

Living Liberty

Racial Justice and Inclusion at Wells Cathedral

Wells Cathedral is committed to becoming a truly welcoming and inclusive 'spiritual space' for all people. We celebrate the richness of different cultures, traditions, and experiences, and we seek to reflect this diversity within our worshipping communities and visitor experience.

Our vision is to create spaces where everyone feels valued and fully part of the life of the Church. We are committed to continuing to support social justice and amplifying voices that are often less heard. By embracing a wide variety of perspectives, we aim to build a future that is vibrant, united, and rooted in the love of Christ.

An important part of this work is acknowledging the Cathedral's historic links to transatlantic slavery and our commitment to racial justice today.

Wells Cathedral's Living Liberty Project is a three-year intiative funded by the Church of England Racial Justice Unit. The project, which started in January 2025, focuses on the following themes:

- **Theology**
  Exploring liberation theology and the Church's relationship with slavery, reconciliation, and racial justice in today's context.

- **Research**
  Supporting ongoing historical research into local contested heritage and identifying appropriate ways to share this learning and encourage dialogue.

- **History & Memory**
  Reflecting on how stories are told and broadening participation and engagement, especially among people from diverse ethnic communities whose voices have often been under-represented.

Our Objectives



The Living Liberty Project is guided by the Cathedral's Racial Justice Advisory Group, which includes members of African and Asian heritage, and seeks to deliver the following key objectives that reflect our commitment to education, inclusion, and historical reflection:

• Make research accessible
Share findings through the Wells and Transatlantic Slavery website, ensuring open access to resources and scholarship.

• Engage staff and volunteers
Provide training on bias awareness, cultural sensitivity, and anti-racism to foster an inclusive environment.

• Open up our hidden history
Inform and shape the ways visitors can explore and discover history by celebrating positive hidden stories and interpreting our contested heritage, both on-site and online.

• Promote Inclusivity
Amplify the voices of artists, speakers, and clergy from diverse ethnic communities, enabling them to have a public voice.

• Organise events and exhibitions
Curate experiences that explore themes of slavery, theology, racial justice, history, and memory.

• Develop educational programmes
Create initiatives for visiting schools and pilot an online outreach programme to extend learning beyond our walls.

Get in Touch

If you would like to find out more or be added to the project's mailing list, please contact us by email to:
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COMMITTED TO RACIAL JUSTICE
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND