Loving Father, we thank you for your gracious love for people and places, for your interest and activity in individual life circumstances as well as national histories. We thank you that you love each of the 7 billion human beings on the face of the earth equally, without condition or discrimination and that you call us as followers of Christ to love others as He showed us.

We thank you for the positive aspects of the history of our nation and in a spirit of humility acknowledge, accept and confess those aspects of our history that have failed to mirror the example you set in loving others, especially those from other nations that have made this country their home.

We confess that we have not always welcomed the stranger and recognised them as being made in your image and likeness. Often we have been suspicious, critical, judgmental, selfish and unkind. We have often failed to be good hosts and neighbours to those that have become a part of our communities and society.

In a spirit of humility, gratitude and justice we want to affirm the rich contribution of individuals from other cultures to our nation. We give thanks for their contribution to commerce, public life, medicine, business, education, healthcare, and the many other areas in our society. We are richer for their contribution and thank you for it.

As we mark the centenary of the beginning of the First World War, we remember and give thanks to the many hundreds of thousands from the Caribbean, Asia and Africa who voluntarily offered their lives in the defence of this nation.

We are especially thankful for the contribution of faith - accompanied with practical expressions of love through uncountable social action initiatives - that individuals from other nations have made to us here in the UK.

We recognise that their contribution here in our nation means that they cannot contribute directly to their own nations who so often desperately need their services. We therefore pray for our sisters and brothers across the world and ask that you, through us and many others, will meet their needs.

We recognise that living together as a family, community or society offers many challenges, some of which appear to be difficult, sometimes impossible, to overcome.  We thank you Father for your example of embrace in and through the person of Jesus. Help us to extend ourselves beyond our comfort zones and to allow you to help us see ourselves, and more importantly you, in the heart and minds of 'the Other'.

Finally, Father, we ask you for the grace to live together as your people and as part of the human family. We do so humbly today, Windrush Day. In Jesus name. Amen.

Response:

God of life and Lord of journeys. We ask you lead us as we travel onwards through life.

Written by Rev David Shosanya