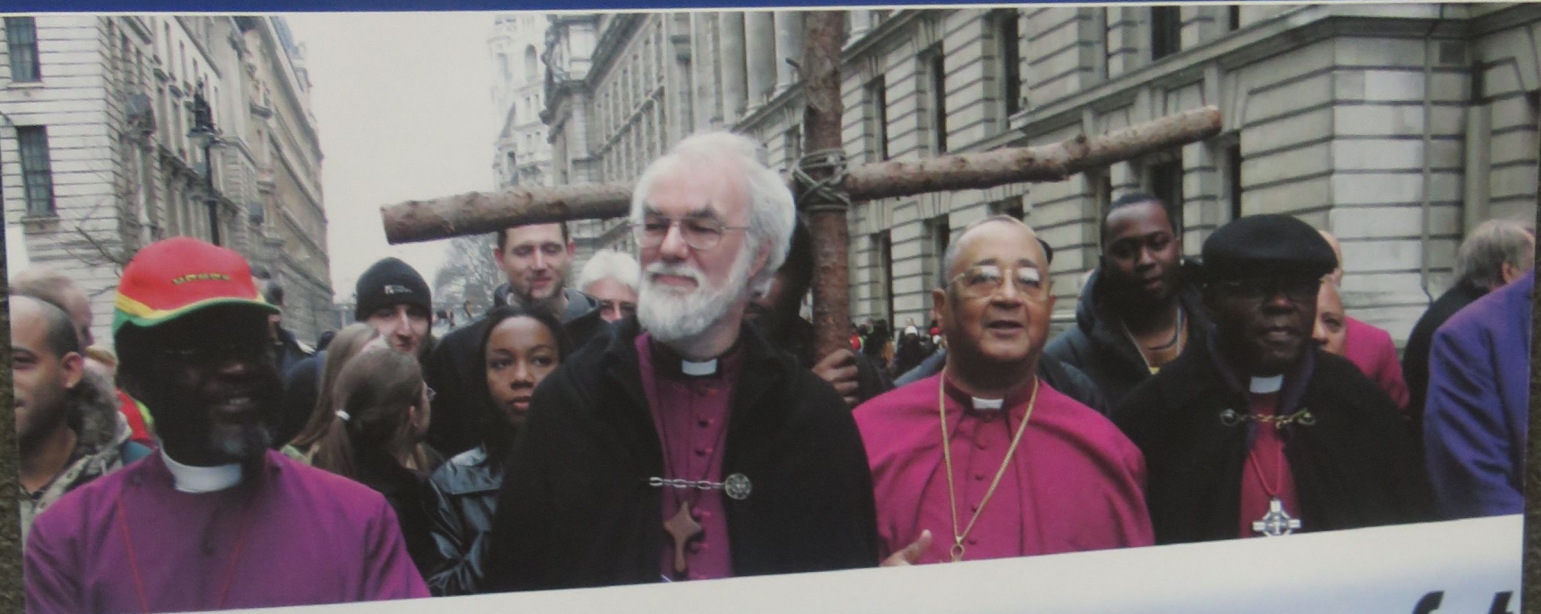


REMEMBRANCE - REPENTANCE - RESTORATION



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MAKING OUR MARK

REMEMBRANCE - REPENTANCE - RESTORATION

The General Synod unanimously carried a motion in February 2006 highlighting that the commemoration of the Bicentenary of the Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade in 2007 would provide "unprecedented opportunities to acknowledge the Church's complicity in the Slave Trade and tell anew the Christian story of creation and redemption". The Synod also recognised the damage done to those who are the heirs of those who were enslaved, and offered an apology to them.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND MAKING OUR MARK

Marking the Bicentenary of
the Act for the Abolition of the
Slave Trade.

BICENTENARY HEARING EVENTS

As part of the response to this call from the Synod, regional 'hearings' were held (organised with the Dioceses of York, Liverpool, Birmingham, Chelmsford, London and Southwark), to help explore the sensitive issues around the legacy of the Slave Trade.

These hearings provided an opportunity for listening to the experiences of each other - both for the participants (one from the black community and one from the white community), and for the small invited audience, as each participant outlined how the legacy of the slave trade still impacts on their life. The local Bishop (or his designated representative), supported by two facilitators, chaired the discussion and offered some concluding reflections. Two of the hearings were filmed and will form part of a DVD documentary to be released at the end of 2007.

www.makingourmark.org.uk

REMEMBRANCE - REPENTANCE - RESTORATION



Almost 4,000 Christians gathered from all around the country to join the walk led by the Archbishops of Canterbury, York, the West Indies and West Africa, alongside leaders from other Churches, civic leaders and representatives of foreign governments.

After beginning at Whitehall Place and crossing the Thames over Lambeth Bridge, the walkers headed to Kennington Park, where they met hundreds of people led by the Bishop of Southwark and other bishops from the diocese who had walked from Holy Trinity Clapham, the church of William Wilberforce. At the park, an Act of Worship - including prayer, drama, dance, music and reflections by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York - gave the gathered walkers an opportunity to acknowledge the legacies of the slave trade and to commit to the ongoing fight to tackle modern-day forms of slavery. Extracts from the event were televised across the world.

The Making Our Mark website (www.makingourmark.org.uk) includes maps of the routes, the programme of the day's event and a wide range of photographs from the day, which are now available to view online.

The routes of the two walks are now designated as Heritage Trails, for those keen to explore more of the history of the relationship between the Church - and the wider UK - with the Slave Trade. Resources to support self-guided walks along the trail will be included in an educational pack scheduled for release at the end of 2007.

"The Walk of Witness was a very good example of a 'cause' which brought Christians of differing theological persuasions together: There were evangelicals inspired by the fact it was Wilberforce's conversion which had enabled him to persevere for so long... there were human rights activists who would support modern efforts to end slavery; there were large numbers of black people anxious that the disadvantages of some ethnic groups should be addressed; and there were many white people who just wanted to apologise for the unspeakable treatment of Africans by our forefathers, and for the fact that it has taken so long to wake up to the enormity of the slave trade." *Revd David Bishop, the Bishop of Oxford's Adviser on Renewal*

The Walk of Witness was supported by the following organisations:

The Methodist Church

USPGT
living the gospel

set all free
ACT TO END SLAVERY
ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE ACT
BICENTENARY 2007

anti-slavery
today's fight for tomorrow's freedom

affinity events

christian aid
We believe in life before death

Supported by
The National Lottery
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

Heritage
Lottery Fund

Footage from the events will also feature in the **Making Our Mark DVD**, which will form part of an educational pack designed for secondary schools due for release at the end of 2007. This pack will explore the Transatlantic Slave Trade from the perspective of the Making our Mark events, and will feature lesson plans, material for use in assemblies, and information about modern day forms of slavery.

To register your interest in receiving ordering details, please email cmeac.enquiries@c-of-e.org.uk or call 020 7898 1443.

www.makingourmark.org.uk