



# Faiths engage

Monthly Newsletter—Issue 40—December 2022

## Welcome to the latest edition of Faiths engage

Welcome to the latest edition of Faiths engage.

2022 has been a good year for the St Philip's Centre. Thinking back to December last year, we, like many organisations, are in a much healthier and happier place. We're able to do so many more events in person, whilst holding on to the geographical reach that Zoom allows us. For example, earlier today I hosted a session on "Preaching at Advent with Jewish people in mind" for ordinands from across England. But whilst Zoom is useful, it will never replace the value of in person interaction, and this month's issue gives a flavour of the different activities and events that took place during November. You'll also find details of upcoming events on the back page.

With grateful thanks for your support of the Centre this past year. May I wish you a very Happy Christmas and every blessing for 2023!

Revd Dr Tom Wilson,  
Director  
St Philip's Centre

## Leicester Schools Linking 2022-23

2022 marks the fifth year of Leicester Schools Linking. We actually operate across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland as well!

This year we have 56 classes successfully linked and CPD training has been delivered to them all. Exchanges of work around the concepts of identity and diversity have already begun and exciting connections are underway. A popular initial activity is to create bunting – with every child writing their name and things that make them happy – and exchange these with their partner class, as a way to get to know each other.

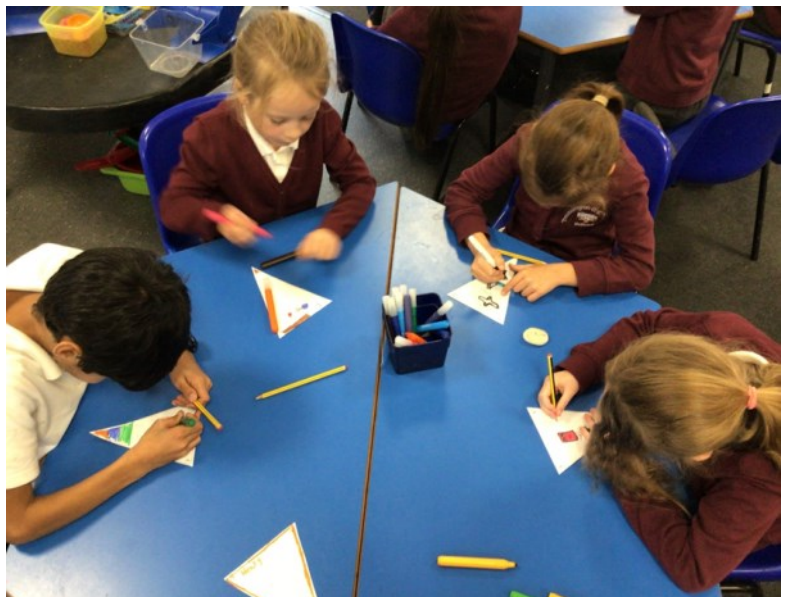
Twenty-six schools – nine from the City and seventeen from the County are engaging at this moment, but we will be happy to welcome new schools at any point during the year. We would especially welcome new schools based in the city as we have a waiting list of county schools wishing to take part.

We have separate Primary and Secondary Programmes and they are entirely FREE.

We are one of the 29 Schools Linking Projects that operate across the country and comprise

[The Linking Network](#).

For more information get in touch with me, Ruth Sinhal on [school.linking@stphilipscentre.co.uk](mailto:school.linking@stphilipscentre.co.uk)



## Being Human

As part of the British Academy's "Being human" festival, on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November we partnered with DMU to host an interfaith discussion, focused on the role of prophesy and revelation – spiritual breakthroughs – in our religious experiences, and what influence these experiences have in our relationships with the wider community and particularly to people and institutions of authority. We will examined this from a multi-faith perspective, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, as part of our inter-faith week activities in Leicester. Thanks to Liz, Sheila, Dilwar and Kartar for sharing their thoughts.



