

WORKSHOPS

RENEWAL & RECONCILIATION? CHRISTIAN REPARATIVE JUSTICE FOR TRANSATLANTIC SLAVERY

Examine the Church's historical role in slavery and pathways to repair.
With:



Kevin Farmer



Dr Jo Sadgrove



Revd Canon Dr
Duncan Dormor



Revd Garfield Campbell



Revd Dr Carlton Turner

The time has come! the wider context 2023 – 2026

Revd Canon Dr Duncan Dormor, USPG

January 2023: **Project SPIRE** launched

February 2023: **USPG International Consultation, ACC 2023 Ghana**

September 2023: **USPG launch The Codrington Project**

October 2024 **CHOGM, Samoa**

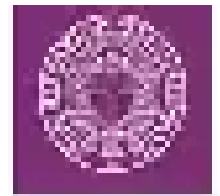
March 2026: **UN General Council Declaration**



Stone Town Slavery Memorial, Zanzibar

Project SPIRE – Church Commissioners - Jan 2023

- The church's £100m reparative justice project aims to address past connections to slavery, but critics say funds should help struggling parishes.
- **2019** - Church Commissioners decided to **research the origins** of the Queen Anne's Bounty.
- **Jan 2023** - **research published** and announcement of **£100m Fund for Healing, Repair and Justice** “to invest in a better future for all, working with and for communities affected by historic transatlantic slavery”.
- Primarily focussed on **impact investment funding** with some grant funding.(capital to enterprises in the hope of achieving positive social goals) Ongoing **conversations with Charity Commission** to consider what regulatory approvals may be required. Extensive discussion and **criticism**: Project Spire “historically uninformed” and a “departure by the Church Commissioners from their core duties” to English parishes.
- **Dec 2024** - **Archbishop Sarah** - **robust defence of Project SPIRE** following calls to scrap project



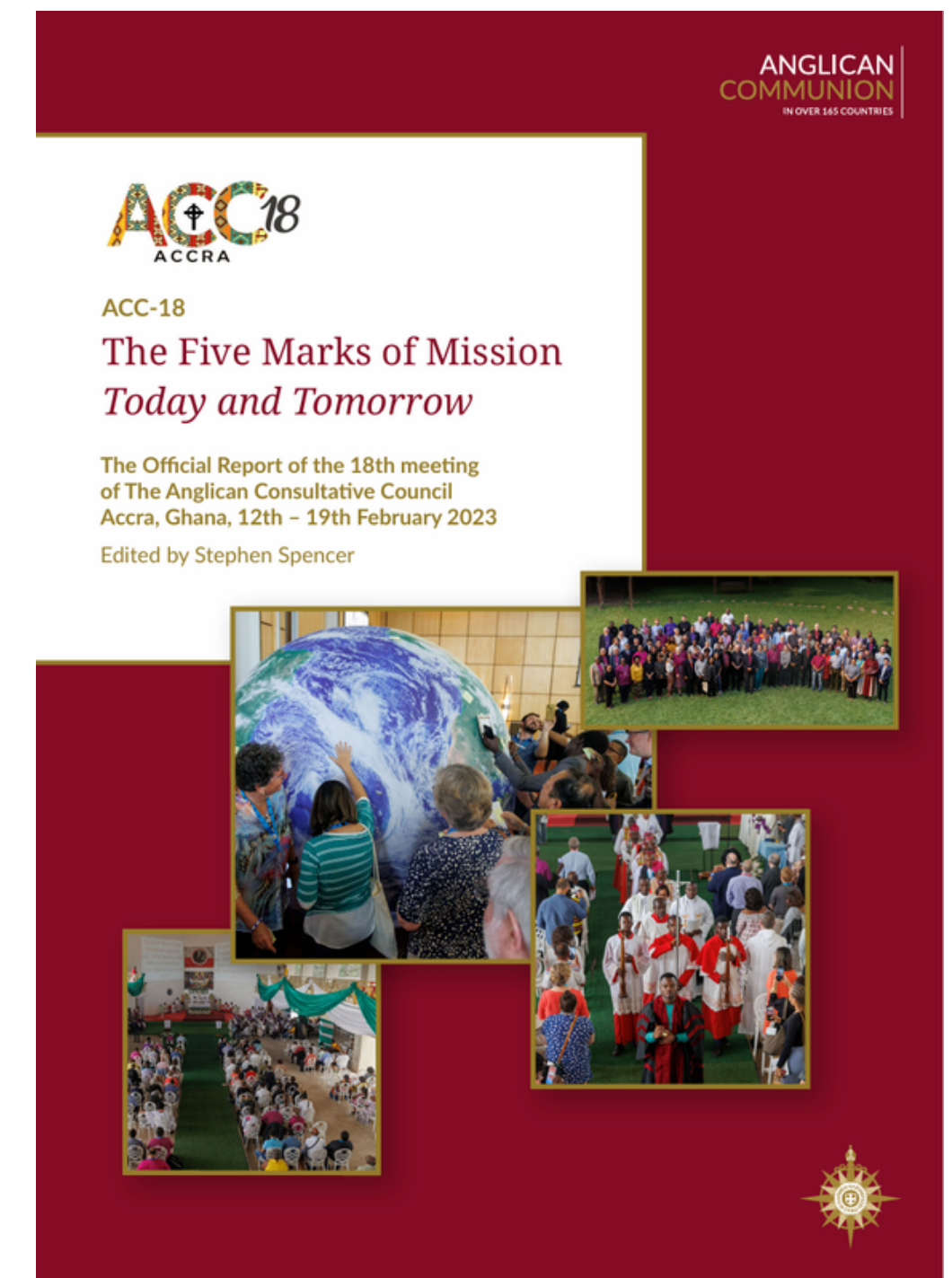
CHURCH COMMISSIONERS'
RESEARCH INTO HISTORIC
LINKS TO TRANSATLANTIC
CHattel SLAVERY

