

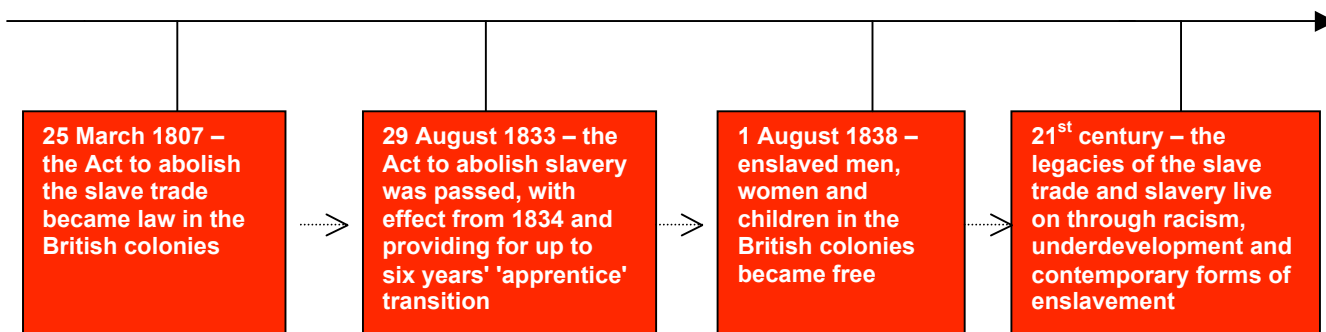


act 2007

Issue 10
January 07

Welcome to this issue of **act 2007**, **set all free**'s e-bulletin with news and information on the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 2007.

REMEMBER REFLECT RESPOND



Welcome to the first edition of **act 2007** for the bicentenary year. Over the last two years, this e-bulletin has given updates of **set all free**'s activities, as well as provided readers with a snapshot of activities and plans for the bicentenary. Now that the year is actually upon us (I have to keep reminding myself of this!), this online publication will endeavour to keep everyone abreast of what is taking place this year. Moreover, **act 2007** will also continue its work to inform, educate, facilitate partnerships and signpost interested parties towards funding opportunities.

Alongside our colleagues at Anti-Slavery International and Rendezvous of Victory, we have always suggested that the bicentenary encompasses the entire year, rather than a day in March or 31 days that month. Moreover, we are also pointing out that 2007 is only just the start; with all the will in the world, the legacies of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its contemporary counterpart will not be resolved in a year.

I am not the first, nor will I be the last, to point out that bicentenary presents us with a unique opportunity to assess how the events of history continue to impact our society today. There is little doubt that 2007 will challenge us in so many ways. My hope is that we will be challenged to change our ideas, attitudes and engagement on issues of freedom, justice and truth. None of this is easy. However, it wasn't easy 200 years ago either!

Richard Reddie, Project Director



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Government to sign Anti-Trafficking Convention

In a welcome move on 22 January, Prime Minister Tony Blair announced that the United Kingdom would sign the Council of Europe *Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings*, bringing the guarantee of help and protection for all trafficked people in the UK a step closer.

Anti-Slavery International and many others have been calling on the Government to sign the Convention since it opened for signature in May 2005.

The Government must now follow this action by ratifying and implementing the Convention as a matter of urgency. This Convention is the only international law that provides guaranteed minimum standards of protection for trafficked people. It includes at least 30 days to stay in the country to receive emergency medical assistance, safe housing, legal advice and temporary residence permits for those who may be in danger if they return to their country of origin.

Current protection and support services for trafficked men, women and children are inadequate and there is no specific assistance available to those who are trafficked for labour exploitation.

To date, over 30 European countries have signed; three have ratified. Ten ratifications are required for the standard to enter into force.



Secondary schools to learn about the Transatlantic Slave Trade

The Education Secretary, Alan Johnson, announced on 25 January that lessons on the Commonwealth and empire, the Transatlantic Slave Trade and conflicts such as those in Northern Ireland are to be taught in revamped citizenship lessons in future to help pupils have a better understanding of their own identity and Britain's religious, racial, social and political diversity. He stated that teachers would also need better training on addressing issues of 'how we live together' and 'dealing with difference'.





From Charleston to Christchurch

My name is Bill Drayton and I live in Christchurch, Dorset, with my wife Sara. I was born in Cheshire but my family comes from Charleston in South Carolina where in September last year I went on a highly significant visit.

The Draytons first settled in the Carolina colony in 1679. They became one of the wealthiest plantation-owning families with 30 properties. The Grimkes arrived in the early 18th century. From the second generation two Grimke sisters, Sarah and Angelina, my great-great-great-great aunts, campaigned against slavery and for women's rights. Their brother, Henry, after the death of his first wife, took Nancy Weston, one of his slaves, as his 'spouse' in an illegal mixed marriage. Three sons were born to them – Archibald, Francis and John. Archibald was involved in the law and politics, whereas Francis became a Presbyterian minister in Washington DC. Both fought for equal rights for all.



My visit to Charleston culminated in a special event at Drayton Hall and Magnolia Gardens – the latter being the very first plantation in Drayton possession from 1680. The theme of the memorable day was: *Share The History: Tell The Story*. For the first time I discovered members of the same family as Nancy Weston. I also met descendants of slaves the Draytons brought over from Barbados. As I said, 'we are one big family.'

A group from Charleston, including those I have mentioned, will be coming over to participate in the bicentenary events this March. Among the party will be a civil rights

campaigner from the early days, who is still as forthright as ever at the age of 90! I now have my own website – www.grimke.co.uk – which has the title: *From Slavery To Reconciliation*. I am advertising myself as a speaker, and anticipate that this year will prove to be a significant time for all those involved.

Bill Drayton



Churches Together in England – new website launch



Churches Together in England has launched its new website
<http://cte.churchinsight.com/Default.aspx>

The site has greater facility for allowing you to contribute articles and material, so please register for the site. Also, please sign up for **CT E-news**, which has replaced *Pilgrim Post* as the chief means of sent communication. This will be published on the 15th of each month.



Slave Trade Act stamps unveiled

The Royal Mail will be commemorating the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act of 1807 with six stamps due to be issued on 22 March.



The six stamps feature the following individuals/abolitionists:

- 1st William Wilberforce
- 1st Olaudah Equiano
- 50p Granville Sharp
- 50p Thomas Clarkson
- 72p Hannah More
- 72p Ignatius Sancho

The Lifeline Expedition – new website

The Lifeline Expedition now has a new website for the March of the Abolitionists. Do visit www.lifelineexpedition.co.uk/mota for further information.



Launch of Memorial 2007 project

The Memorial 2007 project launch was held at the Museum in Docklands, West India Quay, London, on 15 December 2006.

'The absence of a permanent memorial to commemorate the lives of the millions of lives lost to the slave trade needs to be addressed' – The Most Revd Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York.

Memorial 2007 is indeed addressing this very issue. The committee of Memorial 2007 came together with the single objective to see a memorial erected within a landscaped garden of remembrance. With the assistance of the Department of Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) and by courtesy of the Royal Parks, a site has been secured in the Rose Gardens in London's Hyde Park, a very popular area of the Park.



Memorial 2007 officially launched this project on Friday 15 December 2006 at the Museum in Docklands, a Georgian warehouse on the North Quay of the West India Dock which was used to store sugar, rum and coffee, the very commodities produced by the blood and sweat of enslaved Africans during the 18th century.

