



Faiths engage

Monthly Newsletter—Issue 69—May 2025

Welcome to the latest edition of Faiths Engage

This month you can read about the diversity of our corporate work – from Parliament to the Cricket Club, as well as the usual business of working with schools and colleges all over the country. Cathryn has also been out and about developing our church facing work and I've had some good networking opportunities. Please note the date for our AGM – I do hope you can join us.

With every good wish.

Rev Dr Tom Wilson
Director, St Philips Centre

Corporate Work

In April 2025, we co-organised the Multi-Faith Blessing for Leicestershire County Cricket Club in partnership with the Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Foundation. We were proud to have been able to showcase a wide variety of speakers from different religions and beliefs who offered their best wishes to the team for the season ahead. Riaz attended the event which took place before the first day of the home game of the season against Derbyshire. The blessing was compered by Bishop Saju – one of our Trustees. Incidentally, the match was drawn!

On the back of Riaz's talk at the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Safeguarding in Faith Communities, the secretariat for the group – ThirtyOne:Eight have been in touch to hear more about examples and the practicalities of safeguarding in religious settings.

Riaz and Tom met a group of colleagues from the faith communities to share our plans for our 20th anniversary celebrations in 2026. One of the suggestions was to have a 'Stories of St Philip's Centre' book which will record people's accounts of how they came into contact with the Centre. If you have a memory you would like to share, please get in touch.

April has been a busy period for planning future training and community engagement opportunities. Watch this space for some of our exciting programmes – one of which begins at the end of the month!



Riaz Ravat

St Philip's Centre's Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on
**Tuesday 17th June 2025 in St Philip's Church,
Evington Road, Leicester LE2 1HN.**
Refreshments will be served from 5.00 pm.

Refreshments will be followed by a presentation on the Centre's
'Memories of Living Well Together' Project
before the formal AGM business

All welcome
**RSVP for catering purposes to admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk
by 4th June 2025**



Work with Schools

In April we organised a mixture of school activities, from an Easter Celebrations workshop, a Roadshow and a visit to a Mosque followed by a walk along the Golden Mile as part of our Incredible Indian Experience visit. We also organised a faith assembly and workshop plus a visit to a Mosque, Mandir and Synagogue. Here is some of the feedback.

Thrussington Easter Celebrations workshop.

"This week, our Early Years children had a fantastic time at the Easter Celebration workshop led by St. Philip's Centre! The workshop was filled with fun, hands-on activities that helped the children explore the meaning of Easter in an engaging and memorable way.

St. Philip's Centre provided an interactive experience that marked the most significant week in the Christian calendar, Holy Week.

The activities were not only educational but also captivating, allowing the children to immerse themselves in the traditions and significance of Easter. It was truly a celebration to remember, fostering joy and learning in a vibrant atmosphere!"



Witherly Primary School

"An excellent day – each visitor provided lots of interesting and varied resources for the children to look at/touch, feel and play with. The presentation to the children were clear and there were lots of opportunities for them to ask questions at the end. The dressing-up section was particularly enjoyed.

RE Lead, Witherly Primary School

Southam St James Primary Academy

"I just wanted to drop an email to say thank you for organising such a great day for our children today.

The Mosque visit was brilliant - really informative, and the leaders of the visit were very welcoming. The lady who met us at the church for lunch was very helpful too, thank you for accommodating us, and all the children absolutely loved exploring the Golden Mile this afternoon. Our tour guide who supported us throughout the visit was very patient, enthusiastic and shared some fascinating information, and all the left Leicester very excited to share their experience with friends and family members. Thank you once again!



RE Co-ordinator, Southam St James

Market Harborough CE Academy

Market Harborough Academy are repeat visitors and returned recently for a visit to a Mosque, a Mandir and a Synagogue. Here are some of the photos from their visit day.



Work with Churches

Sikh Tapestries

On 28th March, Christchurch Clarendon Park hosted an event for the St Philip's Centre and the Sikh community. Following some delicious food and refreshments served by Christchurch we moved to the main event.

This included the beautiful needle work of a tapestry depicting the life of Guru Nanak along with a talk about it's origins, a talk about Guru Nanak and the Sikh way of life by Harinder Singh & music from some very talented musicians.

Harinder had brought along his book, 'Jewels from Sikh Wisdom—A Journey of Discovery', beautifully illustrated by the Singh Twins.

The event was well attended and well received. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

Cathryn Parsons



Methodist Women in Britain Conference

After a beautiful drive on 5th April, a small group of us arrived at Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick for the Methodist Women in Britain Conference 2025.

Shaimaa Elbaz and Nima Suchak delivered a workshop talking about their experience as female leaders in the Islamic and Hindu Faith traditions. This was warmly received by the 24 ladies attending the workshop who had lots of questions to ask the speakers.

Following the talk, we met and had chance for chats with Philippa Hill, Trustee and Leonora Wassell, Co-Chair of the conference.



Recent Events

Discussion on Assisted Suicide

Assisted suicide is hardly a cheerful topic of discussion, but on Thursday 10th April I had what (borrowing a phrase from Kathryn Mannix) I would term a tender conversation on the topic. I had brought together a small group with diverse perspectives – Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan and Sikh – to understand where we were all coming from. As well as shared concerns and perspectives, I witnessed some of the most respectful, honest and tender disagreement I have seen in a long time.

We talked mainly about principles but also heard moving testimony of personal experience. Not only did we consider the impact on individuals, but on society, especially on legal and medical professions who will be tasked with delivering whatever the legislation finally requires.

It would be a breach of the confidentiality of a trusted safe space for me to share details, so there's no photo of our gathering.

As well as being enriched by the conversation, I am also heartened to experience living well across difference, an increasingly lost art in our fractured and divided age.

Tom Wilson

Networking opportunities

I have been out and about this month raising the Centre's profile – at the Chamber of Commerce's Celebration of Cultures and Communities evening, at Eid parties and continuing work on developing Leicester as an intercultural city. People always speak highly of our efforts to help people learn how to live well together.

Tom Wilson



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