© 2023 CHURCH COMMISSIONERS FOR ENGLAND



ACC-18 Ghana 12 – 19 February 2023

- **Laments the widespread historic involvement of the Church** in the slave trade and other forms of colonisation around the world from the 17th to the 19th centuries, **the impacts of which are still being felt** across the Communion;
- **Grieves the abject failure to see the image of God in all human beings** represented by involvement in and profiting from slavery..., making a **mockery of the life and teachings of Jesus** (Luke 4: 16 – 19); Recognises that visit to Cape Coast Castle and the ensuing reconciliation service serves as **an invitation to deeper historical investigation, education and theological reflection** across the Communion; and
- Accordingly, **calls on the Churches of the Communion** to work with the Anglican Communion Office **to build on work already underway in parts of the Communion to devise a programme of work that seeks to address past damage and combat modern manifestations of this evil.**



CHOGM – Samoa October, 2024

...noting calls for discussions on reparatory justice with regard to the trans-Atlantic trade in enslaved Africans and chattel enslavement and recognising the importance of this matter to member states of the Commonwealth, the majority of which share common historical experiences in relation to this abhorrent trade, chattel enslavement, the debilitation and dispossession of Indigenous People, indentureship, colonialism, blackbirding and their enduring effects, agreed that the time has come for a meaningful, truthful and respectful conversation towards forging a common future based on equity...

Para 22



*‘a significant moment of
acknowledgement’*

UNITED NATIONS March 2026

- **The UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution** recognizing the trafficking of enslaved Africans as the **"gravest crime against humanity."** March 25, 2026
- **123 countries voted in favor of the resolution**, which was championed by Ghana and backed by the African Union and Caribbean nations.
- **The United States, Israel and Argentina were the only countries to vote against** non-binding resolution **(disrespectful disagreement)**.
- The United Kingdom, European Union (27) were among **the 52 countries which abstained (respectful disagreement)**.
- Ghana said the resolution was needed as the **consequences of slavery still persist today**, including racial disparities.



UNITED NATIONS March 2026

Declaration of the Trafficking of Enslaved Africans and Racialized Chattel Enslavement of Africans as the Gravest Crime against Humanity called for:

‘Member States, individually and collectively, to engage in inclusive, good-faith dialogue on reparatory justice, including a full and formal apology, measures of restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, guarantees of non-repetition and changes to laws, programmes and services to address racism and systemic discrimination.’

Recognition that...

