
ENCOUNTERING THE WORLD CHURCH: MISSION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Bishop's Study Day
10 March 2025

SMILE ARCHBISHOP!



REIMAGINING MISSION ACROSS THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

1. OVERVIEW

ANGLICAN COMMUNION - AT A GLANCE

- Third largest Christian Church/Communion
- 85M members (c. 40M in Africa)
- In over 165 countries
- Primarily Anglosphere, ‘in the wake of empire’
- ‘Typical’ Anglican – young African woman (Nigerian)
- Church of England – an ‘outlier’ church not the norm.

USPG – ANGLICAN COMMUNION



WHAT IS THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION?

- Family of autonomous Churches in relationship with the ABC / See of Canterbury with Shared mission, doctrine & ways of worship
- AC: no official legal existence and no governance structures
- ‘In common’: Shared theology and ecclesiology
- Held together by Instruments of Communion

FOUR INSTRUMENTS OF COMMUNION

Maintain the creative tension between provincial autonomy (local) and ecclesial communion (global)

1. Archbishop of Canterbury
2. Lambeth Conference
3. Anglican Consultative Council (ACC)
4. Primates Meeting

2. MEMBER CHURCHES /PROVINCES

PROVINCES AND PRIMATES

42 Autonomous member
Churches/ Provinces

Led by Primates....

Archbishop/President/Presiding
Bishop/Moderator/Primus/Prime Bishop



ORIGINS OF THE COMMUNION 1700 - 1920

- SPG – Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (& SPCK) (1698/1701)
- CMS – Church Mission Society (1799)
- UMCA – Universities Mission to Central Africa (1857)
- TEC – The Episcopal Church (US) (1789)
- ABM – Anglican Board of Mission (1850)

- SPG Charter (1701)
 - To minister to English people living abroad
 - To evangelise the non-Christian people who were subject to the British Crown

USPG – ANGLICAN COMMUNION



PROVINCES – BRITISH, ATLANTIC, SETTLER

England

Scotland

Ireland

Wales

US (TEC)

Canada

Australia

Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

West Indies

AFRICAN PROVINCES (USPG/UMCA RELATIONSHIP)

