



Faiths engage

Monthly Newsletter—Issue 34—June 2022

Welcome to the latest edition of *Faiths Engage*.

Welcome to the latest edition of Faiths engage. May has been a great month for the Centre – we're back into the swing of travelling all over the East Midlands delivering training, workshops, school roadshows and much more. We were also privileged to host the Lord Lieutenant for his first Platinum Jubilee event. We wish Her Majesty the Queen every blessing as she celebrates her remarkable achievement.

May has also been a sad month for the Centre, as we've said goodbye to two highly valued members of staff, each of whom is moving on to pastures new after doing some fantastic work for the Centre.

Finally, please do come to our AGM on 22nd June – full details on the back page.

With every good wish

Tom Wilson,
Centre Director.

Jubilee Speed-Faithing Event

On 18th May, we hosted a 'Speed Faithing' evening at the request of the Lord Lieutenant. He will be hosting a 'Dance for the Queen' celebration in Jubilee Square on the 1st June between 7.52 p.m. and 8.22 p.m. i.e. 19:52 to 20:22 which in a 24-hour clock, coincidentally matches Queen Elizabeth II's seventy year period on the throne. As a result, it felt appropriate to use the same time slot for our event, which allowed attendees to spend time circling the room to meet and greet other guests.

Thank you to everyone who took part, and to Bobby's for the food, which was very well received!

For more information about the event in Jubilee Square, please see: www.DanceForTheQueen.com



Work with Churches

In May, we were pleased to host a placement student, Kate Butler, from Cranmer Hall Theological College, Durham. This is what she had to say about her time at St Philip's Centre:

Having the opportunity to complete a short but very busy and full placement at the St. Philip's Centre, as a trainee priest from Cranmer Hall in Durham, was a brilliant and fulfilling experience. The placement was varied with conversations with people from different faith backgrounds to myself discussing hate crime, Prevent, anti-Semitism and the joys of ministering in a multi-faith parish. It was a wonderful experience to visit different places of worship, and a highlight of the placement was joining a class of primary school children as they encountered and engaged with a mosque, synagogue and church before leading the discussion of their reflections of their visit. 'Speed Faithing' was another highlight, although at the fast pace of three minutes to share and dialogue about faith. Many thanks to the staff at the St. Philip's Centre for giving me the opportunity to come and see the varied and essential work of the St. Philip's Centre.

Kate Butler

Faith and Friendship Forum

On the evening of Thursday 19th May, Tom and James attended a meeting of the Faith and Friendship Forum at Mayflower Methodist Church, an initiative organised by SPC trustee Revd Dr Israel Selvanayagam. We heard from George Ballentyne about how he lives out his Bahai faith in his daily life. The Faith and Friendship Forum meets monthly; for more information, please contact James, courses@stphilipscentre.co.uk



Training Day for Curates

On Wednesday 25th May, we hosted curates from the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham for a day of interfaith encounters. We had some great conversations about life and faith, as well as discussing some of the bigger issues our world faces. Many thanks to Bernard, Sheila, Dilwar, Neelu and Ron for their input which made the day such a success.



New Memorial Garden at Cricket Club

On Friday 13th May, Tom attended Leicestershire County Cricket club's ceremony for opening their new memorial garden. The club are hopeful of having an annual event to welcome members of Leicester's diverse communities to the ground, a fixture the Centre would be happy to support.



A Taste of Faith at St Mary's, East Leake

On Monday 16th May, Tom visited St Mary's East Leake to run a Taste of Faith session that had originally been planned for May 2020. It was great to finally be able to take Nima Suchak to meet with the ladies group and listen to her talk about her Hindu faith. Nima introduced the main concepts of Hinduism and shared some of her own journey of faith, as well as answering the many questions she was asked. We hope to return to East Leake sometime in the future, hopefully before too long!



