



Faiths engage

Monthly Newsletter—Issue 15—November 2020

WELCOME

to the latest issue of Faiths Engage

Inside you will find our usual mix of events and activities, both face-to-face and online. We continue to work with a wide range of organisations and are pleased to have established a new partnership with Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, as well renewing our links with NATO, the International Community of the Holy Sepulchre and the Centre for the Analysis of the Radical Right.

It is a pleasure to congratulate Will Baldet on receiving his MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

It is with great sadness that I must inform you that Dr Laura Johnson has resigned her post as Churches Training Officer at the St Philip's Centre. Laura has brought a tremendous amount of energy and enthusiasm to her role, and has developed the church facing work of the Centre in many ways, especially through strengthening our work with the Centre for Youth Ministry; establishing strong links with a range of Methodist churches and organisations; providing training for ordinands, curates and ministers; developing new church facing sessions for Anglican and Methodist Churches, notably on understanding Diwali and Christianity and the Far Right; developing our Hindu-Christian dialogue work; and championing our work on mental health provision for staff and volunteers.



We will be saying goodbye to Laura at 10am on Monday 9th November. If you would like to join the Zoom meeting, please email admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk and we will send you a Zoom link.

If you would like to make a donation to Laura's leaving gift, please make a bank transfer to St Philip's Centre Limited, Sort Code 08-92-99, Account Number 65196221, using the reference "Laura's Leaving Gift."

Tom Wilson

MBE for Will Baldét

All the staff at St Philip's Centre were delighted to hear that our colleague, William Baldét, (formerly Leicester's Prevent Co-ordinator and now Regional Co-ordinator) had received an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his service to the communities of Leicester.

In Will's words to our Chair of Trustees, he recognised the enormous part Leicester's communities had played in this:

"Obviously I'm absolutely thrilled and overawed by the award. It is somewhat karmic that it was announced almost exactly eight years to the day that I started working at SPC - 4th Oct 2012.

I know it's a cliché, but it has most definitely been a collaborative effort. If I hadn't had the support of the St Philip's Centre and trustees - especially at those difficult times when national scrutiny of Prevent was at fever pitch and local anxieties were high - this would never have come to pass.

And of course, the faith put in both me and SPC by Leicester's communities was critical. Without their continued trust in the Centre to do right by them and bring them with us, then we wouldn't have developed so many ground-breaking initiatives in Leicester."





CORPORATE TRAINING



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

In October we held a 'Lunch & Learn' training session for the first time, for Fire Officers from Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service. The feedback was really positive with options being explored for further work.

A particular highlight this month was the NATO seminar with speakers Jamie Shea and David Hobbs. The session covered a broad range of issues including the history and evolution of the organisation as well as some of the current challenges facing the alliance.



We held a Zoom conference with our 'Cops Communities Consent' international partners (Netherlands and Belgium) where a particular highlight was Rotterdam Police indicating that they are to work on a new 'Policing for All' scheme which will help the force to engage better with black and minority ethnic communities.

Riaz Ravat

Leicester Schools Linking Project

Since its inception in 2018, The Leicester Schools Linking Project, locally owned and led by the St Philip's Centre, has given students the opportunity to explore and celebrate their own identities and the identities of their peers in different schools across the city and the county. The project links two classes from two different schools, breaks down barriers and challenges misconceptions through carefully planned activities and opportunities for dialogue. In 2018 we were filmed for the local BBC News; take a look at our [video](#).

During 2019/20 we reached 34 classes from primary and secondary schools, engaging over 1,000 students. We train all the teachers whose classes are involved to deliver the programme through two CPD training dates in the Autumn and Spring terms and provide fully resourced lesson plans and activities as well as access to shared experiences.

Since 2019 we have had the support of Leicester City in the Community who have provided us with a venue space at The King Power Stadium, free of charge to use for both CPD and neutral venue days. We are also so pleased to have worked with Leicester Museums and held half of our neutral venue days at Newarke Houses Museum this year. All our neutral venue days went ahead in October, November and December 2019 and were a great success.

Sadly, due to the Covid-19 "shutdown" in March link visits to schools could not be held, but they kept in touch virtually as much as possible and most have renewed these links for 2020-21 albeit in a virtual manner. We are currently working with neutral venues to produce video tours and activities for linking classes to engage with.



To keep us all connected through lockdown, we collaborated to produce this [short video](#) which reflects the great team spirit of all the schools involved here in Leicester.

In the year 2020/21 we will be working with 42 classes, although in a virtual way due to Covid-19. All contact may be remote this year, however the work will still achieve the same goals – to break down barriers, challenge misconceptions of others, get to know new people and learn how much we all have in common.

To find out more or get involved, please contact:

Ruth Sinhal , Leicester Schools Linking Facilitator: school.linking@stphilipscentre.co.uk

Twitter : [@LinkingSchool](#) **Facebook:** [Leicester Schools Linking Project](#) **Instagram** [@leicesterschools](#)



PREVENT PROGRAMME

CARR Discussion Panel

Prevent Coordinator, Sean Arbuthnot, participated in an online panel discussion on far-right extremism and how to effectively engage with communities on this issue. Hosted by the Centre for Analysis of the Radical Right (CARR) the event considered whether there is a particular “community” that represents far right views and whether they could or should be involved in counter extremism programmes.

Sean noted that engagement with all communities should be nuanced, sensitive and focused. It is lazy to equate the far right with white, working class communities, just as it is equally lazy to regard other faiths and backgrounds as monolithic. Indeed, the very term “far right” is broad and encompasses a wide range of views and ideologies from traditional right-wing conservatism through to nationalist street-based movements through to Neo-Nazi white supremacism and any combination of things in between. Ultimately, community engagement works best when it is locally driven, guided by threat and risk, specific and targeted, respectful yet unafraid of difficult, honest conversations, and conducted in partnership with local, credible individuals and organisations.

The event was a well-attended and thought-provoking part of a wider CARR debate on countering the radical right.



When it comes to *preventing* Far-Right Terrorism and Extremism, who is the “community” we should be engaging with?

Wednesday 9th September 2020 14:00 – 15:30



Zubeda Limbada Director Connect Futures, Sean Arbuthnot Prevent Practitioner, Lorna Ponambalum Inclusion Consultant, Ivan Humble Ex-EDL member & Community Activist, Natalie James Academic Researcher

The Counter-Extremism Research Unit at the Centre for Analysis of the Radical Right is thrilled to be working alongside Connect Futures to host an exciting event on understanding “communities” when it comes to countering Far-Right terrorism and extremism.

The roundtable event will see five expert panellists share their experiences of engaging with “communities” and the Far-Right. They will bring difficult questions to the forefront of the debate, questioning who “communities” are, the implications of *preventing* them, and the impacts of not doing so. Panellists will offer their own perspectives before engaging with each other and audience members in what will be a brilliant roundtable debate on a critically important question.

The event will be held virtually on Wednesday 9th September at 14:00-15:30. Please register [here](#) for a place on this limited numbers event!



A link to the online webpage will be sent in the days prior to the event. The views expressed by panellists are representative of said individuals and not of the Centre for Analysis of the Radical Right or Connect Futures.

CARE Course

Online training has become the norm in the current climate but the St. Philips Centre has managed to host it’s CARE (Confidently Addressing Radicalisation and Extremism) course under responsible, socially distant conditions.

Numbers were limited and social distancing was maintained as participants successfully undertook the one-day course, gaining a deep understanding of the Prevent Duty and current issues around counter extremism. Engagement was high and feedback was positive as everybody clearly enjoyed the learning experience.

Special thanks to our friends at Warning Zone for kindly hosting the event at their Frog Island premises where Covid restrictions could be safely implemented.



Sue Klebold Webinar

On **Thursday 24th November at 7pm** Leicester Prevent will be hosting a unique webinar with guest speaker, Sue Klebold.

Sue is the mother of Dylan Klebold, one of the two gunmen responsible for the Columbine High School shootings of April 20, 1999 in Littleton, Colorado. Dylan and his friend killed 13 people and wounded more than twenty others before taking their own lives.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, Ms. Klebold remained out of the public eye while struggling with devastating grief and humiliation. Her search for understanding would span over fifteen years during which she volunteered for suicide prevention organizations, questioned experts, talked with fellow survivors of loss, and examined the crucial intersection between mental health problems and violence. As a result of her exploration, Sue emerged a passionate advocate, dedicated to the advancement of mental health awareness and intervention.



If you would like to book a place on the webinar, please contact: prevent@stphilipscentre.co.uk



Dates for your Diary

Abrahamic Group

Every second Wednesday of the month at 10.00 am with Tom Wilson. Theological discussion on topics of mutual interest: 11th November, 9th December.

Hindu-Christian Dialogue and the Bhagavad Gita

First Thursday of the month at 11.00 am with Tom Wilson and Pradip Gajjar: 5th November.

“Preaching with Jewish Communities in Mind”

Monday 16th November, 2.00—3.00 pm.

Contact onlinetraining@stphilipscentre.co.uk to register for any of these sessions.

The Star of Bethlehem

Some of you may remember attending a talk back in May in which Austin Tiffany of the International Community of the Holy Sepulchre talked about the situation of Christians in the Holy Land.

I'm delighted that SPC is supporting ICoHS for their Star of Bethlehem event in November, where we'll be able to join a livestream from Bethlehem to hear from Christians on the ground about what is happening at present.

You can see a trailer here: <https://www.icohs.org/bethlehemstar/>

Contact admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk for details of how to join the livestream.

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

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

Leicester College
Leicestershire & Rutland Masonic
Charity Association (LRMCA)
Leicester City Council
Leicestershire Police
Masonic Charitable Foundation
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



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](#)