

The Empire Windrush 75th anniversary

Collective Worship: Secondary



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
EDUCATION OFFICE

Gathering

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

How to welcome others – what can we learn from the Bible?

James 2: 1- 4

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

• *NIV*

Partner 1: What does the bible say about discrimination?

Partner 2: How does the bible tell us to treat everyone?

The Empire Windrush



1027 people on board the first boat – The Empire Windrush

3 weeks to travel from Jamaica to Tilbury Docks in Essex

The Empire Windrush arrived on 22nd June 1948

Responding to a call to come and help rebuild Britain after the
Second World War

Many other people followed on more boats – nearly 500,000
took up the offer to travel to the UK between 1948 and 1971
These people are known as the *Windrush Generation*

Setting the scene



- This song was written by the musician Lord Kitchener on the Empire Windrush in 1946.
- Listen to the words and music.
- Think what words sum up this song for you?

What was it really like to come to the UK?



Questions from the video

In your pairs, assign the number 1 and 2.

Partner 1: Why did the ship travel from the Caribbean/West Indies to the UK?

Partner 2: Who invited them to the UK?

Partner 1: Why did they invite them to the UK?

Partner 2: Were they treated with dignity and respect in the UK?

Contributing to modern Britain



Nurses responded to the UK government's call to help staff the new National Health Service

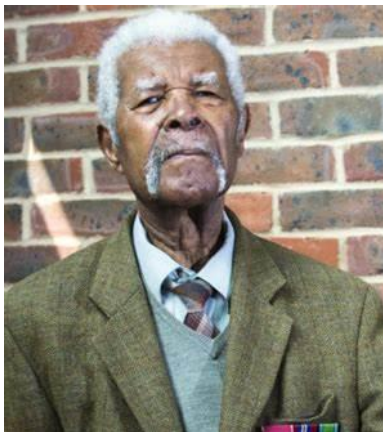


Many helped to staff the transport systems in big cities like London and Birmingham



Beryl Gilroy became one of London's first black headteachers in 1969. She arrived from British Guiana in 1952

Contributing to modern Britain



Sam King served in the RAF and the Post Office. He later became Mayor of Southwark and helped to found the Notting Hill Carnival



The Notting Hill Carnival

The Windrush generation has made a huge contribution to British life and culture.

Reflect with your partner on some other people and their contributions.

The Windrush Generation

Many experienced discrimination and racism

Life in Britain wasn't always better than the life they'd left behind



Many years later people still experience discrimination. Mistakes were made by government departments that led to people being treated very badly. This has become known as the *Windrush Scandal*. Apologies have been made in parliament.

“On behalf of this and successive governments I am truly sorry for the actions that span decades.”

“The experiences faced by some members of the Windrush generation are completely unacceptable and I am committed to righting the wrongs of the past.”

Reflection

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism. (James 2:1)

How do we ensure that the mistreatment experienced by the Windrush Generation these last 75 years does not repeat itself over the next 75 years?

How do we make sure that people are welcomed without discrimination?

...From Lament to Action.

Think – Pair - Share

So, what can we do?, What should we do?

Here are some ideas of what you can do:

- Read the book or form a book club: Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah
- Visit the Windrush Foundation website and explore history [Windrush Foundation | Remembering a generation](#)
- Visit or find out about the Windrush Memorial at Waterloo Station.
- Watch a documentary about the Windrush generation.



A time to pray or reflect

We thank you for always being here with us in your amazingly diverse world.

As we look back, we remember with thanks those who came to the UK on the Empire Windrush 75 years ago. We thank you for the men and women who yielded to the calling from the motherland. To come and help build Britain after the damages of war.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

We thank you for the men and women from the Windrush generation who worked in the NHS, transport and post office. Helping to keep the cities running and to rebuild after the war.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

A time to pray or reflect

We pray for the people of the Windrush era who were made to feel unhappy, sad and unwanted as a result of the mistreatment and discrimination because of the colour of their skin. Father, heal their wounds, both seen and unseen wounds. Lord bless and heal the Windrush generation.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

We look ahead to the future, and we pray for us all that you may give us ears to listen to all people's stories and the courage to speak out for justice. For you, Lord are a just and fair God. During this season of commemoration, open our eyes and ears to be able to reimage a world where all God's children are loved and respected with dignity. Lord bless us all.

Amen

Sending out

So, what can we do?, What should we do?

Treat everyone we meet with dignity
and respect.

Further reading

[Pathé News Windrush feature, 1948](#)

[Windrush Foundation interview with Sam King](#)

[Windrush Stories from The British library](#)

[How did the Empire Windrush change London? From Museum of London Docklands](#)

[One of US? Windrush from the BBC](#)

Additional resources



Partner 1: Who is Sam King?

Partner 2: How did he serve the mother country?

Both: Why does Sam refer to England as the 'Mother country'?
How were they treated in their 'Motherland'?

Additional resources

