



**KEYBOARD  
TRUST**

**KEYBOARD TRUST  
- BRISTOL -**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
NOV. 2022**

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# **A Year of Seed – Time & Harvest**

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# 1. Networking & Connections

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The Keyboard Trust has expanded its work over the past year by engaging with and collaborating with individuals and organisations in and outside of Bristol.

The Keyboard Trust aims are: -

- To promote a culture of racial justice and equality in and through the churches in the city of Bristol.
- To identify and work with leaders of Black-led churches and to engage, encourage, empower and promote networks and prayer.
- To maintain a database of Black-led churches.
- To organise several gatherings each year for prayer and sharing.
- To create forums; for regular communication through social and electronic media.
- To assist in promoting the work of Black-led churches across the wider community through Churches Together Greater Bristol (CTGB)/ Together4Bristol (T4B) and Bristol Networks.

I have developed various strategies to help the organisation achieve its goals and objectives. In most cases, waiting for results is both frustrating and exciting at the same time as you have anticipation for what the outcome could look like. The following scripture reminds us that time is a factor to any process coming to past.

**“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” Genesis 8v22**

I have learnt over the years that you cannot rush progress, as equally with time there are systematic barriers that will always influence any outcome. Therefore, if you keep persevering you will eventually see results. I am confident that the work has been successful, that the foundation is stronger. Therefore, in this report, I will share the achievements, events, collaborations and networking opportunities, we have been involved in.

## 2. Change & Movement

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We have aimed at celebrating diversity and being inclusive all its forms, we have engaged more with other faith leaders, within the Chinese and Asian communities. This has developed new relationships for future growth. We have created spaces for honest and open dialogue, providing practical tools and resources towards helping churches to become more aware of how to deal with solving issues. We have achieved this through our online and in-person events, networking meetings, sharing contacts and resources, and research.

We have seen some changes over the last three years with the increase of awareness around the disparities that members of the Black community and the also within the Chinese community have experienced. We have become more aware that:

- The community wants to see more racial justice policies and tools within the churches.
- They want to have safe spaces to talk about race.
- They want to see multi ethnic representation in its leadership.

The community has campaigned and fought for change. As we have discovered, there are different opinions that exist concerning the toppling of the Edward Colston statue in June, even though it symbolized a reminder of slavery for almost 200 years. I would like you to think for a moment about what could be a greater toppling than this. And that would be the pulling down of the unconscious bias; negative thoughts, that influence how we see others and how we treat them.

On the other hand, let me say it another way, what if we had a changed mind?

**Romans 12v2 states**

**"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."**

We all want to see and walk in God's perfect will, but there is a prerequisite that we all must go through and that is being willing to having a transformed mind. Therefore, the toppling of old paradigms and religion needs to take place in us, so that we can produce different results.

### 3. Keyboard Trust Events & Meeting

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Below is a list of the events and meetings I attended, as well as the events we hosted which were both online and in-person.

#### **Meeting, Conference & Workshops:-**

1. Jan - Attended the Bristol & South Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit meeting and talked about racial justice.
2. The ongoing Church Prayer breakfast meeting with Mayor Marvin Rees.
3. Jan - Engaging with Babbasa's new Outreach Lead, for young people.
4. Feb - Connecting with the Education sphere around inclusion.
5. Mar - Attending The Justice Conference at E5 City Church. A global movement that is passionate about making justice a way of life.
6. Mar - Attending CTE Forum 2-day Conference in Swanwick, Derbyshire. This had 300 church leaders in attendance.
7. Mar – Met the new Sherriff of Bristol and the Strategic Director of Stand Against Racism & Inequality. Alex Raikes (MBE), who is keen to support with any the following topics:
  - Making a difference in the community.
  - People who have a disability, physical or mental health issues.
  - Children and young people.
8. April - Attended a consultation meeting with Bristol Drugs Prevention and S.A.R.I. About their outreach work with young people, and safeguarding. Additionally, exploring how to serve the black and faith communities.
9. April – Connecting with Tear Fund, African Caribbean Engagement Partnerships.
10. April & June, participating in the planning to mark the Queen's Jubilee at the Cathedral, which co inside with the celebrations for Pentecost.
11. June – Attended a 2-day conference “Gather Movement Summit” Dwell, Build & Seek in Manchester.
12. June – Attended the Christians in Media Lunchtime Prayer meeting.
13. July - Film screening of "After the Flood" produced by Movement for Justice and Reconciliation, with a panellist of speakers.
14. Oct - Collating faith-based events for Black History Month.
15. BCC- Ongoing Inclusive Cities Stakeholder:- On how Bristol can be a welcoming city, which is chaired by Cllr Asher Craig.
16. Oct – Nov Attending an 9-wk training course hosted by Black Light. Exploring the presence and contributions of Black People in the Bible.