Central Africa – Botswana,
Malawi, Zambia & Zimbabwe

Tanzania

Southern Africa

West Africa

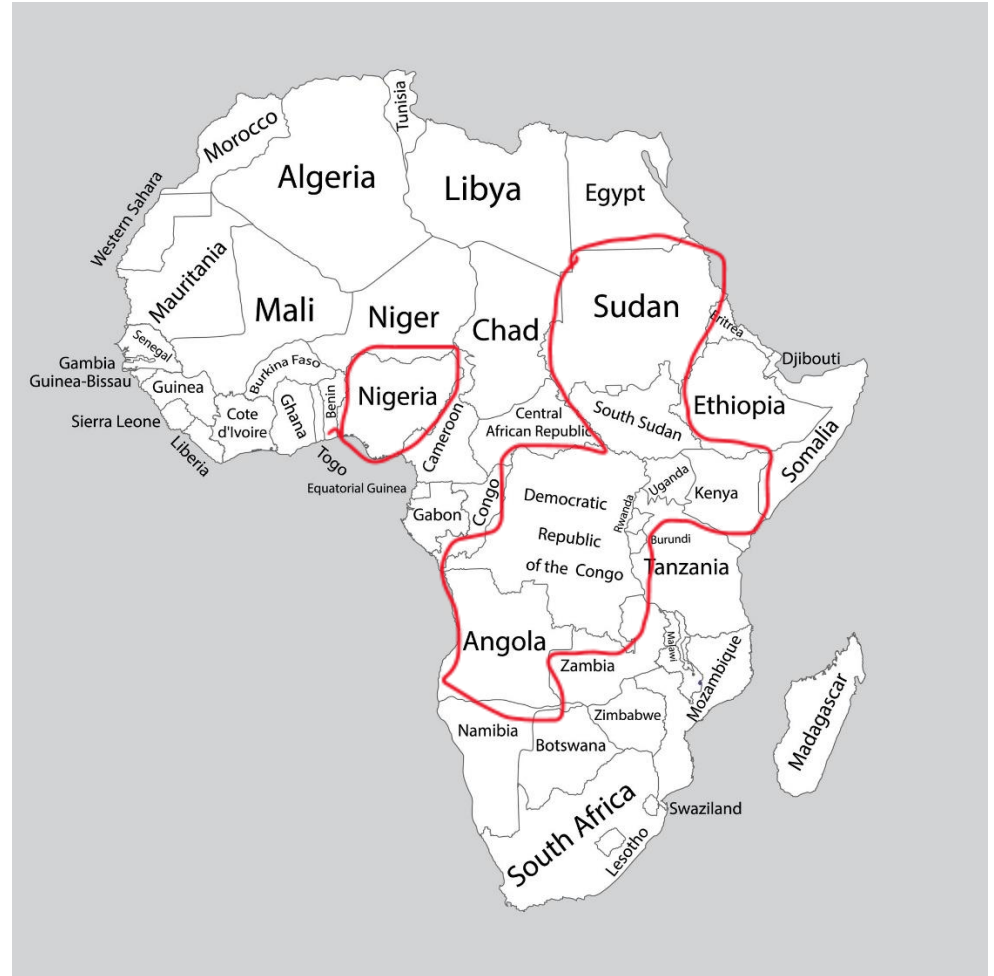
Indian Ocean –

Madagascar, Mauritius,
Seychelles



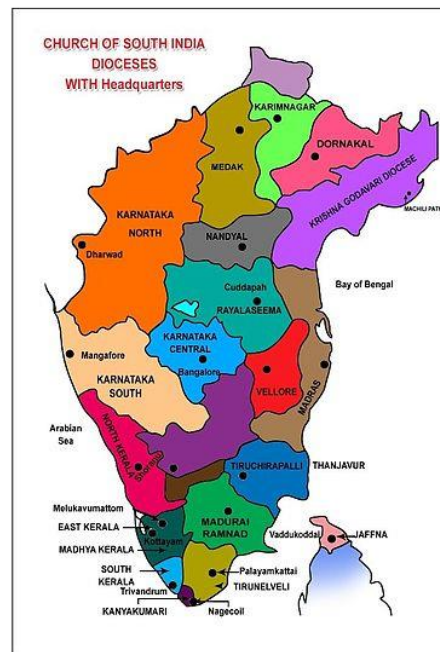
AFRICAN PROVINCES – CMS RELATIONSHIPS

Burundi
DRC
Kenya
Nigeria
Rwanda
South Sudan
Sudan
Uganda



UNITED CHURCHES (SOUTH ASIA)

- Church of South India (1947)
- Church of North India (1970)
- Church of Pakistan (1970)
- Church of Bangladesh (1974)



EAST ASIA AND OCEANIA

South East Asia

Korea

Myanmar

Japan

Philippines (Episcopal)

Melanesia

PNG

Jerusalem & Middle East



AMERICAS

Brazil (Episcopal)

