

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

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Windrush Sunday: Honouring a Legacy of Faith and Justice

Windrush Sunday, marked annually near 22 June, commemorates the arrival of Caribbean men, women and children on the SS Empire Windrush in 1948. These pioneers came to what they understood as the 'Mother Country' with British passports in hand, ready to help rebuild post-war Britain. Their welcome was often muted, even hostile, but their commitment to nation-building never wavered.

While the economic and social impact of the Windrush Generation is now well recognised, their spiritual legacy is equally significant. Many brought with them a vibrant Christian faith that transformed Britain's religious landscape. From planting independent churches to revitalising struggling congregations in historic denominations, their contribution laid the foundations for what would become Black Majority Churches, now central pillars in communities across the UK. These churches have grown from humble beginnings into confident, socially engaged institutions offering leadership, advocacy and pastoral care.

As someone who belongs to a denomination enriched by the Windrush Generation, I see first-hand the depth of their influence. Their presence didn't just breathe life into the pews; it challenged the Church to confront racial inequality, redefine mission, and embrace diversity.

Yet Windrush Sunday is not only a time of celebration. The ongoing injustice of the Windrush Scandal, where British citizens were wrongly detained, denied rights, and even deported, remains a painful reminder of the work still to be done. Remembering must go hand-in-hand with seeking justice and repair.

One thing God Almighty hates is injustice. He promised Abraham that He would bless those who blessed him and curse those who cursed him.

Genesis 12 : 1-3

Go from your country,
your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

2 "I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."

The story of the Windrush Generation is one of courage, conviction and continuity. It calls us not only to look back with gratitude but to move forward with resolve ensuring that the seeds sown by these faithful pioneers continue to flourish.