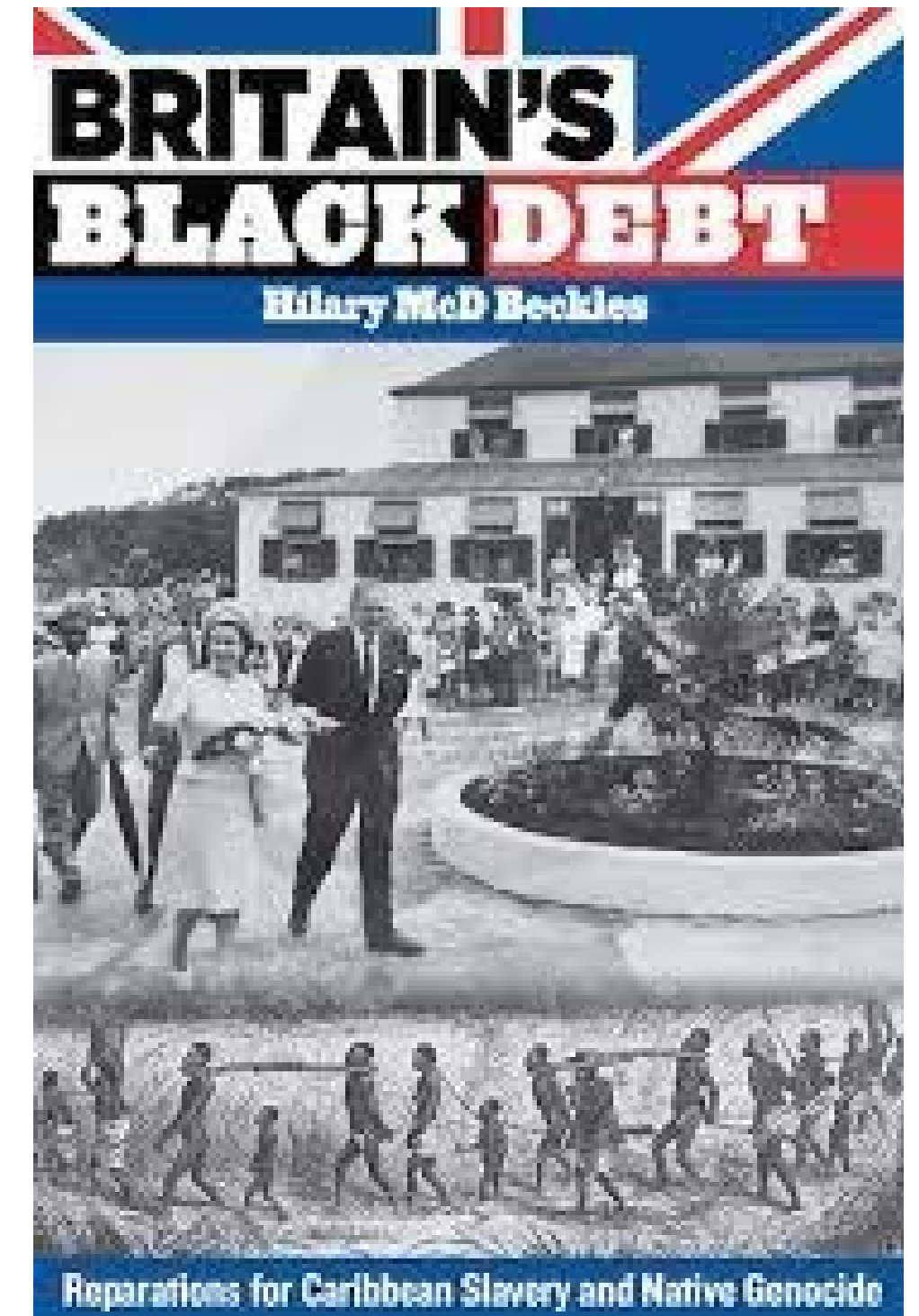
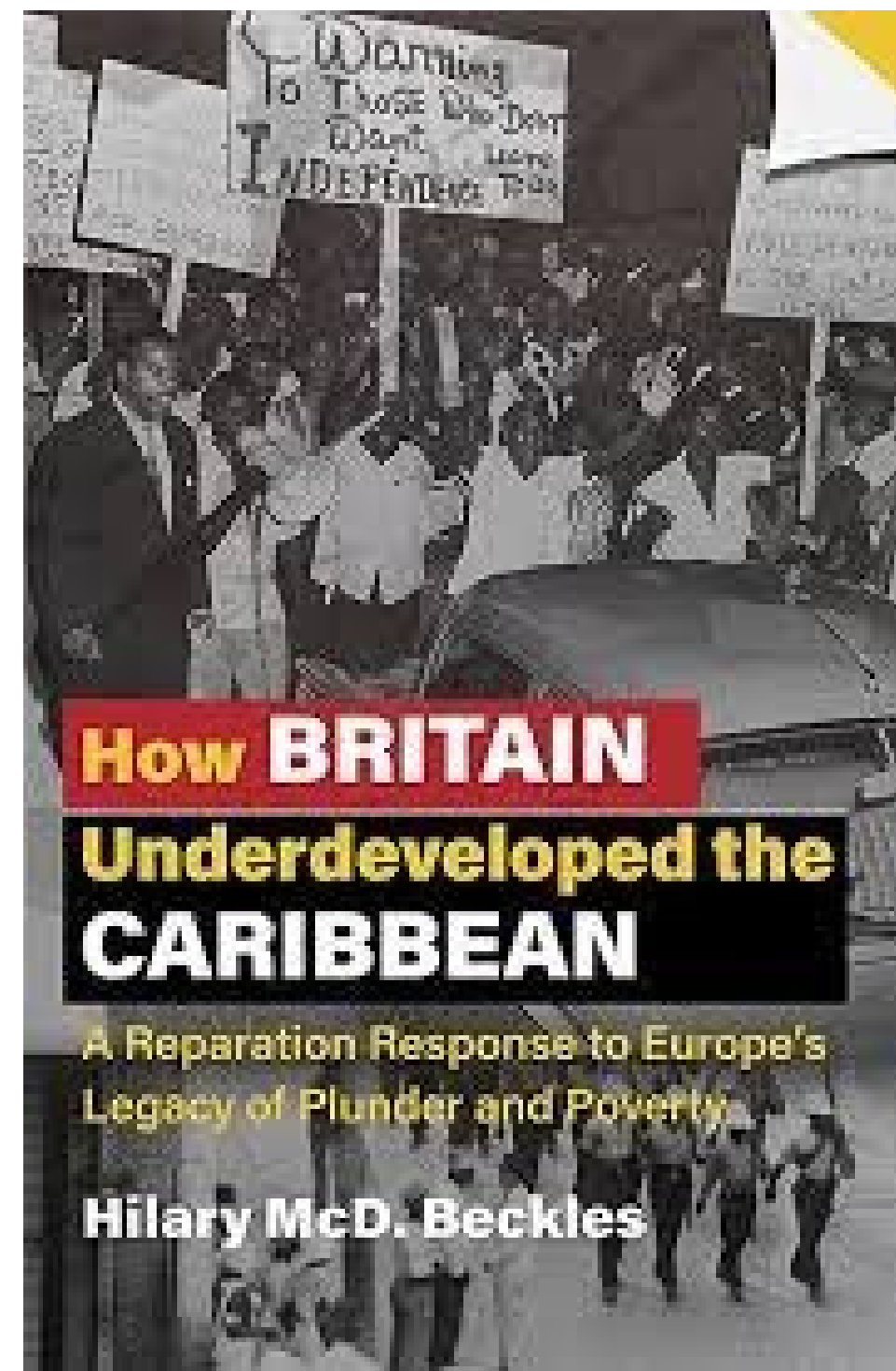
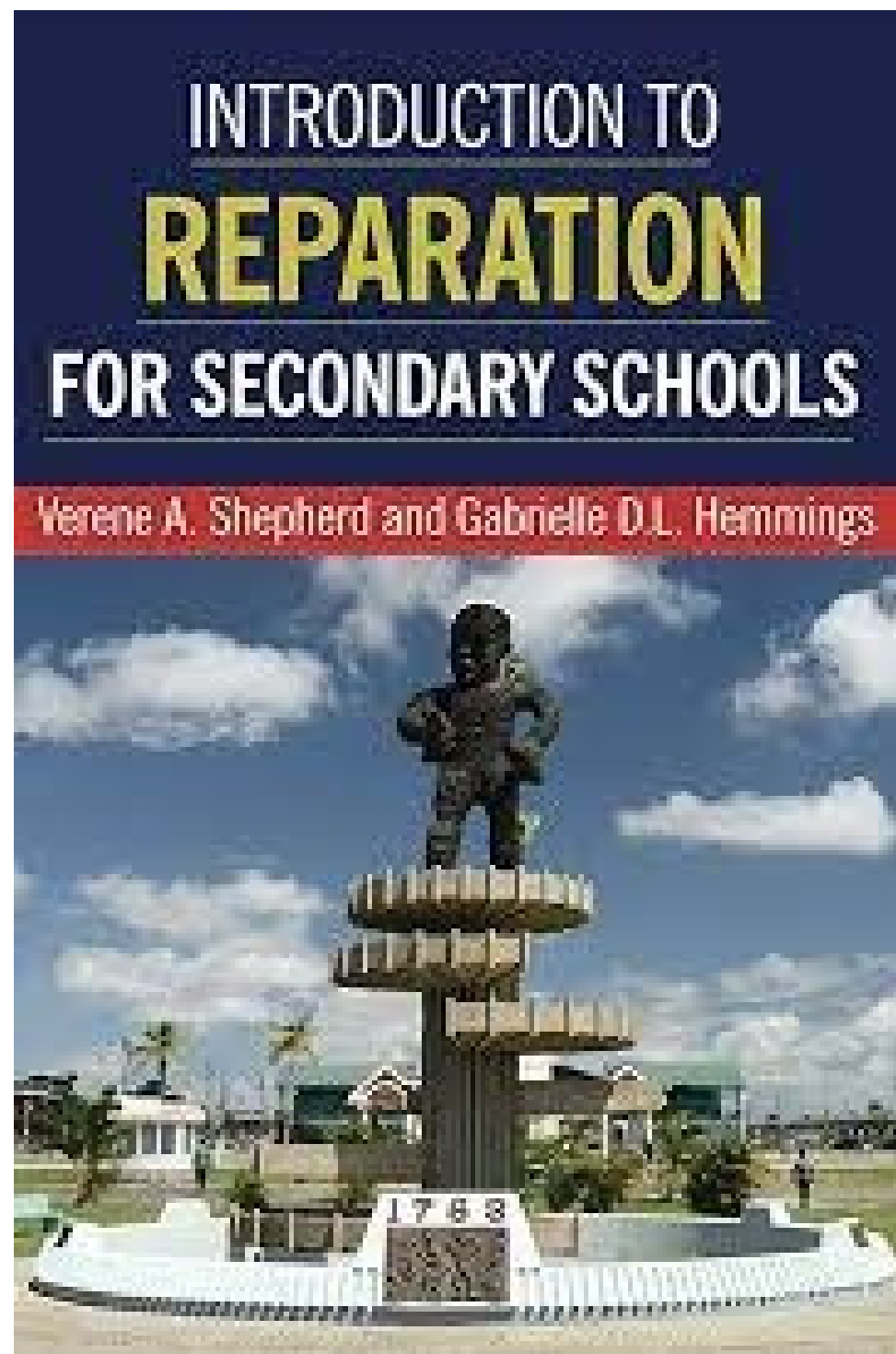
‘...the inception of racialized chattel enslavement was **historically unprecedented in its legal and structural design**, being the first global regime to codify human beings and their descendants **as inheritable, alienable and perpetual property**, to convert human reproduction into a mechanism of capital accumulation, and to institutionalize racial hierarchy as a governing principle of international political and economic order.’ (5)