About 100 invited guests were treated to speeches by two of the Project's Patrons, Professor Jack Lohman, Director of the Museums of London and Docklands who said that '2007 is an opportunity to re-examine aspects of British History that until now, remained hidden in dusty archives', and Sandy Nairn, Director of National Portrait Gallery whose speech left no one in any doubt that he has thrown his full support behind this project.

The two Patrons who were unable to be present sent inspiring messages of endorsement which were read out to those present. The Archbishop of York said: 'We need to remember that those made in the image of God were defaced and dehumanised by the slave trade ... May the campaign slogan of the first abolitionists be ours: "Am I not a Man and a Brother?"' And Sir Willard White stated, 'this is a time of great challenge and while the pain still lingers as a legacy ... we must work to transform that legacy into a beacon of empowerment so we can all fulfil our dream of oneness ...'

Guests were treated to an interesting and moving key note speech by actor Ray Fearon, whose African heritage can be traced back to the Maroons of Jamaica. The Maroons fought off the British to claim their independence in the hills of that island.

continued/...



Launch of Memorial 2007 project (*continued*)

Funding request

The next stage of the project is to select a sculptor from a shortlist, tender for the landscape garden and to raise funding of £1.25m for these as well as the garden furniture, flora and maintenance, to ensure this remains a place of reflection and hope for future generations.

We would be grateful for contributions no matter how big or small to this long-awaited memorial. Please send your donations to:

Memorial 2007
5 Springfield Road
Welling
Kent
DA16 1QN

www.memorial2007.org.uk
info@memorial.org.uk



Thank you for your support.

Memorial 2007 Committee



Black British Heritage

We are a new enthusiastic energetic community-based charity organisation established in 2001, with the remit to promote the value of ethnic diversity within the local and London-wide community. The aim is to increase general public awareness of Black Heritage.

Black British Heritage has been working for the past seven years to raise the awareness of the past presence and contributions that Black people have made individually and as groups to Britain and to British society.

Locally we provide educational workshops to schools within the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, the London Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, and the Borough of Brent. A part of the work of **Black British Heritage** is to create images in the form of plaques and monuments and to encourage schools to look favourably on and support the spirit of positive Black Heritage as an extra curricula study.

We organise local Black Heritage trail tours and London wide Black Heritage tours, which identify significant Black historical landmark.

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Black British Heritage (*continued*)

Finally we are involved together with the West London strategy Action Plan Team and the local authorities in the strategic planning which will increase tourism in the West London area.



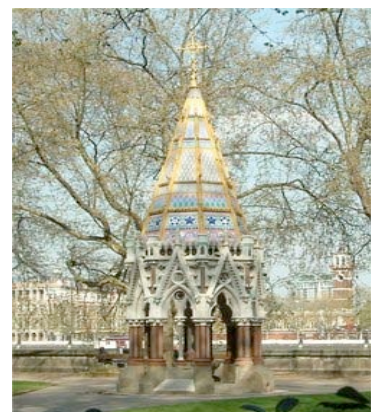
The long term of **Black British Heritage** is to establish a heritage centre where all members of the community can view images of the heritage of Black people and acquire and research information about the Black community.

Memorial to Victims of the Slave Trade

- In partnership with the Planning Department of the Corporation of London we are working to establish the memorial.
- In 2004, the corporation secured a section 106 agreement of 1.2 million pounds towards the improvement of the local area of which £150,000 is included for the memorial to the victims of the Slave Trade in the British Empire.
- The memorial site situated in Fen Court, London EC1, owned by the Parish of St Mary Woolnoth.
- The memorial will sit partly on public and the land of St Mary Woolnoth.
- The final selection stage of a sculptor will take place in January 2007.
- The Memorial will be unveiled in 2007 during the year long celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade in the British Empire.

Buxton Memorial Fountain to the Abolishment of Slavery

- The Buxton Memorial Fountain (1865), was donated by Charles Buxton MP to commemorate the emancipation of slaves.
- The memorial is situated in Victoria Tower Gardens (next to the House of Lords).
- **Black British Heritage** in partnership with the Royal Parks Agency is continuing to work to raise funds for the second phase of the renovation of the memorial.



continued/...

Black British Heritage (*continued*)

Granville Sharp in Fulham



- In partnership with Hammersmith & Fulham council **Black British Heritage** will be erecting a memorial to Granville Sharp in Bishops Park on the banks of the River Thames.
 - In partnership with Hammersmith & Fulham Historic Buildings Group, Granville Sharp's tomb will be renovated.
 - Granville Sharp was a solicitor who campaigned against the slave trade.
- His most famous case was that of James Somerset (1772), an African slave from Barbados.
 - Granville Sharp died in 1831, and is buried at All Saints Church cemetery, Bishops Park, situated in Fulham Palace Road, London.

The Tale of two Ships

- In partnership with the Royal Navy, the Greater London Authority and Black British Heritage, intends to bring two full-size replicas sailing ships up the River Thames.
- The two ships, the 'Kitty's Amelia', the last slave ship to leave England before the bill to abolish the Slave Trade was passed.
- The second ship, 'HMS Grand Turk', a Royal Navy Frigate, engaged in counter-Slave Trade activity and responsible for sinking the former 1809 off the coast of Brazil.

For further information contact: Black British Heritage, tel: 020 8748 6950 or e-mail: info@black-british-heritage.com Website: www.black-british-heritage.com



Incub8 – international justice prayer sleep-over

At Holy Innocents', Wilbraham Road, Fallowfield we've been concerned and taking action on issues of economic injustice for several years. A group of us staged a 24 hour vigil and walking round a treadmill in 1999 and last year some of us went on the Make Poverty History march in Edinburgh.

Last Lent, to follow on from Make Poverty History, we had a 24 hour prayer and letter writing event which we called 'Incub8' from the practice of Incubation – sleeping in holy places to commune with God. This year we are repeating it on 3 March. All people with a burden for international justice are welcome! For further information contact Stephen Pennells, tel. 0161 224 2025 or e-mail spe@fish.co.uk www.holyinnocentsfallowfield.org.uk



NOTICEBOARD

Interpreters for Deaf people needed

A leading production company is looking for interpreters for the deaf or hard of hearing who have an interest in bicentenary. They are particularly keen to touch-base with descendants of enslaved Africans, abolitionists or those involved in work to end slavery legacies or modern day enslavement. If you fit the bill, please contact **set all free** as soon as possible on info@setallfree.net



Booklet of prayers about slavery and the slave trade

The idea for a booklet of prayers about slavery and the slave trade for use this year, 2007, was first suggested at a meeting of Churches Together in Clapham. A little later a request for prayers went into an edition of the **set all free** e-bulletin, as it seemed that the idea could have a wider use than just in Clapham.

I hoped I would find many exciting, informative and passionate prayers on the subject. I felt sure that prayer was of vital importance to many of the abolitionists because, in so many of the letters I had scanned, they assured one another of their prayers and encouraged on another to pray – but it seems that they didn't write their prayers down. I have had interesting conversations with archivists, librarians and chaplains, but they haven't been able to produce prayers – for many different reasons, two of them being fire and flood! To my great pleasure, however, the archivist of Anti-Slavery International showed me a prayer written in 1788 in a book of sermons of that time, and I am including it at the beginning of the booklet. I have also been given some lovely modern prayers and hope that at any rate a small booklet will be ready before long.

If you, however, come across a relevant old prayer – or a new one – or if you write one, I would be still be very happy to receive it.

Pauline Bower, Clapham, c/o info@setallfree.net



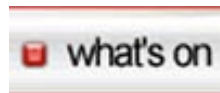
Chelmsford – set all free silicone wristbands

For our **set all free** service in Chelmsford on 25 March, we are looking at the possibility of giving people a silicone wristband (of the Make Poverty History type) with SET ALL FREE embossed on a grey band representing the iron chains of captivity. Clearly the price of producing these is lower if there is a large bulk order.

DEADLINE

If you are interested in obtaining quantities of these wristbands the deadline for response to Chris Newlands on cnewlands@chelmsford.anglican.org is Tuesday 13 February





Making our Mark – Walk of Witness, Saturday 24 March

To take part in the 'Walk of Witness' on 24 March please register now. Registration is important to ensure that the Metropolitan Police have an idea of how many people are coming.

Please visit the website <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/info/cmeac/> for more information and a registration form, or ring 0870 321 2005 (local rates). To organise a coach from your church or deanery, please ring the number above.

join the walk of witness and make your mark

To mark the 200th anniversary of the Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade, join the Archbishops of Canterbury and York for a Walk of Witness through the capital - a landmark opportunity for remembrance, repentance and restoration.

This pilgrim walk will offer a reflection on the past, an acknowledgement of the continuing legacy of the trade today, and a commitment to stepping forward in faith with a renewed thirst for justice.

Be part of history
Make your Mark.

Join the Archbishops at Whitehall Place, London from 11.30am on Saturday 24 March 2007

The walk will then weave past Parliament, cross the Thames over Lambeth Bridge, and then head towards Kennington Park for an

"If there is one thing that the Gospel of Christ says to us, it is that, in acknowledging the past, it is possible to open it to the healing power of Christ."

Archbishop Rowan Williams

Find out more and register to today at www.makingourmark.org.uk

3R200

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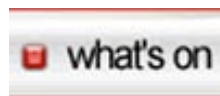
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Find out more and register to today at www.makingourmark.org.uk

3R200

Making Our Mark: Remembrance, Repentance and Restoration is the Church of England's specific response to the **set all free** project of Churches Together in England. The Walk of Witness through London is a national event which we hope will give substance to the motion of General Synod last year. Do come and join the Archbishops (who have asked that this be a spiritual event reminiscent of the 'way of the cross') and others as we walk. 'Make your mark' and commit yourself to changing the future for those who are enslaved in all kinds of ways. For further information, contact:

Sonia Barron, National Adviser for Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns
Archbishops' Council
Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ
Tel 020 7898 1442; mobile 07754 582559; Fax 020 7898 1431



Council of Black Led Churches & Birmingham Churches Together Commemoration Service – 25 March 2007

The Council of Black Led Churches in partnership with Birmingham Churches Together
Commemoration of the Bicentenary of the
Abolition of the Slave Trade Act
Sunday 25th March 2007 6pm
BETHEL CONVENTION CENTRE, KELVIN WAY, WEST BROMWICH, B70 7JW.

An Evening of Music, Drama & Reflections on the
Abolition of the Slave Trade in British Colonies
A Parliamentary Act that became law on 25th March 1807

Advanced seat reservations are essential at £5 per seat.
TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT
Wesley Owen (Birmingham & Walsall)
CLC (Birmingham & Wolverhampton)
Vision Gospel Media (Perry Barr & Erdington)
Lozells Bookshop (Lozells)

Guest Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Joel Edwards
General Director, Evangelical Alliance

Witness
Kajahs

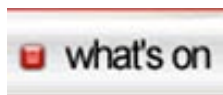
Event Sponsors:
padar communications
christian aid
BREAKING THE CHAINS
New Nation
set all free
ACT TO END SLAVERY
ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE ACT
BIRMINGHAM, 2007

Tickets are now available from the following organisations for this service which will be held at the Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, Birmingham B70 7JW:

- Wesley Owen – 7 Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7TG, tel. 0121 643 9235
- Wesley Owen – Unit 6, (Crossing At St Pauls), Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1DA, tel. 01922 631 230
- CLC Bookshop – 51 Stephenson Street, Birmingham B24DH, tel. 0121 643 6187
- CLC Bookshop - 69 Worcester Street, Wolverhampton, WV2 4LE, tel. 01902 424020
- Vision Gospel Media (VGM) – Swannies Shopping Mall, Unit 27, 115 Sutton New Road, Erdington, Birmingham B23 6RP, tel. 0121 384 1271
- Vision Gospel Media (VGM) – Inshops Unit 33, One Stop Shopping centre, Walsall Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham B42 1SF. tel. 0121 384 1271
- Lozells Bookshop – 92 Lozells Road, Lozells, Birmingham B19 2TB, tel. 0121 554 6471

CARJ – Mass of Reconciliation in Westminster Cathedral

The Catholic Association for Racial Justice plan to hold a Mass of Reconciliation in the summer of 2007. Further information will follow in the next e-bulletin.



University of York 2007 events

Abolitions, 1807-2007: ending the slave trade in the Transatlantic world

The City and University of York has long been associated with anti-slavery. William Wilberforce's family came from a village nearby, Wilberforce was MP for the county, and in modern times historians in the department such as James Walvin have pioneered the development of the study of slavery in the UK. It is fitting therefore that throughout 2007 the University will host a series of events to mark the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade.

Starting in February we are running a series of public lectures in the University featuring speakers on women slaves, slave ships, jazz, anti-slavery poetry, and other interesting topics relating to the slavery past and present. Just after Easter (12-14 April) we are hosting an international conference at the King's Manor, with participants drawn from Africa, the Caribbean, the USA and Europe. In July we are running a summer school, 'Fighting Slavery: Past, Present and into the Future', which will include public round-table discussions on religion and slavery, and on the media and the bicentenary, as well as visits to Harewood House. And starting in May, we are welcoming a distinguished list of guest speakers to the City, including the Right Hon. Clare Short MP, Trevor Phillips (Commission for Equality and Human Rights), writer Caryl Phillips, the Bishop of Derby, and Aidan McQuade (Anti-Slavery International) to speak to local audiences about the meaning and legacy of slavery and anti-slavery.

THE UNIVERSITY *of York*

Full details of all these events can be found on our website: www-users.york.ac.uk/~hist35/abolitions/, or from Professor Miles Taylor (mt504@york.ac.uk; direct line: 01904 432974).



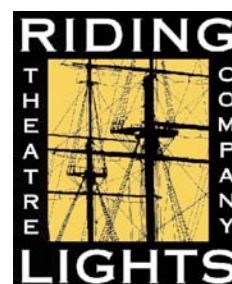
African Snow update

In March 2007, YORK THEATRE ROYAL and RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY are collaborating to mark the 200th anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act with a production of *African Snow*, a new play by Murray Watts.

The play was originally commissioned and is being supported by the **Church Mission Society**, founded in 1799 by representatives of the abolitionist movement, including William Wilberforce.

continued/...

 **yorktheatre**
royal



African Snow update (continued)

It will premiere at **York Theatre Royal, Fri 30 March – Sat 21 April 2007**. The play will be a major artistic contribution to the range of cultural, media and educational events being planned throughout the UK next year to commemorate this significant bicentenary. During its national tour it will reach **Hackney Empire (Tuesday 29 May–Saturday 2 June)**.

African Snow is the meeting of two men – cast from opposite sides into the hell of the slave trade. An African stolen from his home in West Africa and an English sailor. Both survived to write remarkable accounts of their experiences and both were urged by William Wilberforce to testify before parliament in the eighteenth century campaign for abolition.

