



Invitation from Bishop Richard



**“The worldwide church”
Senior church leaders want to hear your views!**

*Kingston Episcopal Area Youth Forum
27 June 2022
5pm-6.15pm by zoom*

In July and August this year, bishops from all over the world will be coming to Canterbury for the ‘Lambeth Conference’ to listen to each other’s views on what it means to be ‘God’s Church for God’s World’ in the 21st Century. I will be among them and, if you are aged 13-18 and either a student at a Southwark church school or a member of one of our church youth groups, I should like to hear your views before I go.

The bishops at the Conference will be discussing how the church in their own country or region is responding to the big challenges of life today including the environment, poverty, the pandemic and how to build bridges between science and faith. We shall be trying hard to understand many different viewpoints and to hear how God wants us to serve his world. So this really is a good opportunity for you to make your views heard.

However, the bishops will be in Canterbury for 10 days and the Youth Forum meeting lasts just over one hour! So I should particularly like to focus in particular on how you would like the Church to respond to issues relating to *Peace and Reconciliation* and *Politics and Justice*.

Other senior church leaders hope to join me to listen to what you have to say (see below) so this really is an opportunity for your voice to be heard. Further details on how to take part are attached and I do hope very much to see you there.

+ Richard

Rt Revd Dr Richard Cheetham

Bishop of Kingston

Rt Revd Anthony Poggo

Archbishop of Canterbury’s Adviser for Anglican Communion Affairs

The Rt Revd Precious Omuku

Archbishop of Canterbury’s Special Representative on conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa

Revd Canon Wilma Roest

Rector, Richmond Team Ministry

Revd Philippa Boardman, MBE

Vicar, St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common
Trustee, Mozambique and Angola Anglican Association

The Ven John Kiddle

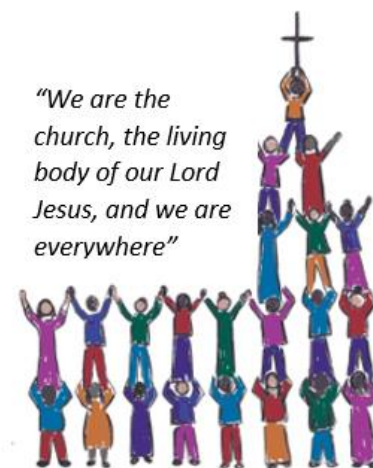
Archdeacon of Wandsworth

The Ven Simon Gates

Archdeacon of Lambeth

The Lambeth Conference

The Church of England is just one member of a global family of national and regional churches in more than 165 countries. Together, those churches are called 'The Anglican Communion' and tens of millions of Christians are members. There is great diversity among the churches and, although the Archbishop of Canterbury does not exercise authority outside the Church of England, they all recognise him as a focus for unity and the spiritual head of the Anglican Communion.



Each of the churches in the Anglican Communion has its own structure. Overall there are 865 dioceses and 77 archbishops. There are also over 1000 bishops because many dioceses have more than one; in the Diocese of Southwark, for example, there are four.

With so many members and ways of doing things, it helps for everyone to get together sometimes. So, in 1867, Archbishop Charles Longley invited all the 144 bishops who were then in the Anglican Communion to meetings at Lambeth Palace, which remains today the home of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Only 76 turned up but there were 100 when the next archbishop held another event in 1878 and numbers gradually increased till, at the 1998 Lambeth Conference, there were 749 including, for the first time, 11 women bishops.

