



# Faiths engage

Monthly Newsletter—Issue 46—June 2023

## Welcome to the latest edition of Faiths Engage

It is a particular pleasure to invite you to join us for our annual general meeting later this month. Full details are below. I do hope you will come and hear about the work we have been doing through our heritage lottery project "Memories of Living Well Together."

In this issue you can also read about some of the many different lessons and learning opportunities we provide for schools and colleges, for the staff of statutory agencies, and for those training for ordained ministry. You can also read the reflections of a recent placement student, not someone training for ordained ministry, but someone on a national police accelerated promotion programme. The Centre is always open to taking on placement students from a wide variety of walks of life. If this is of interest to you, please do get in touch.

With every good wish.

Revd Dr Tom Wilson  
Director, St Philip's Centre Ltd



## St Philip's Centre's Annual General Meeting



Wednesday 21st June 2023  
5.30 – 7.00 pm

St Philip's Church, Evington Road, Leicester LE2 1HN  
Street parking on Stoughton Drive North and surrounding streets.

Please do **not** park in the Horizon Healthcare Car Park—you will be locked in!

**Refreshments will be served at 5.30 pm.**

**Before the business meeting**  
there will be an opportunity to hear about the Centre's  
Heritage Lottery Project about  
collecting people's memories of migrating to Leicester

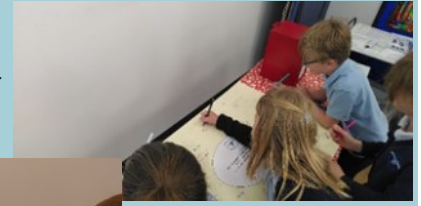
**All welcome.**

**RSVP to [admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk](mailto:admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk)  
by 9th June 2023**

## Work with Schools

May has been very busy with School work, ranging from Roadshows to workshops and assemblies to places of worship visits.

The faith practitioners enjoyed a Roadshow at **John Wycliffe Primary School** where they engaged with around 300 children. During the Roadshow, children are given the opportunity to sign our Pledge board where they pledge to “*support efforts to build and strengthen positive and lasting relationships across different faith and belief communities*”.



We had a repeat visit from **Nettleham CofE Primary School** in Lincolnshire who visited Masjid al-Imam al-Bukhari, then Ram Mandir, and then had a walk along the Golden Mile visiting greengrocers, a Saree shop and Indian Sweets shop, taking in the sight and smells of Asia. Nikki Salts, the lead teacher on the visit sent a lovely text to Roy Kirk, the St Philip’s Centre host for the day, thanking him for their experience.

**Huncote Primary School** enjoyed an assembly and two workshops on Islam. The photo shows Asiya Ahmed explaining the Wudhu—the process of cleansing before prayers.



**Ratcliffe College** invited St Philip’s Centre to do a Food of Faiths workshop for the second time. Darsheet Chauhan explained the variety of foods that are important to different faiths, taking with him samples of food along with spices, lentils and other items from home to share with the children.

The children from **Fairfield Preparatory School** really enjoyed their visit to Masjid Umar and Sanatan Mandir. This is the first time the school has worked with the St Philip’s Centre and Clare Bancroft, the lead for the trip, said that they would be using the Centre again for future visits.

Finally, 35 year 5 children from Barrowby Church of England Primary School visited Masjid al Falah. The Imam was impressed with the children’s previous learning of Islam, and he barely got through his tour as the children asked so many questions!

If you know of any schools who would be interested in any of our education programmes, please encourage them to get in touch via our website: [Education - St Phillip's Centre \(stphilipscentre.co.uk\)](http://Education - St Phillip's Centre (stphilipscentre.co.uk)) or by email to Ramila—[education@stphilipscentre.co.uk](mailto:education@stphilipscentre.co.uk)

Ramila Chauhan

### Take a look at our new website

St Philip’s Centre’s website has been redeveloped recently. We hope it is clearer and easier to navigate than the previous one. Why not take a look—[St Phillip's Centre - Living Well Together - Leicester \(stphilipscentre.co.uk\)](http://St Phillip's Centre - Living Well Together - Leicester (stphilipscentre.co.uk))



# Work with Churches

## Gurdwara Visit

James took a group to the Guru Amar Das Gurdwara from various local Methodist Churches. The group enjoyed hearing the Guru Granth Sahib recited in worship and thought about the similarities and differences between the worship they saw and the worship in their churches. They also enjoyed learning about the hospitality shown at Gurdwaras and thinking about how that related to work that they do.