The English sailor, John Newton, is well-known as the converted slave-trader who gave the world its most famous hymn *Amazing Grace*. But, as one might expect from the quiet racism of the history books, less prominence is given to Olaudah Equiano the African, whose extraordinary story has been confined to a footnote or totally ignored for so long. Equiano's ascent from the hell of a slave ship to become the leading Black voice in the political campaign is one of the most compelling and moving stories of any era.

Together, Equiano and Newton seem to Wilberforce to provide the most cogent argument in winning the political battle. Bringing them face to face, however, is perhaps beyond the scope of human reason. Can victim and abuser ever be reconciled? *African Snow* takes us to the heart of the human condition to the place where two men are compelled to confront each another.

Far more than a commemorative piece, **African Snow** tells its story from a Black perspective, through material drawn from Equiano's autobiography published in 1769. It asks its audiences to examine their own relationships in the world. Whether we focus on sweatshop labour in developing nations, sex trafficking in Europe or race relations at home, the challenge to move from guilt or oppression, to forgiveness and reconciliation is always a contemporary one.

Directed by Riding Lights' Artistic Director, Paul Burbridge with design by Sean Cavanagh and featuring original music composed for the production, *African Snow* is the first ever collaboration between Riding Lights Theatre Company and York Theatre Royal.

'Here's a play that turns bygone history into a pulsating human story. It could be yours. It could be mine. We begin to understand the past when we recognise that it is about real human beings like us. That way we better understand not only where we have come from but what we are doing now and where we are heading.'

Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York

For further information please contact Russell Price by e-mail Russell.price@cms-uk.org or phone 020 7803 3375

Visit http://www.ridinglights.org/shows/africans_001.php for information on a 12-week national tour which will follow the premiere.





set all free – Slavery: the unfinished business conference

set all free and Southwark Diocese are hosting a two-day conference in June on **SLAVERY – THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS**. Bookings can be made by completing the following form and returning it to Delbert Sandiford at the address below:

BOOKING FORM

set all free

SLAVERY - THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FRIDAY 15 JUNE 2007

12:30 – 5:30 pm

&

SATURDAY 16 JUNE 2007

9:30 – 4:30 pm

at

St John’s Church, Waterloo

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

Telephone no:.....

Mobile no:.....

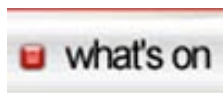
I enclose a cheque for £.....

Conference Fee: £ 20:00

Please make cheques payable to **South London Church Fund** and return to:
Delbert Sandiford
Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court
Borough High Street. London SE1 1HW

Please make copies of this booking form as required





The European Slave Trade: Character, Causes, Challenges: Dublin conference 3–5 July 2007

The Abolition of the Slave Trade Act 1807 was the start of a successful process that outlawed the African slave trade worldwide. After centuries of suffering, millions of African slaves were eventually freed and millions of lives saved. Those who worked so hard in the 18th and 19th century to abolish slavery would be shocked to find that there was still so much work to be done 200 years later. On this 200th anniversary slavery has changed but it has not been eradicated. Slavery can still be found in every corner of the world. In Europe today, slavery manifests itself in many different forms, including; the trafficking of women and children for the purposes of sexual exploitation; the holding of migrant women in domestic servitude; the exploitation of bonded labourers in the agricultural sector and the trafficking of children for the purposes of begging.

This international conference seeks to contribute to the exploration, analysis and combating of these and other forms of slavery in contemporary Europe. In order to further the effectiveness of such discussions, the conference will bring together participants from the world of academia, law, policy and anti-slavery activism.

Keynote speakers will include:

- Bridget Anderson (Senior Researcher and Programme Head, Centre on Migration, Policy and Society, Oxford University)
- Kevin Bales (Professor Roehampton University and director of 'Free the Slaves')
- Stana Buchowska (La Strada, Poland)
- Ronaldo Munck (Professor, Internationalisation, Interculturalism and Social Development, Dublin City University)
- Monika Smit (Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings)

THE CONFERENCE ORGANISERS INVITE PAPERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- empirical work on slavery in Europe today
- the meaning of slavery in contemporary Europe
- the causes of modern day slavery
- the responses of European governments/civil society
- assessments of the implementation and efficacy of existing domestic, European and international law to outlaw slavery
- evaluations of political, legal and anti-slavery campaigning work and practices

For further information please contact <http://www.europeanslavery.com/> or info@europeanslavery.com

The conference is co-sponsored by the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland en Route (a network of non-governmental and statutory bodies concerned with trafficking for sexual exploitation) and the Institute for International Integration Studies, Trinity College Dublin.



'setting the captives free' retreat

The Baptist Union Retreat Group (BURG) is hosting a conducted retreat at the Royal Foundation of St Katherine, Docklands, London, from Friday 7 to Sunday 9 September 2007, remembering the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act.

This will be a weekend of discovery and reflection on the bicentenary, including exploration of the London Docklands area and its environs as part of that history. The day will be shaped by times for reflection and prayer in the quiet oasis of St Katherine's, close to the river and its tunnels around Canary Wharf.

The retreat will be led by members of the BURG Committee and others, and it is hoped that the Revd Mother Winsome of the Community of St Mary the Virgin in Wantage will share this retreat. Revd Mother Winsome is a lawyer and has recently completed a PhD at Birmingham University on Restorative Justice. She was a prison visitor in Birmingham and is, as far as BURG knows, the first Black Sister to be elected Mother of an Anglican Community. *Bursaries are available for those who would find the cost of this retreat difficult to manage. Please contact Pamela Neville with your request which will remain confidential.*

For more information or booking forms, please contact Pamela Neville at 42 Coniston Road, Chippenham, Wilts SN14 0PX, tel. 01249 655349, or e-mail pam.neville@btinternet.com



Midnight Oil Summit, Birmingham 6-7 July



See & Be Transformation Services (SBTS), a faith-oriented voluntary youth organisation focusing on educating, empowering and equipping youth for a positive and successful future will be hosting the **Midnight Oil Summit** on 6 and 7 July 2007 at the Bethel Convention Centre in Sandwell, Birmingham.

The conference has been envisioned by youth who have come from various walks of life who alongside various high profile, charismatic motivational speakers, councillors and mentors will candidly address issues of bullying, crime, self esteem and empowerment and provide practical solutions to problems.

The **Midnight Oil Summit** will also feature passionate praise and uncompromised worship as we call on God to untie the shackles and chains that bind and unleash His power to transform lives. The summit will also demonstrate culture through powerful and innovative fusions of music, theatrical sketches, teachings, seminars and dance. **Midnight Oil** will draw up to 5000 people over two days and will coincide with the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade. We will use this significant landmark in history to promote unity and progression within the Christian faith and ethnic minority groups.

For more information contact Seth Pinnock, Mobile: 07788 988395 or e-mail: SethAnthonyP@hotmail.com



Black Atlas



The London Shakespeare Workout, LSW Prison Project,
& Gayle Hunnicutt, Chairman, LSW Executive Committee
proudly present:



' LSW works at the highest level What is most impressive is the commitment of the entire company and its rare passion for language '

Michael Billington, The Guardian

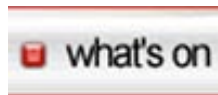
Inspired by George McDonald Fraser's celebrated novel 'Black Ajax', BLACK ATLAS, an original work, tells the true story of Tom Molineaux – a slave from America who died the first notable Black Prize-Fighter in Britain.