There are
spirits of the
victims of
slavery
present in this
room at this
moment, and
they are
listening for
one word only:
justice.



The Caribbean Case for Reparations ...

Rev Canon Dr Carlton Turner, Queens University Birmingham



The Case for Reparations

- Economic
- Moral
- Biblical
- Legal



Some Theological Voices . . .



Wealth Distraction . . .



Paradise and Gold



A Theology of Reparations . . . ?

REFLEXIVE

REPENTANT

RESTORATIVE

REPARATIVE

REGENERATIVE

5 MINUTE TABLE DISCUSSION

Reparative Justice and the Codrington Project



The Codrington Trust



Renew & Reconcile? The Codrington Project

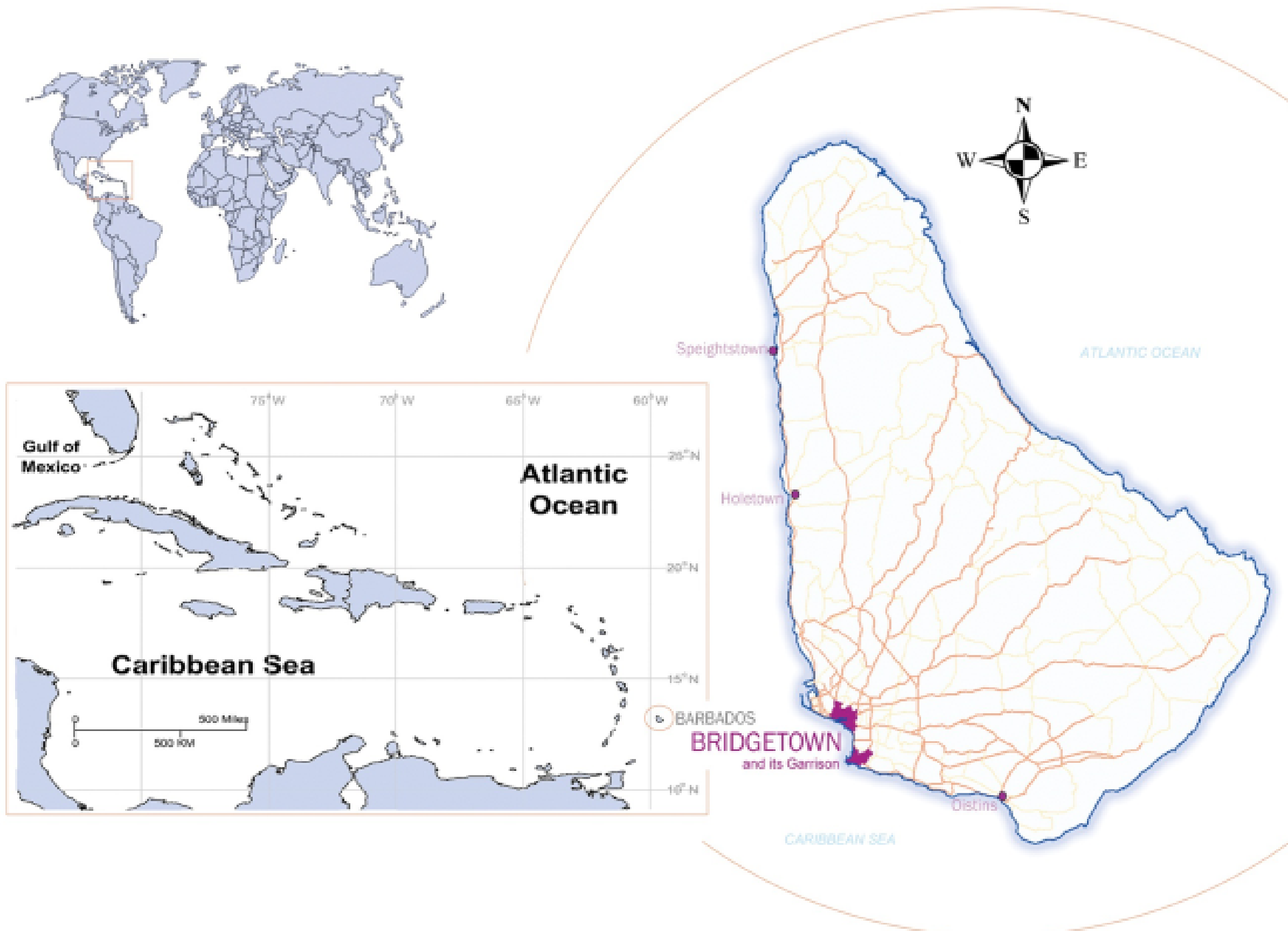
Mr Kevin Farmer, Codrington Trust

Our landscape is its own monument: its meaning can only be traced on the underside. It is all history.

Edouard Glissant, Caribbean Discourse

Our landscape is its own monument: its meaning can only be traced on the underside. It is all history.

Edouard Glissant, Caribbean Discourse





A view of the port of Bridgetown with extensive shipping, c.1695-1715



Aerial view of Codrington College

PROJECT PILLAR A

Conduct research to locate the burial and habitation places of enslaved persons who worked on the Codrington estates of The Trust throughout its history, document the findings, and establish monuments to memorialize those persons, connect kinship and family groups, and recognize those areas as sacred spaces.



Codrington College, late 19th Century

GOALS

- **Community engagement** with both local community and the wider Caribbean diaspora to determine how they wish to proceed with locating the burial and habitation of the enslaved.
- **Build capacity within the community** to investigate and manage these sacred and habitation spaces.
- **Discover and document the names and stories** of enslaved persons and the family legacies of those enslaved on the Codrington Estate within Barbados and beyond.
- **Engage descendants** to identify appropriate ways of memorialising their ancestors.
- The creation of a **dedicated family research centre** for the descendants of those enslaved Codrington to trace their ancestry.
- **Training a new generation of Caribbean archeologists** and researchers who can contribute to Barbados' cultural heritage sector.



Community members at field schools, summer 2025



Map of the Parish of St John

2024-2025 ACTIVITIES

- Initial geophysical scans of potential burial sites, research and engagement of stakeholders and partners, **consultation and empowerment of descendant groups** within process.
- Appointment of **family researchers within Barbados and the UK** to undertake preliminary research over a period of six months within the relevant archives to provide resources to help potential Codrington **descendants to connect to their ancestry**, and work to connect descendants globally.
- Supporting the formation of a **Codrington descendants' network** across the globe, empowering descendants to examine and map out their own histories.
- The first **annual field school** run by the Codrington Trust, the University of the West Indies, the Barbados Museum & Historical Society in collaboration with the universities of Glasgow, Winchester, Leiden and City University NY – training the next generation of Caribbean archeologists and fostering international connections.



Community members at field schools, summer 2025

2026 ACTIVITIES

- Appointment of **family researchers within Barbados and the UK** to undertake preliminary research over a period of six months within the relevant archives to provide resources to help potential Codrington **descendants to connect to their ancestry**, and work to connect descendants globally.
- Supporting the formation of a **Codrington descendants' network** across the globe, empowering descendants to examine and map out their own histories.
- The second year of field school run by the Codrington Trust, the University of the West Indies, the Barbados Museum & Historical Society in collaboration with the universities of Winchester, Leiden and City University NY – **training the next generation of Caribbean archeologists** and fostering international connections.
- Field School to be built out to include international students, studies in Heritage Management and Osteology (Physical Anthropology)



UWI students at field schools, 2025

PROJECT PILLAR B

Engage in academic work to record and present the full story of the Estates over the period of enslavement and emancipation to build a facility to house artefacts, narratives, and other materials to highlight through various media the enslaved experience and ensure that this tragedy is never forgotten.

GOALS

- Collaborate with local and international scholars to document and **tell the full story of the Estate** through to the present day, to include the stories and experience of the enslaved as well research into the financial benefit derived from the Codrington Estate by USPG.
- Actively communicate research findings widely to **inform and empower the wider Caribbean** to study their own history and develop their research skills through a series of scholarships.
- Publish research that will generate international interest furthering **the development of Barbados' cultural and academic research sectors.**

OUTCOMES

- The production of **cooperative symposia, seminars, workshops and conferences** to highlight the academic and reparatory justice programmes, and a wide range of research publications.
- The **establishment of a research centre** which interprets the findings to engage the public with the creation of interpretative exhibits, multimedia content and a website.
- **Commission of economic research** into the work of the Establishing the Financial Significance of the Codrington Plantation to the Society of the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG) from 1713 to 1833 by Prof Will Pettigrew.

2024-2025 ACTIVITIES

- The development of a **collaborative research network** between the project and key academic institutions, e. g. the University of the West Indies. Specialists in both Barbados and the UK will come together to assess the volume, structure and nature of historic research required for the project.
- **A research symposium will be held each year** starting October 2025 to collate and review research into all project research subjects (history, archaeology, theology and reparatory justice). The costs will be met through external funding.
- We will establish a clear proposal for a number of academic scholarships at the MA and/or PhD level for Barbadian and Caribbean students to develop this research.



Community panel at Confronting Codrington 2025

CONFRONTING CODRINGTON 2025



A presentation and youth theatre performance at Confronting Codrington 2025

2026 ACTIVITIES

- **Commission of economic research** into the work of the Establishing the Financial Significance of the Codrington Plantation to the Society of the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG) from 1713 to 1833 by Prof Will Pettigrew.
- **Family history research** commissioned in Barbados with Drs. Pat Stafford and Frederick Alleyne (UWI).
- **Publication of a mini-digitisation** project on land, including new research findings on the will of Christopher Codrington III.



Delegates at Confronting Codrington 2025

PROJECT PILLAR C

Undertake to improve the circumstances and standards of qualified tenants descendants of enslaved persons who are living on the Estates, providing new facilities for leisure and community activities, and by assisting them in acquiring freehold lots in accordance with the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act and, considerations of proper infrastructure and Public Policy, and the requirements of as outlined in the Constitution of Barbados.

GOALS

- To support qualified tenants in **the purchase of land** under the 1980 Freehold Act.
- To work in close collaboration with the local community and develop plans that deliver significant **improvements to the local infrastructure**.
- That all qualified tenants (who wish to) own their land can. We set an ambitious target of 80% in the next 3 years with 100% completion in the next 5 years. This program is being done in collaboration with the Government of Barbados.
- To implement **significant improvements to the local infrastructure** that enhances the experience of those living on the Estate in collaboration with government agencies.



Homes on the Codrington Estate

2024-2025 ACTIVITIES

- A legal team has been retained by the Trust to **work with tenants on issues of their land tenureship**. This work is proceeding month by month, ongoing.
- Having appointed a **Community Field Officer** in August 2024 to support the needs of Codrington tenants on the ground and the project's community engagement work. with the five Codrington estate communities, identifying needs and concerns as a follow-up to the report produced in 2020.
- The group plans to begin planning and consultation on **public-facing infrastructure projects** to better the environs of the Codrington estate, including a series of play parks in each of the five districts and the restoration of the road from the College to Conset Bay.



Aerial view of Codrington College & Estate

2026 ACTIVITIES

- **Land Ownership** – Some 30 deeds of conveyance have been given to new Land Owners.
- A **review of Estate land holdings** is being conducted. To ascertain the exact size of the estate and locate tenants and landowners.
- Tenant **Lots are being surveyed** to enable the transfer of land tenure.
- Following **heavy flooding in 2025**, estimates for building roads into the community have been made, and discussions have started with the central government.



View of Consetts Bay, Codrington Estate

PROJECT PILLAR D

Fuel the spirit of self-reliance, enterprise & entrepreneurship among residents of the tenancies and wider community in St. John, on island, especially the youth in St. John, by providing scholarships and other opportunities to assist them to develop and utilize the benefits of our heritage and ancestral legacy. Such endeavours to be pursued must be undertaken in a co-community practice model which has at its core both the buy-in and recommendations of the community.

GOALS

- **Improve the economic opportunities for residents and tenants of the Codrington estate**, and more widely, by supporting business initiatives through flexible business loans. unsecured, revolving, low-interest loans repayable over a fixed period. This allows for the sustainability of the fund over time.
- Provide educational **opportunities for young people on the Codrington Estate and St. John** and more widely through the provision of scholarships and bursaries.
- **Provide educational opportunities** for young persons of the region to pursue vocational and academic study.
- To establish a much-needed charitable and business funding arm for **local community education and local business growth**.



Local community at field school, summer 2025

2024-2026 ACTIVITIES

- The establishment of an **oversight committee to administer flexible business loans.**
- The **establishment of a scholarships committee** to oversee the administration and awarding of educational scholarships
- The development of a masterplan as a starting point for **planning the long-term future of Codrington.**
- **A program of educational opportunities** are in various stages of development, with courses on entrepreneurial training, financial literacy and agricultural management to run over summer and autumn 2026.

Upcoming work will focus on wellness, sustainability, land ownership, engagement and co-curation activities.



THE CODRINGTON PROJECT

Calling All Existing & Future Business Owners

Live in St. John? Over 18?
This opportunity is for you.

Join the Entrepreneurial Training Programme and learn how to:

- ✓ Turn your ideas into real income
- ✓ Build practical business skills
- ✓ Get guidance and support every step of the way

Location: Codrington College, College Land, St. John

Free
Classes Start
July 4, 2026

Apply Now

PROJECT PILLAR E

Nurture a culture of theological enquiry and ministerial formation within Codrington College that engages critically and creatively with its history as a key institution within a Church, which legitimated both chattel slavery and the trade in enslaved persons. This will be achieved by the progressive development of its curriculum and the creation of courses that engage and influence contemporary theological research and writing around reparations within the Caribbean, but also internationally.

GOALS

- Develop Caribbean Theological reflection and research into Reparations, Spirituality and Enslavement through the Codrington project in **dialogue with theological research and developments in the West and Central African regions.**
- **Explore the Spiritual Traditions of the Enslaved** and their descendants both in their historic and contemporary manifestations.
- **Critically investigate the nature of Missionary Christianity** and Inculturation in the Caribbean context, both in their historic and contemporary form.
- **Explore the legacies of trauma** amongst the enslaved and their descendants in the African Caribbean.
- The development of a **curriculum for Anglican ministerial formation** that is critically engaged with its history and creatively engaged with the **articulation of an authentically Caribbean theology** informed by an its African heritage.



ARCHIVES AND AFTERLIVES: THE LEGACIES OF HISTORY

Garfield Campbell and Jo Sadgrove

ARCHIVES AND AFTERLIVES –A STORY OF INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

2020 – 2021

Pastoral Care, Literary Cure and Religious Dissent: Zones of freedom in the British Atlantic (1630 -1720) (AHRC). Culminating in Bray Day 2021.

2022 – 2026

Institution and Archive: Global Entanglements, Organisational Practice, and Storytelling, Collaborative Doctoral Award (AHRC) '**Conversion, Power and Agency: Anglican Missiology in Jamaica circa 1824 –1838**', PhD Thesis, Revd Garfield Campbell.

2023 – 2026

Various small funding pots to digitize manuscripts and undertake qualitative interviews with archive and heritage professionals and descendants of transatlantic chattel slavery.

2026

1) Legacies of Loss and Decolonial Care: Ethics, Enslavement, Identity *Focus on the ethics of reparative projects, digitization of manuscripts, descendant work*

2) Research on Christopher Codrington's Will (Searle and Vine)