## 4. Collaborative Work:

### 1. Bristol Cathedral

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#### A. Conversation & Consultation with Afrikan Heritage Christians.

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In November 2021, I took part in a project run by the cathedral titled “Conversation & Consultation with Afrikan Heritage Christians”, facilitated by Cleo Lake a Community Engagement specialist. This consultation was the start of face-to-face and online community engagement. Through attending these sessions, it included a mini-tour around the cathedral, informing us about the 200 monuments that represent a connection with transatlantic trafficking.

#### B. All God's Children – Exhibition

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In July 2022, some of those individuals who took part in the conversation consultation had the privilege of having their portraits taken alongside a quote on racial justice, by well-known photographer Garfield McKenzie. It was a part of the Educational panels, which explored the impact of the slave economy on the cathedral's life, past and present. Over a two-month period, August to October the "All God's Children" exhibition was on display at the cathedral. The registration for the event reached 150 participants.

## 2. Racism and The Church (RATC)

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Working for The Keyboard Trust enabled me to collaborate with Colse Leung, develop, and grow **Racism and The Church**.

Racism and the Church is a non-denominational social justice movement challenging racism and celebrating diversity in our churches, congregations, and communities.

In June 2022, we launched a new exciting project called THE CHARTER OF CHANGE - four guiding principles that churches, congregations and communities can use to guide the direction of their work around diversity and racism.

Alongside that sits ‘**THE GOOD FOUNDATIONS CHECKLIST**’ - ten practical steps that can be worked on over time but lay out some clear deliverables. We have a newsletter that you can join; it is a great way to stay in touch with news and upcoming stuff. Contact [racismandthechurch.co.uk/](http://racismandthechurch.co.uk/)



## 5. Summary

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I am proud of the achievements that I have contributed towards highlighting the issues of racial justice and the church. As we know you cannot fix what you do not confront, and there is much work to do if we all play our part. The past three years we have hosted some great events, and projects, and provided some good resources, but there is always room to do more.

## Development ideas for the future:

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The past year has had its challenges and changes; the leadership of Keyboard Trust has seen some internal changes with the baton being passed from Pastor Eric Adioo onto the new Chair Pastor Fatima Sibanda and joint vice chairs Derick Mulubwa and Chris Dobson.

For those of you who are not aware, but this may possible be my last annual report, as the funds for the Keyboard Trust only cover this post for only Jan-March 2023, so for the continuation of the work, future funding is crucial.

Theses' are some suggestions moving forward:

- To secure future funding and sponsorship, for the work and employees.
- To have a donation option on the website, alongside the benefits.
- For the organisation to implement annual reviews of its aims and objectives.
- To undertake collaborative work.
- To have an adequate HR & logistic system in place.
- To have support systems in place for staff development.
- To recruit more Steering Comittee members.
- To host an annual conference for all Church, and Faith Leaders

