



THE DIOCESE OF
SHEFFIELD

Churchwardens' Conference 2025

**The Church's Mission
in a Diverse World**



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Welcome and Introduction



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Opening Worship



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The Church's Mission in a Diverse World

'As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you'. John 20:21



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Church Wardens' Conference
Saturday 15th November 2025

Holiday Inn, Rotherham

Opening Prayer:



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Loving God, we offer ourselves to you.

All May our minds think of you,

and our eyes see the needs of others.

All May our ears hear the cries of the world,

and our voice speak of you.

All May our hands work for your Kingdom,



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and our feet walk on your path.

All May our lives be used in your service,

and our hearts love you more than anything else.

**All May the joy of the Lord be our strength to serve
him all the days of our lives.**

From the Anglican Church in Panama

Song: Hamd o sana teri

- We Sing Your Praises



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8o8pmmdmOo>
(Sung in Urdu and English)

Songs2Serve have two other video options for this song in their free database, plus a Lyrics sheet, Lyrics Projection and sheet music/chords:

Hamd O Sana Teri (We sing Your praises) -
Songs2Serve EU

Bible reading: *Mark 6: 30-44*



The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

Mark 6: 30-44 cont'd



So, they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So, he began teaching them many things.

Mark 6: 30-44 cont'd



By this time, it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late. Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” But he answered, “You give them something to eat.”

Mark 6: 30-44 cont'd

They said to him, “That would take more than half a year’s wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”

“How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.” When they found out, they said, “Five — and two fish.” Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass.

Mark 6: 30-44 cont'd



So, they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.

Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.

Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all.

Mark 6: 30-44 cont'd



They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

Silence is kept

Intercessory Prayer:



Come to us, Creator God.

As the United Nations climate conference - COP30 - continues, let us bring our prayers to God, who created the earth and all within it.

We pray for world leaders: that they may all work together, through the decisions taken, to protect the planet and all live within it.

Intercessory Prayer...



We pray for the Church, for our Bishops, those in leadership in our churches: may we discern our roles and tasks arising from the decisions taken at COP30 and take action to achieve them.

All Come to us, Creator God.

Intercessory Prayer...



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Come to us, God of peace.

Come with your healing and your reconciling power.

Come, that fear may be cast out by love; that weapons may be replaced by trust; that violence may give way to gentleness.

All Come to us, God of peace.

Intercessory Prayer...



Come to us, God of justice.

Come with your righteous judgments and your mercy. Come, that we may hear the cries of the oppressed in every land; that we may see the suffering of the poor in our own land; that we may return to the way of righteousness and compassion.

All *Come to us, God of justice.*

Intercessory Prayer...



Come to us, God of love.

Come with your extravagant kindness and your goodness. Come, that we may see you in the people of every race and culture; that we may embrace you in the lonely, the bereaved, and the rejected; that we may be an accepting and a caring Church.

All *Come to us, God of love.*

The Lord's Prayer is said in different languages:

With the words that Jesus taught us, let us now pray in the language of our hearts.

All

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Diocesan Vision Prayer:



All Living God, Jesus calls his followers to seek first your Kingdom.

Renew us as we make your love known;
Release us to share freely together in mission; and
Rejuvenate us to be fruitful in your service.

Give us courage, wisdom and compassion,
that strengthened with the grace of the Holy
Spirit, we may, as the Diocese of Sheffield,
both flourish and grow through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Final prayer:



Filled with the Holy Spirit may our witness and work mirror the all-encompassing love of Jesus, as we seek to do God's will each day.

All Amen.

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Bible Study

1 Cor. 9:19-27

Leah Vasey-Saunders
Bishop of Doncaster



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19 For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might gain all the more. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to gain Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might gain those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not outside God's law but am within Christ's law) so that I might gain those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, so that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some.

23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I might become a partner in it. 24 Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. 25 Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. 26 So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air, 27 but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.

19 For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might gain all the more. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to gain Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might gain those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not outside God's law but am within Christ's law) so that I might gain those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, so that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I might become a partner in it. 24 Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. 25 Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. 26 So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air, 27 but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.

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Keynote Address

**Rev Canon Dr Mark Powley
Archbishop's Mission Enabler for the North
(Church Planting & Parish Revitalisation)**



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Kinds of intercultural congregation

- Language specific
- Moving from landlord to partner
- Dual-language parishes
- Intercultural worship
- International church
- Integrated congregations

How might God be providing resources in your parish through its multiple cultures?

How could you partner with this by trying something new?



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Group Discussion on tables and Feedback



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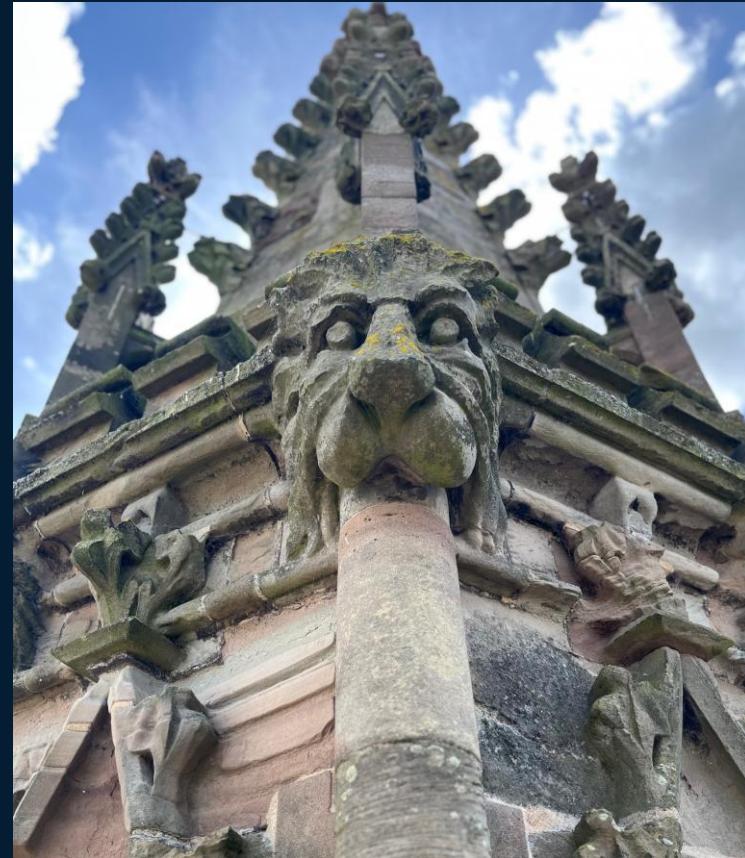
Church Warden Conference Sheffield Diocese

Heather Ford BA PgDip CII
Church Support Manager

15th November 2025

Agenda

- ▶ About us
- ▶ Claims Overview
- ▶ Hints and Tips for Winter
- ▶ Q&A



Ecclesiastical Insurance – Benefact Group

- ▶ Founded 1887 - 130 years insuring churches
- ▶ Leading UK insurer of churches and heritage buildings
- ▶ Owned by a charitable trust – Benefact Trust
- ▶ Specialist Church team
- ▶ Helping your church to **thrive**

BENEFACT
TRUST

BENEFACT
GROUP

Heather Ford - Church Support Manager

- ▶ Started with Ecclesiastical – January 2020
- ▶ Church Buildings Officer for 7 years with Manchester Diocese
- ▶ Housing Association Development Manager for 15 years – project managing large residential capital projects

Centred on:

Built environment & Community development
Enabling parishes to do God's work



Claims Journey

Insurance policy conditions

► Insuring Clause

- Insurance against loss, damage, injury or liability occurring or arising in connection with **your usual activities**

► Policy Conditions

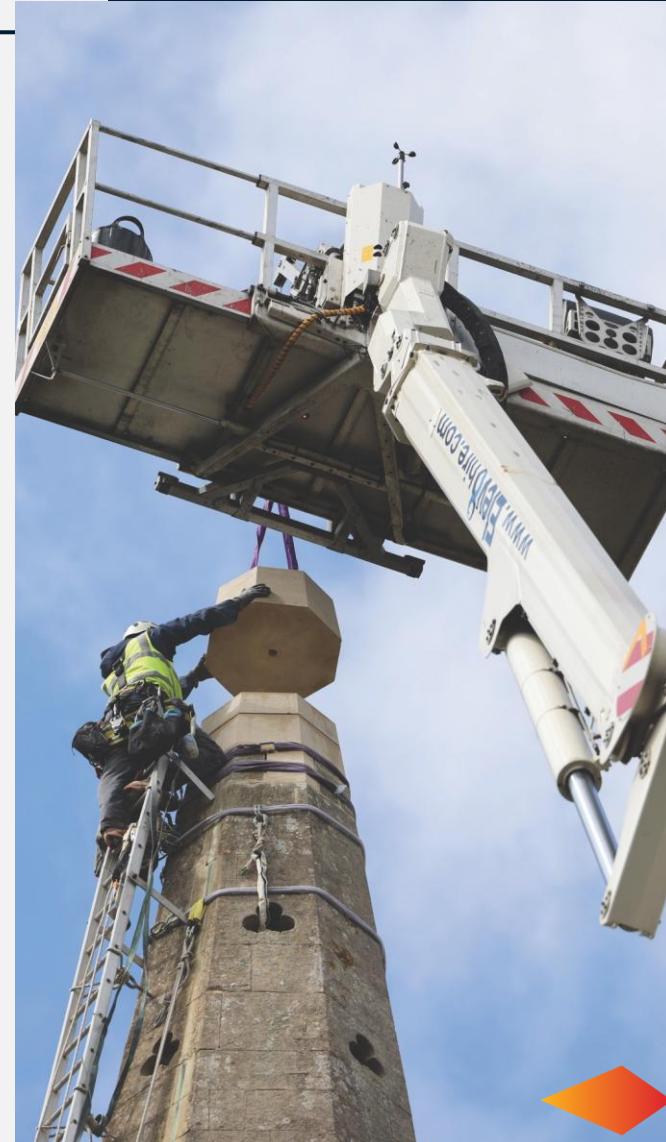
- Maintain the premises, works, machinery and plant **in sound condition**
- **Take all reasonable precautions** to prevent damage, accident, illness and disease
- **Exercise reasonable care** in seeing that all statutory and other obligations and regulations are observed and complied with

Claims

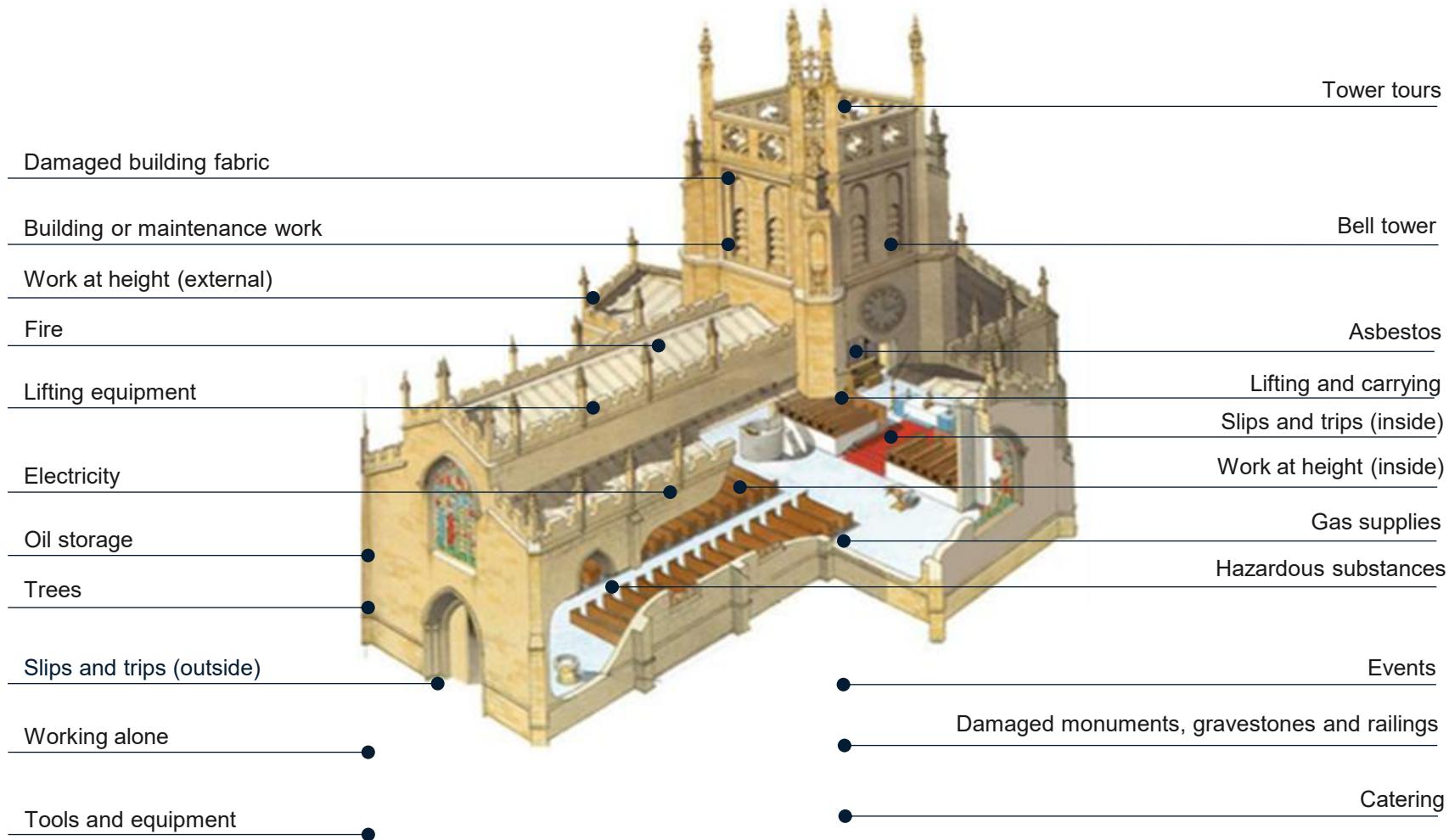


Claims Overview

- ▶ Always report
 - Even if there's been a delay
 - Not sure if it's a claim
- ▶ Every claim different & dealt with accordingly
- ▶ 24-hour reporting line with dedicated handlers
 - Assess what has happened
 - Provide guide and support
 - Seek additional information / advise on action to prevent further loss
 - Photographs / Estimates
- ▶ Settlement
 - Vetted contractors
 - Cash Settlement



Typical church hazards



Winter Hints & Tips

► Building Maintenance

- Pipes
- Gutters, Gullies & Drains
- Roof



► Churchyard Maintenance

- Trees
- Pathways

► Temporary Heating

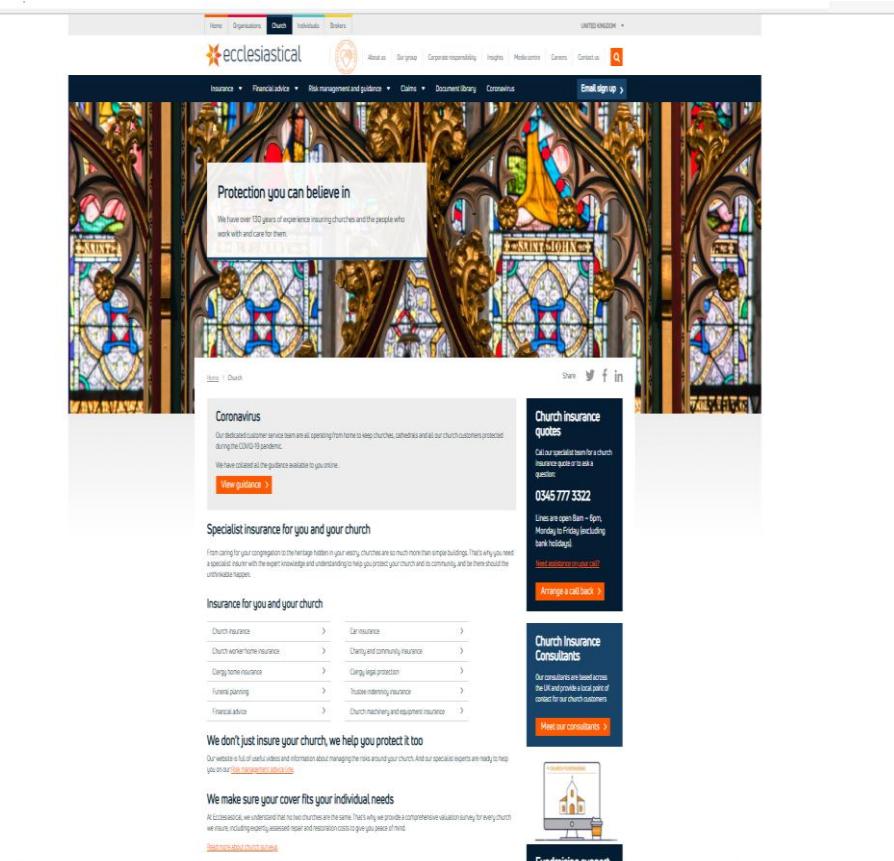
► Safe Use of Candles

► Storms & Floods

- Action before, during & after

Support for Churches

- <https://www.ecclesiastical.com/church>
- Church Queries
0345 777 3322
- Church Claims
0345 603 8381 (24/7)
- Risk Advice Line
0345 600 7531





Any questions?

Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc (EIO)

Benefact House
2000 Pioneer Avenue
Gloucester Business Park
Brockworth, Gloucester
GL3 4AW, United Kingdom

Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc (EIO) Reg. No. 24869. Registered in England at Benefact House, 2000 Pioneer Avenue, Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4AW, United Kingdom. EIO is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Firm Reference Number 113848.



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PhD Student - Rhonda Allen



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Break, Networking & Stalls

Racial Justice
Ecclesiastical
Buildings/MAS
Lights for Christ
Centenary Project
Aurora & Young Leaders Community



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Sheffield Diocesan Racial Justice Office
Rev Anesia Jesus Cook

**What is the work of the Racial Justice team about?
Intercultural church, local context and changing
demographics in our diocese**



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God's Mission in a Diverse World – Racial Justice

*'But let justice roll down like waters, and
righteousness like an ever-flowing stream'.*

Amos 5:24



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Racial Justice Team:

Revd Anesia Cook – Racial Justice Officer

Rachel Edmonds – Racial Justice Admin and Research Officer



Intercultural Mission

**How can the church renew herself to be missional,
embracing diversity and moving forward together
towards life in its fullness?**

*(A conversation to explore the challenges and
opportunities of intercultural mission as different nations
and cultures worship together as a united body.)*

God's Kingdom in Heaven:



Revelation 7:9 - *After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.*

God's Kingdom on Earth



**As a Diocese, we are working on becoming
Christ-like, lively and diverse Christian
communities who grow disciples and seek to
transform God's world.'**

God's Kingdom in THE DIOCESE OF SHEFFIELD



**'Rejuvenated to transform our society and God's
world.'**

**One of the strands is working together on
Racial Justice roadmap delivery.**



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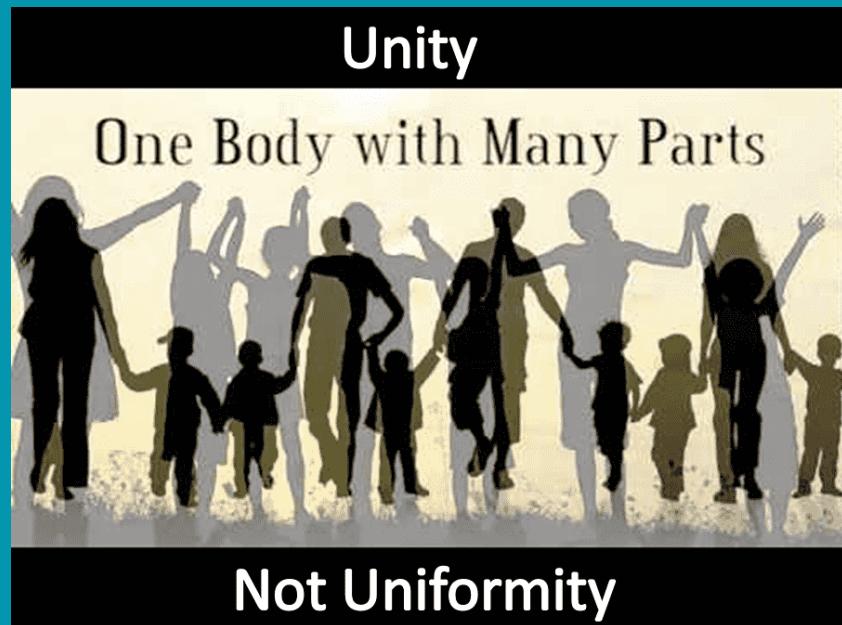
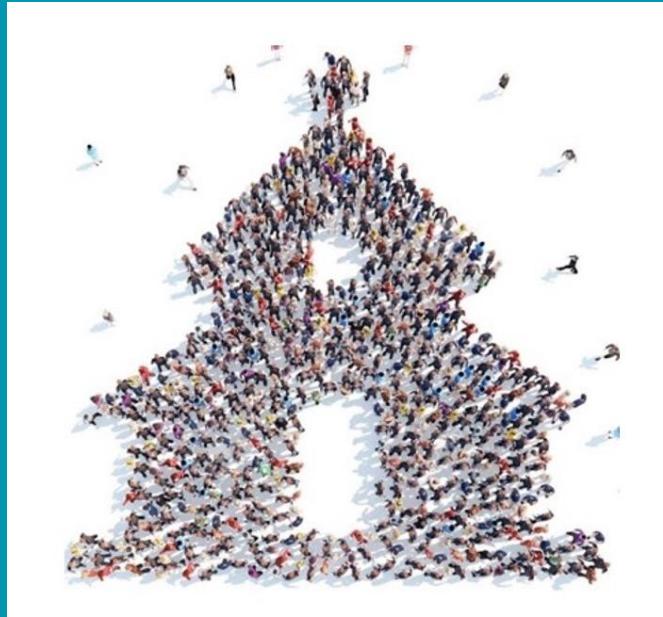
Definition:

Racial justice is the equal
treatment of everyone
regardless of ethnicity or race.

Racism is a sin



- Identity in Christ – 1st / Primary
- Not worldly but from Christ's person and character
- He drives the mandate to repent and reconcile, to tackle all forms of racism as peacemakers.
- Through his loving forgiveness, all can experience the love of God.



1Corinthians 12: 25-27

...there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

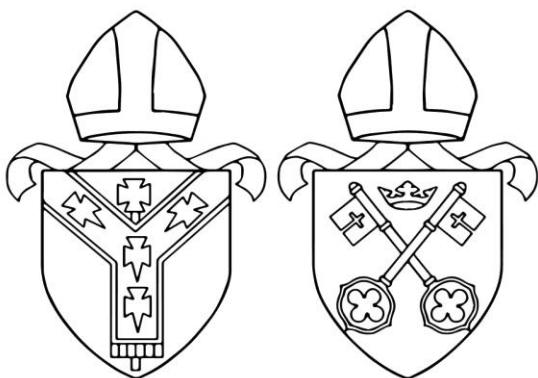
If one part suffers, every part

suffers with it; if one part is

honoured, every part rejoices with it.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Not Uniformity



COMMITTED TO
RACIAL JUSTICE



'From Lament to Action' (2021) 5 Priority Areas:

- 1. Participation (including Appointments)**
- 2. Education**
- 3. Training and Mentoring**
- 4. Young People**
- 5. Structures and Governance**

Turning the Map Diverse



- 3-year project. Phase one - listening and learning
- Meet PCCs, parishes/ deaneries, chapters and colleagues
- Encourage all to welcome people from diverse ethnic backgrounds so they find belonging and friendship,
- Affirm and empower people of Global Majority Heritage to be actively involved in all levels of church life, including leadership.

- Organise Intercultural Churches Gatherings & affirm and support parishes in diverse areas.



- Produce and Share resources, including online learning.
- Produce and deliver training on Unconscious Bias and Race Awareness.
- Set up a network of anti-racism allies in the diocese.
- Gather Data on Diversity in our parishes in the Diocese to feed back to national church:

Numbers of UKME/GMH members as a % of the Total Worshipping Community. (Where total of diversity in the population overall is 13%)