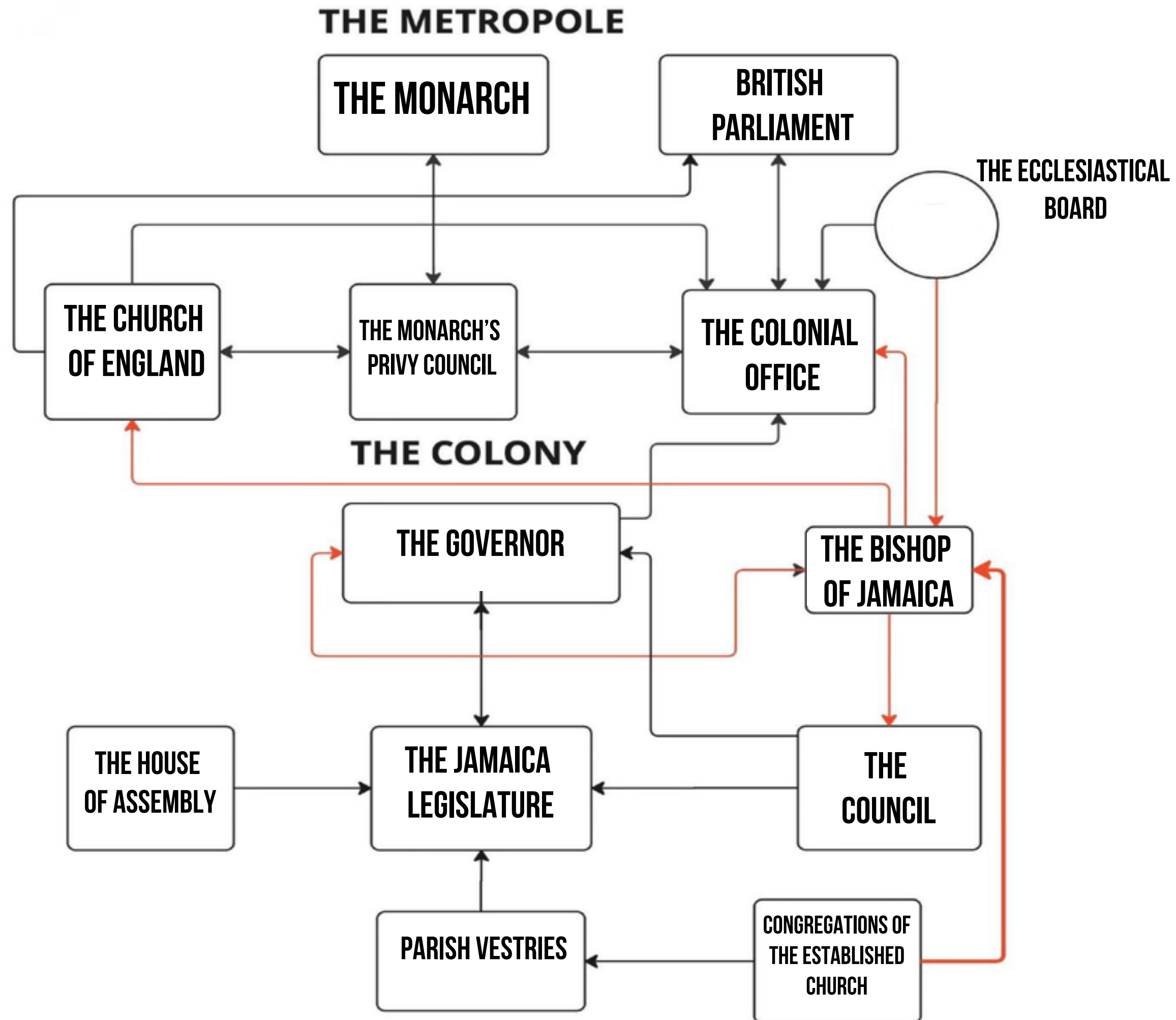


The Governance Structure in which the Established Church in Jamaica Operated between 1825 and 1838

Notes:

The Ecclesiastical Board is a division of the Colonial Offices dealing specifically with recruiting personnel for the diocese in the colonies.

The Bishop of Jamaica represents the Established Church in the Colonial Legislature through membership on the Council.



ARCHIVES AND AFTERLIVES –DIGITISATIONAND HISTORY IN THE PRESENT (USPG AND THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS)

Codrington community member, 70s

Frankly speaking, In our history we were not taught anything about Codrington College, not at all, and I found that was not a good thing [...] **The strangers abroad knew more about Codrington college than we did.** We were educated in scriptures and things like that, but not about the history of the College [...] **History matters very much** and [...] now that we have grown old and don't know a lot about our fore-parents, you would want to know what your great grandparent was like -what was he doing? What was his health? [...] We only go as far back as our own parents. **We don't actually know who we are.** People are arguing that Barbadians are Africans, and I am arguing that I am a Barbadian full stop because I don't know anything about Africa [...] I have heard things, but how did I know?



Do you think that there is work that the Codrington Project can do in relation to historical education?

Yes - We need some history - enough history that we can read and present to our children, grandchildren, great grands and so on - **we need history, it makes us feel that we know who we are.**

(Codrington community member, 60s, October 2025)

I think a lot of the time, because it is such an uncomfortable history, people don't want to explore it or they want to change it and I think that's it not giving the consumers the benefit of the doubt that they can handle it. And I think that we can handle it a little bit better than some people think. The fact that it is what it is doesn't mean that it didn't happen and we shouldn't know. I think that is something that we would really like to delve into.

(Codrington community member, 30s, October 2025)

Is there a core group in the community that would be excited about the history, could we get the community excited about the archival documents?

I think that the whole community would benefit from it because all my years I have been hearing people talking about Codrington - Christopher Codrington's will. As if they really want to know and see and understand about the will and interpret it for themselves. Because today we hear one thing and tomorrow we hear something else and we are confused -we are confused about what the will was, about what it means to us. We want to understand!

Somebody needs to let us see! Before I die...

(Codrington Community member, 70s, October 2025)

TABLE DISCUSSION / Q&A

Dr Jo Sadgrove, USPG

Mr. Garfield Campbell, University of Leeds