



Faiths engage

Monthly Newsletter—Issue 33—May 2022

Welcome to the latest edition of *Faiths Engage*.

As you'll be able to see, much of this issue is taken up with reporting the different community events I have attended over the past month. It has been a real joy to meet with people in person, to join them as they celebrate their particular festivals, and to eat together. It has been a season of renewal and encouragement, as we talk and laugh together. Of course there are still many challenges and difficulties that we need to respond to together. But we'll do that so much better if we renew our friendship and commitment to learning to live well together.

With every good wish

Tom Wilson
Centre Director

Corporate Work

In April, Riaz Ravat - our Deputy Director took a group of 20 young people from the Redeemed Christian Church of God to Leicestershire Police HQ for a day of engagements as part of our 'Cops Communities Consent' project. The event was interactive, engaging and challenging in equal measure with delegates treated to a series of Police exercises such as road traffic control and a visit to the dogs unit. The afternoon allowed an opportunity to converse about a range of subjects including stop and search. The whole day programme was extremely well received by all and thanks to Chief Inspector Paul Allen and his team for working with us to put on the day.

During the month we continued to deliver our CCC seminars together with colleagues from Leicestershire Police. The sessions were run for students at Leicester College.

In April, we held our new Leicestershire Police recruits training day at the Gurdwara Guru Panth Parkash for over 30 delegates. The day included a visit to the worship space but also enabled delegates to hear about policing within communities of Leicestershire.

In this month we also delivered another 'Religion & Belief in Nottinghamshire & the UK' webinar for fire crews at Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service. This was part of a wider package of support to the service which we hope to continue in the period ahead.

Riaz Ravat



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Festivals in many Faiths

As I am sure you are aware, April has been an important month for so many different faith communities. Jews celebrated Passover, Christians celebrated Easter, Muslims fasted during Ramadan, Sikhs celebrated Vaisakhi, the Bahai community marked Ridvan, the Hindu community celebrated ram Navami to name just a few. I did my best to attend a range of celebrations, but did not manage all of them – I'm particularly conscious of failing to join any Sikhs as they marked Vaisakhi, a deficit I hope to rectify next year. It was wonderful to attend those events I was able to, and in particular it was so good to be in the same room as friends and colleagues from so many different faith communities.

Here are some of the photos.

Tom Wilson



Key Prevent achievements delivered by Leicester communities

2021 / 22 has seen another year of Prevent being successfully delivered by a wide selection of locally based community organisations and during April we have been tallying up the end of year project results. Leicester can be proud of the diverse approach taken by communities to deliver the Prevent programme. There have been highlights attributed to each of the local projects delivering this year and indeed there are too many examples to mention for each and every project but we include the following two interesting examples.

1. Street Vibe Young People's Service - Real Talk project - This year the project was able to reap the benefits of an adaptive approach to face to face and digital delivery and 316 young people attended workshops, generating a total of 1116 interactions with the project when digital visits are included. Through a combination of the workshops and card delivery the project has made a difference to young people in several ways including:
 - Increased understanding of what the terms radicalisation, extremism and British values mean
 - More young people feeling valued and listened to as well as having some opinions challenged in a friendly and open environment
 - More young people with the knowledge of what Prevent does and how the service helpsIncreased awareness of who to contact if in need of help for themselves or others
2. Leicester City in the Community (LCitC) - Extensive and regular provision has been provided to local neighbourhoods during the past year and take up of the services by local young people has been excellent. From January to March 2022, for example, a total of 360 young people participated in the sessions that were provided. The project is having positive benefits for young people who are involved, and exciting development opportunities have arisen. For example, four young people from a recent cohort have completed the FA Playmaker qualification, the first step on the revised FA coaching pathway. In addition to a better understanding of the process of coaching, a basic knowledge of first aid and safeguarding has been taught with most of the course providing transferable skills and creating a career pathway for the participants. As a result, the young people will also be empowered to take positive action within their communities by volunteering and participating in social action programmes.



We're currently looking forward to the next round of funded Prevent community projects being announced for 2022/23 and these will build upon the past year's local achievements.

Ben Smith

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

with a talk on 'Learning to Live Well Together' by
The Rt Revd Saju Muthalalay, Bishop of Loughborough

Light refreshments provided.

All welcome

To book, please e-mail

admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk

Work with Churches

On Tuesday 5th April, Bernard Glick gave a short talk to the “New Life” Seniors group at Knighton Free Church. Bernard shared something of his own story, growing up in South Africa, including some of his encounters with Christians. He then explained a bit about the different perspectives held within modern day Judaism and answered questions from the audience. He was very well received and it was wonderful to visit such a lively and engaged group. Our thanks to Bernard for his willingness to do this talk.



Methodist Women in Britain

It was a great pleasure to take Rabiha Hanan to Swanick on Saturday 23rd April for the annual meeting of Methodist Women in Britain. As an Anglican man I did feel very much in the minority, but they were gracious in welcoming us both, and Rabiha gave an excellent overview of Islam and gender. The workshop was run twice, and each time the room was full to capacity. We had some fascinating discussions that ranged from the reasons why some Christian and Muslim women choose to cover their hair, to the role of women in leadership in faith communities as well as the impact of grooming gangs on both individuals and communities. We're grateful to the Methodist Connexion for funding this work, and hope to return to another MWIB event soon.



Tom Wilson

Synod

James attended the Lincolnshire Methodist District Synod on Saturday 23rd April to introduce the St Philip's Centre and to give a presentation on Hospitality, Service and Proclamation- looking at engaging people in interfaith dialogue as an integral part of their Christian Discipleship. Both groups were very engaged and interesting questions came up: 'When is it important to be honest about where we come from when engaging in social action?'; 'How does it feel differently when we are guests or hosts?' and 'What knowledge do we need to have before engaging with others'. Discussions of various contexts and specific issues in their localities ensued. The discussions were varied and the session was lively. If you would be interested in James leading a similar session for your church please call him on 0116 273 3459 (Option 6) or email courses@stphilipscentre.co.uk

Placement Students

In April, Rebecca from Ridley Hall and Rachel from Westcott House, Cambridge joined us for a placement. They are studying for ordination. They took part in various activities, from schools' work, discussions with our Prevent Team and joining a visit to Guru Amar Das Gurdwara in Clarendon Park, along with Deacon Sharon Dilley, a Methodist Minister based in Leicester. We were really grateful to Surinder for showing us round. We all learnt a great deal from her and from others that we met.

James Blackhall



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