If you would like me to organise a visit for your church please contact James on 07707640885 or [courses@stphilipscentre.co.uk](mailto:courses@stphilipscentre.co.uk)

## Mayflower Methodist Church

Mayflower Methodist Church invited James to reflect on interfaith work in May as part of their long standing engagement with other faith communities. Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra also took part in the service, talking about his experience of Ramadan. Many of the congregation said how much this resonated with them.

If you would like to organise something similar for your church please do not hesitate to contact James on 07707640885 or [courses@stphilipscentre.co.uk](mailto:courses@stphilipscentre.co.uk)



## Training for Ordinands at Ridley Hall

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Tom ran training for second and third year ordinands at Ridley Hall in Cambridge. In the first session, Sanatan Gopal Santonu shared his Hindu faith perspective and read a short text from the Bhagavad Gita with the ordinands. In the second session, Shaimaa El Baz shared her Islamic perspective and read Surah Maryam from the Quran with the ordinands. In the final session, Tom reflected theologically and practically with the ordinands on their learning and on how to do interfaith engagement well in parish ministry. Our thanks to Ridley for the invitation, and to both our speakers for their excellent input.





# Corporate Training

## Reflections on my placement with St Philip's Centre

I am on a national police accelerated promotion programme which requires me to undertake 40 hours of community placement and reflect upon it. There were several large charities set up that already supported the programme. However, I felt that I wanted to spend my time working in areas that would be directly affected by my policing and the decisions made by my teams. The St Philip's Centre were fabulous in welcoming me and have supported me in my development.

I have been given the opportunity to spend the day with trainee ministers from across the region and join them on guided visits at different places of worship; we have eaten together with the communities in these hubs and shared views on how communities are changing and evolving, what is no longer available and what is desperately required.

I have also been able to work with Riaz at some of the local schools, assisting him with his "expo" events and Cops, Communities, Consent sessions. These have been brilliant. Although as a Police Officer I speak and interact with young people all the time, this environment removed the suspicion and initial hesitance

around open conversation between some young people in East Leicester and the police. In a turbulent time for East Leicester we were able to see each other as individuals rather than "the Police" and "the youth community" and have difficult conversations.

I was in my element when Riaz asked me to develop and deliver a session around decision-making for a group of young people. I loved designing and delivering the session and the response was so positive. The group engaged and the discussions went far deeper and were more wide reaching than the subject matter ever intended. I think it is fair to say both Riaz and I had our eyes opened to different perspectives and our perceptions were challenged.

I have now completed my 40 hour placement, but my hope is that Riaz and the St Philip's Centre will allow me to continue working alongside them for as long as possible! I've come to realise that I could complete every management and leadership course available to me, but my real development has come from spending time working alongside people outside of the Police organisation and seeing the value of a joint approach first-hand.

*Jennifer Woods*

Our corporate work has continued unabated. We held the final session of the RISE course in May, followed by two CCC Expo's at Wyggston & Queen Elizabeth College. We also held lots of CCC seminars there and at Gateway College. We rounded the month off with two training sessions—one for Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service and the other for PCSO'S. What a busy month!



## Funding Support

*Active Together*  
*All Saints' Educational Trust*  
*Anglican Diocese of Leicester*  
*The Benefact Trust*  
*The Dunhill Medical Trust*  
*Home Office*  
*The J R Corah Foundation Fund*  
*Leicester College*  
*Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation*  
*Leicester City Council*  
*The Linking Network*

*Methodist Connexion*  
*National Lottery Heritage Fund*  
*N C Bellefontaine Trust*  
*Near Neighbours (DLUHC)*  
*Northampton District of the Methodist Church*  
*Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC)*  
*Open Society Foundations*  
*P & C Hickinbotham Charitable Trust*  
*Shire Funding*  
*The United Reformed Church*



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