



PCB Shares



Faith, finance and freedom: honouring our communities

Black History Month is an opportunity to honour the people who built institutions, strengthened communities and created opportunities for generations to come.

At Pentecostal Community Bank, this history is woven into our foundations. It connects African traditions of collective saving, Caribbean resilience, the Windrush generation and a Christian vision of justice expressed through action.

In October, we also celebrate International Credit Union Day. Together, these occasions remind us

that Black communities have helped shape Britain's financial history, as well as its cultural and spiritual life.

From Africa to the Caribbean: people helping people

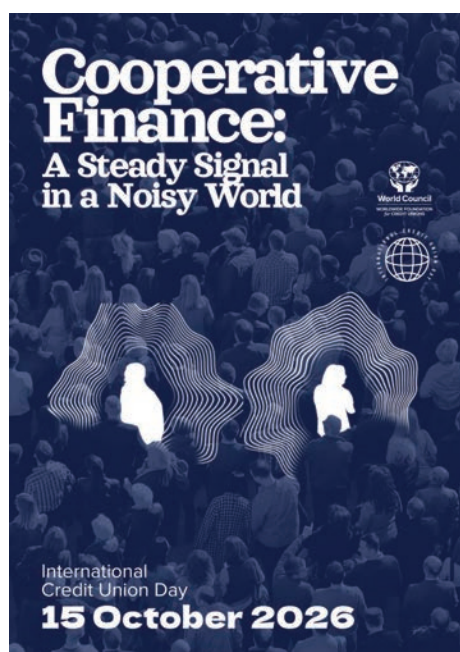
Long before many families had access to formal banking, communities developed their own ways of saving and supporting one another. Among these was 'Esusu', associated particularly with the Yoruba people of West Africa. Members contributed regularly to a shared fund, with each receiving the pooled money in turn. Trust, commitment and mutual responsibility underpinned the arrangement. Carried across the Atlantic by enslaved Africans, these traditions survived and evolved in the Caribbean. In Jamaica, the practice became known as 'pardner'. Similar arrangements elsewhere are known as 'susu' or 'sou-sou'. Their survival speaks to the endurance of African community organisation through displacement and oppression.

The Windrush generation brought these practices to Britain. When

discrimination restricted access to mainstream finance, pardner helped families accumulate money for household purchases, housing deposits and the costs of bringing relatives to join them. It was a practical expression of a lasting principle: together, we can achieve what might be beyond our reach alone.

The Black pioneers of British credit unions

Caribbean migrants also brought experience of credit unions. In 1964, Caribbean pioneers established Hornsey Co-operative Credit Union in north London; widely recognised as a founding institution by Britain's modern credit union movement. Drawing on familiar ideas of collective saving and fair lending, they responded to the expensive and discriminatory financial conditions facing their community. This contribution deserves a prominent place in Black British history. These pioneers created financial institutions that offered dignity, ownership and opportunity.



Continued overleaf



Faith, finance and freedom: honouring our communities

Continued from front page

A closed church door – a new beginning

PCB's own story includes a deeply personal experience of exclusion. In 1955, Carmel Jones arrived from Jamaica aged 17. Having been an altar boy in his local Anglican church, he attended a Sunday service at St Paul's Church in Clapham. Afterwards, the vicar thanked him for coming, but asked him not to return.

The location makes this rejection especially poignant. St Paul's was built as a sister church to nearby Holy Trinity – closely associated with Christian reformers who campaigned against the slave trade and slavery.

Carmel Jones subsequently found fellowship in the Pentecostal church. His experiences helped shape a conviction that spiritual belonging should be accompanied by economic opportunity. In 1980, Rev Carmel Jones, supported by Mother Iveline Jones and a small founding group, established the Pentecostal Credit Union. Beginning in his home, it brought the principles of mutual support into an organised financial institution serving Pentecostal communities. As congregations grew, many needed buildings of their own but struggled to obtain finance. The credit union helped churches purchase premises, creating enduring places of worship and community support.

The young man once asked to leave an Anglican church would later help Pentecostal congregations acquire church buildings.



