

NCLF Newsletter

NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERS FORUM | A BLACK CHRISTIAN VOICE



1948 - A SIGNIFICANT YEAR

1948 was a significant year. A very significant year in fact, as in 2023, we are celebrating the 75th anniversaries of those momentous events that took place in 1948: the fulfilment of prophecy - the declaration of the State of Israel - in May; the arrival of the Empire Windrush in June, and the birth of the National Health Service in July.

The Windrush 75 anniversary was marked by a national service in London with the theme 'Remembering the Struggle, Celebrating the Contribution and Flourishing for the Future: A Service of Thanksgiving'. It marked the docking of the *MV Empire Windrush* into Tilbury Docks, which brought more than 500 Caribbean men and women who responded to an invitation to come to a country in recovery from World War II. The service celebrated the significant role of the Windrush Generation in shaping the cultural landscape of Britain.

Dionne Gravesande, NCLF Secretary and Chair of the Windrush 75 planning committee, said: "This momentous occasion brought together diverse communities, faiths and organisations in a spirit of collaboration and partnership. The service presented a unique opportunity for people of all backgrounds to unite; celebrate the Windrush generation's

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THE LAUNCH OF THE BLACK CHURCH POLITICAL MANIFESTO

The National Church Leaders Forum Manifesto launch event (hosted by **Muyiwa** and **Pastor Celia Collins**) was a success, brimming with hope and inspiration for our nation.

As esteemed religious leaders took to the podium, their words echoed with unwavering conviction and a shared vision for a better tomorrow. The Manifesto is a testament to their unwavering dedication and outlines a comprehensive roadmap for societal transformation.

In this gathering of spiritual leaders, faith became a catalyst for positive change, igniting a flame of optimism in the hearts of all who attended. With steadfast faith and collective action, we have been reminded that a brighter future is not just a distant dream but a tangible reality within our grasp.

This event has invigorated our spirits, reminding us of the transformative power of faith and the immense potential we hold as a nation.

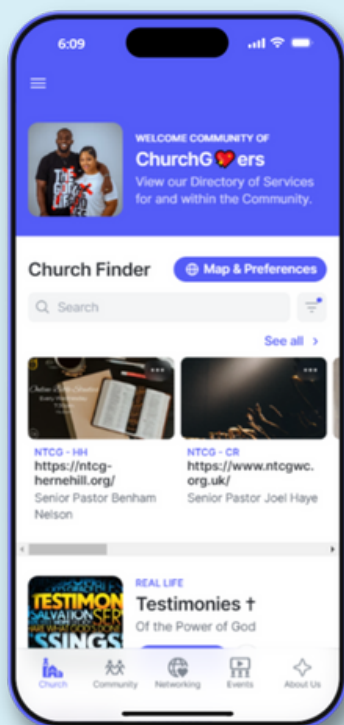


Dionne Gravesande

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INTRODUCING THE CHURCHGOERS APP



The **Churchgoers App** aims to revolutionise how faith communities connect, grow and evangelise in the digital age. Available on all web devices, it offers a range of features designed to enhance the churchgoers' experience for the modern era.

Attract new members and promote your church services and facilities through the versatile digital church directory and services bureau. Streamline church programme and administration tasks, with digitalised forms, event marketing, worship services and scheduling tools.

Encourage transparency and growth by sharing visitor reviews, ratings and testimonies, showcasing the impactful work being done through your church. Ignite discussions and enrich connections through forums and events, fostering thought-provoking conversations on matters of faith and community.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

profound contributions; and reaffirm our commitment to a shared society where all people can flourish."

Reflecting on the 75th anniversary, Bishop Dr Joe Aldred, NCLF Director and then a member of CTE staff, wrote: "Out of a background of opportunities denied, futures blighted, hopes dashed and faith challenged has emerged a major cause for rejoicing: the emergence of the Black Church Movement in Britain, a movement that permeates the entire Christian community and beyond."

Dionne Gravesande

“Out of a background of opportunities denied, futures blighted, hopes dashed and faith challenged has emerged a major cause for rejoicing: the emergence of the Black Church Movement in Britain”

Stay informed, RSVP and actively participate in various activities – from mentoring to community outreach programmes. Simplify fundraising and online donations through the app, empowering contributors to support ministries and monitor their impact.

Connect beyond physical walls with the church communications network that facilitates messaging, announcements and updates. The **Churchgoers App** applies the power, convenience and efficiency of technology to timeless biblical values, expanding connections and inspiring more vibrant communities.

Calling all church leaders to sign up to the **Churchgoers App** to strengthen connections, inspire growth, transform and empower congregations and communities. Visit <https://churchgoers.app> or contact paul.johnson@blackgifted.com

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Caribbean Evangelicals call on Britain's Black Christian Community



Rev Ronald Nathan is a Caribbean-based member of the NCLF and sits on the Black Majority Churches Climate Justice Group of Christian Aid UK.



Rev Ronald A Nathan paid a recent courtesy visit to the leaders of the **African Caribbean Engagement Team of Tearfund** and the **National Church Leaders Forum** to update them on developments in the Caribbean region regarding the Climate Crisis and the Churches' Disaster Response programmes.

In separate meetings with **Bishop Wayne Phillips** and **Pastor Ade Omooba** he shared that the Caribbean was one of the most disaster-prone regions of the world, and the Caribbean's 14 million evangelicals couldn't just sit idly by and wait for the next hurricane, earthquake or volcanic eruption. The **Evangelical Association of the Caribbean (EAC)** has set in motion its **Caribbean Aid and Relief Campaign (CARE Campaign)** to proactively prepare for disasters in the region.

