



Faiths engage

Monthly Newsletter—Issue 80—June 2026

Welcome to our special 20th Anniversary edition of Faiths Engage

As we celebrate twenty years of the St Philip's Centre, this special edition of our newsletter brings together the people, stories, and moments that have shaped our journey. Over the past two decades, the Centre has grown into a place where dialogue, learning, and community flourish — and this milestone gives us the chance to look back with gratitude and forward with renewed purpose.

In this issue, we share highlights from our anniversary lunch honouring our founding director, **Andrew Wingate**, whose vision and leadership established the Centre back in 2006. Surrounded by friends, colleagues, and family, Andrew reflected on the early days of the Centre and the values that continue to guide our work today.

We also bring you a write-up of our recent **intercultural music concert**, an evening that captured the heart of what the St Philip's Centre stands for: people of different backgrounds coming together, sharing creativity, and building understanding through the universal language of music.

Finally, we've gathered a collection of photographs spanning the last twenty years — snapshots of projects, partnerships, celebrations, and the many faces who have contributed to our story. They remind us not only of how far we've come, but of the community that makes this work meaningful.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Here's to the next chapter.

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



Honouring our founder: a 20-year celebration

The St Philip's Centre marked its 20th anniversary with a special lunch honouring our founding director, **Andrew Wingate** who first opened the Centre's doors in 2006. Andrew was joined by friends, colleagues, and his wife and daughter, for an afternoon of warm reflection and reunion. Guests enjoyed a series of short speeches recalling Andrew's leadership, vision, and the formative years of the Centre. Stories were shared, laughter flowed easily, and the sense of gratitude for Andrew's contribution was felt throughout the room.

The celebration continued over a relaxed buffet lunch, with sandwiches, cake, and plenty of time to reconnect. It was a fitting tribute to both the legacy of our founder and the community that has grown from his work over the past two decades.



Dialogue Society honours St Philip's Centre at engaging community event

On 28th April, Dr Mohammed Ahmed, Policy Lead and Research Fellow at the Woolf Institute, delivered a thought-provoking talk titled ***Ancient Hatred or Socio-Political? Why Relations Break Down***. His presentation sparked lively engagement from the audience, who explored with him the complex forces that shape social tensions and intergroup relations.

We were also delighted to be presented with a commemorative plaque by the Dialogue Society. The presentation was made by long-time Dialogue Society volunteer Dr Firat Batmaz and received on behalf of the Centre by Professor Bob Allison, Chair of Trustees. It was a moment of genuine honour and appreciation, highlighting the shared commitment of both organisations to fostering understanding across communities.



United in music and dance: a celebration of cultures

On 16th May, our community came together for an unforgettable intercultural music concert that celebrated the beauty of diversity through movement, rhythm and song. Blended cultural styles to create unique, collaborative pieces that honoured several traditions whilst forming something entirely new. It was an evening filled with colour, connection and shared joy — a true testament to the power of music to unite us.



Here's what some of our performers had to say:

"Hello Cathryn, thank you for a wonderful evening yesterday, I must admit we were a little unsure whether we had taken on too much, but it was so enjoyable and folk were so kind, we really felt part of the occasion. All our Best Wishes. Margaret and Close Harmony Girls (you made us feel young)."



Memories over the years











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