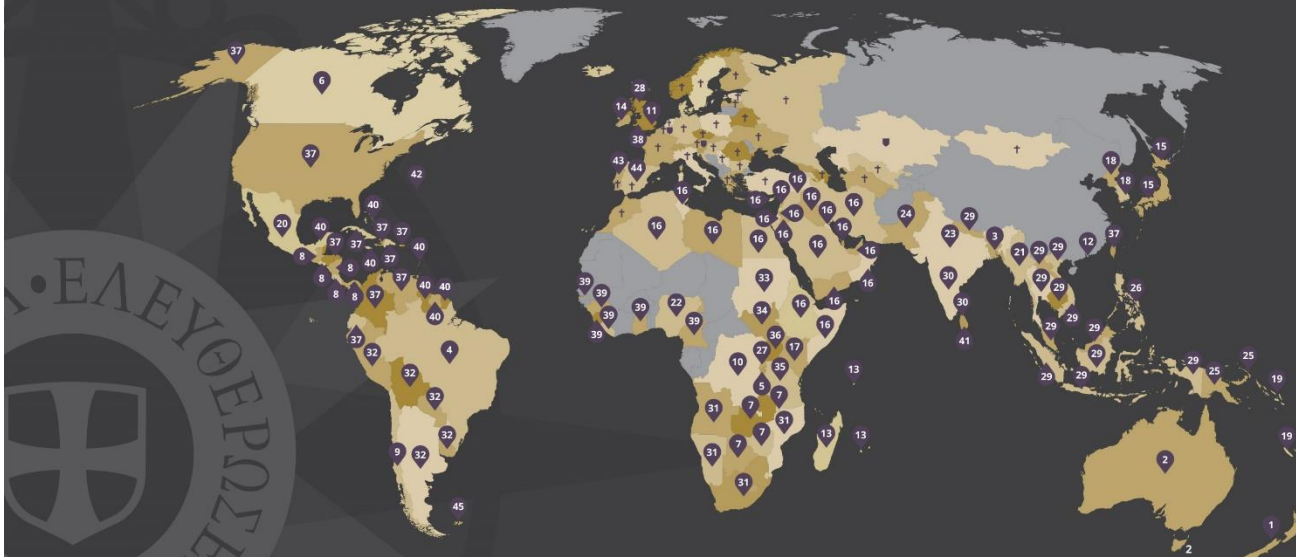
The Fifteenth Lambeth Conference had to be postponed in 2020 because of the pandemic and bishops from across the Anglican Communion will now meet in person at Canterbury between 27th July and 7th August 2022.

However, the first phase of the conference has started already because bishops from around the world have been meeting online since July 2021 to explore the conference theme of what it means to be "God's Church for God's World". When they meet in Canterbury they will get into more detail, try to understand what God wants for his world, and hopefully come to some agreements about ways forward.



Then when they go home afterwards to all the corners of the earth, they will know that they are "listening, walking and witnessing together" as they work in their communities to progress God's hopes for the world in the generation ahead.

Our Anglican Communion



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| 1. Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia | 12. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui | 24. Church of Pakistan (United) | 37. The Episcopal Church * |
| 2. Anglican Church of Australia | 13. Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean | 25. Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea | 38. Church in Wales |
| 3. Church of Bangladesh (United) | 14. Church of Ireland | 26. Episcopal Church in the Philippines | 39. Church of the Province of West Africa |
| 4. Episcopal Church of Brazil | 15. Anglican Episcopal Church in Japan | 27. Province of the Anglican Church of Rwanda | 40. Church of the Province of the West Indies |
| 5. Anglican Church of Burundi | 16. Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East | 28. Scottish Episcopal Church | |
| 6. Anglican Church of Canada | 17. Anglican Church of Kenya | 29. Church of the Province of South East Asia | Churches and diocese Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury |
| 7. Church of the Province of Central Africa | 18. Anglican Church of Korea | 30. Church of South India (United) | 41. Church of Ceylon |
| 8. Anglican Church of the Central American Region | 19. Church of Melanesia | 31. Church of Southern Africa | 42. Bermuda |
| 9. Anglican Church of Chile | 20. Anglican Church of Mexico | 32. Anglican Church of South America | 43. Lusitanian Church |
| 10. Province of the Anglican Church of Congo | 21. Church of the Province of Myanmar | 33. Episcopal Church of Sudan | 44. Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain |
| 11. Church of England* | 22. Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) | 34. Episcopal Church of South Sudan | 45. Falkland Islands |
| | 23. Church of North India (United) | 35. Anglican Church of Tanzania | |
| | | 36. Church of Uganda | |

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* These provinces also have a presence in countries marked with a † (Church of England), ‡ (The Episcopal Church)



