

1. Church of England Liturgical Resources for Black History Month

Provider: Church of England

What it offers: A substantial collection of worship material prepared by the Liturgical Commission with colleagues from across the Church of England. It includes Services of the Word, a Eucharistic service, prayers of lament and commission, and links to material for Bible study, youth work, Messy Church and music.

Ways to use it:

- Use a complete service or select individual prayers, readings and responses for Sunday worship.
- Build Black History Month themes into all-age, youth or Messy Church gatherings.
- Use the prayers of lament and commission to connect remembrance with practical commitment.
- Draw on the material beyond October when planning racial justice worship or study.

Helpful context: The Church of England describes the material as being for all churches and frames it as an invitation to develop ongoing awareness of racial dynamics in worship and church life.

Access resource: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/liturgical-resources-black-history-month>

2. Black History Month 2026: Resources for Churches

Provider: Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)

What it offers: A 2026 church resource pack containing a sermon, reflection, prayers, suggested Bible verses, hymns and songs, activities for adults and children, and a directory of further resources.

Ways to use it:

- Use the sermon and reflection as starting points for preaching or small-group discussion.
- Choose suggested hymns, songs, prayers and readings for worship during October.
- Adapt the activities for children, adults or intergenerational church settings.
- Use the directory to continue exploring racial justice and Black history throughout the year.

Helpful context: CTBI explicitly encourages churches not to restrict engagement with these themes to one month.

Access resource: <https://ctbi.org.uk/resources/black-history-month-2026-resources-for-churches/>

3. A Prayer for Black History Month

Provider: Church of England

What it offers: A short official prayer for Black History Month that gives thanks within a Christian framework and asks God to enlarge the Church's vision, recognise the image of God in every person, and work towards ending racism and injustice.

Ways to use it:

- Include it in intercessions or as a concluding prayer during October.
- Print it in a pew sheet, parish newsletter or Black History Month resource page.
- Use it to open or close PCC, staff, school or small-group discussions about racial justice.

Helpful context: Because it is brief and self-contained, it can be incorporated easily into ordinary worship rather than requiring a dedicated Black History Month service.

Access resource: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/topical-prayers/prayer-black-history-month>

4. We are CofE

Provider: Church of England

What it offers: A series of video clips highlighting the diversity of people undertaking vocations in the Church of England. Contributors from UK Minoritised Ethnic and Global Majority Heritage backgrounds speak about ordained ministry, lay ministry and school ministry, their roles and their experiences.

Ways to use it:

- Show one or more videos during a vocations event, PCC meeting, school session or discussion group.
- Use the stories to broaden perceptions of who is called to leadership and ministry.
- Pair a video with discussion about representation, discernment, encouragement and barriers to vocation.
- Share selected clips through parish or diocesan communications during Black History Month.

Helpful context: The series is especially useful where Black History Month is being connected with vocation, representation and leadership rather than only historical reflection.

Access resource: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/racial-justice/we-are-cofe>

5. Black History Month UK 2026

Provider: Black History Month UK

What it offers: The national Black History Month UK platform for 2026. This year's theme is “Honouring Our Communities”, focusing on the people whose everyday contributions shape, support and sustain Black life across the United Kingdom. The site includes stories, events, educational material, campaign resources and information about the official resource pack.

Ways to use it:

- Use the 2026 theme to shape local services, assemblies, displays and community events.
- Identify stories and examples that connect national Black History Month with local communities.
- Explore the official resource pack for schools, organisations and community groups.
- Use event listings and editorial material to signpost people towards further learning and participation.

Helpful context: The national site stresses that Black history is part of Britain's wider national story and should be engaged with throughout the year.

Access resource: <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/black-history-month-2026/>

6. Archbishops' Commission for Racial Justice: Final Report

Provider: Church of England

What it offers: The final report of the Archbishops' Commission for Racial Justice summarises three years of work following From Lament to Action. The Commission was established to monitor, support and hold the Church to account for implementation of the racial justice recommendations and to press for cultural and structural change.

Ways to use it:

- Use selected sections for PCC, deanery, diocesan or leadership-team discussion.
- Compare local practice with the areas of change identified nationally.

- Use the report to move Black History Month conversations from celebration and awareness towards institutional action.
- Identify one or two recommendations that can inform an achievable local action plan.

Helpful context: The Commission's sixth and final report was published in February 2025. The Church of England's Racial Justice Unit continues the work of resourcing racial justice across the Church.

Access resource: <https://www.churchofengland.org/mission-ministry/inclusivity/archbishops-commission-racial-justice-final-report>

7. BBC Select: Black History Month Collection

Provider: BBC Select

What it offers: A curated collection of documentaries exploring Black history, culture and the African diaspora. Current listings include programmes on Black British history, Africa, slavery, prominent individuals and cultural history.

Ways to use it:

- Select a documentary for a church, school or community film-and-discussion evening.
- Use individual programmes as background learning for leaders preparing sermons, assemblies or discussion sessions.
- Create a short recommended viewing list for congregations or staff.

Helpful context: BBC Select is a subscription streaming service and availability can vary by territory and platform, so access should be checked before advertising a screening.

Access resource: <https://www.bbcselect.com/black-history-month/>

8. The Guardian: Africa, the Mercator Projection and Equal Earth

Provider: The Guardian, The Long Wave

What it offers: The Long Wave article “Africa is bigger than we've been led to believe – what next?” considers how the familiar Mercator projection affects perceptions of Africa's size and significance, in the context of moves towards the Equal Earth projection. A related Guardian feature examines the cartographers behind Equal Earth and the trade-offs involved in every map projection.

Ways to use it:

- Use the map comparison as a discussion starter about how apparently neutral tools can shape perception.
- Invite groups to reflect on whose perspectives have historically shaped education and common knowledge.
- Pair the article with geography, history, decolonisation or racial justice learning in schools and adult groups.
- Use it as an example of why critical reflection should include the everyday images and assumptions through which people understand the world.

Helpful context: A useful companion article is “A map is never neutral: meet the cartographers who took on centuries of western bias”, published by The Guardian on 18 September 2026.

Access resource: <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2026/sep/16/africa-is-bigger-than-weve-been-led-to-believe-what-next>

Suggested Ways to Use the Resources Together

For worship: Combine the Church of England liturgical resources and Black History Month prayer with music, preaching and testimony from your own community.

For learning: Use the CTBI pack alongside a BBC documentary or the Guardian map material to create a discussion session that combines theology, history and contemporary questions.

For vocation and representation: Use the We are CofE videos to introduce conversations about who is encouraged, recognised and represented in ministry, church leadership and schools.

For action: Use the Archbishops' Commission final report to help a PCC, school governing body or leadership team identify what should change after the learning and celebration of Black History Month.

For community engagement: Use the 2026 national theme, Honouring Our Communities, to identify and recognise local people whose service, leadership, care or witness might otherwise go unnoticed.