A highlight of this year's programme was the signing of a **Memorandum of**

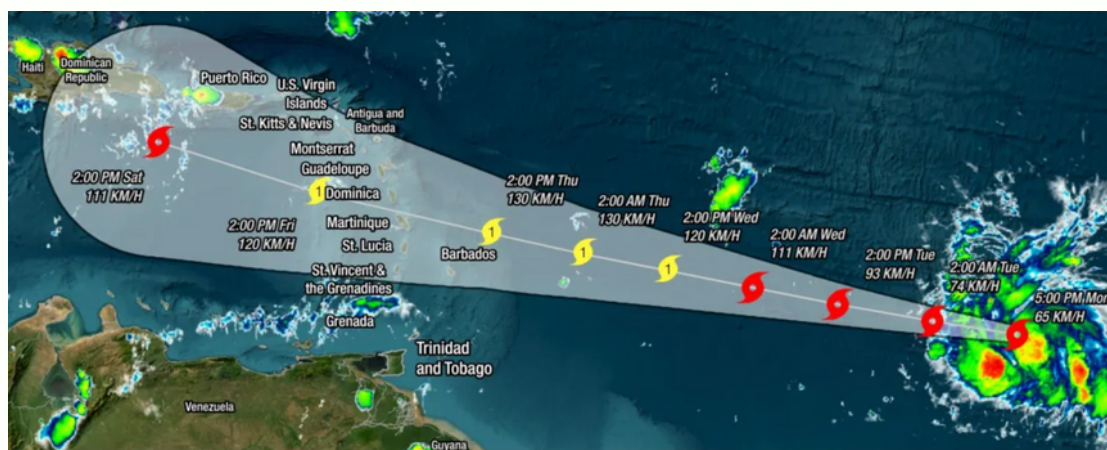
Understanding with Habitat for Humanity Caribbean to build more hurricane-resilient houses.

The EAC's **Commission for Relief and Development (CONRAD)** is poised in the next two years to establish food and emergency silos in three areas of the region so that Caribbean Christians can deliver relief within 48 hours of a disaster.

Rev Nathan took time to join with other Black Christian leaders to address some 2,000 Christians for Climate Justice demonstrators in front of Parliament on Saturday 22nd April 2023.

Alongside Extinction Rebellion, Greenpeace and Global Justice Now, he joined other Black Church leaders, and said: "The reason why we are outside Parliament today is because we understand the link between spirituality and ecology: 'For the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof'."

Pathway of TROPICAL STORM BRET 2023



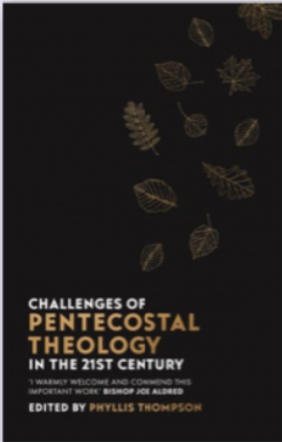
Picture credit: Trinidad and Tobago Weather Center





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Following on from the NCLF Spring Newsletter, where we looked at the online home group course by Phyllis Thompson, we now highlight the book of the Oliver Lyseight Annual Lectures on which that course is based. **Challenges of Pentecostal**

Theology in the 21st Century invites readers to consider what constitutes our Pentecostal heritage and what distinctive contribution Pentecostals can offer to the witness in our local, national and global contexts. To this end, the book aims to make the conversation accessible to a wider audience by providing a tangible reference for individual study, small group discussion, and learning events.

The five chapters examine Pentecostalism; Pentecostal spirituality; engagement with politics and social justice; the prosperity Gospel; and sharing the Pentecostal Theology.

For further information about the book and/or study course, please contact:

Rev Phyllis Thompson is a Pentecostal educator, the pioneer of the Oliver Lyseight Annual lectures, and a former National Education Director for the New Testament Church of God. phyllis.thompson.ntcg.org.uk

Julie Wilson is SPCK Home Groups editor, and can be contacted at Jwilson@spck.org.uk

Dr Charlotte Johnson is the NTCG Oliver Lyseight Annual Lectures lead. Contact her at mrs.c.v.v.johnson@gmail.com



ONLINE EXHIBITIONS TO HONOUR THE WINDRUSH GENERATION

The **Windrush Bureau** website now presents a series of digital exhibitions that take you on a remarkable encounter through history, in celebration of the **75-year Windrush Anniversary**. Each exhibition is featured within two online tours, first onboard the **Windrush Voyager Ship** and then a visit to the **Windrush Cultural Heritage Centre**. Each online tour retraces the courageous journey of the Windrush generation and promises to be an unforgettable experience. Join us as we pay tribute and celebrate the heritage, resilience, and enduring impact of the Windrush generation, who are still enriching British culture.

Visit the Windrush Bureau at

<https://www.windrushbureau.info/media/tours>



The NCLF Newsletter is published quarterly: Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. We welcome contributions (500 words max) about news of national interest happening in our churches or elsewhere, national or international. Tell us your events, eg. national conventions, etc.

Key areas of interest are topics in line with our [Black Church Manifesto](#). Submission does not guarantee inclusion. Please include your name and contact details and send to: Jackie Raymond at bereanservicesuk@gmail.com, and cc to info.nclf@gmail.com.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS 30th JULY.

Email us at info.nclf@gmail.com or connect with us on social media



PLEASE DONATE TO NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERS FORUM (NCLF):

Barclays Bank PLC | Account Number **33315959** | Sort Code **20-41-50**

Thank you!