

STUDY GUIDE

Stephen Pickard – The Bishop and Anglican Identity

- 1) In what ways have you experienced Anglican people supporting and sharing the bishop's role in reconnecting people 'to each other, to the earth, and to God'?
- 2) How might connections between people, the earth and God be deepened in your local context? Who is responsible for this?

Clive Handford – Celebrating Common Ground

- 1) How would it change the character of the Anglican Communion were the Archbishop of Canterbury to start behaving like a 'headmaster'?
- 2) 'A house divided' . . . united by 'bonds of affection' . . . What words would you choose to describe the Anglican Communion?

James Tengatenga – Proclaiming the Good News

- 1) In what ways does the Church 'speak the language of the times' as it seeks to communicate Good News?
- 2) 'The bishop is only one person and the demands on his time are such that he cannot do it all.' What, then, is your own role in communicating the Good News?

Johannes T. Seoka – Transforming Society

- 1) How would you like to see the Church shaping society, so that people come to enjoy 'a sacred space that affirms human dignity'?

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- 2) 'The Church as a whole must never allow itself to be tied to any political party.' What do you regard as legitimate ways for the Church to work towards social justice?

Geoffrey Rowell – The Bishop, Other Churches, and God's Mission 1

- 1) 'Anglican identity cannot be divorced from the challenges posed to us by the sheer hindrance caused by the disunity of Christians.' Under what circumstances, if any, might Anglican disunity be regarded as anything other than a hindrance?
- 2) What should happen when, in good conscience, the quest for justice comes into conflict with the quest for unity?

John William Hind – The Bishop, Other Churches, and God's Mission 2

- 1) What problems arise when the Church 'in the world' instead becomes 'of the world'?
- 2) What does it mean to belong to a church that 'may often get it wrong'?

Christopher Epting – The Bishop, Other Churches, and God's Mission 3

- 1) To what extent can a bishop be described as a 'symbol of unity' in an openly divided church?
- 2) What ways might we find to work more closely with Christians from other churches?

Suheil S. Dawani – Engaging with a Multi-Faith World 1

- 1) How effective a tool is a 'ministry of presence' when engaging with people of other faiths?

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- 2) What significance do you attach to Christian engagement with people of other faiths in the Holy Land?

Michael Jackson – Engaging with a Multi-Faith World 2

- 1) Presence and engagement . . . embassy and hospitality . . . sending and abiding . . . How useful are these words in engaging with human difference in your home context?
- 2) If ‘the spaces in which we meet one another do not belong to either host or guest; they belong to God’, what should we look for in the encounter?

Saw John Wilme – Engaging with a Multi-Faith World 3

- 1) What lessons from the successes and limitations of inter-faith encounter in Myanmar can usefully be applied to your home context?
- 2) If you were charged with the task of educating people about inter-faith engagement, which single insight would you want to pass on?

N. Thomas Wright – The Bishop and Living Under Scripture

- 1) What does it mean to be a ‘Scripture-shaped praying people’?
- 2) ‘An unfinished play, in which those who belong to Jesus Christ are now called to be actors, taking forward the drama to its intended conclusion.’ How does this fit with your understanding of Scripture?

Ian T. Douglas – Equipping for God’s Mission

- 1) What are the strengths and weaknesses of a church where leadership emerges out of a ‘relational and conversational’ process?

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- 2) Can you imagine any purpose for an *indaba* conversation in your parish?

Group activity

Several bishops spoke of the importance of praying together in the retreat at the beginning of the Lambeth Conference, and of the value of listening to one another through the *indaba* groups. The following provides a structure for groups to engage meditatively with some of the questions raised by the bishops.

Before you begin the exercise, choose a Bible passage and a question from the list above.

- 1) Light a candle to indicate the beginning of a short time of silence.
- 2) The silence is followed by one person slowly reading a short passage of Scripture twice, followed by silence of a few minutes.

Possible readings:

Psalm 131

Isaiah 65.8–9

Matthew 17.1–5

James 3.17–18

- 3) When everyone is ready, go slowly round the group, so that everyone has the chance to say how those words speak to them.
- 4) When everyone has spoken, one person then reads the question aloud.
- 5) Go round the group allowing each person to respond to the question. Then go round the group again, allowing each person to respond to something that has already been said.
- 6) Silence is kept again to enable people to reflect prayerfully upon what has been said, until the candle is blown out.
- 7) Informal conversation can follow.