2020

4.3%

2023

7.4%

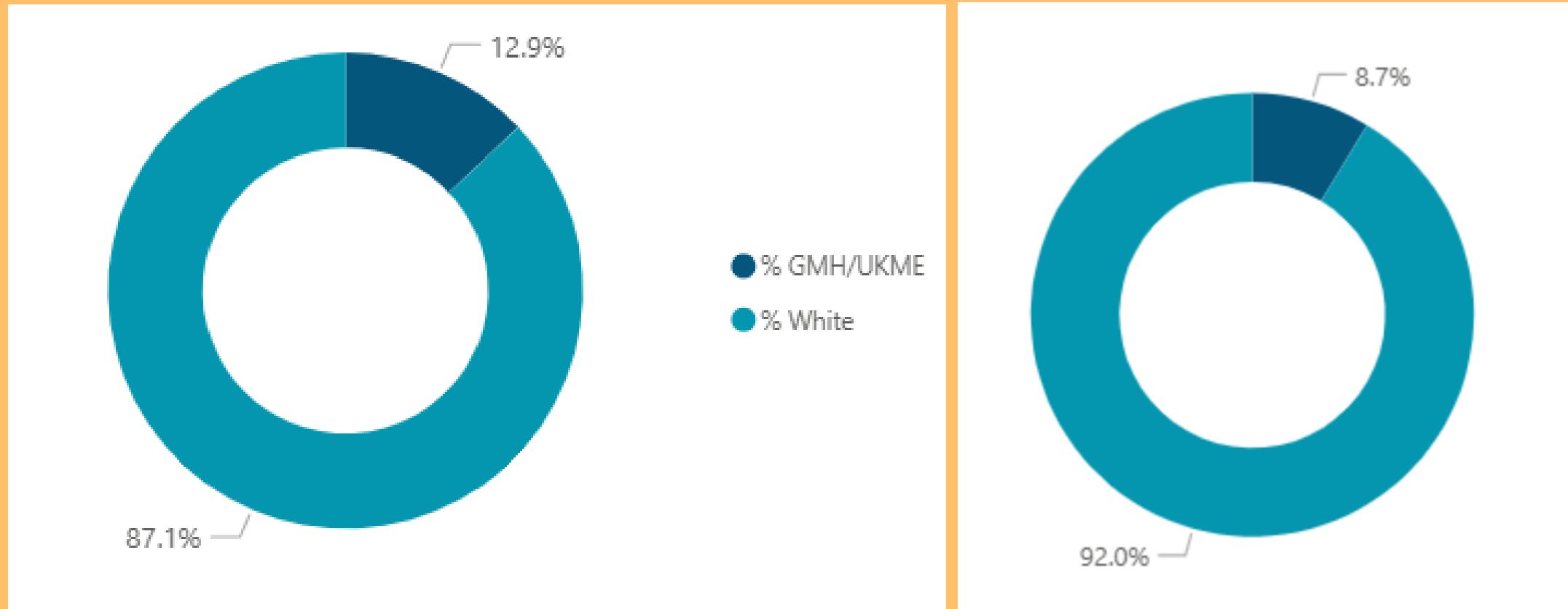
2024

8.7%

From the Diocesan Racial Justice/Diversity Dashboard and Articles of Enquiry responses 2024.

Parish Population

vs Worshipping Community



Church of England - 5 Marks of Mission

The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. **To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation**
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Intercultural Mission

**God exists in community,
and we are invited to be
in community together.**



Intercultural Mission

- **Bridge differences, break down barriers and foster mutual respect and appreciation.**
- **To create a harmonious and collaborative environment that values diversity and promotes social spiritual and communal growth.**



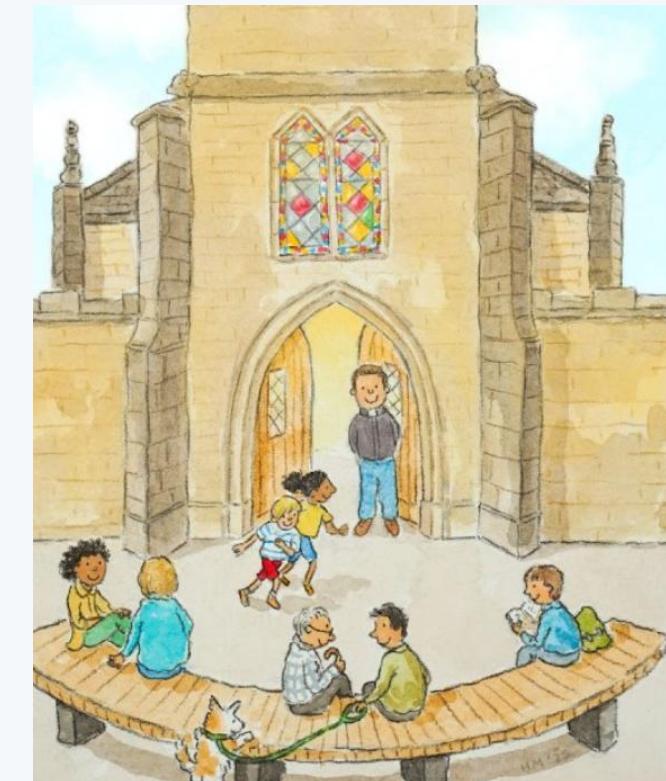
How can the church renew herself to be missional,
embracing diversity and moving forward together
towards life in its fullness? **(Challenges and Blessings)**

Testimonies



Welcome. Ukujabula. Bienvenue.
Karibu. Murakaze neza.
Boyeyi malamu. Witamy

Join us on Sundays at 10am





Gleadless Valley







Holy Cross Church



Challenges and Blessings of intercultural mission

Challenges:

- Cultural Sensitivity
- Languages Barriers
- Theological Differences
- Leadership and Representation
- Community Integration
- Worship Styles



(Challenges and Blessings of intercultural mission)

Blessings:



- Rich Cultural Diversity
- Mission to immigrant communities
- Global Network
- Interfaith Dialogue
- Cultural Exchange
- Youth Engagement
- Community Impact
- Inclusivity

As Christians, we want to build:

A more inclusive and diverse church that

Actively eliminates racist attitudes,

Increases representation at all levels, and

Fosters a welcoming environment where

diverse gifts are used for the whole community.

