



Faiths engage

Monthly Newsletter—Issue 58—June 2024

Welcome to the latest edition of Faiths Engage

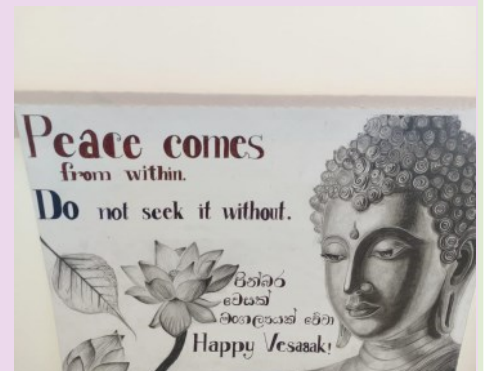
In this issue you can read about some of our recent activity in various contexts. I hope to see you at our AGM on 11th June.

Revd Dr Tom Wilson

Corporate Work

The corporate work in April and May has been dominated by training courses. At the very end of April we had another session for Leicestershire Police Recruits and in May we held training sessions for Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service recruits, with more sessions to follow in June and July.

Alongside all that, Riaz was able to join the Buddhist communities of Leicestershire for an international Vesak Celebration on the early May Bank Holiday weekend. Thank you for the invitation.



Work with Schools

This month we have seen two year-one visits, for a second year in a row. Fairfield Year 1 children visited a Mandir, Mosque and St Philip's Church. The children were delightful and very well-behaved. St Peter & St Paul's C of E Academy visited a Gurdwara, marking the school's third visit with St Philip's Centre, with one more visit scheduled for June to a Mosque.

Sikhi workshops were popular in May. We delivered two Sikhi workshops at Horncastle Primary School in Lincoln and one at Pytchley C of E Primary School. The class teacher at Pytchley School wrote: *"The Sikhi workshop was fantastic. The faith practitioner was an excellent communicator, and the children were gripped from the very first minute. Her resources were great. They really helped the children consolidate the concepts covered in RE lessons and put their learning into a real-life context. Her enthusiasm and expertise ensured a high-quality learning experience. We will definitely book again"*.

Mrs Annabelle Hamill
Class teacher in Year 3 and 4 at Pytchley Primary School

Ramila Chauhan



Fairfield School



Pytchley C.E. Primary School

Young Leaders

For three consecutive Tuesday evenings in May, I ran leadership development training for leaders of student faith societies at Loughborough University. In session one, we asked what do leaders do? We based our discussion on an extract from Gary Yukl's book "Leadership in Organizations," who argues that leaders do at least six things:

1. Leaders help interpret the meaning of events.
2. Leaders build agreement around objectives and strategies
3. Leaders build task commitment and optimism
4. Leaders develop mutual trust and co-operation
5. Leaders strengthen collective identity
6. Leaders organize and co-ordinate activities.

We discussed what we would add and voted for our favourite answers. What would you add?

In week two we focused on the balance between work and rest, discussing the idea of work and rest being in symbiotic relationship and the importance of developing our ability to engage in truly restorative rest.

Week three was all about conflict. We used Ron Kraybill's framework to shape our discussion. I have used both the online and paper versions of this tool and whichever one you use it is very straightforward and takes only a few minutes to complete. It is invariably accurate, presenting

participants with a picture of themselves that they recognise and can engage with. One thing I like about the tool is that it talks about preferences and styles rather than fixed modes of behaviour. My preference may be for a directive approach to conflict, but I can still learn when to harmonise or avoid or collaborate or cooperate. These young adults were starting out on their leadership journey and so we spent a lot of time talking about preferences versus adopting a mode of action best suited to the context. They understood the theory and are determined to work on the practice as they lead their student faith societies. I was greatly encouraged by the maturity of these young adults, and I am grateful for the opportunity to help them learn how to live well together.



Tom Wilson

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