

# **The Anglican Church in THE DIOCESE OF BARBADOS**

## **Are Anglicans Christians?**

Of course we are. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch” (Acts 11:26). The word Christian means, “follower of Christ” or “belonging to the party of Christ.” Anglicans are Christians because we believe in Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour.

## **What do Anglicans believe?**

The Anglican Church does not have any peculiar set of beliefs. What we believe comes from the faith passed on to us from the time of the Apostles. We believe the Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary for salvation; we accept the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds as statements of our basic beliefs; we believe the two sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Holy Communion were given to the Church by Christ and we accept the ministry of Bishops, Priests and Deacons.

## **How many Anglicans are there in the world?**

We are members of a world-wide family called the Anglican Communion. Approximately, there are 80 million Anglicans in 44 self-governing churches throughout the world in 161 countries. Anglicans speak many languages and come from different races and cultures.

## **Why do Anglicans say “We believe in the Catholic church” when we are not Roman Catholics?**

When we say we believe in the Catholic church, we are not talking about a denomination. Catholic means universal or worldwide. When we say we believe in the Catholic church we are saying that we are members of the universal church. The church is Catholic because of its universal mission to the whole world: Mt. 28:19,20; Acts. 1:8.

## **Why do we always use the Book of Common Prayer?**

The Book of Common Prayer binds us together as one family. Wherever we go, in whatever country or society, we can join in a common act of worship; even though the language may be different we can understand what is happening and join with others in prayers and praises. The Prayer Book gives us a common identity.

## **Why do Anglicans read set prayers?**

Reading set prayers allows us to engage in a common act of worship. Some people prefer to use prayers taken from books while others like to make up their own. Both prepared and spontaneous prayers are good and have their place. One cannot argue that written texts are not open to the working of the Spirit. Other texts such as hymns, creeds and the psalms form parts of most services. If we were to argue that written texts should not be used in worship it would force us to write new hymns, choruses and canticles for each act of worship.

## **What is the mission of the Anglican Church?**

The Mission of the Anglican Church is expressed in what we call the five marks of Mission:

- ◇ To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom
- ◇ To teach, baptise, and nurture new believers
- ◇ To respond to human need by loving service
- ◇ To seek to transform unjust structures of society
- ◇ To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth.