



Faiths engage

Monthly Newsletter—Issue 38—October 2022

Welcome to the latest edition of Faiths engage

The past few weeks have been challenging. We are deeply saddened by the recent unrest in our city and we commit ourselves to continue to do everything we can to work towards harmonious relationships. We at the Centre pride ourselves in our work helping people learn how to live well together and will continue to facilitate courses and sessions that help people understand each other and build relationships of trust and cooperation across their differences.

We at the Centre were all deeply saddened by the death of her late majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We have included in this issue some memories of one of her previous visits to Leicester, as well as two visits by his majesty King Charles III.

The back pages report on some of our recent church facing training, two of many recent examples of our work facilitating encounters between people of different faith and belief perspectives.

With every good wish

Revd Dr Tom Wilson
Director, St Philip's Centre

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Community & Business Award



In June, Mike Kapur OBE, HM Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, announced the winners of the 70 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Awards for schools, businesses, voluntary and community groups who had made outstanding efforts to improve their local communities. St Philip's Centre was one of the winners and we were pleased to receive our award from Colonel Richard Hurwood DL, on 29th September.

Remembering Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Memories of a very special day

None of us who were fortunate enough to be there will forget 8th March 2012 when Her Majesty the Queen kicked off her Jubilee Anniversary tour with a visit to Leicester. Also in the royal party were HRH Prince Philip and HRH the Duchess of Cambridge. Riaz Ravat, Deputy Director of St Philip's Centre, escorted the Duchess of Cambridge for the day and the Revd Canon Dr John Hall, then Director of the Centre, was asked to introduce the city's faith leaders to HM the Queen. Staff from St Philip's Centre were delighted when Riaz brought over the Duchess to meet them.



University engagements

On 27th September, Riaz led a session for 24 PGCE students at Leicester University and on 24th September he was delighted to be invited to the university's 'Stories of Caribbean Migration' lecture where he heard some powerful accounts from the community.



God save the King!

St Philip's Centre has been involved in facilitating two visits of King Charles III—then HRH the Prince of Wales—in previous years. He first visited the church in 2008, in the very early days of the Centre, and then again in 2017.

You can hear Riaz talking about these visits in an interview by Ben Jackson on BBC Radio Leicester—<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0Cw9bb1> - the interview starts at about 42 minutes in.



Work with Churches

URC Day

On Saturday 10th September, Tom and a small team of faith practitioners took part in the United Reformed Church East Midlands Synod's celebration day. Given the timing, it was a slightly muted gathering, but nevertheless there were many good conversations and the chance to form friendships over food. Thanks to Surinder and Zaynab for supporting the event.



St Mellitus College

On Saturday 24th September, a team went from the Centre to the Hayes Conference Centre in Derbyshire to provide the panel on interfaith relations for a group of approximately 160 ordinands training with St Mellitus College. There were some great interactions and questions. We're hoping to go back next year!

Thanks to Kartar Singh Bring, Kevin Commons, Bernard Glick, Nima Suchak and Imran Sulaman for giving up their Saturday to help Christian ministers learn how to live well together.



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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