South America

Mexico

Central America

Chile

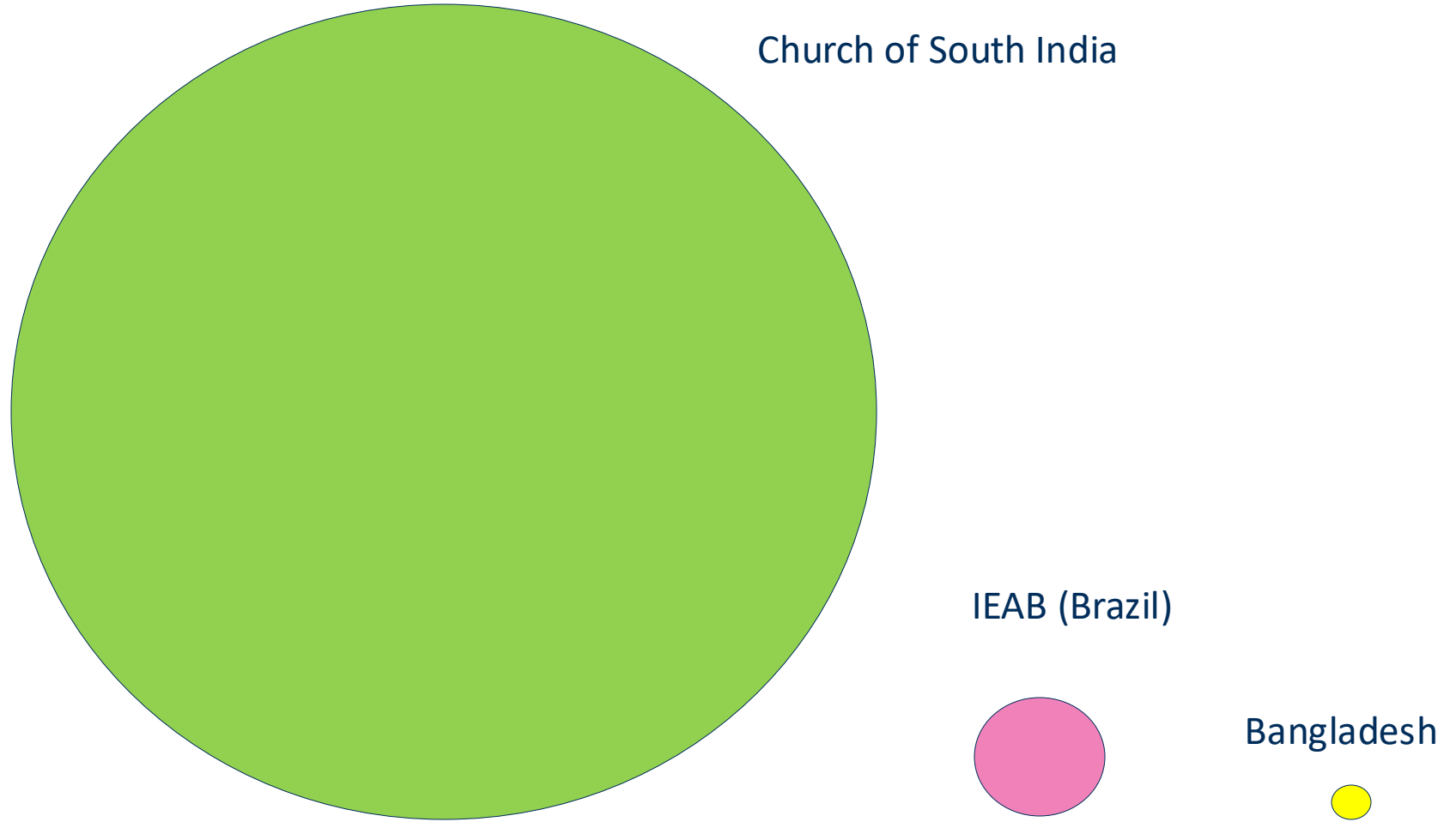
EXTRA-PROVINCIAL TERRITORIES

- Sri Lanka
- Lusitanian (Portugal)
- Reformed Episcopal (Spain)
- Bermuda
- Falkland Islands

SCALE

Church	dioceses	members ('000s)	Foundation
Nigeria	91	11,000	1979
Philippines (IFI)	51	6,000	1902
Kenya	41	5,000	1970
Church of South India	24	3,800	1947
Southern Africa (ACSA)	25	3,000	1870
Tanzania (ACT)	28	2,500	1970
West Africa	17	1,000	1979
England (CoE)	42	1,000	1534
Canada (ACC)	29	294	1955
Brazil (IEAB)	9	120	1965
Korea (ACK)	3	65	1992
Scotland (SEC)	7	23	1712

SCALE



CONTEXTS

Relationships with - the State, class, elites, core institutions (e.g. schools, hospitals), differing ethnicities is very varied across the Communion.

1. Church of England – an Established Church in a secular country; The Episcopal Church (US) traditionally privileged socio-economically.
2. Asia - Christian minority populations (Dalits; tribals, marginal groups) but some with land and influence as a result of British imperialism
3. Some churches – extensive schools/hospitals – CSI, Hong Kong; Japan – universities.
4. Africa – some Christian countries – Anglicans have strong (but declining) political influence – Tanzania, Ghana, Zambia, South Africa. Strong Pentecostal competition.
5. Latin America – highly stratified Catholic cultures – Anglicans/Episcopalians a small minority

CONTEXTS - CULTURE



Polyglot churches e.g.
Southern Africa – prayer book
in nine languages



Akan (Adinkra) symbol,
(Ghana)
Gye Nyame
'Omnipotence of God



Ordinands in the
Philippines



OCEANIA: A PRAYER FROM VANUATU

*O Jesus, be the canoe that holds me in the sea of life,
Be the steer that keeps me straight,
Be the outrigger that supports me in time of great temptation.
Let your Spirit be my sail that carries me through each day,
As I journey steadfastly on the long voyage of lie.
Amen*