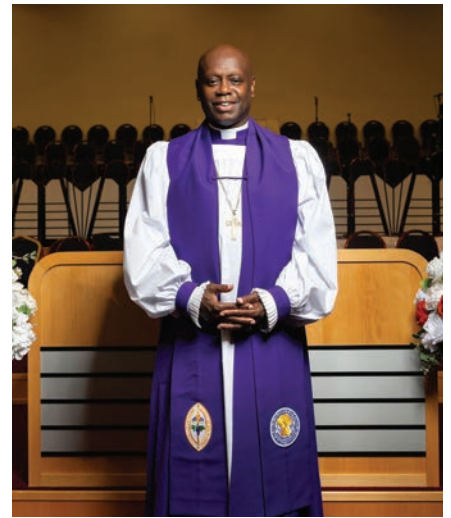
Bishop Geoffrey Folkes: Jurisdictional Prelate, Calvary Church of God in Christ UK

On Saturday 29 August, the Board and staff team of Pentecostal Community Bank were honoured and delighted to attend the installation of PCB Vice Chair, Rev Geoffrey Folkes, as Jurisdictional Bishop of the Church of God in Christ UK.

It was a wonderful and fitting occasion, marking an important new chapter in Bishop Folkes's many years of faithful Christian ministry and leadership.

At PCB, we have been privileged to experience first hand the qualities he brings to leadership: wisdom, integrity, humility, sound judgement and, above all, a deep commitment to service. His contribution as our Vice Chair has been invaluable, and his support for the vision and mission of PCB reflects his wider commitment to strengthening our churches and communities, and creating opportunities for people to flourish.

We were therefore especially proud to be present alongside his family, friends, colleagues and the wider



Church of God in Christ family to witness this significant moment.

On behalf of the Board, staff and members of Pentecostal Community Bank, we congratulate Presiding Bishop Geoffrey Folkes and pray God's continued blessing, wisdom and guidance upon him as he takes up this important responsibility.

Congratulations, Bishop Folkes. We are immensely proud to have you as part of the PCB family.

Apology and forgiveness

On 25 October 2020, during Black History Month, St Paul's held a service of apology and absolution led by Rev Jonathan Boardman. The then Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, also wrote to Rev Jones, acknowledging and lamenting the Church of England's "shameful historical racism".

Rev Jones accepted the apology with grace, explaining that he had forgiven the humiliation many years earlier. Elaine's response on his behalf drew on Ephesians 4:32 and its call to kindness, compassion and forgiveness. It was a moment of truth and reconciliation.

A legacy that lives on

International Credit Union Day falls on Thursday 15 October 2026, with

the theme 'Cooperative finance: A steady signal in a noisy world'. This emphasis on trust, stability and service resonates with the history of communities building financial security together.

October also marks Mother Iveline Jones's 89th birthday and what would have been Rev Carmel Jones's 89th birthday. We honour their shared commitment and the generations of savers, volunteers and pioneers whose work made this institution possible.

Today, Pentecostal Community Bank carries that mission forward. Black history lives in the institutions our communities built – and in our responsibility to strengthen them for those who follow.

Their vision. Our mission. A legacy that lives on.

PCB Youth Shadow Board – A new cohort

What happens when we give young people not just a voice, but the opportunity to lead?

On Saturday 5 September, we welcomed the newly reconstituted Pentecostal Community Bank Youth Shadow Board (YSB) for their induction. The YSB Alumni group were also there to give them a warm welcome.

The ambition behind this initiative goes well beyond youth engagement. We want to help develop a generation of financially astute, confident young leaders.

During their time on the Youth Shadow Board, members will develop their understanding of leadership, governance and strategic decision-making, alongside something we believe is equally important: financial acumen.

They will gain greater insight into banking, saving, borrowing, investment, entrepreneurship and



the wider financial system – and learn how good financial decisions can create opportunity, resilience and long-term wealth.

They will also be able to sit around the table, scrutinise, question, debate and contribute their own thinking to the development of Pentecostal Community Bank.

Because leadership isn't something young people should have to wait until later in life to practise.

And neither is financial confidence.

We want our Youth Shadow Board to leave the programme better equipped to lead organisations, build businesses, manage their financial futures and contribute to the economic strength of their communities.

Judging by the energy in the room on 5 September, we're going to have a very interesting year!

Welcome to our new Youth Shadow Board.

UK Savings week

We often tell people they should save more. But do we do enough to help people develop the habit of saving?

UK Savings Week ran from 21-27 September, providing a useful reminder of the importance of having money set aside. But for many households, saving can feel like something to do after everything else has been paid – and there is not always much left.

Perhaps the conversation needs to be more than simply encouraging people to "save more".

In the credit union and community banking movement, there is a longstanding and very practical principle: save as you borrow.

The idea is simple. When someone

is repaying a loan, they also put aside a small amount into savings. It may be £5, £10 or £20. The amount is less important than the behaviour being established. Because something interesting can happen.

At the end of the loan, the member hasn't simply repaid what they owe. They have savings too. And they have become accustomed to saving.

That matters.

Savings can provide a buffer against the next unexpected bill. They can reduce the need to borrow again. And, over time, they can help people move towards building greater financial resilience and choice.