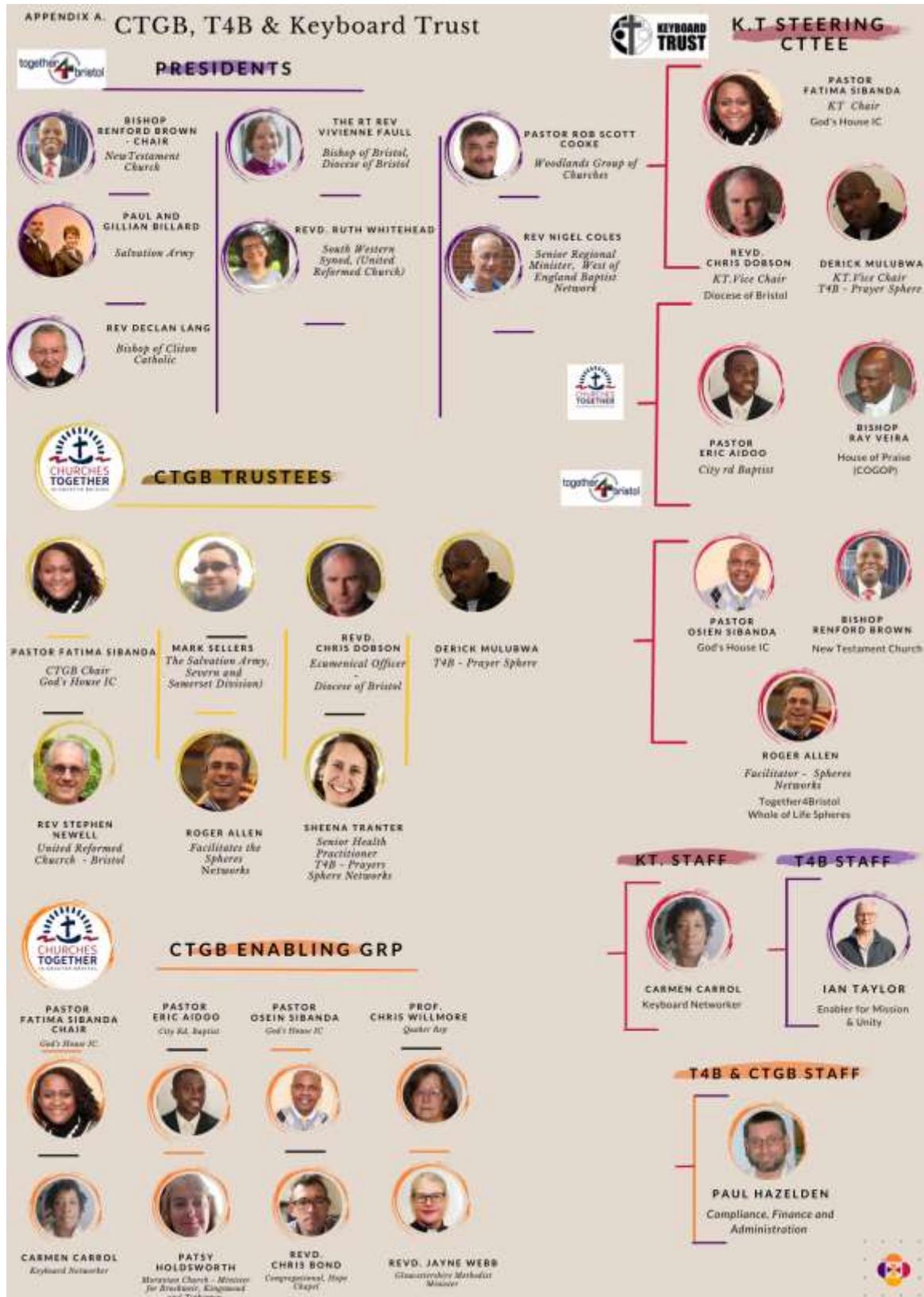
I would like to thank everyone who has encouraged me, supported the work and come alongside me during the past 3 years. I hope going forward we will continue to keep racial justice on our agenda.

**Carmen Carrol**  
**Keyboard Networker 2019-2022**

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# Appendix .1. CTGB & T4B & KT - Organisational Structure.