GLORIOUS DIVERSITY

“Instead of being a singular phenomenon or a unique global brand, Anglicanism, with its huge diversity of contemporary forms, is much more akin to locally produced and - more importantly- locally designed goods aimed primarily at the domestic market” ... Mark Chapman

COMPETING NARRATIVES/CHURCH



- Global South f. 1994, grouping of 25 provinces
- GAFCON (Global Anglican Future Conference)
 - First conference Jerusalem 2008
- Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) f. 2009

QUESTIONS

How do you understand yourself as a part of a worldwide Anglican Communion?

How would you like to see that change ?

3. MISSION TODAY

VISION AND MISSION

VISION – UNITY AND MISSION

For the churches of the Anglican Communion to experience a deeper fellowship together in Christ and be sources of transformation within their communities and beyond.

MISSION – IN PARTNERSHIP

To partner churches across the Anglican Communion in rethinking mission, energising church and championing justice.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Mutual Partnership, learning and dialogue

Solidarity, listening and prayer (long distance solidarity)

Koinonia/fellowship

Sharing resources — prayer, good practice, financial resources

Builds up the Church

Holistic mission but not development

MISSION & DEVELOPMENT

Mission - outward movement of Gospel, rooted in Jesus, led by the Spirit; Pilgrim Church and Kingdom

Witness and proclamation; prayer, justice, peace, integrity of creation, reconciliation etc

USPG: Incarnational, liberative, dialogical, holistic mission (Christ the Teacher/Healer), transform individuals and community

Key agent – Christian community.

Development – origins post-1945 reconstruction then work with decolonised and ‘developing’ countries: social and economic transformation; enhanced livelihoods, alleviation of poverty, improved health outcomes and educational attainment.

Infrastructure, governance, economics, human rights, sustained and measurable change in people’s circumstances.

Tear Fund: Tackles poverty, works with churches.

CONTEXTS

CONTEXT: RECOGNISING THE IMPERIAL ORIGINS OF OUR GLOBAL PRESENT

Histories of slavery, genocide, racism
(Caribbean, N. America)

Settler populations and land (South Africa,
Zimbabwe)

Treatment of indigenous peoples (Canada,
Oceania)

Economic/infrastructural/political legacies

Educational and Healthcare systems

Missionary denominationalism (e.g. Tanzania)



CONTEXT: THE URGENCY OF NOW

Climate Crisis

Mass movement of
people



Populism/ nationalism/religious
fundamentalisms

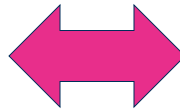
**RETHINK MISSION
ENERGISE CHURCH
CHAMPION JUSTICE**

USPG⁺ PARTNERS IN
GLOBAL MISSION

OUR FOCUS

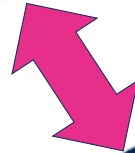


Energising
Church



Championing
Justice

- Racial justice
- Gender Justice
- Ecological Justice
- Economic justice
- Humanitarian Response



Rethinking
Mission



- Health
- Leadership and capacity building
- Youth engagement
- Peoples programmes
- Working with TEIs

- Developing networks
- Theological resourcing

1. RETHINKING MISSION



Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God. Romans 12:2

‘ANGLO-SAXON CAPTIVITY’ → ‘HEIRS TOGETHER’

- Locally organised, Locally governed, Locally and Culturally expressed
- Promote mutual Interdependent relationship – away from Paternalism & Dependence
- Promote Collaboration & Complementarity
- Liberative and reconstructive theologies
- Developing cross- and inter-cultural understandings (Time and space, relationship to land, social solidarities Hospitality, gift-giving, patterns of obligation; Individualism/communalism ‘I am because we are’; language, gender relations)