## Visit to Leicester Hebrew Congregation

As part of our work funded by the Methodist Church, we took a small group to visit Leicester Hebrew Congregation on the evening of Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November. Particular thanks to Tony and the team for showing us round.

*"Leicester was strange, the way they all spoke, with 'boos' for bus and 'me duck'. We all lived in a small terrace house ... the front room was my mother and aunt's dressmaking workshop..."*

Frances Denning (Jewish Voices)



## Creating Connections

In November James attended the University of Nottingham to join a panel discussion on what interfaith means and how interfaith activity could be delivered on campus. The discussion was wide ranging and included reflections on Black Lives Matter and solidarity as well as thinking about how to engage with difference. The other panelists were Revd Paulina Hlawiczka - Lutheran Chaplain for University of Nottingham, Karen Worth - Co-Chair of Salaam Shalom Kitchen & Member of Nottingham Liberal Synagogue, Saima Khan, Muslim Chaplain for Nottingham Trent University, Guy Nave- Director Luther College Study Centre and Godfrey Nix, Nottingham Interfaith Council and Member of the Baha'i Community. We are grateful to the University Chaplaincy for inviting us to take part in this event. It will soon be available to watch on the University website if you are interested.



## Prevent Programme

### Prevent delivery in the community with Shama Women's Centre and Nicola Benyahia

Shama Women's Centre held a 'Meet The Agency' event on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November as part of their Prevent project delivery. The event was well attended by service users from Shama Women's Centre in addition to women from across Leicester. We were very pleased to welcome Nicola Benyahia (Families For Life) to speak at the event about her own family experience of radicalisation where her son Rasheed sadly died as a result of travelling to Syria where he joined Daesh.

Ben Smith, Leicester Prevent Coordinator was also invited to provide an input at the event using the opportunity to discuss his role, the current UK context in relation to Prevent, understanding radicalisation vulnerabilities, and also emphasising the Prevent referral process and key contact details. The event was covered by Jeremy Ball, Social Affairs Correspondent at BBC East Midlands and an informative feature was broadcast on BBC East Midlands Today on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November.



## Coming Soon



### Birth Narratives of Jesus in Islam and Christianity

Thursday 15th December 2022  
7.15 arrivals for a 7.30 start  
At the St Philip's Centre.

Refreshments provided

For more information email  
[courses@stphilipscentre.co.uk](mailto:courses@stphilipscentre.co.uk)



### Jewels of Sikh Wisdom with Harinder Singh

16th January: Journey through Japji Sahib,  
the Sikh Morning prayer  
23rd January: Love thy neighbour & Oneness of Humanity  
30th January: How to Progress on the Spiritual Path  
through the Teachings of the Sikh Scriptures  
6th February: Hukam: God's command or Will of God !?  
13th February: How to lead a life of  
Celebration, Fullness and Peace.



All talks 7:00 to 8:30pm  
at  
St Philip's Centre, 2a Stoughton Drive  
North, Leicester LE5 5UB



## The Trustees and Staff would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Please note that the office will close for the Christmas break at 5.00 pm on Wednesday 21st December  
(although some staff will be working from home until Friday 23rd December)  
and will re-open at 9.00 am on Tuesday 3rd January.



## Funding Support

All Saints' Trust  
Anglican Diocese of Leicester  
The Benefact Trust  
The Dunhill Medical Trust  
Home Office  
The J R Corah Foundation Fund  
Leicester College  
Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation  
Leicester City Council

The Linking Network  
Methodist Connexion  
National Lottery Heritage Fund  
N C Bellefontaine Trust  
Near Neighbours (DLUHC)  
Northampton District of the Methodist Church  
Open Society Foundations  
P & C Hickinbotham Charitable Trust  
The United Reformed Church



**Faiths Engage** is the newsletter of St Philip's Centre Ltd

2A Stoughton Drive North, Leicester LE5 5UB

Tel: 0116 273 3459

[admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk](mailto:admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk)

Twitter: @SPCLeicester Facebook: stphilipscentreltd