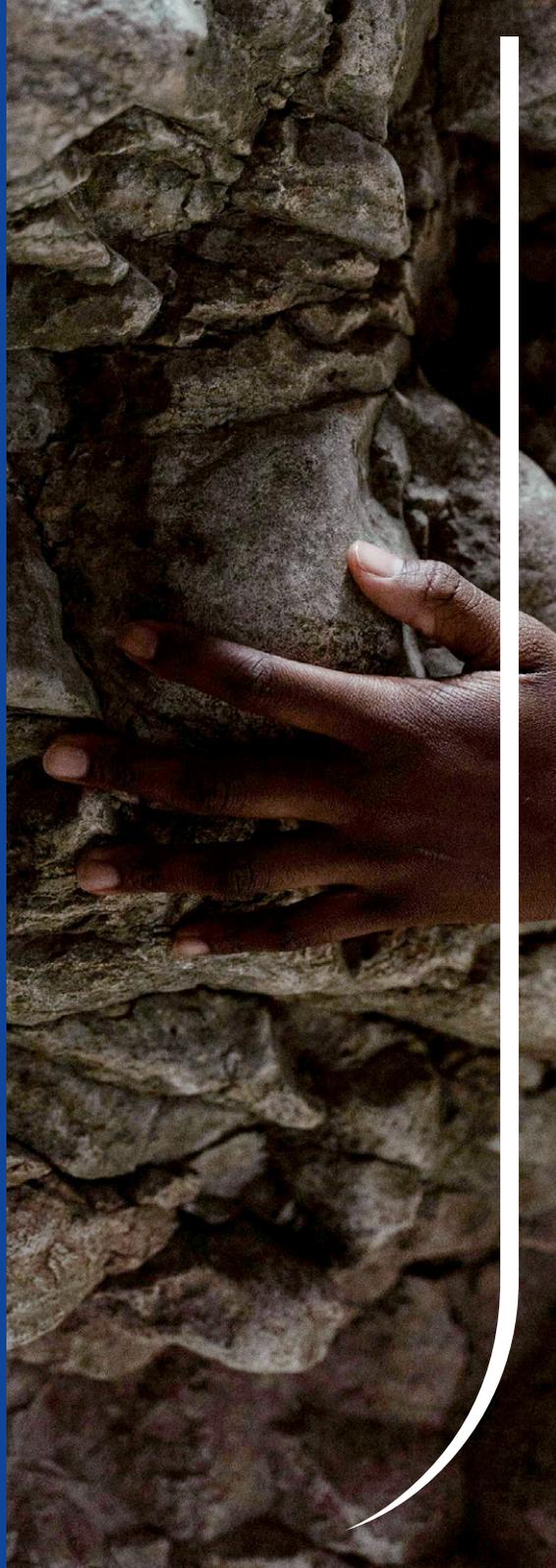




Truth-telling in sacred spaces

Programme

Saturday 7 February 2026
Southwark Cathedral



Christ Centred | Outward Focused

Welcome from Bishop Rosemarie

The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Southwark Cathedral for our *Truth-telling in sacred spaces* gathering, held on the eve of Racial Justice Sunday. I am grateful to each of you for being here and for your willingness to engage prayerfully and honestly with the themes of the day.

As a diocese, we are invited to reflect on how history, memory, and contested heritage shape our shared worship and church life. Through listening to voices and stories from across parishes and communities, we are called not only to understand the past more fully, but to discern how truth-telling can deepen our commitment to justice, reconciliation, and mission today.

This is a profound expression of our Diocese's ongoing commitment to anti-racism as part of our Christian witness. This gathering is not an isolated event – it draws together many different threads of work – using cultural reflections to deepen our understanding and embody justice in worship. Through art, music, storytelling and liturgical traditions, we are seeking to create spaces where truth is spoken and heard, where lament and hope coexist, and where reconciliation begins.

These conversations are not always comfortable, but they are crucial to our life in Christ. My prayer is that today may be marked by generosity, courage, and hope, and that together we may continue to learn how best to love our neighbour, and bear witness to the reconciling love of God. I hope this booklet provides a staging point from which you will find helpful links and resources to continue your own truth-telling journeys, as individuals and parishes. May today bring us a step closer in our commitment to racial justice through this bold and necessary endeavour of creativity and courage.

