



Faiths engage

Monthly Newsletter—Issue 36—August 2022

Welcome to the latest edition of *Faiths Engage*.

This month's newsletter features a wide range of diverse content. This has been a period where we have reached different parts of the country and the continent with education work in Cambridgeshire and Nottinghamshire plus our delegation visiting Belgium. As we pass the mid-point in the year, we can report positively that demand for our programmes has been very high. This is to be warmly welcomed and hence our appeal to people across the faith communities who are interested in assisting us to get in touch about how you can join our pool of faith practitioners.

As I write this editorial, the UK faces extremities of hot weather. In the next few pages, you will read about our 'Summer Mitzvah' which serves as a reminder that regardless of our faiths, caring and looking after one another come rain or shine is an imperative.

With every good wish,
Riaz Ravat, Deputy Director

Summer Mitzvah returns

On Sunday 10th July 2022, Leicester's Jewish community supported by St Philip's Centre took part once again in a multi-faith day of social action. Volunteers staged a 'Summer Mitzvah' which supports the Hebrew concept of 'Mitzvah' or good deed. Asda in Oadby, Leicestershire was the venue as volunteers asked shoppers to donate items which were then given to Women's Aid Leicestershire Ltd (WALL) to assist victims of domestic violence. Instead of money, volunteers requested shoppers to purchase and donate items such as tinned food, bedding, cereals, tea bags and toiletries.

Ruth Neuberg from the League of Jewish Women said, "Our volunteer team very much enjoyed the day. Once again as with previous years, the people of Oadby and Leicestershire in general were very generous". Riaz Ravat from St Philip's Centre added, "We are living through tough times but despite that we generated a very healthy stock of items which will make a difference to improving the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in society. I am particularly grateful to our multi-faith team of volunteers and more so the shoppers who were from many different communities. They made it a very special day".

The Summer Mitzvah team were joined by the new Chief Executive Officer of Mitzvah Day, Stuart Diamond who took part in the effort.

Learning Lessons from Football

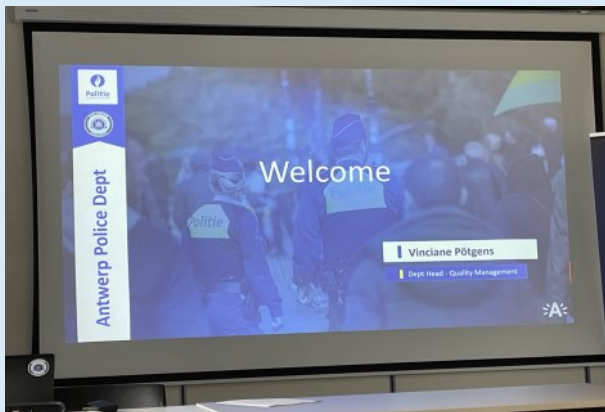
In July, a number of our faith groups which are working with SPC on a project to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) took part in a session at the King Power stadium – home of Leicester City FC. The safeguarding team from Leicester City in the Community provided an insight into how the club is working to raise awareness of safeguarding as a whole but also used some case studies to allow participants to work through how they would approach such challenges. We are grateful to Stuart, Marie and Allison from LCitC for hosting us.



Cops, Communities, Consent in Belgium

In the first week of July, we took a delegation made up of some of our faith practitioners and colleagues from Leicestershire Police to Belgium. The city of Antwerp was our base and is one of our partners in our 'Cops Communities Consent project which is supported by the Open Society Foundations. The scheme has been operational for a few years and involves raising awareness of policing with diverse community audiences. This year, SPC has run numerous 'CCC seminars' for students at Leicester College where they explore problem solving. In addition, we have hosted a large 'CCC Expo' event which showcases our exhibition boards.

The trip to Antwerp enabled the sharing of good practice and for mutual learning about other areas to develop such as the amount of religion and belief training respective Police forces receive. We are grateful to Antwerp Police and the Brussels International Center for their welcome and insights. Whilst in Belgium, the delegation was able to meet local faith communities which included an interaction with the Jewish community. The local authority in Antwerp provided an overview of the different religious and belief communities in the area and Antwerp Police explained their methods of recruitment. The third partner in CCC in Rotterdam which is in The Netherlands.



