



CORETTA SCOTT KING

The teachings of Jesus and of St Paul stress gender equality, and yet it could be argued that the Church has been very slow to make that a reality.

Why do you think it took so long for a woman to be able to preach, and until 2018 for a woman, Dame Sarah Mullally, to become a Bishop?



CORETTA SCOTT KING, THE WIDOW OF DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., WHO IN 1964 BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN TO PREACH AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

Some elements of the history of the Cathedral were radical for their time, including the involvement of some members of the clergy in the fight for civil rights.

Also consider the ways in which the Church of England has been slow to adapt to changing values in society. What values are important to your pupils, and why? What values would they sacrifice to be included in something bigger than themselves? What changes would they like to make happen in society?



EAGLE LECTERN

Design a lectern which symbolises something important for 21st century London.

Would it be shaped like an animal, a person, a building, or would it be decorative?



THE BRASS EAGLE LECTERN THAT PAUL ROBESON PERFORMED AT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

The eagle is deeply symbolic. It features in the Bible as a symbol of strength, renewal and resurrection and is the symbol for John the Evangelist, writer of the Gospel of John and the book of Revelation. The eagle is sacred to Native Americans as it is believed to be a messenger to the creator, and it also holds patriotic symbolic significance in the United States of America today.

“...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

Isaiah 40:31



PAUL ROBESON

Who would you invite to perform or speak at St Paul's Cathedral today?

What would they speak about and why is their message important?



ACTOR, SINGER AND POLITICAL ACTIVIST PAUL ROBESON
SPEAKING AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL IN 1958.

(KEYSTONE PRESS/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

You can read more information about Paul Robeson's performance at the Cathedral [here](#).

View a video of an excerpt of his performance [here](#):

Paul Robeson was passionate about equality and civil rights and was branded dangerous by the US government of his day. His performance at St Paul's Cathedral was more than a wonderful cultural event; it was a powerful political act of defiance.

Paul was invited by John Collins, a Canon of the Cathedral, to sing at Evensong at St Paul's on 12 October 1958. Collins received death threats for his involvement in advocating for civil rights

and social reform. Robeson's appearance raised funds for the Defence in the South African Treason Trials, in which 156 people, including Nelson Mandela, were accused of treason. The service was attended by around 4,000 people, with many standing at the back, and there were huge crowds outside the Cathedral.

Paul sang a selection of spiritual songs from the Eagle Lectern and became the first Black person to read The Lesson in the cathedral. After the service, he was congratulated by well-wishers both inside and outside the Cathedral.