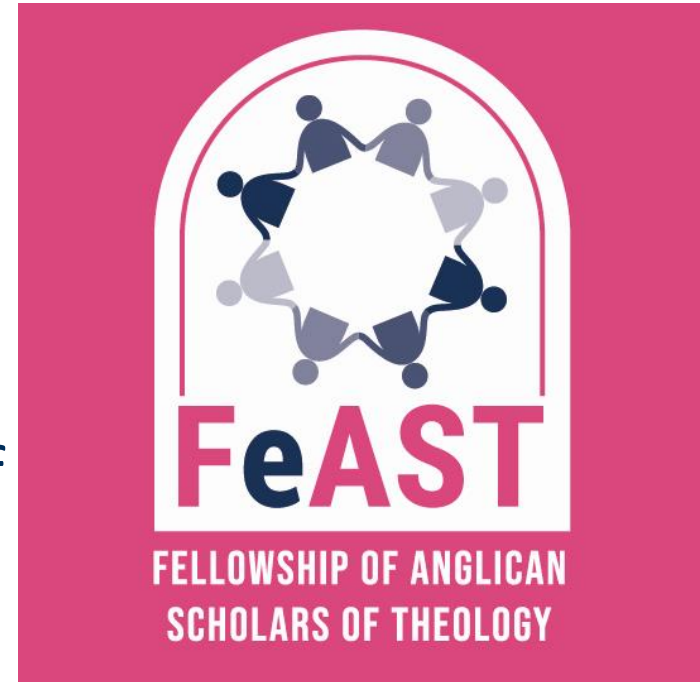
Our Focus:

Making a significant contribution to the re-imagining and re-shaping of theological education across the Anglican Communion; playing a key role in trying to address the Communion-wide challenges around theological education by facilitating and connecting local and global theological initiatives

FeAST:

Fellowship of Anglican Scholars of Theology

- Mutual upbuilding - fostering peer solidarities
- Overcoming the opportunities divide.
- ‘Unthinking’ the Eurocentricity of Christian Theologies.



A Platform for Encounter, Exchange and Empowerment

FELLOWSHIP OF ANGLICAN SCHOLARS OF THEOLOGY



“FeAST is an open table, a space of mutual challenge and sharing through which a new community of Anglican scholars engaged in the academic pursuit of theology can be built.”

– Rev'd Canon Dr Peniel Rajkumar

WEBINAR

TOWARD A WAHINE MAORI THEOLOGY OF LIBERATION

WITH THE REVD TAMSYN KEREOPA

Ordained Deacon in Te Pihopatanga o Aotearoa, currently undertaking PhD studies at the University of Otago, New Zealand.