Our God of Mission has a church in the world.

**We —in all our differences— are active
participants in God's mission.**

What can we achieve?

Inspire all God's people to live as Lights for Christ, and

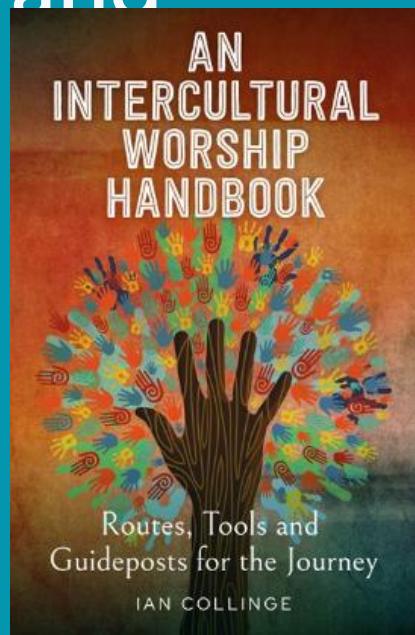


Become a church of racial justice makers, healers, reconcilers and enablers, who share a passion for the Lord Jesus and are guided and inspired by the Holy Spirit to develop a culture in which we become the body of Christ together, in all our diversity.

Intercultural Worship



Affirming someone through honouring their culture, and including their heart language is a wonderful way to experience the richness of diversity and to deepen trust and friendship whilst



closer to God.

**Handbook by Ian
Collinge
(available at
Church House
Resource Centre)**



**Intercultural
Churches**



TRUTH TELLING



Archbishop Stephen Cotrell shared this Ghanaian proverb: **Until the lion has told his story, the hunter will always be a hero.**

For further reading, learning and curiosity:

Home - Intercultural Churches and
Songs - Songs2Serve EU.

Sheffield's Links...

- What are Sheffield's links to slavery? | The History of Racism (YouTube video by the authors of the 2021 report – see below)
- What is colonialism? | The History of Racism (Second video from Sheffield University)
- report2021-1.pdf (Sheffield, Slavery and its Legacies 2021 – Dr Michael Bennett and Dr Rosie Knight, Sheffield University)

For further reading, learning and curiosity:

- [Racial Justice | The Church of England](#) – with links to the ‘We are CofE’ videos (diverse voices in the church, including our own Miriam Cavanagh from St Mary’s Bramall Lane) and the ‘From Lament to Action’ report as well as newer resources, like the ‘What’s Race got to do with it?’ series.
- [bbt-report-volume-1.pdf](#) – this new report includes, from about half-way through, some personal experiences and reflections from UKME/GMH senior clergy including some of their experiences of racism. (Our own Archdeacon Javaid, on p.89, reflects *“When haven’t I experienced racism and discrimination?”*)



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Thank you!

Please be in touch for a conversation.

Email: anesia.cook@sheffield.anglican.org



rachel.edmonds@sheffield.anglican.org

Phone: 01709 309 100 or 07856 914564

Website: [www.sheffield.anglican.org/
support/for-churches/social-
transformation/racial-justice/](http://www.sheffield.anglican.org/support/for-churches/social-transformation/racial-justice/)

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**Chat on tables
and
Q & A**



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Notices and Information



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PSO Day 2026
Saturday
06 June 2026
at New York
Stadium
Rotherham United
Football Ground

Please take a leaflet and
encourage your PSOs
to attend.

**PARISH
SAFEGUARDING
OFFICER
CELEBRATION
DAY**

TEA, COFFEE &
LUNCH PROVIDED

**6 MAY 2026
9.30-15.00**

AESSEAL NEW YORK STADIUM
ROTHERHAM UNITED FOOTBALL GROUND
NEW YORK WAY
ROTHERHAM
S60 1FJ

“POWERFUL.
HONEST. HOPEFUL”
“A DAY THAT REMINDS
US WHY SAFEGUARDING
TRULY MATTERS”

PSO DAY 2025



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Final Prayer



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Thank you!



If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please get in touch

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