BLACK ATLAS celebrates the historic bicentenary anniversary in 2007 of the Abolition of the Slave Trade by telling the true tale of two slaves: One, William Richmond from Africa, is given the benefit of an education in England; learning to read and write. The other, Tom, isn't. The differences are plain for all to see.

BLACK ATLAS spans three continents in 80 minutes and features an original score (keyboard and cello) by noted composer Tim Williams, including five songs. BLACK ATLAS depicts key historic figures from Britain's Regency period (Tom Molineaux, Bill Richmond, George III, The Prince Regent, Paddington Jones, Beau Brummel, Tom Cribb, Pierce Egan, etc.) as well as many colourful fictional characters including Captain Buck, himself based on the historical character of Captain Butler, but used by MacDonald Fraser to depict Flashman's father from his internationally famed series of novels inspired by *Tom Brown's Schooldays*.

Dramatically shaped using LSW's unique developmental processes inside and out of criminal justice regimes, BLACK ATLAS includes a healthy dose of very real Regency slang, quotes Shakespeare and encompasses a wide range of period songs. Performed by an all-male ensemble of respected professional performers and ex-offenders, BLACK ATLAS is directed by LSW's Theatre World Award winning Executive Director, Dr Bruce Wall.

continued/...



Black Atlas (continued)

The following support materials are currently available by clicking on the relevant tab:

- [A Brief Introduction to LSW](#)
- [Production Background on BLACK ATLAS](#)
- [Reviews on LSW's Direct Audience Impact](#)
- [A Review of BLACK ATLAS](#)
- [Biographies of BLACK ATLAS cast](#)
- [BLACK ATLAS Tour Performance Venues/Dates](#)
- [A Word with Two BLACK ATLAS Cast Members](#)
- [BLACK ATLAS Technical Specifications](#)
- [BLACK ATLAS Brochure/Listing Blurb Suggestions](#)
- [BLACK ATLAS Downloadable Image \(762dpi / jpg\)](#)
- [A slice from the BLACK ATLAS Production Text](#)

All BLACK ATLAS performances will be immediately followed by a 'Talk Back' wherein audience members have an opportunity to share their views about the play and its contents as well as enjoying additional original work (both poetry and music) on the theme of slavery.

In addition, specially devised inter-active workshops that bring the concepts of slavery and its abolition alive through history and literature will be offered for schools, colleges, community centres, prisons, etc. LSW's famed 'Shakespeare Workouts' will also be available.

BLACK ATLAS is available for UK Touring & Associated 'Slavery Themed' Workshops: Mid-February to Easter 2007

For more information please contact [Pete Colley](#) or [Dr Bruce Wall](#) at LSW
Tel: 0207 771 0009 or 0207 793 9755
E-mail: blackatlastour@europe.com
Web: www.londonshakespeare.org.uk/Othello1/BAtour.htm





The Bray Lectureship: 'Reversing the Curse of Racism: The Apostle Paul, the Black Pulpit, and International Reparations'

Dr Brad R. Braxton, Associate Professor of Homiletics and New Testament at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee, USA is lecturing on 'Reversing the curse of racism: the Apostle Paul, the Black Pulpit, and International Reparations' during March 2007. All are welcome and admission is free:

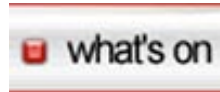
- Wednesday 7 March, 5.30 pm: Kings College, London (the Council Room, first floor King's building)
- Thursday 8 March, 4.15 pm: Ripon College, Cuddesdon
- Sunday 11 March, 11.15 am: Preaching at Westminster Abbey
- Monday 12 March, 7.30 pm: Selly Oak Centre for Mission Studies, The Queens Foundation, Birmingham
- Tuesday 13 March, 7.30 pm: Langwith College Lecture Theatre, University of York
- Wednesday 14 March, 7.30 pm: Manchester Cathedral

Synopsis of lecture

Interpreters often have criticised the apostle Paul for supporting social oppression such as slavery, patriarchy, and heterosexism. While the textual and historical evidence for these indictments is debatable, many perceive that Paul either set in motion or provided significant momentum to forces of social inequality that continue to exert themselves in contemporary contexts. Historically, many Black Christians have especially held this opinion, particularly given the Bible's role as an ideological buttress for chattel slavery.

Consequently, Black preachers' engagement with Paul's letters as a mechanism for challenging social oppression is an underdeveloped dimension of Black ecclesial life. How might Black preachers in diverse cultural contexts be encouraged to read Paul's letters to reverse the forces of racial oppression? More specifically, in the presentations and seminars associated with the Bray Lectureship, I plan to offer prescriptive strategies for reading Paul's letters in ways that promote more robust international conversations about social (and indeed financial) reparations for Black people who were and remain affected by the slave trade of the 15th-19th centuries.

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Holy Trinity Church Clapham and the Philharmonia Orchestra – Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act

One of the world's great orchestras and one of Lambeth's most historic churches have teamed up to mark the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in a special commemorative evening.

philharmonia
orchestra

The Philharmonia Orchestra, conducted by Martyn Brabbins, one of Britain's leading and most versatile conductors, and Holy Trinity Church, Clapham, are bringing together an extraordinary event



including readings, prayers and music on Saturday 24 February at 7.30 pm at Holy Trinity for probably the first major event in a significant year not only for Clapham, but for the United Kingdom. Included in this unique event will be the music of Beethoven, contemporary to the Abolition movement at the turn of the 19th century, the stunning but rarely heard Coleridge-Taylor violin concerto played by its modern-day ambassador violinist Philippe Graffin, and a premiere of a specially-commissioned piece by award-winning composer Errollyn Wallen.



At the heart of the evening's commemoration will be a commitment to reconnect with William Wilberforce's unfinished business. 'God has set before me two great objects,' he wrote, 'the suppression of the slave trade and the reformation of manners.' In our day we too seek to 'act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God.'

Errollyn Wallen © Gillian Edelstein

Attendance is, of course, free but ticketed. To reserve a seat please call 0800 652 6717. There will be a retiring collection as well as the opportunity to gift-aid your donation that will be evenly distributed between Anti-Slavery International and Holy Trinity Church. For further information please visit www.philharmonia.co.uk

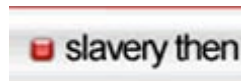


COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORKS

March 2007 E-bulletin

The deadline for articles for submission to the next e-bulletin is **Wednesday 14 March 2007**.

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Sugar, Slaves and Afternoon Tea

Afternoon tea ... such a very 'English' concept. Images of summer afternoons, when ladies (and gentlemen) of leisure took their tea in drawing rooms, elegantly seated on mahogany chairs, sipping from fine china cups: silver tea-pots, sugar basins, tongs, dainty cakes and other confections on prettily decorated plates. Charming, elegant and so, so civilised and sophisticated.

It was all far removed from the stinking, hellish holds of the 18th century slave ships, ferrying their grisly cargoes of suffering humanity from Africa to America. So where is the connection?

At a seminar, **Britain and the Slave Trade**, in October 2006 at Culmington near Ludlow, organised by Julia Ionides for the Shropshire and Marches Regional Branch of the Georgian Group, I was forcefully made aware of the fact of just how much effect sugar, and the slaves who produced it, has had in shaping our social history and, indeed, even our present way of life.



