director.

Located within the Archbishops' Council and reporting to the Secretary General, he is working alongside the Archbishops' Commission for Racial Justice to ensure the taskforce recommendations 'From Lament to Action' and the work of the Commission are implemented.

### Sharon Prentis

Deputy Director of the Church of England's Racial Justice Directorate, Sharon was previously Dean of Ministry at St Mellitus College in the East Midlands and has had a long and highly regarded career which includes serving as Mission Enabler and Dean of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Affairs in the Diocese of Birmingham and Deputy Director of Research at the Salvation Army. She is a gifted leader, theologian, missionary and pastor with experience of many parts of the church.



### Brunel James

Brunel is the Project and Secretariat Manager for the Church of England's Racial Justice Directorate.

Brunel's concern with the Church's failure to adequately address issues of Racial Justice goes back to his first UK church post in Small Heath, Birmingham back in 1994. He has since served in a variety of parish roles, whilst also addressing issues of social justice through work with the Church Urban Fund and membership of the General Synod, including participation in the decisive 'Windrush Debate' in February 2020.

### Chantelle Stephenson

Archbishops' Racial Justice Directorate Coordinator, Chantelle is the most long-standing member of our team, with many years of experience within the National Church Institutions (NCIs). She graduated in Psychology and Counselling, and her broad skills-base underpins all our operations including project managing and coordination of events.

### Tammy Woods

Tammy joined the Racial Justice Unit as an executive assistant in July 2023 having worked in the Church of England Pensions Board Investment Team since 2015. She specialises in arranging national and global events, now working within the Racial Justice she is able to implement this in various other areas.

### Kellie Sharman

Kellie has been seconded to the Racial Justice Unit since September 2023 and has worked within the Archbishop's Council on previous occasions supporting with The General Synod. She has studied psychology and nursing but now wants to progress in an events management role so supporting the Racial Justice Events will be a large part of assisting this and gaining experience.

# Bio's and Network Summeries

## ACRJ, The Archbishops' Commission for Racial Justice

The Archbishops' Commission for Racial Justice has been mandated to drive 'significant cultural and structural change on issues of racial justice within the Church of England.

The purpose of the Commission is to set out a compelling agenda for change, in careful gospel-driven discernment, balancing the needs of individuals, communities, and society, maximising opportunities, and ensuring fairness for all. In order to understand why disparities exist, what works and what does not, the Commission is listening and learning from processes of participative engagement, and is considering detailed quantitative data and qualitative evidence, commissioning new research and inviting submissions where necessary and engaging with stakeholders and conversation partners across and beyond the Church.

The 11 Commission members, under the chairmanship of Lord Boateng, bring together a range of experience and expertise within and beyond the church. Members include specialists in areas such as Theology & Racial Justice; Ecclesiology & Liturgy; Formation & Theological Education and History & Politics. Most of the Commissioners are not members of the Church of England and their role is to bring an independent perspective and a process of external accountability to the church.

The Commission is reporting to the Archbishops every six months during the three-year period 2021-2023, with recommendations to help the Archbishops fulfil their commitments to identify, respond to, and root out systemic racism in the Church. Their reports are available on the Church of England Website:

[www.churchofengland.org/about/archbishops-commissions/archbishops-racial-justice-commission](http://www.churchofengland.org/about/archbishops-commissions/archbishops-racial-justice-commission)

## CMEAC, The Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns

The role of the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (CMEAC) is to identify, monitor and take forward concerns of BAME Anglicans and make recommendations for change. The Committee has responsibility for addressing issues, in as far as they have implications for BAME groups within the Church and the wider community.

The Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (CMEAC) is a committee of the Archbishops' Council and is accountable to the Church of England's highest decision-making body, the General Synod.

We believe that there should be a reflection of BAME Anglicans at all levels within the church, acknowledging that we are all part of the body of Christ "made in the image of God, fully human". In this way, the contribution of every part of the body is valued, recognised and supported.