At Pentecostal Community Bank, we believe access to responsible credit is important. But lending should not



be the end of the story. The bigger ambition must be to help people strengthen their financial position.

We recognise a simple truth: financial resilience is rarely built in one big step. It is built through small behaviours, repeated consistently. That feels like a message worth sharing.

Small savings. Big difference.

What you told us in 2025

Listening to members is about more than just measuring satisfaction

At Pentecostal Community Bank, we regularly ask our members about their experience of dealing with us.

Of course, we are pleased with our latest results: 94% praised our customer service, 92% our speed and efficiency, and 89% said they would recommend PCB.

But for us, the value of this feedback goes beyond the percentages. As a community-based financial institution, we are thinking carefully about what good financial services should look like in an increasingly digital world.

Our members value speed, simplicity and the ability to do things online. But their comments also tell us that the human element still matters enormously – being listened to, receiving clear explanations, being treated with respect and being able

to speak to someone who genuinely wants to help.

That will present an important challenge as we grow.

How do we use technology to make financial services faster and easier without losing the relationships and personal service that our members value? How do we grow while remaining close to the communities we were created to serve?

And how do we make sure that innovation improves financial wellbeing rather than simply increasing efficiency?

These are questions that increasingly shape our thinking at PCB.

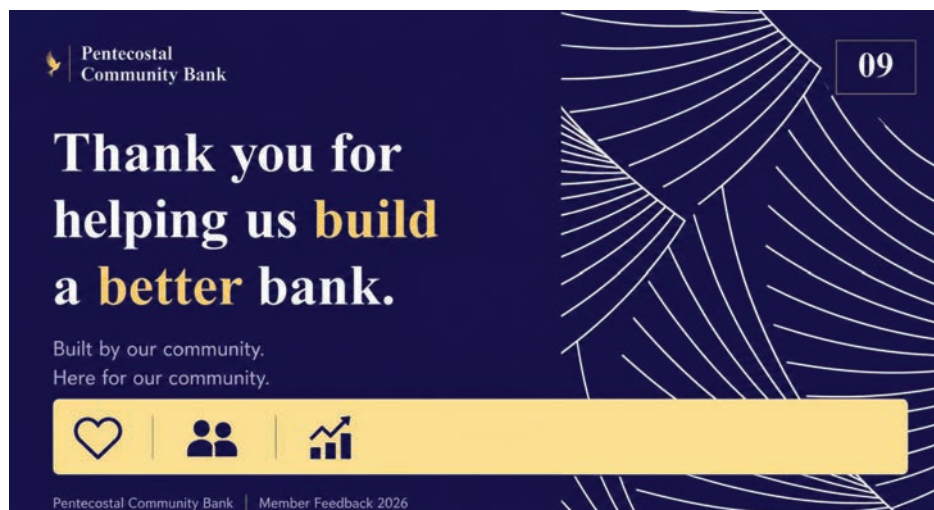
Member feedback is therefore not simply something for us to celebrate. It is intelligence that should inform



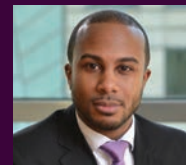
how we design services, invest in technology and measure whether we are delivering good outcomes for the people we serve.

The positive results are encouraging. But perhaps the most important message from our members is a reminder of what we must preserve as we evolve: efficient financial services, delivered with humanity.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to tell us about their experience.



Intentional financial planning during periods of market uncertainty



Financial advice by Jerran Whyte from Belvedere Wealth Management

The past month has been dominated by headlines that can make even confident investors feel unsettled – from geopolitical tensions to rising costs. When the news cycle feels relentless, it's natural to worry about your investments. But uncertainty doesn't automatically mean your long-term plan is off track.

Market volatility is a regular part of investing. Prices move up and down in response to global events, sentiment and economic shifts, and these periods can often feel uncomfortable in real time. Yet history shows that markets have

navigated countless cycles of disruption and still found their footing over the long term. Reacting emotionally, especially by selling during a downturn, can mean locking in losses that might otherwise have recovered.

That said, staying invested doesn't mean staying passive. Different areas of the market respond differently to global pressure, and some sectors naturally carry more risk during periods of disruption. Being thoughtful about how your portfolio is positioned can help you remain resilient without having to abandon your long-term goals.

This is where professional support becomes valuable. A qualified financial adviser can help you understand how current events relate to your broader objectives, assess whether your risk level still feels appropriate, and highlight areas that may benefit from review. It's not about making drastic changes; it's about ensuring your plan remains intentional, balanced and aligned with the future you're building.