The Speakers at the *Britain and the Slave Trade* Seminar: from left, Professor James Walvin, Auriol Marchioness of Linlithgow, Peter Howell, chairman and Gareth Williams
Photo © Steve Porter

The lust for sugar was generated by the desire to make those fashionable, though bitter, 17th century drinks such as tea, coffee and chocolate, more palatable to the sweet European tooth. Sugar became big business, and as we commemorate the 200th anniversary

of the Abolition of the Slave Trade, there will be few amongst us who will not be aware of the trade in African men, women and children who were sold into New World slavery specifically to work on the sugar plantations. Auriol, Marchioness of Linlithgow in her talk, *The 18th & 19th Century Commercial Architecture of Jamaica*, showed revealing slides of the remains of the sugar factories and other buildings on the island.

continued/...



Sugar, Slaves and Afternoon Tea (*continued*)

However, sugar was not the only commodity to be shipped back to Britain. Mahogany and other exotic woods came into this country also, and immediately became fashionable in the creation of fine and expensive furniture. New styles in cabinet-making evolved to show off these new woods, and the stage was set for a revolution in 'gracious living'.

Not only were many of our stately homes and country house estates built directly on the back of slavery, as Gareth Williams pointed out in his talk entitled *Landlocked Shropshire's portal on Plantations: Country Houses with a Colonial Connection*, but whole industries, such as cotton, confectionery and pottery, were indirectly affected and revolutionised as a result, as new fashions percolated down through society.

As I thought more deeply during the course of the seminar, I realised that there cannot be one person in Britain who has not benefited in some way, however indirectly, from the slave trade. Every cake we eat or coffee we drink is a reminder that we are all historical beneficiaries of this trade, however much we may abhor it. It is a historical fact that we cannot ignore.

So next time you visit a stately home, admire its furnishings and pause for refreshment in the tea-room, take a moment to reflect and ponder ...

Joan Hughes, Shrewsbury

The seminar, Britain and the Slave Trade, was led by Professor James Walvin, well known for his writing on the subject. His opening talk, *How should we remember slavery? set the scene for the day. He was giving this talk the following week at Yale and we were pleased that Ludlow was leading the way and giving a significant start to the commemorations of 2007.*

Joan Hughes is a active member of Churches Together in Shrewsbury and regularly attends Georgian Group events.



Dalit caste persecution – Kherlanji Dalit massacre



Four members of a Dalit family were gang raped and lynched in village Kherlanji, Maharashtra, India on 29 September 2006. Dalit households in the rural areas live in constant fear of the Caste Hindus. The only reason for such a gory and brutal incident was that the family possessed some land which the dominant caste wanted to usurp. Surekha Bhotmange, 45 and her husband Bhaiyyalal, resisted the move and filed a police complaint against 15 men from, 12 of who were arrested. Surekha signed on the FIR as one of the witnesses and identified the 12 in a police parade.

As soon as the 12 men were released on bail, the group returned to the Bhotmanges' hut and broke down the door. They dragged out *Surekha*, their 17-year-old daughter *Priyanka*, and two sons, 23-year-old Roshan (blind) and 21-year-old Sudhir (a graduate). *Priyanka* was a Class xii topper and an NCC cadet, she wanted to join the Army. But all dreams came to an end in a few harrowing hours. The four victims were dragged away by about 150 Caste Hindu men who paraded the women naked, beaten black and blue with bicycle chains, axes and bullock cart pokers. They were publicly gang raped until they died even as their womenfolk looked on, mute spectators to a form of justice reserved for castes lower than theirs. Some raped them even after the death of the women victims, and finally, sticks and rods were shoved into their genitals. The sons were beaten up, their genitals mutilated, faces disfigured and bodies tossed in the air, before they lay dead on the ground. An hour later, a village meeting was called and an order issued that no one was to say a word about the massacre.

'Doctors were managed and the police bribed.' All officials responsible for investigating the crime as well earlier related incidents have acted with a huge caste bias against Dalits. This is clearly reflected in the manner in which the case against the Caste Hindu perpetrators of the massacre has been deliberately weakened in order that they eventually go unpunished for their gory crime. It is most shocking that while the photographs of *Priyanka's* body show that not an inch on her body is without marks of physical torture, they are not reflected in the post-mortem report!

On 2 October, when millions of Buddhists from all over the world had converged in Nagpur to celebrate the 50th year of Dr Ambedkar's conversion to Buddhism, the gory massacre of Dalit Buddhist family went unheard.

The only survivor – Bhaiyalal – is a completely heartbroken man today. He wants no compensation, but wants to live only to witness punishment for those who not only butchered his family but the dignity of the entire Dalit community.

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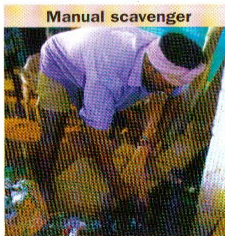
Dalit caste persecution (continued)

In an Indian village the 'backward' caste people are supposed to be submissive and take gratefully whatever (if any) freedom they are 'given' by the 'so called upper' castes. If they do not receive any humane behaviour, they have little to complain about as they don't deserve it anyway! Things were outwardly fine as long as this submissiveness on the part of the lower castes existed. They were treated like animals and they considered themselves animals, not deserving of any better treatment. No conflicts!! The day however arrived, owing to many factors, when these exploited human beings recognised themselves as human beings and refused to be treated like garbage any more. They demanded equal treatment; they wanted equal opportunities in their own right. The alms of mercy no longer satisfied them. That is when hatred and the feeling of loss of authority expresses itself in such outbursts of anger. Caste based discrimination and atrocity against the Dalit community is alarmingly increased all over India leading to bloody and brutal killing of Dalits every day. Hardly a day goes by when Dalits are not killed, harassed, socially boycotted by the upper castes. Dalit houses are burnt, and physical and sexual violence against Dalit woman like rape is rampant.

'The world owes a duty to the untouchables (Dalits) as it does to all suppressed people to break their shackles and set them free. The problems of slaves, the Jews and the Blacks are nothing in comparison to the problems of Untouchables.' *Dr Ambedkar, the greatest Emancipator of the Untouchables and the Father of the Indian Constitution and Democracy.*

Who are Dalits?

Dalits are the formerly known *untouchables* numbering more than 200 million in India and many more millions scattered around the globe. *Dalits* are at the lowest rung in the Hindu caste hierarchy based on ritual purity and occupation, and outside the caste system.



The word *Dalit* means *scattered, split, broken* etc. They form more than 80% of the poor in India. They have been oppressed throughout the recorded history of India, relegated to slavery. To avoid their 'pollution' *Dalits* were segregated and denied access to community facilities. Such discrimination occurs despite laws against such practices. Due to their status as 'untouchables', Dalits are subjected to gross human rights violations and violence on a routine, systematic and daily basis. Failure to adhere to these norms of untouchability, segregation and subjugation provokes frequent violence against Dalits, including murders, rapes, arson. Hence *Dalit Diaspora* initiates this *International Forum for Prevention of Atrocities Against Dalits (IFPAAD)* based in London to protect and promote the rights and development of Dalits. The Forum will work closely with like minded organisations and networks in seeking international response and intervention in a more relevant and effective way to emancipate Dalits from their economic and social slavery.

The Convener
International Forum for Prevention of Atrocities Against Dalits (IFPAAD)
13 Parkfield Avenue
Hillingdon, UB10 ODF
Phone: 01895814570
E-mail: ifpaad@yahoo.co.uk



'Let us go' campaign



2007 commemorates two hundred years since the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. But Africans around the world including here in the UK still suffer from slavery worse than the Slave Trade.