17 OCTOBER 2024
2PM BST

10AM BRASÍLIA / 2PM LONDON /
6:30PM COLOMBO/ 2AM WELLINGTON

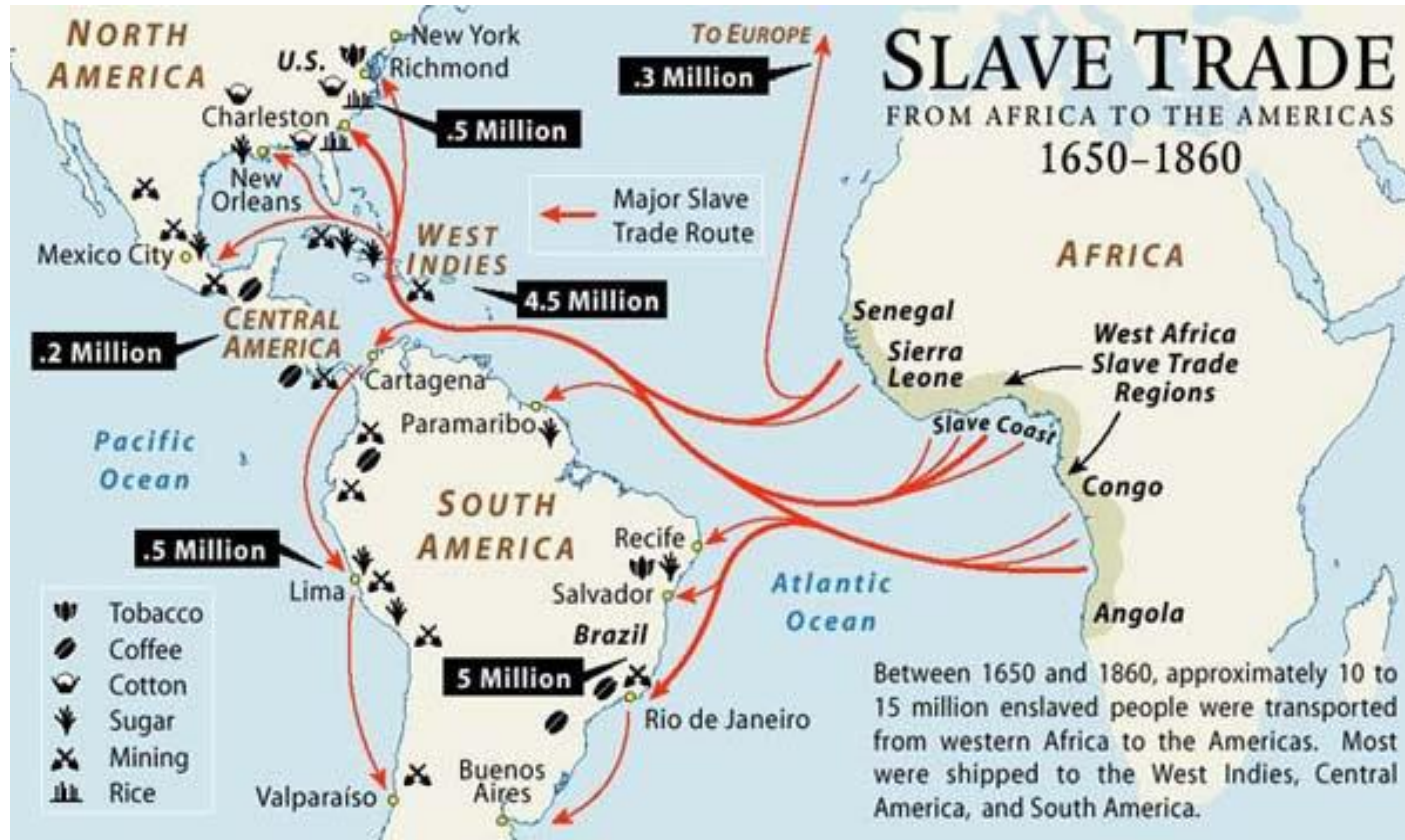
SIGN UP 



www.uspg.org.uk/feast



WEST-AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WRITERS WORKSHOP



2. ENERGISING CHURCH



I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 10:10

PEOPLE'S PROGRAMMES

EMERGING LEADERS ACADEMY JAPAN 2024



EXCHANGING PLACES - MULTILATERAL MISSION



Fr Thandoxolo Noketshe St Kitts and Nevis

TEIS EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

“...it is important to ensure that all those called to leadership, management & governance roles are equipped effectively for the task”



Asian Theological Accompaniment Programme



A Consultation for Principals/Deans of TELs in Asia

3. CHAMPIONING JUSTICE



*But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness.
Matthew 6:33*

PROVINCIAL CLIMATE CHANGE CAMPAIGN



PCC Campaign (2023-27)

- ❖ Anglican Church of Tanzania,
- ❖ Church Province of Central Africa (Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe) &
- ❖ Church Province of the Indian Ocean (Seychelles, Madagascar and Mauritius).



