



Faiths engage

Monthly Newsletter—Issue 12— August 2020

WELCOME

to St Philip's Centre's August Newsletter

Life has been difficult for folk in Leicester over the past few weeks as we have continued to be in local lockdown while restrictions were eased across the rest of England. The St Philip's Centre has played its part in responding positively to the challenge, helping to organise a social media positive messaging campaign over the weekend 17th to 19th July, under the theme of #TogetherInHope and #WeAreLeicester. A small selection of the positive messages that were sent out are reproduced below. We ran a second, much smaller, campaign on 30th July and the work of moving forward Together in Hope continues.

In this issue you can also read about some of the work we have been doing over the past few weeks. The Centre regularly receives requests for support from local organisations who want to ensure they are engaging with a more diverse audience. We are not always able to help with these requests, but do the best we can. In this issue, we have shared four requests for support from different organisations. If you would like to respond to any of these requests, please contact the charity directly, not the St Philip's Centre.

With every good wish

Tom Wilson
Centre Director

The collage features several social media posts and photos. At the top left, a photo shows three women smiling, with the text '#TogetherInHope' and '#WeAreLeicester'. Below this is a photo of a woman holding a large cutout of colorful hands. To the right, there are several tweets: one from LLEP (@LLEPnews) dated Jul 17, one from Alex Hannam (@Hannam79) dated Jul 17, a tweet from portiasally dated 1d, a tweet from coolasleicester dated 1d Reply, a tweet from Inès Hassen (@DrInesHassen) dated Jul 17, a tweet from Leicester City (@LCFC) dated Jul 17, and a tweet from Gary Lineker (@GaryLineker) dated Jul 17. The tweets contain various messages of support and celebration for the Leicester community.



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

From time to time, we are contacted by other charities and organisations who are looking for volunteers for their projects. Here are some of them. If you are interested in taking part, please contact the organisations concerned directly (do not contact St Philip's Centre).

LEICESTER SAMARITANS

Contact Sue King:
07790 332 431



As a volunteer with Leicester Samaritans, I am chairing a working group that is trying to increase the number of volunteers from different ethnic communities in the city.

Samaritans is a national charity which offers telephone and email support to people from all communities who might be feeling low or lonely, or who might be contemplating ending their lives. Our office is usually open to callers but not at the moment due to Covid-19.

Please contact me if you would like to know more.
Sue King

THE EBB TIME TO CHANGE CAMPAIGN

Contact: John Lewis
ebbleicester@gmail.com



The Ebb, Leicester is a support group for families of prisoners and young offenders. We are currently running a campaign to raise awareness of the needs of children and young people with a family member in prison and are looking for volunteers to be team members of after-school homework clubs—promoting well-being through homework support, art and craft activities, stories etc. Currently there are three schools involved in Enderby, Hamilton and South Wigston.

If you would be interested in getting involved, please let me know.

John Lewis

THE DYSPRAXIA FOUNDATION

Contact Elliot Harris:
07896 894711



The Dyspraxia Foundation is looking to increase it's reach across all communities, particularly in the East Midlands.

The Charity exists to assist people of all ages to understand what Dyspraxia is and how to manage what to most is a life long condition. Up to 5% of all adults in the UK have some form of Dyspraxia, which is a form of developmental coordination disorder (DCD), a common disorder affecting fine and/or gross motor coordination in children and adults. It may also affect speech. Dyspraxia cannot be cured but it can be managed.

Children may present with difficulties with self-care, writing, typing, riding a bike, play and education. In adulthood many of these difficulties will continue along with difficulty in learning new skills at home, in education and work, such as driving a car and DIY. There may be social and emotional difficulties, problems with time management, planning and personal organisation, difficulties with memory, perception and processing, articulation and speech.

The Dyspraxia Foundation has been around for just over 30 years and yet Dyspraxia is a condition that is misunderstood and a diagnosis is not easily available. To make that easier we need to increase our reach throughout all our communities and we need your help to do this, either as a member, a volunteer or a supporter.

For further information about the condition and the resources available, please go to <https://dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk/about-dyspraxia/> or contact Elliot Harris, a Trustee of the charity.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER'S PATIENT AND CARER GROUP

Contact: Patient & Carer Group Administrator—patientcarer@leicester.ac.uk



The University of Leicester's Patient and Carer Group exists to help medical and health care professional students bridge the gap between theory and practice. Participants in the scheme work with a small group of students to help them understand how illnesses manifest in real life, and what sort of support patients need as they work their way through the health and social care system. We are particularly interested in hearing from people who have long-term illnesses and have the use of a computer. The group also welcomes mothers feeding babies for the MSci Midwifery course. You will be supported by a mentor and may be able to receive a modest payment for your services. During Covid-19 and until the end of the year liaising the students will be online because the health and safety of the group is of the utmost importance. Confidentiality is a most important factor and all students are aware of the consequences in the very unlikely event of personal details being disclosed. For further information, please contact patientcarer@leicester.ac.uk



St Philip's Centre's AGM—Online via Zoom

Wednesday 16th September 2020, 6.00 pm

Please join from 5.50 pm ready for a prompt 6.00 pm start

Hospital Chaplaincy during Covid-19

Revd Mark Burleigh and Mr Kartar Singh Bring

Mark and Kartar will give us an insight into how they have experienced working in hospital chaplaincy during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This will be followed by the formal AGM business at 6.45 pm.

For joining instructions, please contact admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk

Cross & Crescent Group

In July, we held a 'Cross & Crescent Group' discussion on BAME Women in Leadership. Jawaahir Daahir and Revd Novette Headley were the key speakers. They shared their insights into the challenges they have faced on their journeys to becoming leaders in their respective communities.



Cops, Communities & Consent Project

Our Deputy Director, Riaz Ravat held two fascinating focus groups with schoolchildren from Krishna Avanti Primary School and Madani School as part of our 'Cops, Communities and Consent' project. The discussions were about the Police—in particular perceptions and why they would/would not consider joining. Further discussions with other young people will follow in the coming weeks. Thanks to all the children who took part.

Community Patrols

In July, we were approached by Leicestershire Police to support their 'Community Patrols' as part of efforts to tackle Covid-19 issues in Leicester. We are pleased to report that a number of our faith practitioners volunteered to do this and had some interesting experiences. We are very grateful to them for taking part and we have been made aware by the Police about the value of their involvement.

Learning Outside the Classroom

St Philip's Centre is pleased to report that we have secured our continued accreditation as a provider for Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) for a further two years. The kitemark sets minimum standards for our education offer and gives schools that vital reassurance. Our thanks to all of our faith practitioners, places of worship and schools for your support.





Baby Krishna, Infant Christ *

We were delighted to run this session, at the Methodist Conference Fringe (online). Our Churches Training Officer, Laura Johnson and one of our regular volunteers from the Hare Krishna community, Nima Suchak, explored:

- The birth narratives
- The slaying of the innocents by Herod, and by Kamsa
- The clay miracles

The latter may have Christians scratching their heads, asking 'what clay miracle did Jesus perform?' If we look to non-canonical writings (e.g. *The Infancy Gospel of Thomas*) we find childhood stories of Jesus, including one where he makes clay birds on the Sabbath and gives them life. Our first discussion focused on the use of such stories; a common consensus seemed to be that whilst we may not take these stories in the same way as canonical writings, we know that early Christians would have been familiar with them.

A sobering connection we discovered was that the births of both Krishna and Christ are followed by the killing of children, by jealous men. How we approach and address these horrific parts of our scriptures is something to ponder, and something that we can help each other to think through.

The births happen in places you wouldn't associate with the divine: a stable, and a prison. It was also pointed that there are some striking similarities between Moses and Krishna, in particular the need to hide them. Of course, there are important differences and perhaps the most obvious was that, as Nima explained, people are attracted to worshipping Krishna in his child form because he is cheeky and naughty; this is not something Christians naturally associate with Jesus!

**The name for this session was taken from the book by Kristin Johnston Lergen, published by Orbis Books (2011)*

Preaching with Jewish Communities in Mind

On the afternoon of Monday 29th June seventeen people joined myself and Bernard Glick from the St Philip's Centre to discuss how to preach with Jewish Communities in mind. The session began with a (very brief!) overview of the history of Christian anti-Semitism, focusing particularly on the preaching of John Chrysostom; the blood libel as developed by the monk Thomas of Monmouth after the death of William of Norwich; and the writings of Martin Luther, especially his infamous *On the Jews and their lies*. There followed a free-flowing discussion of issues related to Christian anti-Semitism, including time in small groups to focus specifically on preaching in local circuits.

The purpose of this session is to bring to the surface issues of Christian anti-Semitism. Every time I run this session I am surprised at how little some Christians have learnt about the failures of the Church in relation to Jewish people. This is not to condemn them as individuals, but rather to recognise that our systems and processes for theological education are often sadly lacking when it comes to dealing with the darker parts of Christian history. We are really grateful to the Methodist Connexion for the funding that enables this important work of learning to live well together to continue.

If you missed the session and would like us to run a similar one for you, please get in touch via admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk

Revd Dr Tom Wilson, Centre Director

Funding Support

St. Philip's Centre is grateful for the funding it receives from the following and from many individual supporters, Friends, Associates and Member Churches

Anglican Diocese of Leicester
 All Saints Educational Trust
 The Baptist Union
 Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham
 Home Office
 The John James Trust
 The Laing Trust

Leicester College
 Leicestershire Police
 Methodist Connexion
 N C Bellefontaine Trust
 Near Neighbours—(MHCLG)
 Northampton District of the Methodist Church

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
 Open Society Foundations
 P & C Hickinbotham Charitable Trust
 Spalding Trust
 The Westhill Endowment Trust



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

[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Website](#)

Company registered in England & Wales no. 5657062 Registered Charity no. 1114686