More than 30,000 people (many of them children) die daily because of poverty as opposed to an average of 20 people killed per day during the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Two hundred years on African migrants are still confined to the margins of the society; society whose wealth is built on the Slave Trade and accept without question the services that Africans still provide. Right here in the UK African migrants still command less respect than pets. They are abused, stripped of dignity and left in penniless poverty – sleeping in toilets, parks and telephone boxes as they wait to be deported to death.

Suzan is a 24 year old who escaped rape and torture in Uganda. She witnessed every member of her family including her own mother being tortured, raped and killed by the militia before coming in to the UK in 2002. In 2003 she was diagnosed as being HIV positive. Her weight has plummeted to 39kgs (barely 6 stone). She had to be carried around on a wheelchair because she was too weak to walk. Suzan's asylum claim was refused despite her doctor's plea to the Home Secretary to allow her to remain in the UK.

On 26 September 2006, officers tried to take away her stick and handcuff her. Suzan began to cry and protest. More than four officers were brought to 'restrain' her. She was pushed to the floor, resulting in a bump to her head and bruising and swelling to her arms and legs. Suzan is still facing deportation! Read Suzan's story in depth at www.letusgo.org/our-story.htm

Unfortunately, Suzan's story is our story. I am a Pastor of an extremely small (predominantly African) Church. But a week hardly passes without a church member receiving sad news of critical illness or death of a close relative. In fact, our story makes us fill guilty to be alive at times.

I came to the UK for studies in August 1999. In January 2000, shortly after joining me here my entire family fell ill. My wife Sheila was so ill such that doctors gave her few days to live. Being immigrants it was extremely difficult for us to get social, spiritual or even medical help. With no money to live on we were forced to share a tiny room with my two children (both under five years at the time). Life was unbearable; I literally hated being alive.

Thank God we have survived. Like Peter, we've been strengthened to strengthen our brothers. We feel the pressure to feed our starving children, take care of our terminally ill mothers and honour our dead. But we are bound in the shackles of poverty, discrimination and social exclusion.

continued/...

'Let us go' campaign (continued)

We passionately believe it is unacceptable for these shackles to exist in a civilised society like Britain – especially at this time when we are marking two centuries of the abolition of the Slave Trade. That is why Sheila and I are launching a 'Let Us Go' Campaign.

We must put sustained pressure on politicians to give all African migrants permission to live, work and have access to fundamental rights – the right to be free from arbitrary detention, to live in adequate housing, to receive health care and education.

But we can do this only with your help. We need your energy, commitment and financial support. We invite you to partner with us in facing this enormous but rewarding challenge. With God we are saving lives!

Noel Maturlu
Let Us Go Campaign
contact: noel@g7000.org
www.letusgo.org



resources

New leaflet from set all free

set all free has produced a free trifold A4 leaflet giving an overview of the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act which also gives some information on the legacies of Transatlantic slavery and modern slavery. The aim of this leaflet is to provide something for churches to have for Sunday 25 March 2007 – the actual date of the Act being passed 200 years ago.

To order copies please contact Lorraine Shannon at Churches Together in England, tel. 020 7529 8131 or e-mail lorraine.shannon@cte.org.uk

We would suggest a minimum order of 20 copies and would suggest a donation towards costs.



Current and forthcoming resources

The resources section of www.setallfree.net lists various resources, both current and forthcoming, whether books, films, websites, museums or ideas.

Do let us know of any resources that you consider should appear in this section – we try to keep abreast of new resources but are aware that many are in the pipeline for next year that we don't yet know about.

Please e-mail details of resources – including author, ISBN and publisher for books – to info@setallfree.net



Purchase set all free resources online

You can now purchase **set all free** resources by credit and debit card through our website www.setallfree.net/buy_now.html



Worship materials for 25 March 2007

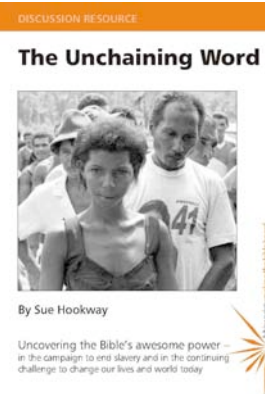
Downloadable worship materials and an order of service for churches to use to commemorate the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act on Sunday 25 March 2007 are now available. Visit http://www.setallfree.net/wm_01.html



The Unchaining Word

This FREE Bible Society discussion resource has been specially designed to help churches prepare for the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in March. It mixes history, creative discussion materials, biblical perspectives and information about modern-day slavery and shows how the Bible inspired the abolitionists and was misused by slavery supporters. Ideal for churches grappling with questions of responding to God's Word and the legacy of slavery past and present.

Copies can be downloaded or ordered in print format by going to www.biblesociety.org.uk/unchaining



Church resource pack – ideal for Lent 2007

The bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 2007 is an opportunity for churches to remember, reflect and respond to slavery past and present. The **set all free** church resource pack will:

- uncover the forgotten history of the Slave Trade
- see how it still affects us today
- examine the role of the Church
- work and pray for healing and reconciliation
- campaign against slavery now



Resource pack contains: a five week Bible study, including a leader's guide and 10 booklets for individuals; poster; 10 **set all free** prayer cards; ideas for worship throughout the year.

Cost: £10.00 plus P&P

To order, telephone 0870 444 1994 or visit www.setallfree.net/buy_now.html



Resources from the John Newton Project

21 December 2007 marks the bicentenary of the death of John Newton. The John Newton Project has some publications available to commemorate this:

- ◆ **365 days with Newton** has now been printed. Pray for these previously unpublished writings of Newton's to be greatly used, *in demonstration of the Spirit's power* (1 Corinthians 2:3). See www.dayone.co.uk.
- ◆ Todd Murray's CD, **Beyond Amazing Grace**, is now out – a beautiful ministry of Newton's hymns (many not well known) to new arrangements. Follow www.bclr.org to Worship Ministry for more information.
- ◆ The JNP has produced a 7 minute PowerPoint, **Amazing Grace, The Story of a New Year's Hymn**, suitable for use in worship services. Narration is by James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool. A donation of £3 covers P&P from the JNP address. See also www.johnnewton.org.

The John Newton Project

Maryllynn Rouse

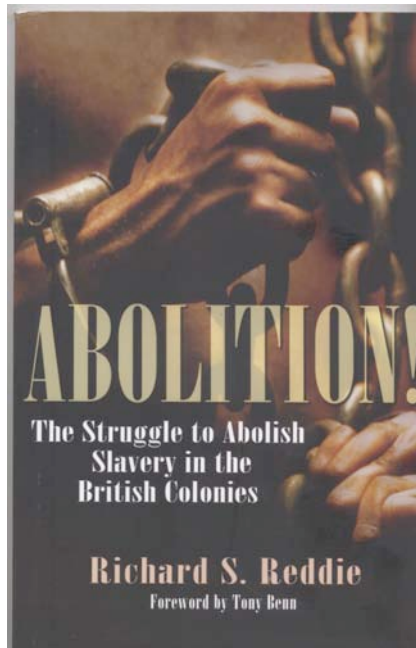
The Hill Lodge, Warwick Road, Stratford-on-Avon, CV37 0NP

Email: admin@johnnewton.org Tel: +44 (0)1789 298174

www.johnnewton.org



Abolition!



