



Faiths engage

Monthly Newsletter—Issue 43—March 2023

Welcome to the latest edition of Faiths Engage

In this issue you can read about the work of the Prevent programme, in particular Ben hosting a group of visitors from the Army generalship programme. You will also be able to see some of latest work with church groups, including the marking of world interfaith harmony week. Our schools team have been busy as ever, working with nearly 500 children throughout February. We also continue to deliver on our different funded projects, championing mental health and documenting the memories of people who have migrated to Leicester. The corporate team have also been busy, working to improve safeguarding practice, training new police recruits, and helping people gain confidence in addressing radicalisation and extremism. Finally, the 24th of February marked the first anniversary of the war in Ukraine. We are mindful of those affected by this conflict and continue to pray for peace and reconciliation.

With every good wish

Revd Dr Tom Wilson,
Centre Director.

Armed Forces Engagement

Ben Smith was honoured to be a host on Wednesday 8th February for the British Army Generalship programme's day visit to Leicester. The Army Generalship programme connects senior armed forces leaders with different aspects of British life, Leicester City Council arranged the event in partnership with the Armed Forces. Whilst visiting the St Philip's Centre the group discussed the extensive faith networks of Leicester, and also how we deliver the Prevent programme in the city.

Ben and the group also visited Leicester City Hall to meet with the City Mayor, Spinney Hill Police Station to meet with East Leicester police leadership, before returning back to City Hall for a session with the local suicide prevention partnership. This provided an opportunity to hear from practitioners in the city who deliver mental health and suicide prevention services, including provision for armed forces veterans. Thanks go to Miranda Cannon, Director at Leicester City Council for including St Philip's Centre within the event.



Work with Churches

Jewish Faith and Life

In February Sheila Gewolb was invited to the Mothers' Union at Rothley Parish Church to talk about her Jewish faith and life. This talk was incredibly well received and she has already been invited back! People found it particularly interesting to learn about which foods are Kosher, especially those they buy everyday without realising it, and to hear about how Sheila practices her faith at home such as how she observes Shabbat. If you would be interested in hosting a similar talk for your church or group please contact me at courses@stphilipscentre.co.uk or phoning James Blackhall on 07707 640885.



Interfaith Harmony Week

To mark Interfaith Harmony Week the Centre hosted a Golden Rule event. Nima Suchak shared a Hindu perspective, Imran Sulaman a Muslim perspective and Rev'd Lesley Mosley from the United Reformed Church gave a Christian perspective. This was then followed by a general discussion which was highly interesting and went beyond simply "do unto others as you'd have them do unto you" into thinking about things such as charity and whether giving to charity is enough to satisfy doing for others; how we can approach the whole of creation as loved and cared for by God and what difference would that make to the environment and to those affected by climate change now?

All who came said they had come to appreciate this topic more and it was a really useful time of sharing.



Work with Schools

February was another very busy month for our Education Team. On 3rd February, Elliot Harris did a great job presenting Judaism workshops to 35 children at Woodstone Community Primary School.

On Tuesday 6th February, a team from St Philip's Centre delivered a mini school roadshow at Newdigate Primary School. Despite horrendous traffic (it took us two hours to drive the 25 miles to get there), we had a great time meeting pupils from years three, four, five and six. With thanks to Ramesh, Sheila, Jasbir, Hajra and Surinder for their hard work in making the roadshow such a success.

During the next two weeks, a total of 228 children from four different schools enjoyed visits to various places of worship including Mosques, Gurdwaras, Mandirs and Synagogues.

We are very grateful to all our volunteer faith practitioners who do such a great job and without whom we would be unable to deliver these programmes.



Roadshow team at Newdigate Primary School



Islam Workshop at St Peter's C.E. School

Project Work

Radical Youth Mental Health Focus

We at the St Philip's Centre are proud recipients of a grant from the Benefact trust to support work in enabling faith communities to overcome the stigma and challenge around discussing mental health. Back in 2022 we ran a Mental Health First Aid course focused on those working with adults and a second course, focused on those working with young people. During this year we are concentrating on supporting the delivery of community cafes and events where issues related to mental health can be discussed in detail. We supported an event that took place on Wednesday 8th February at Loughborough University. The Christian youth group 'Radical Youth' heard from Tunde, BABCP accredited Psychotherapist, and discussed questions focused on their own contexts.



Memories of Living Well Together project

Leicester is well-known for its harmony and ability of many communities to live well together. We at the Centre have received funding from the Heritage Lottery for a project that will document and preserve the experiences that lie behind the cohesion and community spirit of the city by recording the memories of thirty people who have migrated to Leicester from overseas. We wish to give residents of the city the opportunity to celebrate the rich variety of cultures and experiences found within Leicester.



We are currently in the process of recording an initial round of conversations with ten "community connectors" drawn from a diverse range of communities. These will be people who are experienced in working within and between communities. We will also take photographs of key objects and photographs that are integral to the stories of this first round of interviews. If you'd like to be included, please contact Tom,

director@stphilipscentre.co.uk

Corporate Work

In February, our tackling CSE (child sexual exploitation) project which is made up of seven faith groups took part in an online session where they heard once more from Dr. Graham Hill who spoke about the importance of acting and reporting.

A particular angle to this session was how the groups were implementing some of the learning they have undertaken on this project.

Also in February, Riaz and Ramila met with representatives in the religious education sector to plan St Philip's Centre's involvement in a forthcoming conference for teachers in July 2023.

Our Confidently Addressing Radicalisation & Extremism (CARE) Courses have continued, the latest one having taken place on 16th February.

There is one more planned for this financial year, which will take place on **Thursday 9th March**.

Currently there are some free places available, so if you would like to attend, please contact admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk as soon as possible.

On 15th February, Riaz was delighted to join the graduation celebrations at De Montfort University. Many congratulations to all who graduated.

On 17th February, we held another session of Religion & Belief Training for police recruits with a large cohort of 33 students attending. We are very grateful to Surinder Kaur Sandhu and all at Gurdwara Guru Panth Parkash for hosting us and to the team of faith practitioners who helped with the delivery of this important course.



Impact of the war in Ukraine

On the evening of Wednesday 15th February, Tom attended the Gartree Deanery Synod to share his reflections on the war in Ukraine. He talked about conversations he's had with people of different faiths about the impact on their communities, such as the Sikh community in Odessa, as well as the Jewish and ISKCON communities throughout the country. Rev'd Maria Jukes also shared movingly from her experience of welcoming Ukrainian refugees, including an individual who painted this picture to share her feelings and experiences.



Coming Soon

Abrahamic Conversations
Sharing Jewish, Christian and Muslim perspectives

Fasting
7:00 to 8:30pm, Tuesday 14th March
with
Uri Gordon Rabiha Hannan and Tom Wilson

Light refreshments provided





St Philip's Centre, 2a Stoughton Drive North, Leicester LE5 5UB



New Project from Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust

Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust

Nextdoor Nature

Take action NOW!

If you have an idea that will help nature thrive in your area, we want to support you!

You can get involved in the exciting new project, Nextdoor Nature, which is empowering communities in Leicestershire to make more space for nature where you live and work.

Ideas could be anything big or small. You might want to transform a disused green space into a safe and attractive place to play, plant wildflowers for beauty and insects or start a community group that wants to create an urban wildlife safari across our city!

Anything is possible when we work together.

Take a look at some ideas on the back of this leaflet.

If you want to find out more please get in touch with our Nextdoor Nature Community Organiser:

Fee Worton,
fworton@lrwt.org.uk
Call, message, voice note,
video or whatsapp on 07754 141785







Nextdoor Nature

Do you want to help nature where you live and work?

 How to make a bee hotel	 How to start a wildlife garden from scratch	 How to build a pond
 How to make a log shelter	 How to grow a wildlife friendly vegetable garden	 How to build a hedgehog home
 How to create a container garden for wildlife	 How to attract bumblebees to your garden	 How to attract butterflies to your garden
 How to build a bug mansion	 How to build a mini stone wall	 How to make a woodland edge garden for wildlife

We want to help you!

www.lrwt.org.uk/nextdoor-nature

Funding Support

Active Together
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
Shire Funding
The United Reformed Church



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