



Faiths engage

Monthly Newsletter—Issue 60—August 2024

Welcome to the latest edition of Faiths Engage

Welcome to the latest issue of FaithsEngage. June and July have been busy, not least in organising a religion and belief roadshow at St John the Baptist Primary School which was featured extensively on various BBC media platforms – a big thank you to all who made that such a success. As usual, you can read about some of our recent activities in the pages that follow.

At the end of July, we also said goodbye to Ruth, our linking projects officer. We wish her all the best in her new venture.

With every good wish,

Revd Dr Tom Wilson
Director, St Philip's Centre

Education

You may have spotted the feature on [BBC East Midlands Today](#) about our Religion & Belief Roadshow at St John the Baptist Primary School in Leicester in June.

Reporter, Jeremy Ball, attended the event and interviewed several of the Centre's staff and volunteers as well as some of the children. The feature was followed up with an article on the [BBC Website](#) and a Radio Leicester interview with Riaz Ravat.

A School visit to a Synagogue, Mosque and Gurdwara was enjoyed by the children from Welford, Sibbertoft & Sulby Endowed Schools.



On 11th July the St Philip's team delivered the last Roadshow of the academic year which was a collaboration between two small schools in Lincoln.



Harlaxton CofE Primary School & Denton CofE Primary School. We received the following testimonial:

"Thank you so much for travelling to Harlaxton in Lincolnshire and the experience you provided for our school community. It really was very much appreciated and truly excellent."

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our faith practitioners for their unwavering support throughout the past academic year. Wishing you a wonderful and restful summer break. We look forward to keeping you engaged and busy in the coming academic year!

Ramila Chauhan

Work with Churches

Places of Welcome



St Philip's Centre were delighted earlier in the year to work with Near Neighbours to support the opening of five new Places of Welcome and help them apply for grant funding. We were pleased that all of the projects in Leicester who applied for funding received it. The national Places of Welcome team have visited two of the projects- the Belgrave Neighbourhood Tenants Co-operative and the Place of Welcome at Elim Church, Narborough Road and were pleased to see the work that has happened there.

All of the Places of Welcome are doing valuable work in the communities. Leicester Unitarians have developed a relationship with a local carers' group for people with disabilities through their Place of Welcome which has resulted in the group now having use of part of the church garden as outdoor space.

Communities of Christ (The Little Blue Church) on Abbey Lane regularly host local Police Surgeries and other advice services. Their Place of Welcome now has a number of regular attenders and there are a number of activities on offer for those who attend. This is making a positive impact in the community around them and the Wednesday Place of Welcome is becoming known in the local community.



If you are interested in registering a Place of Welcome, and finding out more, please visit www.placesofwelcome.org.uk.

Birstall Mothers' Union

James delivered an Introduction to Interfaith session for the Mothers' Union in Birstall in early July- thinking about some of the work that the Centre does as well as thinking about who is in the community around the church. We had a quiz about the local area and religious groups in the community, talking about the assumptions we make compared to reality.

We also thought about how interfaith dialogue relates to Christian discipleship and how through it we can become better connected to our neighbours as well as increasing confidence in our own faith. The visit was really enjoyable and it is hoped that in the near future some people of other faiths will come and speak to them.

If your church or group would be interested in a similar session, please do get in touch.



Corporate Work

At the very end of June and beginning of July, we ran two more sessions of Religion & Belief training for Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service. We also had an inspiring focus group listening to Year 12 Student Ambassadors at The City of Leicester College.

Then on 8th July, our faith practitioners all took part in Safeguarding Training at Leicester City Football Club. They found it extremely helpful as well as being enjoyable.

A few days later, Riaz was joined by Elliot Harris at Derby University where they were promoting the Centre's work at an East Midlands Chamber of Commerce event.

July ended with another session in our Safeguarding Project. This time we were hosted by St Andrew's Church, Jarrom Street and we were joined by Fr Anthony and the Egyptian Coptic and Eritrean Orthodox church leaders.



City of Leicester College



Safeguarding Training at Leicester City Football Club



Safeguarding Project at St Andrew's Church, Jarrom Street



East Midlands Chamber of Commerce Exhibition



Remembering Srebrenica

On the evening of Monday 15th July, I attended Dialogue Society Leicester's event to mark the anniversary of the Srebrenica Genocide.

It was moving to hear a survivor testimony and thought provoking to join in with the activities and discussion.

I am grateful for the opportunity to learn together about how to combat hate.



Tom Wilson

Congratulations, Tom and Riaz

Over the last three years, both Tom and Riaz have been studying for their Master of Public Administration degrees at the University of Birmingham and both recently graduated.

This was no mean feat, bearing in mind they were studying for this alongside their very busy full-time jobs!

Many congratulations to them both!



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The MB Reckitt Trust

We at the Centre are enormously grateful to the MB Reckitt Trust for funding a project we ran from autumn 2023 to summer 2024, focused on helping Christians in Leicester develop their understanding of religious life in South Asia. We ran four online webinars during autumn 2023, hearing from Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, and Christian perspectives. All speakers were of South Asian heritage.

We then supported churches to conduct small outreach projects in their local community, to build relationships of trust and understanding. These provided opportunities for participants to put their learning into action.

We're on the lookout for more opportunities to help people learn how to live well together, so if you are interested, do get in touch.

More information about the Trust is available at www.MBReckittTrust.org

Tom Wilson



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*All Saints' Educational Trust
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