



Faiths engage

Monthly Newsletter—Issue 32—April 2022

Welcome to the latest edition of *Faiths Engage*.

As you will be able to read in this month's issue, we're back to in-person engagements, getting out and about in the community, helping people learn how to live well together. As we reflect on the past two years, it is clear that whilst we can continue to do much good work through connecting people via video conferencing software, there is nothing quite like being in the same room as people. Often it is the informal conversations in the margins of different events that make the greatest difference in building relationships of trust and understanding between people of different faith and belief perspectives.

2022 is proving to be both a rewarding and a challenging year for all sorts of reasons, and we at the Centre will continue to play our part in building strong community relations. Many thanks to all of you who continue to support our work. Particular thanks also to Louise, who finished working at the Centre at the end of March. Her contribution to the life of the Centre will be missed.

Revd Dr Tom Wilson
Centre Director

Prevent training - CARE Gold event in full attendance

On Tuesday 22nd March the St Philip's Centre was pleased to provide its latest instalment of the CARE Gold training course (Confidently Addressing Radicalisation and Extremism). This Prevent training event provided a knowledge 'top up' to those local participants who have previously completed the one-day Level 2 accredited CARE Silver course. For CARE Gold we welcomed over 30 delegates from across a selection of local agencies, charities, and community organisations to hear the very latest updates from speakers working across various strands of Prevent.

Speakers for the event included Bill Knopp from East Midlands Prevent Policing who provided an overview of how the Leicester and Leicestershire Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) has been shaped in addition to details on what the local trends look like. A national perspective of Prevent delivery was provided by Will Baldet from the Home Office, and following this we had input from Sam Slack representing the Department of Education who included examples of the types of Prevent referrals made via FE and HE educational establishments.



The event was wrapped up by Geoff Brooks from the Prevent police team with some powerful case studies showcasing where the local Channel Panel had allocated support to assist individuals to successfully move away from previously held extremist beliefs. We would also like to thank the selection of Prevent-funded Leicester-based community partners who attended and supported the event—it was a great showcase of what their projects have provided during 2021/22.

Following the continued success and good feedback received back from CARE participants, the St Philip's Centre is looking at the potential to repeat the training during 2022 and into 2023. If you wish to be notified of upcoming CARE courses please contact Ben Smith, Leicester Prevent Consultant on: prevent@stphilipscentre.co.uk

Corporate Programme

Our Deputy Director – Riaz Ravat reports on our corporate programmes.

“March has been an extremely busy month for our corporate work. The month has included 2 CARE Silver courses, a CARE Gold programme – the first one post covid lockdown—the presentation of SPC’s ‘Cops Communities Consent’ (CCC) diversity award at Leicestershire Police, a CCC seminar for Uniform Public Services students at Leicester College, a webinar on the significance of fire in the Hindu faith for firefighters and staff of Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service, an engagement between the Dean of Leicester and faith groups involved in our project to tackle and raise awareness of child sexual exploitation, a Prevent community engagement event and a CCC Expo for students at Leicester College! The number of people we have connected with this month has been extraordinary and whilst it has been intense, the learning undertaken and relations built has been hugely rewarding. In addition, we have seen a considerable increase in our schools work so the months ahead should continue this trend of more face-to-face engagements”.

The St Philip’s Centre Diversity Award

The St Philip’s Centre’ Diversity Award was presented to PC 1900 Kully Lally at the prestigious Chief Constable Awards evening held at the Athena.

This award recognises outstanding police officers and their staff who have gone beyond their duty to recognise diversity. This award will empower even more of our Police and their staff who have taken equality, diversity and inclusion to their hearts. We as a sponsor of this award do more than a tick in the box, we encourage corporate social responsibility. Diversity Awards will offer our Police an opportunity to showcase their commitment and demonstrate that they care for all citizens from all backgrounds and aim to make a profound difference to the lives of the people of our city & counties they proudly serve.



Riaz Ravat

Staff News



At the end of March 2022, we said goodbye to Louise Cox. Louise worked closely with our former Prevent Coordinator, Sean Arbuthnot and in more recent weeks has continued this with our Prevent Consultant, Ben Smith. Louise also oversaw our training and conferences.

Our thanks and best wishes to Louise, who thoroughly enjoyed assisting our projects, which have worked hard to strengthen Prevent delivery in Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland.

Riaz Ravat

Intergenerational Linking

We’re excited to be able to offer an opportunity for any one interested, to have a taste of Intergenerational linking.

Sign up for a 10 week challenge to “Become a Care Home Friend”

<https://myhomelife.org.uk/community-engagement/intergenerational-linking/care-home-friend-challenge/>



Work with Churches

International Women's Day



St Philip's Centre, in conjunction with Near Neighbours, celebrated International Women's Day at St Philip's Church.

It was great to hear about inspirational women- particularly one of the children present saying that their mum was their inspiration. Poetry from Lesley Modinos and Angela Langrick brought a reflective aspect while 'Moving Together', a community dance company, performed routines including a moving routine about the exclusion and marginalisation of women.

It was a really successful get together and we look forward to similar events in the near future.

James Blackhall

Methodism, Evangelism and Growth

James and Tom, along with Uri and Pradip, contributed to the Methodist Evangelism and Growth Team webinar on Evangelism in an Interfaith Context along with Deacon Rachel Prashad, a Methodist Minister married to a Hindu man and Revd David Butterworth, a Methodist Minister currently serving as Chaplain to the NEC in Birmingham. It was a really interesting webinar with thirty-six participants looking at various aspects of interfaith dialogue and evangelism and reflecting on what is and isn't appropriate. We also thought about Christian- Jewish relations and how that affected things. With thanks to Holly Adams, the Methodist Church's National Evangelism and Contemporary Culture Officer, for inviting us to participate and we look forward to a fruitful relationship with the team into the future.

James Blackhall

Lessons from History from Revd Professor Chris Szejnmann

On Tuesday 15th March, we were pleased to host a talk from Chris Szejnmann, curate at Holy Trinity Leicester, and former Professor of History at Loughborough University. Chris' specialism is the study of the rise of National Socialism in 1930s Germany, and he shared some of his reflections on the lessons from history for our current context. Recognising that there are not exact parallels, Chris nevertheless reminded us of the dangers of unchallenged power and how faith can be misused in the service of personal and political gain. A particularly powerful point of reflection was the notion that ordinary people don't necessarily have the time and capacity to study claims made, and so propaganda and misinformation can all too easily shape the worldview and behaviour of whole sectors of the population. There followed a question and answer session, where the ideas Chris proposed were discussed further. Thanks to all who participated in a fascinating discussion.



Tom Wilson

Hindu-Christian Conversations

These are continuing at St Philip's Church, 12 noon—2.00 pm on the following Thursdays:

28th April—Gender

26th May—Royalty and Faith

30th June—Food

Vegetarian food provided.

Please book in—courses@stphilipscentre.co.uk 07707 640885

Trip to Cambridge: Visiting the Eco Mosque

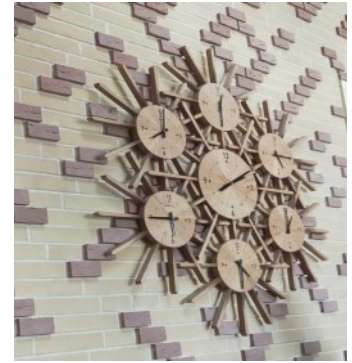
St Peter's Church in Highfields were funded by Near Neighbours to run an Islam and Christianity Symbolism project, bringing Bengali Muslims and Caribbean Christians together to learn and discuss one another's faiths. An element of the project was visiting churches, mosques, and cathedrals.

It was such a privilege to join a group of 54 Christians and Muslims to visit the Eco Mosque in Cambridge. The tour guide kept everyone engaged as he talked about the eco credentials of the mosque, and the symbolism of certain aspects of the Islam faith including a clock mural with the 5 prayer times, time in Mecca and the local time.

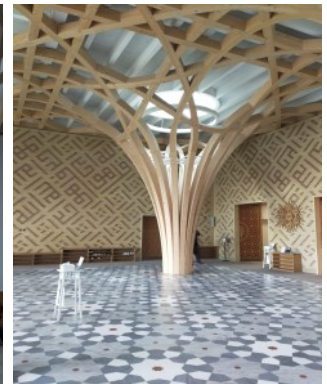
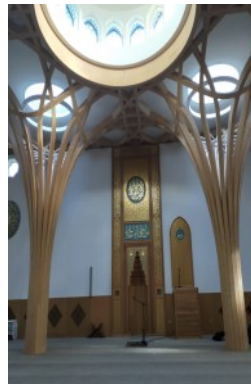
During the coach journeys there was a quiz on Islam and Christianity which sparked conversations and greater understanding between participants.

One of the Project Leads said:

"The project has brought communities together and developed better understanding about each other's culture and beliefs, talking to each other and sharing beliefs by visiting Churches and Mosques, listening to similar stories from the Bible and Qu'ran and doing activities with group members based on the story."



Beth Henwood



Funding Support

All Saints' Trust
Anglican Diocese of Leicester
The Dunhill Medical Trust
The Helen Jean Cope Charity
Home Office
The J R Corah Foundation Fund
Leicester College
Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation
Leicester City Council

The Linking Network
Methodist Connexion
N C Bellefontaine Trust
Near Neighbours—(DLUHC)
Northampton District of the Methodist Church
Open Society Foundations
P & C Hickinbotham Charitable Trust
The United Reformed Church



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