The **set all free** Project Director has written *Abolition!* (published on 26 January 2007) which is a history of the Transatlantic Slave Trade from Africa before the arrival of the Europeans, to the legacies of the slave trade today. It is published by Lion Hudson and is available from all good book stores, priced £9.99. It can also be purchased online from www.lionhudson.com/abolition



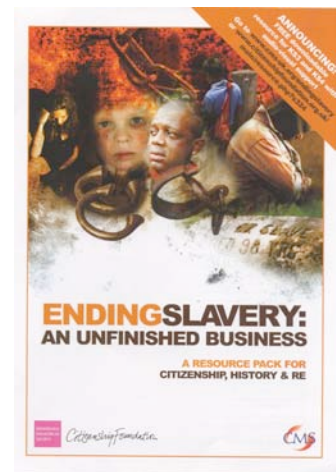
Ending Slavery: an unfinished business – CMS resource for citizenship, history and RE

CMS in conjunction with the Citizenship Foundation has produced a FREE resource for citizenship, history and RE (KS3/KS4). Downloadable material and audio-visual support is also available at www.cms-uk.org/ending-slavery

The resource contains seven active lessons emphasising the role and motivations played by citizens from all sectors of society and the slaves themselves in refusing to endure any longer the evil slave trade.

Commendations include:

- *Ending Slavery* – 'A clear and helpful teaching tool. A welcomed contribution. Highly recommended.' *Lassell Hylton, Chair, Black History Foundation*
- *Ending Slavery* has any number of positive features to recommend itself to secondary teachers ... It is the lessons relating to the campaigning tactics of the Anti-Slavery International movement where this resource makes its most distinctive contribution.' *Peter Brett, historian and lecturer in citizenship, Saint Martin's College.*



For further information contact: Don Rowe don.rowe@citizenshipfoundation.org.uk or Anita Matthews anita.matthews@cms-uk



Voices from Slavery – The Life and Beliefs of African Slaves in Britain

This new book, being published in early February, is written by Chigor Chike and tells the true stories of four Africans, drawing as far as possible on their own writings. The four individuals lived at different times and in different circumstances but their stories have a common central theme because each one was a victim of what is one of the greatest human rights abuses of all time, the African slave trade.

Each became a free man, received an education and had the rare opportunity of recording and reflecting on their experiences for the wider world to read. We hear their stories unfold through their own narrative, although the sources of their words vary from comprehensive biography to collections of letters.

Voices from Slavery

The Life and Beliefs of African Slaves in Britain



Sancho



Gronniosaw



Cugoano



Equiano

Chigor Chike

Through the telling of their stories and helpful commentary by the author, himself an African, we can read 'first hand accounts' of life as a slave and freed man in the 18th century. All had strong religious beliefs and we are able to hear their personal views and reflections on a range of topics including Christianity, God, humanity and the slave trade itself. Though the four men Sancho, Gronniosaw, Equiano and Cugoano all had a sense of God working in their lives and trials, their understanding of the nature of faith and their relationship with the spiritual varies considerably.

The book reveals these Black Africans as visionaries, and highlights their often underestimated contributions toward the abolition of slavery. Their stories resonate with contemporary issues in our world, posing questions about identity and culture in multi-ethnic communities in Britain today, how Christian faith enlightens debates about the place of religion in national life, and invites the exploration of the similarities between slavery and modern day racism.

Voices from Slavery can be obtained from www.authorhouse.com or www.authorhouse.co.uk at £10.99. On these websites, click on 'bookstore' or 'bookshop' and search for 'Voices from Slavery'. The book would be delivered within 2 to 3 days. It can also be ordered by phone on 0800 1974 150. However, internet order is quicker.

It will be available through Amazon and most bookshops in the UK at £12.99.

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DIGNITY songbook and teaching CD

The 'Dignity' songbook and teaching CD is now available price £11 from Ali Bullivent, 177 Oakenshaw Lane, Walton, Wakefield.

The book contains a selection of songs in 3 and 4 part harmony for choirs or music groups - includes gospel, African and new pieces written specifically to mark the bi-centenary.

Please send cheques payable to A Bullivent
177 Oakenshaw Lane
Walton
Wakefield WF2 6NL

Further dates for 'Dignity' performances are:

Mirfield College – set all free conference
Saturday 3 February 1.50 pm start tel: June Lawson 01924 481911

Matrix Conference (Hertfordshire)
Tues 6 March – workshop 11 am, performance 1 pm-ish tel: Colin Udall 024
7674 8074

Wakefield Cathedral
Sun 25 March 4 pm

Allesley Church, Coventry
Sun 13 May 3pm Allesley, Coventry

Holy Trinity Church Hull
Weekend of 22 September 2007 date and time tbc

Further details from bullivent@hotmail.com



Partners and networks

set all free is building up a network of churches, church-related groups, organisations and others who are happy to work with a Christian ethos on projects concerning 2007. They include:

- ACTS (Action of Churches Together in Scotland)
- African and Caribbean Evangelical Alliance
- Anglican Diocese of Portsmouth
- Anti-Slavery International
- Baptist Union of Great Britain
- Baptist Union Racial Justice Group
- Battersea Writers' Group
- Bible Society
- Black and Asian Studies Association
- Black Theology Forum (London)
- Bristol Diocese
- CAFOD
- Catholic Association for Racial Justice
- Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (CMEAC)
- Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales
- CHASTE (Churches Alert to Sex Trafficking Across Europe)
- Christian Aid
- Christian Resources Exhibition
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide
- Christians in Politics
- Church Mission Society (CMS)
- Church of England – Mission and Public Affairs Division
- Church in Wales
- Churches Commission for Racial Justice/CTBI
- Churches Co-ordinating Group for Youth Work
- Churches Rural Group
- Churches Together in England
- Churches Together in Gloucester
- Churches Together in Greater Bristol
- Churches Together in South London
- Churches Together in Suffolk
- Clapham Connections/Moggerhanger Hall
- Congregational Insurance
- Culham Institute
- CYTUN
- Diocese of Westminster
- Dream Africa
- Equiano Society
- Evangelical Alliance
- Freedom 200
- Freeset
- Group for Evangelisation
- Holy Trinity, Clapham
- Home Office, Faith Communities Unit
- Hull Churches
- Hull Wilberforce Partnership
- Inter Faith Network
- International Justice Mission UK
- Jerusalem Trust
- John Newton Project
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Jubilee Action
- Jubilee Debt Campaign
- Lambeth Palace
- Lifeline Expedition
- Liverpool Diocese, Churches Together in the Merseyside Region
- London Church Leaders' Group
- London Philharmonia Orchestra
- Methodist Church
- Moravian Church
- Mothers' Union
- Music for Change
- Oasis
- National Christian Alliance on Prostitution
- Peaceworks
- Religious Society of Friends
- Rendezvous of Victory
- Representatives of the families of abolitionists
- Roy Francis Productions
- Royal African Society
- Royal Navy – Chaplain of the Fleet
- St John's College, Cambridge
- St Paul's Church, Mill Hill, London
- Shaftesbury Society
- Salvation Army
- Southwark Diocese
- Stapleford Centre
- Stop the Traffik
- Tearfund
- United Reformed Church – Racial Justice and Church and Society
- United Christian Broadcasters
- USPG
- Wilberforce Central (USA)
- Windle Trust
- Women's Co-ordinating Group of Churches Together in England
- Youth for Christ