Every good wish,
Bishop Rosemarie



Message from our keynote speaker

*Senator and Canon Missioner Dr John Rogers,
Diocese of Barbados*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is with a deep sense of humility and gratitude that I graciously accept the invitation to share in what may well be regarded by future generations as yet another seminal moment in the life of this Cathedral and the part of the city it serves.

The richness of the Anglican Communion worldwide is reflected in its ethnic and cultural vastness, which nourishes its worship and liturgical diversity. While this has given much cause for celebration – in recent decades – the church has been confronted with the sobering reality of how its global reach was fostered. Our past sets before us the truth that in some instances, while cloaked with the rhetoric and appearance of altruism, the Church's reach was forged in the crucible of tyranny and oppression.

It is against the backdrop of this conflicted past that the theme for our gathering *Truth-telling in sacred spaces* is most apposite. It calls us to enter the spaces that have, in many instances, lifted us to the zenith of our spirituality, and confront the harrowing past in which these very environments were complicit.

I share the expressed hope of Bishop Rosemarie and the organisers of this gathering that while the experience may be at times painful and uncomfortable, we engage in this exercise of *Truth-telling in sacred spaces* not with the intention of widening existing chasms, but rather as a means of building bridges that will bring humanity to the unity which God intends for us.

See biography on page 8.



Logistics

Venue and session locations

The location of each session is shown in the programme on page 6. If you are unsure of where to go, please ask a volunteer or a member of staff.

Timings

The agenda for the gathering is full and so we request that you arrive in good time for the start of each session. Should you be running late, please be respectful towards the speakers and your fellow attendees to help us minimise disruption to the programme.

Worship

A choral eucharist will take place at 5:30pm in the Nave.

Refreshments

There will be a break at 2:30pm at the rear of the Cathedral.

Recycling

The Diocese of Southwark has been awarded the Bronze Eco Diocese Award and is committed to protecting our environment. Please use the recycling bins provided.

Onsite help

If you have queries or require assistance please ask a Cathedral event steward or a member of staff.

Post-event feedback survey

To help us improve on future racial justice events, your feedback would be greatly appreciated. Please kindly complete this form: tinyurl.com/3ju4cwvu and share your thoughts. All information will remain confidential.

Social media

 @SouthwarkCofE.

Getting the most from our gathering

Goals Consider the context and theme of this gathering, how it relates to you and what you hope to gain from attending. What does truth-telling mean in your personal or parish context?

Stay focused You learn more if you are not distracted, so please put your mobile away and fully engage with each session.

Network Do take the opportunity to build your network. If you find networking challenging, why not set yourself a target of making 2–3 new connections today?

Take notes This is a good way to remember key aspects and takeaways learnt during the various sessions and who you have met.

Reflect and act Seminars lose their purpose if you are unchanged and unaffected afterwards. Be encouraged to implement positive change. If you are negatively affected by anything do reach out to our Chaplains (see page15).

Share your learning This is a great way to make things 'stick'. How can you pass on new knowledge within your own parish and share accountability for positive change?

Programme schedule

| Time | Event | Speaker/Moderator | Location |
|-----------|---|---|---------------------------|
| 12 pm | Global Majority Heritage networking and viewing of the 'Movement for Justice and Reconciliation' exhibition | Revd Cordella Dawson. Prayers led by Revd Stanley Njoka | Nave and South Transept |
| 1 pm | Opening and Keynote | Bishop Rosemarie and Canon John Rogers | Nave |
| 1:40 pm | Panel 1: Response and reflection | Mr Richard Reddie and Mrs Charmaine Simpson | Nave |
| 2:30 pm | Refreshment break | | Rear of Cathedral |
| Session 1 | Event | Speaker/Moderator | Location |
| 2:45 pm | 1 Deptford, enslavement and the challenges of memorialisation | Dr Helen Paul and Revd Jane Petrie | Susanna Barford room |
| | 2 Reading between the lines of material culture at Croydon Minster | Revd Michael Walcott (with input from Miss Stephanie Offer) | John Trevor Williams room |
| | 3 Echoes of Slavery (All Saints Kingston) | Mr John Dewhurst and Dr David Robinson | Garry Weston Library |
| | 4 Church and community, commerce and campaigns | Mrs Lily Reddie | Desmond Tutu room |
| | 5 Southwark Cathedral: Issues in context | Dr Simon Kingston | Nave |
| Session 2 | Event | Speaker/Moderator | Location |
| 3:25 pm | 1 Deptford, enslavement and the challenges of memorialisation | Dr Helen Paul and Revd Jane Petrie | Susanna Barford room |
| | 2 Reading between the lines of material culture at Croydon Minster | Revd Michael Walcott (with input from Miss Stephanie Offer) | John Trevor Williams room |
| | 3 Echoes of Slavery (All Saints, Kingston) | Mr John Dewhurst and Dr David Robinson | Garry Weston Library |
| | 4 Church and community, commerce and campaigns | Mrs Lily Reddie | Desmond Tutu room |
| 4 pm | Panel 2: Story-telling, healing and repair | Archdeacon Chigor Chike, Revd Daniel Eshun and Revd Mark Eminson | Nave |
| 4:45 pm | Break | | Nave |
| 5:30 pm | Choral Eucharist: World premiere of 'Missa brevis' (Errollyn Wallen, CBE) by the Choir at Croydon Minster | Service coordinated by Revd Patrick Eggleston and Woolwich Area Racial Justice Group' | Nave |
| 6:30 pm | Evening reception | | Retro Choir |
| 8 pm | Performance by Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir | | Retro Choir |



