

# WIFRN NEWS

Wolverhampton Inter-Faith and Regeneration Network

February 2014

Issue No. 53



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## Forgiveness Conference and Display

This conference was held in St. Peter's Collegiate Church on Saturday November 23, 2013. About 100 people attended, from different faith traditions and none.

Each of the main world faiths was represented, five by speakers present at the conference and the Jewish faith by a written presentation, acknowledging the fact that the conference was on a Saturday, and therefore the Sabbath.

The Christian and Muslim speakers – Barry and Margaret Mizen and Tariq Jehan – spoke from their respective experiences of having a son killed, tracing the painful emotional journey which followed and talking about how they had found the grace to forgive their sons' killers.

*Continued on pages 4/5*



## A Message from the Chairman

It is unbelievable that the Wolverhampton Inter-Faith Group, now WIFRN, has made a journey of 40 years since its inception. How time flies!

We are planning an ambitious programme for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this journey, some of the details of which will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter, which will be dedicated to a celebration of this journey. I feel I must let you know, however, that a special memorial service will be held in St. Peter's Collegiate Church in the latter part of the year, at a date to be finalised once we have heard about the availability of a very special Guest of Honour.



Please remove from your mind any thought that the journey is over. We have made tremendous strides in our City, helping to make it one of the most desirable places to live in, where multi-faith, multi-lingual and multi-cultural diversity is not only accepted but positively respected and celebrated. However, the inter-faith endeavour must continue its work of building bridges between differences until we have reached our goal of turning our City into a real *City of Sanctuary* where everyone is welcome and where equality of opportunities, unity in diversity and total harmony all prevail.

We therefore earnestly request you all Wulfrunians – young and old – to join us in our journey and provide your active support, cooperation and encouragement.

(Dr.) Harun Rashid

*I am currently writing a booklet about the early years of the Interfaith Group in Wolverhampton. I am interested in the period immediately prior to the formal setting up of the group in 1974. If you have any knowledge of those early years, particularly between 1968 and 1974, of circumstances leading to its formation, would you please let me know? If you have any (authentic) anecdotes, any memories of those days or if you know who was involved in contacting people from different faiths for the setting of this group, please either contact me on*

*sehdev@bismal.co.uk*

*or contact the WIFRN Office on 01902 427601 as soon as possible. I am working to a very tight deadline and plan to produce the first draft before the end of February. A prompt response, therefore, would be much appreciated.*

Sehdev.

# Holocaust Day Memorial Service

## January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Cenotaph, St Peter's Gardens,

The theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day Service was 'Journeys'

There was, a good turn-out on a cold and showery morning but the weather didn't dampen the sense of occasion as we remembered all those who had lost their lives in the Holocaust and also in other atrocities such as the genocide in Rwanda.



The service was opened by the Bishop of Wolverhampton;- Rt. Revd Clive Gregory. Parveen Brigue read *Silent Friend* by Sohella Ghodstinat. Then Revd. John Howard talked movingly about the continuing journey of the people of Rwanda and the re-building their lives and communities after the mass genocide of 1994.



Martin Gomberg

Prem Lal read *Never Shall I Forget that Night* by Elie Wiesel and Martin Gomberg read the Jewish *Kaddish* in Hebrew (English translation was in the service sheet for all to follow). The Mayor, Councillor Milkinder Jaspal then laid the wreath on the Cenotaph. WIFRN Chairman Dr. Harun Rashid

closed the service by reading the *Statement of Commitment*.

The Mayor invited everyone to go to the Mayoral Suite for a welcome cup of tea and to sign the *Statement of Commitment*

Our thanks to Revd. David Lavender for organising this event.



John Waterfield



*Forgiveness conference continued.....*



They each spoke of the liberating effect of forgiveness. Bhai Sahib, Ram Aithal and Ven. Tejwant spoke from their scriptural traditions and each, in their own way, provided a philosophical rationale for forgiveness. In the written paper from Rabbi Harry Jacobi, he described forgiveness finding its roots in the events of the Holocaust and its practical outworking in the years that followed.

The mixture of these practical and theoretical approaches was very powerful and led to some probing questions to the panel of speakers. Bishop Clive Gregory, our President, chaired the conference very sensitively and, in his summary at the end, reflected the feeling of the audience when he expressed how profoundly moving an experience it had been and how he had gained new insights into the centrality of forgiveness in all the faith traditions. He also noted how closely linked forgiveness is to the virtue of humility.

The Conference was rated by some of those who have been involved with inter-faith for many years as the best they had attended.



Alongside the conference there was a display on forgiveness in St. Peter's during the following week. This was viewed by just under 100 adults, and 38 children from different schools. The comments book which was in church near the display recorded the powerful impact which it had on those who saw it. The comments included "heart challenging and thought provoking", "forgiveness is freedom", "very revealing" and

"restoring faith in humanity".

In a multi-faith city like Wolverhampton, it was a wonderful experience to see and hear how so fundamental, and difficult, a concept as forgiveness was not just theoretically present in our great faiths, but lived out in reality by people of faith.



