



## Edmonton Newsletter

October 2023

### "Saluting Our Sisters": Honouring the Indomitable Spirit of Black Women

A few months ago I had the privilege of attending a captivating performance of Kate Prince's "Sylvia," at the Old Vic, featuring the extraordinary talents of Beverly Knight and Sharon Rose as Emmeline and Sylvia Pankhurst. While this production chronicled the historical journey of two remarkable white English women, it also resonated with the countless unsung heroes in our history—black women who have tirelessly advocated for justice and equality.



Emmeline and Sylvia Pankhurst, although not of black or mixed heritage, symbolise the spirit of women who have championed the rights of marginalized communities, especially women's voting rights. Their collective efforts were instrumental in the suffragette movement, an emblem of resilience in the face of oppression.

La Toya Love, in her enlightening journal article for the University of Washington Tacoma, titled 'The History of Black Women in Society', highlights the remarkable journey of black women in their pursuit of recognition and equality. She reminds us of Sojourner Truth, a freed slave who boldly questioned, "Ain't I a woman?" at a women's rights conference in 1851. Sojourner Truth's solitary voice called for dignity, respect, and equal justice for all women. Her question reverberates through history, echoing the struggles and aspirations of countless women who, to this day, continue to ask, "Ain't I a woman?"<sup>1</sup>

Women of colour have long fought for their seat at the table, challenging societies worldwide to recognise their invaluable contributions. Today, we stand at a crucial juncture where the normalization of black women's presence at every table is not only necessary but long overdue. There have been some but not enough, especially when we think of the unparalleled contribution black women have made to societies throughout time.

The theme for Black History Month 2023, '[Saluting Our Sisters](#),' is a clarion call to acknowledge the incredible achievements of black women throughout history. It is a theme that resonates profoundly, for, until recently, many have struggled to name two women of colour who have made significant positive impact on British society. Often, their remarkable accomplishments have gone uncelebrated and underappreciated.

Woodford unequivocally asserts that throughout history, countless black women have been denied the opportunity to share their stories. Some have been silenced by a system that perpetuates injustice towards women, particularly women of colour.<sup>2</sup> Stereotypes such as the "mammy," "matriarch," "Jezebel," and "welfare mother" have unfairly defined black women, perpetuating generational trauma.<sup>3</sup> However, as Love eloquently notes, the black women of today's society are transcending these stereotypes. Many are choosing education as a powerful weapon to combat oppressive patriarchal systems that have degraded and marginalized them based on race, class, and gender, for centuries.

---

<sup>1</sup> L. T. Love, *The History of Black Women in Society*, Gender and Sexuality Studies, University of Washington, Tacoma, (2020), p. 2

<sup>2</sup> L. T. Love, *The History of Black Women in Society*, Gender and Sexuality Studies, University of Washington, Tacoma, (2020), p. 4

<sup>3</sup> L. T. Love, *The History of Black Women in Society*, Gender and Sexuality Studies, University of Washington, Tacoma, (2020), p. 4

When we look specifically at our own context, there is no denying that black women have always been integral to the diverse tapestry of the UK. Their contributions, however, have often been overlooked or forgotten. From pioneering nurses like Mary Seacole, who cared for soldiers during the Crimean War, to trailblazing activists like Olive Morris, who fought tirelessly for racial and social justice, black women have played pivotal roles in our country's history. Despite facing discrimination due to their race and gender, the women we call our sister, mother, aunt, confidant, friend, have triumphed in fields such as education, politics, arts, science, and sports. Their advocacy has been instrumental in advancing civil rights, gender equality, and social justice.

This Black History Month, we are called upon to acknowledge and salute these incredible women who have profoundly impacted our society. But, as we celebrate the past, let us also honour the achievements of contemporary black women who continue to break barriers and inspire change. In various fields, including politics, business, culture, and technology, black women in the UK are excelling, exemplifying the enduring legacy of black women. If we look at our own church, we can think of and salute black women clergy who have used their agency, advocacy and experience to help pave the way for other black women clergy of today. Eve Pitts (nee Sewell), the first black woman to be ordained in the Church of England in 1989 (not that long ago), was, while in active ministry, known for being outspoken against discrimination and is reported to have said:

*"History should be remembered and commemorated, including the transatlantic slave trade. Otherwise, it will continue to undermine our own understanding of who God has meant us to be ... No matter how successful we are — and some of us are very successful — there will be something that is missing there. There will be a wall. We will not be able to fly without a clear understanding of who we are, warts and all, and of the slave trade."*

As we embark on this journey of 'Saluting Our Sisters' during Black History Month 2023, let us recognise that the contributions of black women are an integral part of the rich tapestry of the United Kingdom. Their stories are not only worth celebrating but also serve as a powerful reminder of the strength, resilience, and unwavering determination of black women throughout history.

Let us seize this opportunity to honour their legacy and continue the work of creating a more just, equitable, and inclusive society for all.

**Father Staffan Dawkins – Vicar, St Paul's and St John's, Tottenham**

## EDMONTON EVENTS



### St John Tottenham Community Day

11am-1pm on 7 October 2023 at St John's Great Cambridge Road, N17 8LP

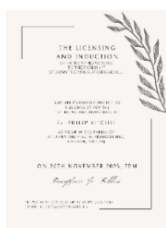
A day to celebrate the opening of the new St John's Church building and the Acacia Avenue Development by Christian Action Housing (CAHA), in collaboration with the LDF and the PCC of St Paul's and St John's, Tottenham.

The ceremony will include talks by community partners (CAHA, Mayor of Haringey), representation from a young person from the community, and live music from our local Church of England School. A day filled with fun, connection and a shared sense of belonging. [Book here](#)

### Edmonton Parish Administrators' Meeting

10am-2pm on 16 November 2023 at [London Diocesan House](#)

Join us for sessions on parish buying, developing room hire, safeguarding and ideas for increasing volunteering, followed by lunch and a chance to meet your colleagues and Diocesan staff. [RSVP](#) by 1 Nov 2023.



### Licensing and Induction of Phil Ritchie

7pm on 30 November 2023 at [St Mary the Virgin Primrose Hill](#)

You are cordially invited to a Eucharist for the licensing and induction of Fr Philip Ritchie as Vicar in the Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Primrose Hill, followed by a reception. For members of the clergy wishing to robe, please bring a red stole for St Andrew and arrive at least 20 minutes before the start of the service. RSVP by 20 Nov 2023 to [office@smtvph.org.uk](mailto:office@smtvph.org.uk) or phone 020 7722 3238.

## CLERGY MOVES



### **The Revd Andy Coates**

Having graduated from the University of Warwick with a degree in politics in 2007, Fr Andy spent eight years working in Parliament for the late Rt. Hon. Baroness Tessa Jowell. Having experienced a call to ordained ministry, from September 2015 Andy trained at Westcott House studying theology at Downing College. Andy served his title at the Wood Green Parish before moving to St Andrew Alexandra Park in 2021. **Fr Andy will be licensed as the Vicar of the Alexandra Park Parish on 8 November 2023.**



### **The Revd Philip Ritchie**

Fr Philip studied at Manchester University, taught RE, spent two years with VSO in Tanzania and gained an MA in Renaissance English Literature before training for ministry at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield. He was ordained in 2001 and he served his title in St Nicholas of Myra, Brighton. He went on to serve in other roles in the Diocese of Chichester and as Vicar of Cowley St John in the Diocese of Oxford. **Fr Philip will be licensed as the Vicar of St Mary Primrose Hill on 30 Nov 2023.**

---

## NEWS

### Telecoms Update

#### ***Georgina Graham, Diocesan Operations Manager writes:***

The coalition government of 2010-2015 set targets for broadband rollout and expected that by 2017 'superfast coverage' would reach 95% of premises and 4G Coverage available to 98% of premises. They then set targets for ultrafast broadband rollout. To achieve these targets, the government decided to reform the Electronics Communication Code ("the Code"). They also decided to implement the European Broadband Directive to reduce the cost of rollout. The Code became effective in 2017 as part of the Digital Economy Act.



#### **Impact on Landlords**

Before 2017 individual landlords, be they churches or other establishments, negotiated unilaterally with network operators. The resulting contracts/leases/licenses tended to be in favour of the landlord. For example, an operator required space for its equipment and was able to negotiate with the landlord as to the value of that space to the operator. The Code effectively, amongst other things, reversed this benefit for the landlord in favour of the operator – the landlord only had to be compensated for their loss. The fees paid were now calculated based on the value of the space to the landlord. So a church tower or roof which would not usually be space available to use and bring in income, had a very low rental value and subsequently contract fees were very low. The Code also permitted operators to force landlords to accept equipment. Many such cases were tried at Lands Tribunal cases brought by disgruntled landlords, and these invariably set precedents that benefitted the operators.

#### **National CofE intervention**

In December 2017, Winckworth Sherwood – at that time the Diocesan Registry – advised that no further telecoms licences should be negotiated with operators until the licences were deemed Code and Faculty compliant. Protracted negotiations ensued between operators and the National Church, who were represented by a solicitor from Birkett's who had become experienced in Lands Tribunal cases, and a Director of NET-CS, a representative from the Department of Culture, Media & Sport and the then National Procurement Officer for the CofE. The MOU finalised with two operators initially (circa 2019) was the result of these negotiations with the operators, who had offered sometimes as little as £50 per annum to churches and would threaten to use their powers under the Code if churches didn't comply. Even recently in the case of a new site that for various reasons didn't enter into an agreement over a period of time an operator served a formal notice that they would implement Code if the church did not comply within 28 days.

### How the MOU works

The terms agreed under the MOU provide for a more generous licence fee than other non-CofE landlords receive under Code Agreements. It is confidential because other collective groups wish to use it to their benefit as they recognise the value of it to their own negotiations and operators are clearly not in favour of this. There are two parts to the Code-compliant agreements under the MOU: an agreement between the operator and NET-CS and an agreement between NET-CS and the church, and that is also the way the money flows. The agreements govern, inter alia, issues such as access to churches - the Code effectively permits operators 24/7 access, whereas a limited number of visits are permitted in the licence after which the church is paid per visit; licences must be under Faculty, which guarantees that only permitted equipment is installed and NET-CS monitors this, amongst other things, as part of their agreement.

### Head Licence & Payment to NET-CS

There is a generic licence cannot be varied – it is the licence the Chancellor expects to see when approving Telecoms Faculty applications. For each licence agreement and the obligations for NET-CS therein, NET-CS receives £500. Regardless of the number of callouts, visits or interactions this fee does not change. Licence fees are based on geographic location and uplifts of the Licence fees are provided for in the MOU.

### Shared Access

Some fifty or so parishes negotiated agreements with Shared Access. Shared Access takes a percentage of the licence fee on an annual basis. These parishes will be contacted directly.

## TRAINING AND EVENTS

### From Pub to Pulpit

7.30pm on 14 October 2023 at [St Michael Camden Town](#)

A hugely successful concert tour that has seen thousands of people across the country singing together to turn folk songs into hymns will have a final performance on 14 October as a fundraiser for St Michael's Church. In the concert, the audience join in with the organ; choir and two groups in a unique and rousing tribute to Vaughan Williams, who was a renowned folk song collector. [Book here](#)



### Racial Justice Pilgrimage

Meet at 9am on 16 Oct 2023 at the Windrush Memorial, Waterloo Station

Join the Bishop of Willesden, Lusa Nseng-Ngoy in a Journey of Lament and Praise, visiting Black History Sites, Westminster to Ladbroke Grove, from Ignatius Sancho and Mary Seacole to Kelso Cochrane and the Notting Hill Carnival founders. Finish at 3.30pm at Grenfell Tower. Please bring a packed lunch.

### Thinking Differently About Church: Understanding Autism and Neurodiversity

11am-12pm on 19 Oct 2023 at Holy Trinity Hounslow, High Street, TW3 1HG

Neurodiversity is the idea that there are natural variations in how people think, communicate, sense and understand the world. The training consists of a 1-hour introduction to neurodiversity, dispelling many of the common myths and misunderstandings. The session is open to clergy and LLMs in the Diocese of London. [Book here](#)



### Christians Against Poverty Enfield

2-4pm on 19 Oct 2023 at [Enfield Vineyard Church](#)

You are invited to join the Interim Bishop of Edmonton, the Rt Revd Jonathan Baker for an opportunity to hear about the work of CAP and pray for our community. Refreshments will be provided. [RSVP](#) by 5 October 2023.

### Clergy Study Day

9.30am-4.15pm on 23 November 2023 at Church House, Westminster

We warmly invite you to join us for a special Study Day on the Theme of Moving into Advent: Preparing to Welcome Christmas to provide a space for teaching, reflection and catching up with friends from across the diocese. A hot buffet lunch will be served.





# PLAN A WATCHNIGHT IN OCTOBER TO VIEW **AFTER THE FLOOD**

As part of **Black History Month**, the Church provides this unique opportunity for its members, individually and collectively, to watch **After the Flood: The Church, Slavery and Reconciliation**.

The 67-minute UK documentary aims to be educational and redemptive, addressing the historical neglect of slavery in British Christian history. It explores biblical principles for racial reconciliation in our churches today.

*Movement for Justice and Reconciliation, Producers*

I recommend this to Bible Study and other small groups to help reflect on the meaning of us being truly one in Christ.

*Archbishop Stephen*

A beautifully made, informative and moving documentary, well worth an hour of your time.

*Premier Christianity magazine*

We can't be the people of God unless we are willing to take a lead in terms of what it means to be fully human.

*Prof Robert Beckford, Narrator*



Watch online at  
**[vimeo.com/churchofengland/bhm2023](https://vimeo.com/churchofengland/bhm2023)**

Events can be advertised in this publication and are done so on the understanding that they do not represent a specific view of the Edmonton Episcopal Area.