Staff News

Farewell to Beth

On the evening of Tuesday 17th May, we held an event to celebrate the work of Near Neighbours and to thank Beth Henwood for all her hard work over the past three years. The event began with a game of “Near Neighbours bingo,” where we had to find people with different associations to Near Neighbours (such as running a place of welcome, participating in Real People, Honest Talk and so forth). We also heard from a range of speakers about the work they’d done with Near Neighbours funding. One speaker said that Beth, through her work “looks for dreams and visions, and empowers and enables them to come to fruition.” This perfectly encapsulates all the work Beth has done to help so many people turn an idea into reality; those ideas have, in turn, impacted so many more people and helped them learn how to live well together.

Beth finished work at the Centre at the end of May and will shortly get married and move to live in Manchester. We wish her every happiness and success in whatever the future brings.



Farewell to Will

In early June 2022, Will Baldet who has been with us for 10 years will move on to a new role. In his time with us, Will was our first Leicester Prevent Coordinator and then became a Regional Prevent Coordinator with a direct link to the Home Office.

In Leicester, Will worked with partners to establish many of the structures and partnerships which have supported the delivery of Prevent in the area. His contribution has been considerable in making the ‘Leicester model’ one which has been praised widely. We wish him well for the future. *Riaz Ravat*



Education Programme

Roadshows back on the road again!

Our ‘Religion & Belief Roadshows’ are much in demand once again and there were two in May—one at Barlestone CE Primary school on 4th May and another at Church Langton Primary School on 24th May. In addition, our school workshops and visits have also been picking up pace and we received this lovely testimonial from Belton Primary School after their day visiting a Mosque, Synagogue and Church:

“Our trip with the St Philips Centre was fantastic. The children experienced things that they may never do again in their life and this will be invaluable for their future. At Belton we want children to become well-rounded citizens that have care and compassion for all. This trip allowed children to stand in the shoes of people they don't normally surround themselves with. We are really pleased with the experience that the St Philip's Centre provided and couldn't recommend them enough.”

Thank you to all who helped to facilitate these events.



Ramila Chauhan

Leicester Schools Linking Project 2022-2023

Would you like to connect your class with one from another school in the Leicester/Leicestershire area and give your pupils a chance to get to know young people who they might not normally meet in their day to day lives? Schools Linking is a perfect way for all ages to challenge stereotypes and develop critical thinking and provides numerous opportunities for SMSC development.

However, it is also a perfect way to support literacy development as according to the EEF, *“Purpose and audience are central to effective writing. Pupils need to have a reason to write and someone to write for.”*

Linking provides both purpose and audience in abundance - utilising experiential learning and the quality texts, children have opportunities to write in a range of genres for exchange with their linking class.

All schools are welcome - Primary, Secondary, Special, Faith, Private, Academy, PRU
It is a completely **FREE, FULLY RESOURCED PROGRAMME** of age-appropriate, curriculum-rich lessons with virtual teacher CPD provided regularly throughout the year.

The 2022-23 project will be a hybrid of virtual and face-to-face opportunities for linking activities, but we are excited to offer new opportunities for joint trips and face-to-face experiences for Primary and Secondary classes, involving collaborations with two new neutral venue spaces.



The activities are based around four key questions:

- “ **Who am I? – exploring identity**
- “ **Who are we? – valuing diversity**
- “ **Where do we live? – appreciating community**
- “ **How do we all live together? – championing justice**

To find out more about school linking in Leicester and Leicestershire

Email Ruth Sinhal - school.linking@stphilipscentre.co.uk

or find us on Twitter [@LinkingSchool](https://twitter.com/LinkingSchool)

You are warmly invited to join us for

St Philip's Centre's Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 22nd June 2022, 5.30—7.00 pm

St Philip's Church, Evington Road, Leicester LE2 1HN

Speaker:

The Rt Revd Saju Muthalalay, Bishop of Loughborough
'Learning to Live Well Together'

Light refreshments provided.

All welcome

Please confirm your attendance, for catering purposes: admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk

Funding Support

All Saints' Trust

Anglican Diocese of Leicester

The Dunhill Medical Trust

The Helen Jean Cope Charity

Home Office

The J R Corah Foundation Fund

Leicester College

Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation

Leicester City Council

The Linking Network

Methodist Connexion

N C Bellefontaine Trust

Northampton District of the Methodist Church

Open Society Foundations

P & C Hickinbotham Charitable Trust

The United Reformed Church



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