**Diocesan Racial Justice Officers respond to the report of the Church Commissioners research into historic links to transatlantic slavery.**

Please click the link to read the report in full -

[Church Commissioners Links to Historic Transatlantic Slavery | The Church of England](https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/church-commissioners-england/who-we-are/church-commissioners-links)

We are grateful for this report published by the Church Commissioners on the 10th January 2023. As Racial Justice Officers of the diocese, we not only welcome the publication of this report but also appreciate the conscientious and diligent research work that has gone into creating this report.

It is promising that the Church Commissioners, Archbishop Welby, and other Church Leaders have apologised for the Church of England profiting from the transatlantic slave trade of the past. We want to acknowledge that saying sorry needs wisdom, courage, and understanding. It is a magnanimous and noble act. The report brought out mixed emotions in us. The report, we believe, will teach many that although the past cannot be changed the effect of it can be diminished and healed. More organisations, which were associated with the slave trade, can do the same to bring out reconciliation, healing, and hope.

Indeed, it is right and just that the Church Commissioners are “committing £100 million of funding over the next nine years commencing in 2023, to a programme of impact investment, research, and engagement.” It is a fitting financial response to put millions of pounds towards initiating programmes that advance the cause of racial equality in every diocese up and down the country. We hope that the report and the financial response will mark a turning point in the history of the struggle for racial justice.

The report certainly has sound theological underpinnings. It makes it clear that the whole life, work, and service of the Church of England wrongly gained from the slave trade. Perhaps, in addition to making an apt financial response, the Church would do well if it looks into bringing about healing holistically – which includes emotional, psychological, and faith aspects of life.

Rev Martha Mutikani and Rev Godfrey Kesari

Racial Justice Officers, Chichester Diocese