To explore how your plans align with your long-term goals, speak to an adviser at Belvedere. Go to: <https://bit.ly/BelvedereWM>

Natural Solutions Expo 2026

Where Wellness Meets Community

MEMBER
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In Black History Month, the Pentecostal Community Bank community is warmly invited to attend Natural Solutions Expo (NSX) 2026: a powerful celebration of natural health, healing, holistic wellbeing, culture and community.

and the uplifting Voices of Exodus Gospel Youth Choir. There will also be relaxing massage and meditation sessions.

The Financial Wellness Hub will offer free financial advice and support. Building financial confidence can help reduce stress, support family wellbeing and encourage healthier decision-making for the future.

NSX 2026 is a beautiful opportunity to honour our roots, support community businesses, explore natural solutions and strengthen health and wellbeing.

Under-18s are FREE, making this a wonderful family-friendly event for all generations.

For more information visit: www.naturalsolutionsexpo.com or email: info@naturalsolutionsexpo.com



NSX 2026 celebrates natural remedies and timeless wellness across generations. Bringing together families, elders, young people, community partners, wellness practitioners and 60+ vendors offering natural, eco-friendly and sustainable products and services.

Attendees will be able to enjoy expert presentations, workshops, panels, natural remedies, delicious nutritious food, fresh juices, drumming, music, Reggae Zumba, golf sessions, activities for children and young people, youth wellness entrepreneurs, the Games Room

Saturday 24 October 2026 • 12pm-5pm • Capital City College • 73 Hertford Road, Enfield, EN3 5HA

Dr Teri Okoro: From good intentions to inclusive outcomes

October is Black History Month – a time to celebrate achievement, contribution and progress, while also reflecting on the conditions that enable people and communities to thrive.

It raises a wider question for me. What happens when the month ends?

Many organisations now recognise the importance of inclusion. There are awareness activities, staff networks, community initiatives and commitments to social impact. All have value. But how do we ensure that inclusion becomes more than a series of worthwhile individual activities?

What would change if we built it into the way organisations actually work?

That question sits at the heart of my book series, *Strategic Inclusion, Purpose and People*, written for the Association for Project Management.

The first book establishes the foundations – the context, language and understanding needed to appreciate why different people experience organisations, services and opportunities differently.

The second book moves from understanding to delivery. Increasingly, organisations deliver change through projects – whether introducing a new service, changing the way people work, implementing technology or reshaping how communities are served. That makes projects an important place to turn inclusion from intention into practice. The book asks how inclusion can be built in from the outset: into purpose, decision-making, engagement, the use of resources and the opportunities created for different businesses and communities. It also asks how the

inclusion aims set out at the start are revisited during delivery and, importantly, what outcomes are ultimately achieved.

Because inclusion is not simply about who happens to be in the room.

Could the design of a new service reach people who previously struggled to access it? Could a procurement approach create opportunities for smaller and diverse-led businesses as well as established suppliers? Could different perspectives identify a risk that a project team had not considered? Could an organisation achieve more inclusive outcomes simply by asking these questions early enough?

And where do each of us fit?

Many PCB members work within businesses, public services, healthcare, professional organisations, churches and community organisations. Some run businesses of their own. We may not control the whole system, but we often have influence within it.

For those of us working within larger organisations, that can also mean using our influence to help shift the way things are done. Could asking a different question prompt a team or its leaders to rethink an established approach? Could experience gained within our own communities reveal an overlooked customer, supplier or perspective? And, importantly, could that insight lead not just to a one-off response, but to a change in the way future projects and decisions are approached? The opportunity is to help turn individual moments of awareness into more systemic and sustainable practice.

That influence might be exercised through a project we lead, a policy

we contribute to, a supplier we appoint, a team we manage or simply by asking a different question at the right time.

The goal is not another stand-alone inclusion initiative. It is for inclusive thinking to become part of business as usual: people-centred, purpose-led and connected to organisational strategy.

Perhaps that is one useful legacy of Black History Month: alongside celebrating progress, asking how we can turn greater awareness into better systems, better decisions and better outcomes throughout the year.

Dr Teri Okoro MBA FRIBA FAPM ChPP

Author of the *Strategic Inclusion, Purpose and People* series.
Book 1: *Foundations of diversity and inclusion in project management* and Book 2: *Embedding diversity and inclusion in project management*. Published by the Association for Project Management. Teri is also Director of TOCA.

Find out more/order the books

Signed hardcopy editions can be ordered directly from the author.

Scan the QR code to order and pay securely. UK postage and packing will be added at checkout.

Hardcopy editions are also available from the APM Bookshop. Ebook editions are available from Amazon.

For talks, workshops, organisational or bulk book orders: admin@teriokoro.com

