



# Faiths engage

Monthly Newsletter—Issue 73—October 2025

## Welcome to the latest edition of Faiths Engage

It's been a busy month with police training at the Gurdwara and a successful Religion and Belief Roadshow in Norfolk for which we have received lots of positive feedback. With more police training dates booked into the New Year, and exciting plans underway for our 20th anniversary celebrations, there's much to look forward to.

With every good wish.  
Rev'd Canon Dr Tom Wilson  
Director, St Philip's Centre

## Education

September saw the team running a groundbreaking first Religion & Belief Roadshow for schools in Norfolk. Nearly 300 children and several parents from Necton Primary, Church of England Heartwood and Ashill Primary took part in a fun-packed day of interaction, learning and mutual understanding. Thanks to everyone for the warmest of welcomes and to our fabulous team for their dedication. See overleaf for just some of the wonderful comments from staff and children.



Religion & Belief Roadshow  
Necton  
September 2025



## *Religion and Belief Roadshow*

### *Just some of the great feedback from staff and pupils*

I liked making the music and getting dressed up  
**Arthur**

We found out about Islam - I saw the Hajj and heard that 3 million people visit every year.  
**Reuben**

Thank you all for such a wonderful afternoon. We were quite overwhelmed by the breadth and depth of the information shared with the children, and the real consideration by each member of your team during the session. It was such an open and welcoming experience, thank you.  
**Head, Heartwood Primary School**

I just really enjoyed it all - it was fun trying on all the different clothes and costumes.  
**Lucas**

We found out about Hinduism. Hindus keep Ganesh in their house, when they have any problems or obstacles happen in their life Lord Ganesh helps them. I liked finding out more about the faith from a different point of view.  
**Lakshay**

Yesterday was just the most fabulous day in so many ways! Immensely enjoyable and hugely rewarding to see how many children gained so much new knowledge and understanding. It was just brilliant. Everyone who came along to Necton to visit from St Philip's Centre were truly wonderful. They made the children feel welcome and comfortable and really connected so well with them, it was a real pleasure to experience. The children had a great sense of your collective wisdom and openness and it really helped them engage with the different messages they heard. Please pass on my sincerest thanks to the team.

**Vicki Long, Headteacher, Necton CoE Primary School**



### **Focus Group News**

On Friday 26th September, we held our first focus group with young people from South Asian communities at Gateway College to hear about inclusion, access and barriers to following and participating in Cricket. The session was held in partnership with Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Foundation who are working on a England & Wales Cricket Board initiative.

Thanks to all for the excellent engagement.



## Corporate Work

During September we ran a number of Police training days at Gurdwara Guru Panth Parkash, designed to equip officers with a foundational understanding of the diverse communities they may encounter across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland. Alongside exploring local demographics, participants put their knowledge to the test in a lively Facts of Faith game and engaged in open dialogue during Round Robin sessions, then went for a tour of the Gurdwara. We're very grateful to our Faith Practitioners, whose insight and generosity made these sessions so valuable.



### Some feedback...

"Good opportunity to explore topic which is sensitive"

"The Round Robin session was very interesting"

"Extremely helpful, good to be able to ask those difficult questions"



### Light in the darkness

Introductory panel discussion, followed by conversation in small groups on how faith gives us hope in troubled times

6:30 - 8:00pm, Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Nov  
Christchurch, 105A Clarendon Park Road  
Leicester, LE2 3AH

Organised by

 <https://lightinthedarkness.eventbrite.co.uk>

## Connecting Communities

On Tuesday the 16th of September we ran another of our highly successful Connecting Communities evenings. The format is very simple: we set up a room with tables and chairs, buy some cake, provide hot and cold drinks, and encourage people to come along and meet other people they have never met before. Some people come by themselves, others bring a friend for a bit of reassurance when meeting a stranger. Either is fine, indeed the more the merrier.

People are encouraged to not spend too long talking to the same person but to mix and mingle and find out about different people, networking and connecting communities and individuals that would not otherwise have met. The conversation



is wide-ranging. As one person put it to me, "Tonight, I have talked about scrambled eggs, tattoos, conspiracy theories, pets, and given someone a crash course in understanding Hinduism."

At the St Philip's Centre, we are all about helping people learn how to live well together. We believe the best way of achieving this is to give people informal and safe opportunities to meet each other. We will have another of these events in a couple of months' time. Do let me know if you would like an invite.

**Cathryn Parsons**

**Churches Engagement Officer**

## Funding Support

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**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

X: @SPCLeicester Facebook: stphilipscentreltd

[X](#) [Facebook](#) [Website](#)

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