The Scottish Episcopal Church

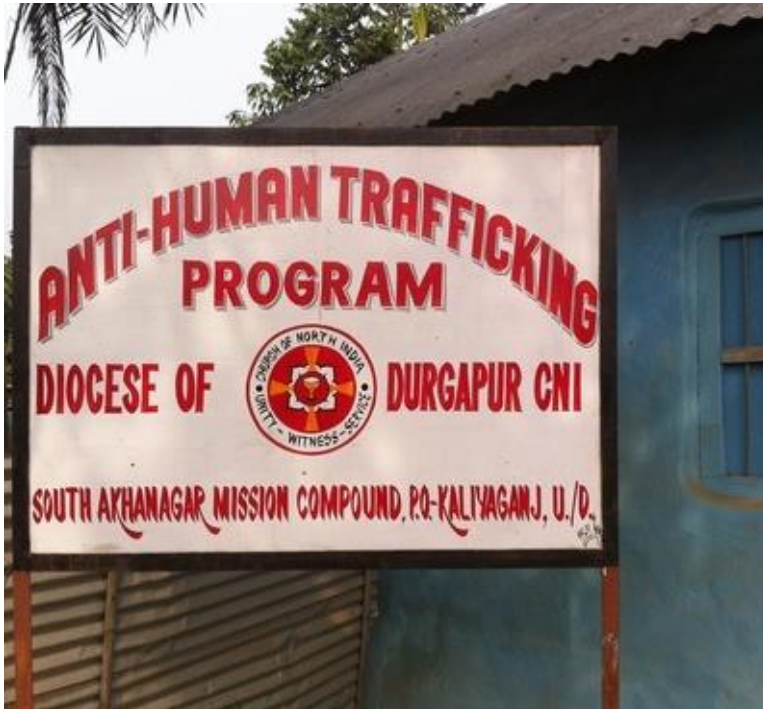
Welcomes You



College of Bishops focuses on Race Awareness

April 24, 2024

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROGRAMME - INTER-PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENT



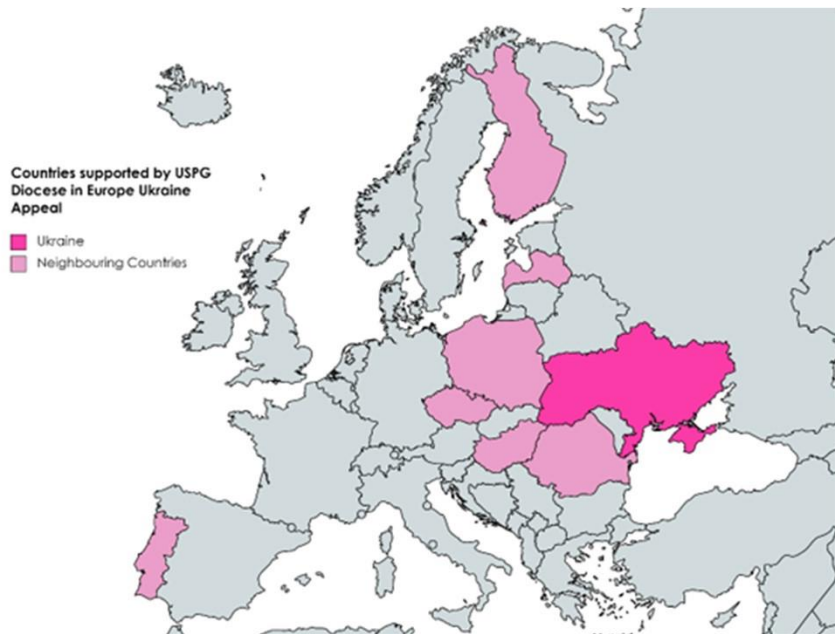
PREVENTION OF MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV/AIDS - TANZANIA



UKRAINE APPEAL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DIOCESE IN EUROPE RAISED > £400,000

Ecumenical partnerships with the Lutheran World Federation and Caritas Internationalis

Accompanied Diocese in Europe Chaplaincies in **Ukraine** and six neighbouring countries: **Poland, Hungary, Romania, Czech Republic and Latvia and Finland**



Ukraine: hardship support; looking to support the presence of a Chaplain in Kyiv.

Neighbouring countries: 17 grants for:

- Distribution of food, clothes, hygiene items and essential goods
- The provision of shelter and accommodation;
- Emergency health support in Romania
- Education and language support
- Integration and employment support
- Safe spaces and soft psychosocial support

RENEWAL & RECONCILIATION: THE CODRINGTON REPARATIONS PROJECT



CODRINGTON COLLEGE, BARBADOS



Photograph: Formerly enslaved man from Codrington Estate: Late 1800s



PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT & LAUNCH 2023 - 2024

2023: April 21st – USPG meets with Codrington Trust’s Committee in Barbados and discusses the scope for a reparatory justice project, agreed following a meeting of USPG’s Trustees on 10th May 2020.

2023: September 8th – The Codrington Trust & USPG formally announce the project at an event at Codrington College, Barbados.

2024: February – April – The Project Managers for The Codrington Trust & USPG are appointed.

2024: May – The Executive Group holds an intensive project planning meeting at Codrington College.

2024: September 9th – The project will formally launch via a series of events at Codrington College and the first meeting of its steering group, after which the project’s core workstreams will begin.



*Renewal & Reconciliation Announcement,
September 2023.*

QUESTIONS

What have you heard?

What is your response?

USPG is the Anglican mission agency, founded in 1701, that partners churches and communities worldwide in God's mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice.