

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Bishop in Europe:
The Right Reverend Dr. Robert Innes



The Suffragan Bishop in Europe
The Right Reverend Dr. David Hamid

6 October 2020

Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ,

This comes to you all with warm Christian greetings accompanying the Document “Breathing Life”.

This document which is being sent on the day we remember the martyrdom of William Tyndale comes as an invitation to share in our endeavour for greater racial justice in our church. As you are perhaps aware the Church of England is striving in different ways to give voice to those who need to be seen and heard as we work towards a truly just, equal and inclusive Church. Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England who rallied to support this endeavour have said that it is time to “own up to” and “repent” of white privilege in the Church.

We Bishops in the Diocese in Europe, therefore, commissioned a working group to bring together shared wisdom and provide a document that can help us and perhaps the wider Church of England to engage with the question of racial justice. The senior staff of the Diocese have engaged carefully with this document. It is being sent with the strong recommendation that it be used for study in chaplaincy councils.

Attached to the document are three questions :

1. What does it mean to you to be a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion of which the vast majority of its members are people of colour?
2. Please identify how and where systemic or institutional racism persists – support your answer with examples from your own experience?
3. In addition to the recommendations in this draft policy document, what other specific strategies would you like to suggest to enrich the document?

We warmly commend this document to you. Keeping William Tyndale in mind, may we by God’s grace firmly uphold the cause of the Gospel truth that each brother and sister of whatever colour or provenance is equal in God’s sight.

Yours in Christ,

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

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