### Current members

Chair: The Very Revd Rogers Govender, Dean of Manchester

House of Clergy representatives: Revd Folli Olokose (Diocese of Guildford), Revd Canon Dr Judith Maltby (Universities & TElS)

House of Bishops representatives: Rt Revd Jonathan Frost (Bishop of Portsmouth), Rt Revd Martyn Snow (Bishop of Leicester)

House of Laity representatives: Canon Dr Addy Lazz-Onyenobi (Manchester, Deputy Chair), Dr Gracy Crane (Oxford)

Appointments' Committee elected members: The Ven Tricia Hillas, Daniel Matovu (Diocese of Oxford), Dr Steven Horne

CMEAC co-opted members: Dawn Brathwaite, The Most Revd Stephen Cottrell (Archbishop of York)

Participant observer: Nicky Chater



# Bio's and Network Summeries

## AMEN

Anglican Minority Ethnic Network

AMEN is an independent group promoting the presence and participation of Minority Ethnic Anglicans in all structures of our church in the service of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“Independent” conveys the idea that the Group is not part of the formal structure of the Church of England; the Group will work with and has the blessing of CMEAC, but is not formally part of CMEAC. The sense that the Group will promote minority ethnic participation in “all” structures is also important, although particular attention would be paid to participation in senior leadership. Finally, it is importance to us to emphasise that what we do is not just for our self interest, but for the “service of the Gospel”.

Find out more at [www.amenanglican.net](http://www.amenanglican.net).

We also have our social media page on Facebook. Please, join us

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/254559014668522>

## UKME Ordinands and Curates

We support UKME/GMH ordinands and curates in the Church of England.

The United Kingdom Minority Ethnic Ordinands and Curates network (UKME OC) within the Church of England are an independent group created by and for ordinands and curates and those who have just passed their BAP and preparing to go for training within the Church of England.

The network seeks to support and encourage ordinands and curates of UKME/GMH in the Church of England within Dioceses and Theological Colleges in their journey towards priesthood, and can be contacted on: [ukmeordinands@gmail.com](mailto:ukmeordinands@gmail.com)

UKMEOC issues regular newsletters and holds annual ‘in person’ meetings – details can be found on: <https://ukmeordinands.wixsite.com/ukmeordinandsandcura>

## ZINAFE UK

Zimbabwe National Anglican Fellowship is a Christian fellowship. We are a registered charity that works within the Anglican Communion. Our vision is to be a Christ centred fellowship where people have the freedom to find hope and to be transformed. Our mission is to be at the heart of the Zimbabwean Anglican fellowship in the diaspora radiating God's love, to become part of something greater and to grow in the love of God.

We are rooted in the stories of the Bible and believe worship is something that can be expressed in everything we do. Our philosophy is founded on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Zinafe offers regular prayer of intercession opportunities online.

Zinafe has a strong youth section: Anglican Youth of Zimbabwe, who host a dynamic summer conference each year.

We welcome everyone to be part of our fellowship. Get in touch today via our website [www.zinafe.org.uk](http://www.zinafe.org.uk) or come and visit us in person at one of our regional centres, such as Southwest and Wales, North East, North West, Birmingham and West Midlands, South etc.

# Bio's and Network Summeries

## The Tea House

The vision of The Tea House is to raise the profile and participation of Chinese-heritage clergy in all structures of the Church. Please look us up at: [theteahouse.org](http://theteahouse.org)

Tea Houses are informal settings where people drop in as often or as seldom as they like. Tea Houses are also intimate spaces where friendships can be built. It is hoped that The Tea House 茶 will provide a place for fellow Chinese-heritage clergy and Ordinands to meet, cultivate friendships and support one another in their respective journeys in the Church of England.

Tea Houses are places where social information is gathered and spread. The Tea House 茶 offers a space where we can share interesting news and happenings that are of relevance to the group. Some Tea Houses have stages built for performances. We are considering inviting guests to speak on pertinent topics over Zoom, or arrange meet-ups to discuss a book, topic or current issues.

Tea Houses assume a certain level of etiquette and decorum. We hope that the imagery of a Tea House will remind us to listen and speak respectfully, to show deference and courtesy, and to value one another's opinions.

If you are interested in joining our WhatsApp text messaging group or Zoom meet-ups, please send us an email and introduce yourself.