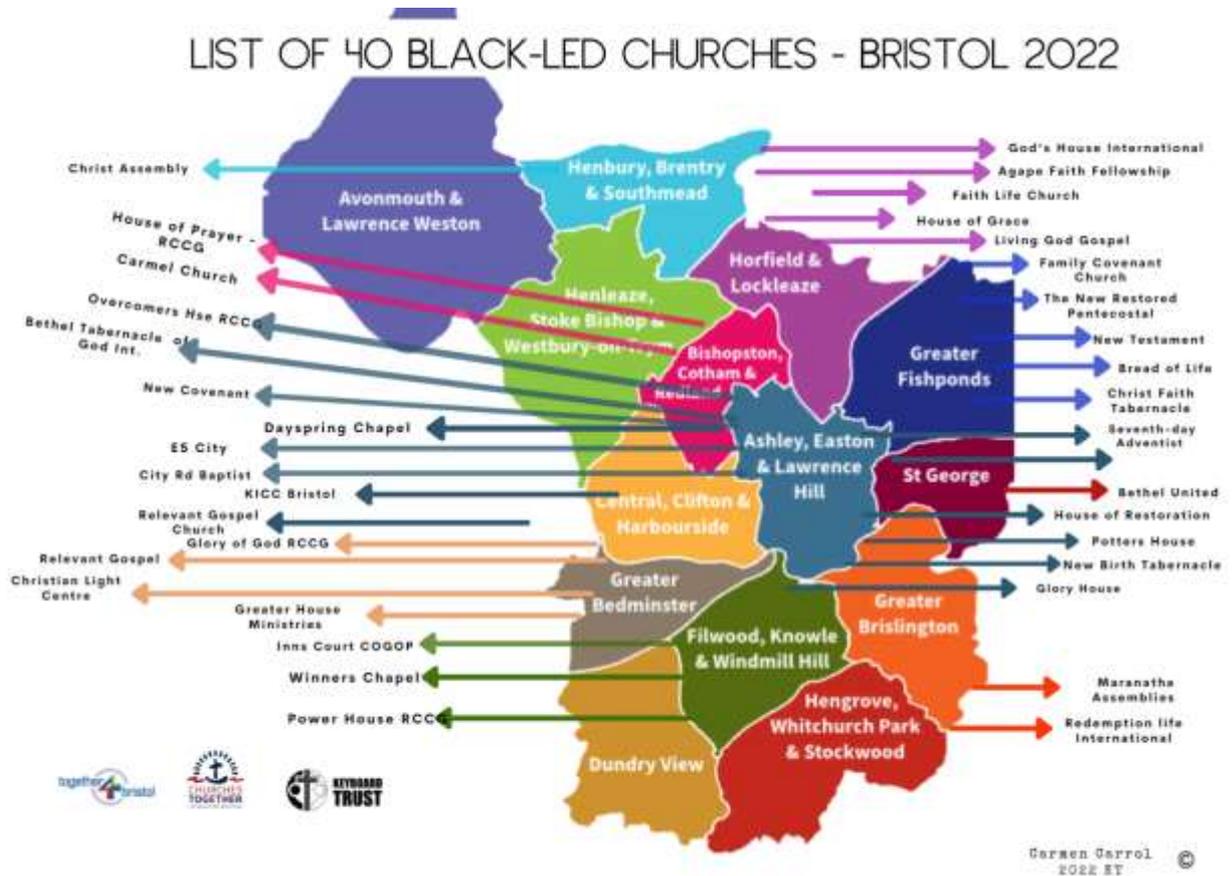
I have designed an organisational structural graph so people can be aware of who is involved in the work of KT and T4B.



## Appendix 2. - Demographics of Black-Led Churches Database

The demographics of the black-led churches is outlined on the map below. The database comprises of 40 Black-led churches, that we know of in the city of Bristol.

You will see from the graph that the majority of churches are in the Ashley ward, Easton & Lawrence Hill area of Bristol, and secondly they are in Horfield & Lockleaze and Central, Clifton and Harbourside.



## List of Churches Websites & Social Links

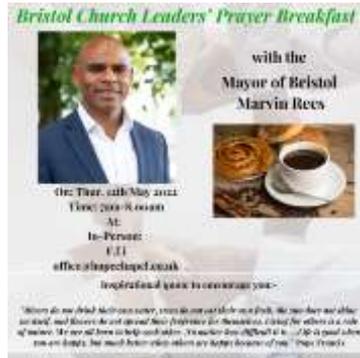
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The following is a list of churches, some of which have an online presence and others do not. In order to access the links, please request a pdf copy via email keyboardnetwoker@gmail.com

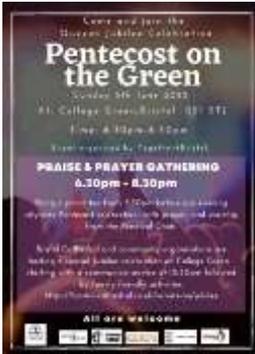
### LIST OF CHURCHES' WEBSITES OR SOCIAL LINKS

Church Name	Church Name	Church Name	Church Name	Church Name
Christ Assembly	House of Restoration	House of Praise - COGOP	Agape Faith Fellowship	Living God Gospel
House of Prayer - RCCG	Potters House	Abundant Grace	Power House RCCG	Family Covenant Church
Carmel Church	New Birth Tabernacle of Praise Ministry	New Covenant	Inns Court COGOP	The New Restored Pentecostal
Seventh-day Adventist	Overcomers Hse - RCCG	Christ Faith Tabernacle	Winners Chapel	New Testament
KICC Bristol	Bethel Tabernacle of God Int.	Glory of God RCCG	God's House International	Bread of Life
	E5 City	Relevant Gospel	Faith Life Church	Maranatha Assemblies
Dayspring Chapel	City Rd Baptist	Christian Light Centre	House of Grace	Redemption Life International
Relevant Gospel	Glory House	Greater House Ministries	God's Hse Int.	Bethel United

Carren Garrol  
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Bristol Transatlantic Slavery Legacy Group



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