



RECONCILIATION  
INITIATIVES



# Waking up to and addressing Whiteness in the Anglican Church

## A Racial Justice Conference

Tuesday, 17 October 2023  
St Martin-in-the-Bullring, Birmingham



## RECONCILIATION INITIATIVES

**Reconciliation Initiatives (RI)** exists to equip Anglican Christians and their churches to be agents for reconciliation in wider society. We are a member of Coventry Cathedral's Community of the Cross of Nails, and we work in partnership with a group of gifted trustees, associates and staff.

RI has two main offerings, both learning and development programmes:

- **Being White:** a 4-month racial justice programme addressing the culture of whiteness in the church; and
- **Reconciling Mission:** an 18-month programme resourcing leaders /churches for deeper engagement with local community and neighbourhood.

## Timetable

9:15-9:30	Arrivals with refreshments
9:30-9:33	Welcome by Revd <b>Ivor Lewis</b> , Assistant Rector of St Martin-in-the-Bullring
9:33-9:37	Welcome by Conference Chair, Ven. <b>Tricia Hillas</b> , Canon Steward & Archdeacon at Westminster Abbey, member of Archbishops' Commission on Racial Justice, and RI Trustee
9:37-9:45	Opening worship, led by Revd Dr <b>Alastair McKay</b> , RI Executive Director
9:45-9:55	Hopes and fears: discussion in small groups, where seated, feedback to plenary, facilitated by <b>Carey Haslam</b> , RI Racial Justice Lead
9:55-10:15	Keynote presentation by Rt Revd <b>Martyn Snow</b> , Bishop of Leicester
10:15-10:25	Discussion in small groups of 2-3 people, where seated
10:25-10:45	Feedback, with opportunities for question and response
10:45-11:20	<i>Movement into pre-allocated facilitated small groups of 6-7 people:</i> Initial round-robin with each participant sharing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Name, role, location, diocese</li> <li>2. Where they see themselves on the road in waking up to (their own) Whiteness, and addressing the culture of Whiteness in their church</li> </ol>
11:20-11:40	Break with refreshments
11:40-11:50	A theological and/or Biblical reflection by Ven. <b>Tricia Hillas</b>
11:50-12:25	<i>Return to same facilitated small groups.</i> Conversation considering Tricia's reflection; and sharing other theological/Biblical resources and thinkers that participants have found useful in exploring/challenging issues around racial inequality and White superiority

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## Conference aims :

- To encourage White participants to take next steps in facing their own whiteness, and in addressing institutional racism within Anglican churches and provinces;
- To share resources and programmes that have been developed locally;
- To network participants, and build relationships across the Anglican provinces in Britain and Ireland; and
- To leave participants re-energised and re-committed to challenging the culture of whiteness in the church.

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11:40-11:50

*Return to plenary forum:*

Progress report on implementation of *From Lament to Action*, by Revd Canon Dr **Sharon Prentis**, Deputy Director, CofE Racial Justice Unit

12:40-12:50

Feedback, & question and response; instructions on afternoon groups

12:50-1:45

Lunch / networking / stretching legs outside / praying in St Martin's

1:45-2:40

*Movement into new small groups of 6-7 people, organised on a regional basis:* Conversation considering wider resources and thinkers that participants have found most useful in exploring/challenging issues around racial inequality and the patterns of White superiority; and what they have been learning.

2:40-3:00

*Return to plenary:*

Brief feedback of a highlight from each small group conversation  
Concluding observations from Ven. **Tricia Hillas**

3:00-3:20

Break with refreshments

3:20-3:50

*Conversation in same small groups, round-robin considering the questions:*

1. What next steps of action are you planning?
2. What resourcing do you need to keep at this work?

3:50-4:00

*Discussion in 2s / 3s / 4s:*

1. What have you noticed over the course of today?
2. What gives you hope for the future of Anglican churches addressing racial justice and working for racial equality in your context?

4:00-4:15

Feedback from discussions, followed by closing reflections by Ven. **Tricia Hillas**

4:15-4:20

Closing worship, including Litany of Reconciliation, by Revd Dr **Alastair McKay**

4:20-4:30

Departures

# Conference Speakers & Facilitators

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## Tricia Hillas – Conference Chair

Tricia is Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, and the Canon Steward and Archdeacon at Westminster Abbey in central London. She is also a member of the Archbishops' Commission for Racial Justice in the Church of England.



## Martyn Snow – Keynote Speaker

Martyn is the Bishop of Leicester, since spring 2016. He is actively involved in interfaith work and his diocese's Intercultural Worshipping Communities programme, and has a background of working with the church in different parts of the world. He entered the House of Lords in 2022.



## Sharon Prentis – Conference Speaker

Sharon is the Deputy Director of the Church of England's Racial Justice Unit, and also Canon theologian at Lichfield Cathedral. She has previously served as Dean of Ministry at St Mellitus College, and Intercultural Mission Enabler and Dean of BAME Affairs for Birmingham Diocese.



## Alastair McKay – Conference Facilitator

Alastair is Director of RI, having founded the charity in 2017; and is the Associate Priest in the parish of Malvern Link with Cowleigh. An author, he also works as a freelance consultant, coach and adult educator. Alastair co-founded and directed Bridge Builders for 20 years until ordination in 2015.



## Carey Haslam – Conference Facilitator

Carey is RI's Racial Justice Lead, and has co-developed the Being White programme, alongside Alastair. She is a highly experienced trainer and facilitator in conflict resolution, mediation and diversity. She is also an Associate Consultant and Trainer with *enei*.

## The Trustees of Reconciliation Initiatives

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Reconciliation Initiatives (RI) is a charity registered in England, governed by a trustee body. Our current trustees are **Moira Astin** (Chair of Trustees, and Archdeacon of Reigate), **Karen West** (Curate in Diocese of Winchester), **Mark Simmons** (Lead Parish Giving Advisor in Hereford Diocese), **Peter Wolstenholme** (RI Treasurer, and Chartered Accountant), **Scott Watts** (Deputy Lead Chaplain in Cambridge University Hospitals Trust) and **Tricia Hillas** (see above).



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