

Faiths engage

Monthly Newsletter—Issue 83—October 2026

Welcome to the latest edition of Faiths Engage

As we move into autumn, it has been a privilege to see so many examples of people coming together across Leicester and Leicestershire to build understanding, strengthen communities and create new opportunities.

This month's newsletter highlights the breadth of activity taking place through our partnerships and community engagement work. From welcoming visitors of different faiths and backgrounds, to supporting young people in exploring British Values, to bringing women together through sport and listening to community voices on the future of cricket, each event demonstrates the power of connection and dialogue.

We are also delighted to celebrate opportunities for partnership at a wider level, whether through attending prestigious civic events, engaging with local leaders and organisations, or contributing to conversations about the future of our region. These relationships are vital in helping us work collaboratively for the benefit of all our communities.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in, supported or hosted our activities over the past month. Your enthusiasm, generosity and willingness to engage with others continue to make a real difference. We look forward to building on these connections in the months ahead.

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

An Afternoon of Connection and Celebration

Thanks to the High Sheriff of Leicestershire for the invitation to Riaz to attend the Garden Party on Sunday 13th September at Winstanley House. Good to connect with other charities working in the county.



Kicking Off New Friendships

On Sunday 20th September ladies from Tugby, St Peter's and the Bengali Ladies Group met again at an over 40's five-a-side walking football tournament. The event was organised for Bengali Go CIC by Majeda.

Keen to encourage ongoing relationships between the groups, St Philip's Centre partially sponsored the tournament, helping to ensure it was a success.

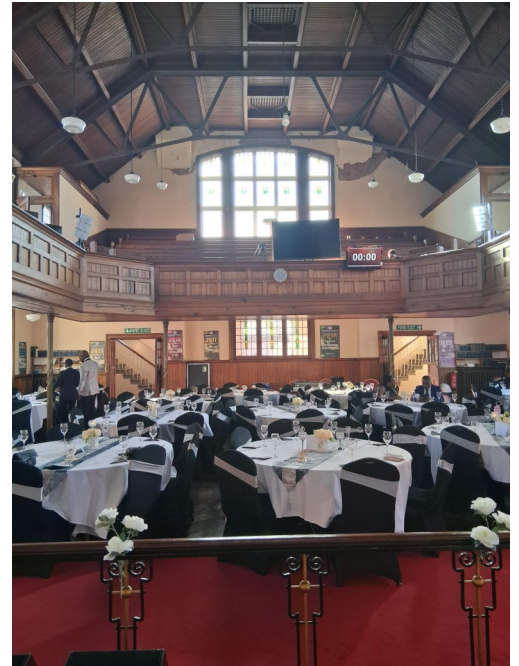
Ladies from all five teams taking part had fun and although friendly, at times the football became quite competitive but in the end, we were all winners!

Cathryn Parsons
Churches Training Officer



20 Voices, One Conversation

On Sunday 13th September, we held a focus group with 20 young adult members of the Disciples Fellowship Ministry Church Leicester about Cricket! This is part of our Cricket Cities partnership with the Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Foundation. The session covered levels of familiarity with the game as well as accessibility and perceptions. Thanks to all.



Chatting Faith with Archbishop Sarah

On 12th September, members of our Chatting Faith group were delighted to attend a special lunch with Archbishop Sarah Mullally. The event provided a valuable opportunity for young people to share their thoughts, ask questions and engage in conversation with a senior faith leader. One participant reflects on the experience below:

"I had a wonderful experience speaking with the Archbishop. I loved how she gave her time to access and communicate with young people which made us feel incredibly seen. It was amazing how considerate she was and made us feel as if every question was valid. I walked away from the conversation feeling enriched. Thank you, Archbishop Sarah."





Interfaith in England

Following the closure of the Interfaith Network for the UK, we took part in a consultation meeting to offer our contribution to external proposals to set up a new body to cover England. St Philip's Centre already works at sub-regional level and is well positioned to continue this whatever the outcome of this exercise.

DMU Annual Dinner Highlights the Power of Partnership

Riaz was pleased to attend the DMU Annual Dinner, where the university shared its vision for the next five years. Speakers emphasised the importance of partnership working and community engagement, recognising that today's challenges require collaborative solutions. The event also highlighted DMU's healthcare programmes and plans to increase community-based provision.



Colleges Exchange!

As part of Near Neighbours and an extension of our Co-In (community integration) programme, we twinned 35 sixth form students from The City of Leicester College (TCOLC) and Gateway College for a mutual exchange over lunch. The first encounter was hosted by TCOLC and included a series of networking activities to enable students to get to know one another. The reciprocal visit will take place at Gateway College. Over the coming months, we hope to run new Co-In schemes at both venues.



Bringing British Values to Life

In September, we began a whole school programme of delivering British Values workshops for primary schoolchildren at Uplands Junior LEAD Academy in Leicester.

Riaz and one of our faith practitioners were responsible for this. The workshops allowed the children to learn about not only the concepts associated with British Values which are an integral part of the curriculum but also how they can make them real and apply to their lives. As part of the sessions, children took part in an art activity to bring the learning to life.



A Meaningful Faith Experience

“The Faith Visit on Wednesday 16th September was a wonderful and meaningful experience. The visit was very informative, engaging and gave us the opportunity to learn more about faith, different beliefs and their importance in people’s lives. We really enjoyed the interactive sessions and the opportunity to listen, reflect and share ideas. Overall, it was an enjoyable and worthwhile experience, and I would definitely recommend the Faith Visit to others.”

From Waltham CE Primary School



Reminder: Only in Leicester' Creative Arts Competition



There's still time to enter our county-wide digital creative arts competition for children and young people across Leicester and Leicestershire, supported by the **National Lottery Heritage Fund** as part of the **Living Together** oral history project.

The theme, '**Only in Leicester**', invites young people to explore what makes Leicester unique, including community, belonging, identity and how people from different backgrounds live well together. Entries can take the form of **visual art, poetry or creative prose**.

The competition supports **Interfaith Week (8th-15th November)** and is open to young people up to the age of 18 through schools, community groups, faith groups and home education settings. Schools and groups may submit **up to 10 entries**.

Please note: AI-generated work and photography are not permitted.

Find out more and submit entries:

<https://www.leicesterlivingtogether.com/digital-creative-arts-competition>

Submission deadline: Monday 9th November 2026

Further information: sean@goldfinchheritage.com



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