Doing comparative study, investigating police-community relations and the public perception of the police between Leicester and Antwerp, part of the CCC project.





Meeting the hosts in Antwerp, Belgium for dinner to discuss the busy days ahead to share & learn about diversity in policing.



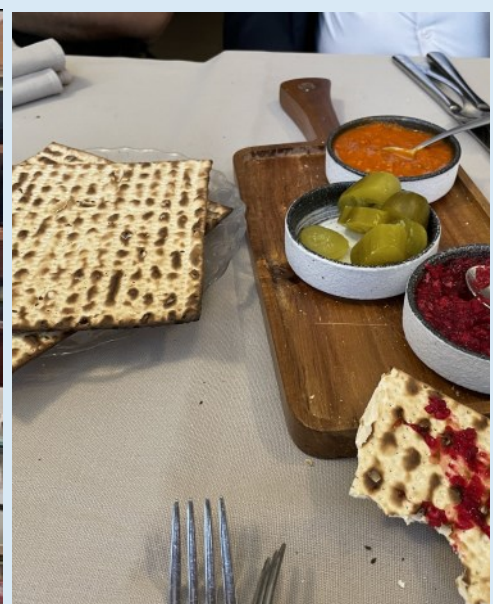
The Antwerp police were also tweeting about the visit.



Excellent meeting and discussion with the Brussels International Centre exploring issues for policymakers on counter-extremism and community engagement.



Riaz presenting a 'Certificate of Partnership' to Brussels International Centre



Breaking bread and boundaries with an authentic Kosher culinary experience- not just delicious Kosher food but understanding the meaning of Kosher living. Building friendships on shared values of respect, compassion and

Dates for your Diary



Contemporary British Islam with Dilwar Hussain

7:00-8:30pm,
Thursday 8th, 15th,
22nd and 29th September

Dilwar Hussain MBE, is an independent consultant working on social policy, Muslim identity and Islamic reform in the modern world. He is an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, University of Coventry and founding Chair of New Horizons in British Islam, a charity that works for reform in Muslim thought and practice.

This series will be online

Please email onlinetraining@stphilipscentre.co.uk to book



Growing as a leader

12th Sept - Working from Rest

10th Oct - Psychological Safety

14th Nov - Developing Grit

12th Dec - Leading with Insight

All sessions run 7:00 - 8:30pm at the St Philip's Centre
Email: onlinetraining@stphilipscentre.co.uk for details



Work with Churches

I have particularly enjoyed being able to get to meet people out and about since the easing of restrictions and wanted to make you aware of many of the courses we offer for churches. These can be for: whole congregations, fellowship groups, women's groups or ministry teams. Many are available both online and in person. You can contact me on courses@stphilipscentre.co.uk or on 0116 273 3459 (Option 6)

One popular option is entitled 'Taste of Faith' where we come with someone of another faith, eat food that they have brought together and learn a bit about their faith. This is a very enjoyable, informal session and is always greatly enjoyed by those who attend.

In a similar vein we have 'Festivals and Faiths' where we look at festivals and also can look at how they relate to Christian festivals such as 'Eid and Harvest'. This is also an informal session—you can watch videos on our YouTube channel of one of these— https://youtu.be/rTI_mT2tVjg

Looking ahead to Advent we will once again be offering our popular 'Baby Krishna, Infant Christ' session which helps Christians explore the story of Christmas through comparing it with the story of the Birth of Krishna.

I am also available to lead a workshop on Interfaith Themes particularly 'Hospitality, Service and Proclamation', looking at interfaith dialogue and Christian discipleship for church meetings, staff teams, synods and other settings as well as in-depth sessions such as 'Preaching with Jewish Communities in mind', so do please get in touch with me if you would be interested in any of these programmes.

James Blackhall

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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