Keynote speaker



Senator The Revd Canon Dr John Rogers

Canon Missioner (Diocese of Barbados)

John has served as a Priest in Barbados for 22 years in various assignments. Formerly Rural Dean of St John, he is currently the Rector of St George's Parish Church and Canon Missioner of the Diocese of Barbados.

He also serves as an independent, appointed Senator in the Barbados Parliament, is a lecturer of Old Testament studies at Codrington Theological College – the Provincial Seminary of the Anglican Province of the West Indies, the author of the book *"Faith of Our Fathers: The Development of the Apostles' Creed"* and an Inter Anglican Standing Committee member of Unity, Faith, and Order.



Our moderators



Mr Richard Reddie

Director of Justice and Inclusion (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland)

Richard is the Director of Justice and Inclusion at Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. He is a writer, author, researcher, cultural and religious commentator and broadcaster. Author of several books, Richard wrote *Abolition! The struggle to abolish slavery in the British colonies*, and the ground-breaking *Black Muslims in Britain*, which was the first scholarly research into this growing phenomenon and subsequently turned into the documentary *Young Muslim and Black* by BBC Radio 4. He wrote *Martin Luther King Jr: history maker* and more recently edited *Race for Justice* published by Lion/SPCK in 2022. Richard attends St James Church, West Streatham. He is currently part of the leadership team and has served in various church officer roles.



Mrs Charmaine Simpson, CEO

Engagement Coordinator, Church Commissioners and CEO – Black History Studies

A historian, author, publisher, researcher, film exhibitor, avid social networker and economics graduate – Charmaine has spent the last 18 years popularising the study of black history and black studies. Charmaine is Research and Engagement Coordinator for the Church Commissioners of the Church of England responsible for coordinating the research into the Church of England's connection and involvement in African chattel enslavement. Charmaine is also the Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Black History Studies. She is a Director of Black History Study Tours Limited – dedicated to promoting cultural tourism in areas of African heritage and is also a financial educator and financial literacy advocate who organises courses, workshops and events to improve financial literacy in the community.

Our speakers

Mr John Dewhurst

Churchwarden and Head Verger at All Saints, Kingston and Lay Chair of the Kingston Deanery

John is Churchwarden and Head Verger of All Saints Kingston and is also Lay Chair of the Kingston Deanery. He had a career in various aspects of primary education, and in his semi-retirement he studied history with the Open University. He has written about the history of the East Surrey Regiment, which has its Memorial Chapel in the church.

Dr Simon Kingston

Southwark Cathedral Heritage Group

Simon is a lay member of the Chapter of Southwark Cathedral and has been a member of its worshipping community of the Cathedral for more than 15 years. He chairs the Heritage Working Group of the Cathedral. He is Managing Director, Intelligence for Development, at GMTL and a Senior Advisor to Russell Reynolds Associates. Originally from Ireland, he began his career as an academic historian at Oxford. With his wife, Victoria, he founded and runs the West Cork History Festival.

Dr Helen Paul

Southampton University

Helen is a Lecturer in economics and economic history at the University of Southampton. Helen studied economics and management at the University of Oxford (St. Anne's College) and then a master's in management, economics and politics at the University of St Andrews. Helen's current research interests include early modern economic history, the Financial Revolution, Atlantic history and the Navy's role within the economy. Helen is currently a member of Council of the Royal Historical Society and has also been the Honorary Secretary of the Economic History Society and chair of its Women's Committee.

Revd Jane Petrie

Priest-in-Charge, St Nicholas & St Luke, Deptford

Jane is Priest-in-Charge at St Nicholas' and St Luke's, Deptford. Since coming to Deptford a year ago she has gradually been starting to engage with its rich and complicated history, a return to some of the territory she explored studying history as an undergraduate twenty years ago.

Mrs Lily Reddie

Curator and Librarian, Southwark Heritage Centre

Lily is a qualified curator who holds a Master of Arts in Curating and Collections from Chelsea College, University of the Arts. She is currently a Library Heritage Officer within Southwark Heritage Centre and Library. Lily has exhibited extensively across venues in London and has held exhibitions at the Southwark Council Buildings, Tooley Street, Peckham Library, Galleria on the Rye, Peckham Rye, Southwark Cathedral and the Southwark Heritage Centre.

Dr David Robinson

County Archivist of Surrey (1975–2002)

David was County Archivist of Surrey from 1975 to 2002 and has been a member of All Saints, Kingston's choir since 1975. His main research interests are in the medieval period, but he has also edited the *1851 Religious Census for Surrey* (extending as far east as Rotherhithe) and *Pastors, Parishes and People in Surrey*.

Revd Michael Walcott

Associate Vicar, Croydon Minster

Michael was appointed the associate Vicar of Croydon Minster and assistant chaplain, John Whitgift Foundation, in 2025. He was previously Priest-in-Charge of St Jude's Parish and a Deanery Youth Chaplain with St John's Deanery in the Diocese of Barbados.

Our moderators from the Diocese of Southwark

The Venerable Dr Chigor Chike

Archdeacon of Lewisham & Greenwich

Chigor Chike is the Archdeacon of Lewisham & Greenwich. Chigor has held national church roles that include serving as Interim National Adviser for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns at Church House, Westminster (August 2020) and as a member of the Archbishops' Racial Justice Commission. He is a chaplain to King Charles and Chair of REIN (a London-based equalities organisation). Alongside his ministry, he has published several books and articles on Christian theology and social issues and his book, *African Christianity in Britain*, is seen by many as groundbreaking in its field. His second book, *Voices From Slavery*, has also been highly commended. Chigor has been a visiting lecturer at the University of Roehampton and has acted as consultant on diversity, equity and inclusion for a number of organisations.

Revd Cordella Dawson

*Chair, Croydon ARJG**

Cordella is the vicar of St Philip, Norbury and an Area Director of Ordinands. She cares deeply about fairness, values open and honest conversations, and – though challenging – embraces the call to build a warm, welcoming community where every voice is heard.

Revd Patrick Eggleston

Vice-Chair, Woolwich ARJG

Patrick is Team Rector of Thamesmead Team Ministry and Area Dean of Plumstead in the Woolwich Episcopal Area of Southwark Diocese. He is also an Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral and is married to Ruby.

Revd Mark Eminson

Chair, Kingston ARJG

Mark is Team Rector of Merton Priory Team Ministry and Area Dean of Merton. His formative years in life and education have been in white-majority spaces; yet his ministry has drawn him naturally to the work of anti-racism within the diverse relational and gospel context of Southwark Diocese.

Revd Dr Daniel Justice Eshun

Dean of Chapel, Whitelands College, University of Roehampton

Daniel has served as a priest within the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion for over two decades, holding diverse roles as a Youth Worker, Parish Priest, Chaplain in His Majesty's Category 'A' Prison, and as a multidisciplinary academic. His research interests span mission studies, liturgies and spiritualities, racism and colonialism, global southern Christian theologies, transatlantic enslavement, and intergenerational trauma.

Revd Stanley Njoka

Chair, Woolwich ARJG

Stanley is Vicar of St Catherine, Hatcham and Chair of the Woolwich Area Racial Justice Group. He is deeply passionate about justice, inclusion, and pastoral care, working to uphold dignity, faith, and flourishing for all.



*ARJG: Area Racial Justice Group. Within the Diocese of Southwark, we have three ARJGs – one representing each Episcopal Area. ARJGs connect people locally on racial justice initiatives and offer support to parishes and deaneries. See page 15 to contact your Chairs.



The Diocese of
Southwark

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