[the\\_teahouse@icloud.com](mailto:the_teahouse@icloud.com)

Alternatively, if you would like to help support clergy and Ordinands with Chinese-heritage, please contact us as well.

## Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller Friendly Churches

We are a small group of passionate people from various backgrounds and denominations with different experiences. We seek to challenge prejudice and work for harmony, understanding and co-operation between communities, churches and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.

The vision of 'Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller Friendly Churches' is to support churches to include Gypsies, Roma and Traveller people in the regular life of the church.

Ideally, each local congregation would offer support appropriate to its setting. This could be to European Roma, to local settled Gypsies and Traveller communities, or to those who are roadside and effectively homeless.

We will seek to promote and celebrate the engagement of churches across denominations as well as any other religious or secular groups working towards similar aims.

The General Synod of the Church of England passed a resolution in February 2019, which included asking all dioceses to appoint chaplains for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.

This was because synod acknowledged the frequent occurrence of serious racial prejudice, alongside episodes of hate crime, and significant poor outcomes in health, education, housing and other measures of social well-being for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

Through our work, we have encountered various forms of hate and ingrained negative stereotypes against the communities, stemming from a lack of cultural awareness and understanding. We are here to help churches build bridges with the communities and support positive engagements within their neighbourhoods.

Our website: <https://sanctuaryplaces.co.uk> contains contact details, case studies and other inspiring resources.

# Bio's and Network Summeries

## Persian Syrian and Parsi Churches

Mainly Muslim background Christians rooted in Iran and the Middle East (countries from former Persian Empire) has formed a strong presence within Britain. Some of the Persian Friendly Churches contact details can be found on:

[Persian Friendly Churches](#)

Anglican Dioceses such as London, Manchester, Guilford and Leicester have clergy from these backgrounds working with these communities.

Revd Mohammad Eghtedarian was originally from a strict Muslim family in Iran. He moved to the UK as an asylum seeker and was invited to church by a local parish vicar. He gave his life to Jesus in a detention centre in the UK and later became an Anglican ordained minister, serving his curacy at Liverpool Cathedral, a chaplaincy post in Ankara, Turkieh and then served as Intercultural Pioneer Minister in Leicester. Since last year he works for Christian Aid.

His passion is sharing the Good News of Jesus to people from various backgrounds, especially Persian people, and helping them to grow as His disciples and expanding the Kingdom of God

# IMPORTANT CONTACT

---

| Name                 | Position / Description | Contact     |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Guy Hewitt           | Director               | 07774813529 |
| Sharon Prentis       | Deputy-Director        | 07852591024 |
| Brunel James         | Secretariat Manager    | 07811195280 |
| Chantelle Stephenson | Unit Co-ordinator      | 07903621168 |
| Tammy Woods          | EA                     | 02078981857 |
| Kellie Sharman       | Support                | 02078981108 |

# Flyers



RACIAL  
JUSTICE  
UNIT

## Being Built Together

Embrace the Power of  
Engaging Discussions

Celebrate the Rich Tapestry of Diverse  
Anglican Networks and Communities

Strengthening the Church through  
Collaboration and Inclusivity

SPECIAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER: CHINE MCDONALD

12-13 October

**The Hayes Conference Centre**  
**Hayes Lane Swanwick, Alfreton, Derbyshire DE55 1AU**

[Click For More Info](#)

# REGISTER NOW

## A call to Global Majority Heritage/UK Minority Ethnic clergy and lay leaders



The Church of England's Racial Justice team is seeking to mobilise all Global Majority Heritage (GMH)/UK Minoritised Ethnic (UKME) clergy, ordinands and lay ministers and leaders to join an ethnocultural communications network.

Such networks form part of a wider governance, management, and change agenda to help promote equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Help us to  
coordinate voice,  
identify needs,  
and strengthen  
our networking  
by registering with  
the GMH/UKME  
communication  
network.



Please scan the QR code or go to [www.cofe.io/gmh-network](http://www.cofe.io/gmh-network) to REGISTER or email [racialjusticeunit@churchofengland.org](mailto:racialjusticeunit@churchofengland.org) to find out more.