Rev. David Wright

**Spreading Peace** "... to create a future based on peace, justice and the well-being of all".

**Sunday 20th October was the day of WIFRN's annual Prayers for Peace,** where the religious Faiths of Wolverhampton worship together in St Peter's Church in the centre of the City. We were welcomed by Revd. David Wright, Rector of St Peter's Collegiate Church, who told us that this was the 26th such service, but being a regular event does not reduce it to being a routine, and every time we come to it anew. Following the opening prayer we heard from a member of the Sri Sathya Service Organisation - What does Spreading Peace mean to me as a Sikh? He explained the service they offer to those less fortunate than themselves.

From then on each contribution challenged us as to what part we, as individuals, each play in Spreading Peace. Between the spoken offerings we were entertained, I think that is an appropriate word as we were moved to clap each performance, by the young people of the Sri Sathya Service Organisation. The youngest to the oldest of them sang and moved to their music with joy. The flautist, Jayna Patel, played well and with confidence, in his turn the drummer added his rhythms. A Peace Candle lit by Dr Harun Rashid burned throughout as a centre piece, illustrating the light we were seeking.



The address was given by Mr Sehdev BismalMBE. There is so much I would like to quote from his words, but this has to be a short article. He reminded us of the violence taking place around the world. He called for "an end to againstness", a word I hadn't heard before but it expresses its meaning so well. "An event like this afternoon can be successful only if we decide to strive each day on an individual basis through our interaction with others to lead the world away from senseless tragedies of violence ...". Sehdev Bismal then set out four points -

Peace is present if we care to look around

Peace is an inner process

Peace is the cessation of againstness

Peace is a choice

He then expanded on each of these themes, ending with a Japanese proverb: there are many paths up a mountain but when you reach the top you will find that perfect peace reigns there and the view of the moon from the top is the same.

Riya Patel read us her prayer asking for forgiveness and for God's help, putting us right when we are doing wrong. The Venerable Bhante Tegwant talked of Peace as an infection, which will spread.

Our Mayor also gave an important address - "... peace has a price and needs compromise". (So true, but we find compromise very difficult).



Following this we lit peace candles, the light spreading from one to the other as we each offered our candle to provide a light for our neighbour. After declaring a prayer of rededication to peace, we heard the closing prayers and Blessing given by Revd David Wright.

Win Sutton



## Advent at Corpus Christi, Wednesfield

The new head of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Francis, has proved a popular choice with many, both inside and outside the church. Perhaps most significant for members of the various Interfaith Groups is his approach to Interreligious Dialogue.

While interfaith dialogue has long been an important factor in the Catholic Church, Francis, in his recent publication *Evangelii Gaudium* (the joy of the gospel) has positively insisted that it take place, and that it should be a genuine exchange of ideas.

Some of us were members of 'Wolverhampton Interfaith' as it was then known, way back in the heady days of the wonderful and much loved Ivy Gutridge OBE. But there has long been some reluctance amongst Catholics generally to meet the challenge of Interreligious Dialogue, and many Catholics, particularly but by no means exclusively, among older members, still find it somewhat alien to Catholic thinking.



But, it appears that that is about to change as we engage with Francis' book. Many Catholics are beginning to see the need for cross faith dialogue. In fact in this publication Francis insists that, 'Interreligious dialogue is a necessary condition for peace in the world, and so it is a duty for Christians as well as other religious communities.' (EG p186)

Certainly the Parish Priest at Corpus Christi, Father Edgardo Dizon, was keen to explore this dialogue. Thus it was that over the Advent period Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Wednesfield invited a number of visitors from four

different faith groups.

Through the good offices of WIFRN on each of the four Sundays of Advent instead of a sermon we had speakers from four different religious groups: Buddhist (Bhante Tejwant and Vidya Kumari Midha), Hindu (Parveen Brigue), Sikh (Jaswinder Singh Chaggar) and Muslim (Dr. Harun Rashid).

Our visitors were well received and welcomed,



but it was no surprise that the Muslim speaker, Dr Harun Rashid, was listened to most attentively as he wove in names from our common scriptural heritage, and also pointed out that the Virgin Mary (an important figure in the Catholic Church) is mentioned in the Quran more often than in the New Testament. He also addressed the subject of terrorism which was much appreciated.

But perhaps more surprisingly our Buddhist speaker Vidya Kumari Midha was listened to with great interest when she expressed her desire to find, instead of the differences between our religions, our 'commonality', a word she used several times. Food for thought for all of us.

But I think the lasting memory we shall have of these talks will be, not the facts presented about the religion of the folks who spoke (we can get books out of the library for this), but the sincerity which each one brought with them about their faith, and their insistence that religion is not an at-church or an at-temple aspect of life, but a vital living part of it. Now that, I hope, we can all agree on.

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make these talks possible, and, of course, especial thanks to all of our speakers for their work and the love they showed to us.



***Keith Wood (Parish Secretary, Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Wednesfield.)***



# Bring and Share Lunch

Tuesday January 21<sup>st</sup>

The first of our monthly Bring and Share lunches (on the third Tuesday of each month) was a feast for mind and body. Harun's wife, Bulu, had prepared wonderful food for this initial event and this was supplemented by a wide variety of goodies brought by each participant for us all to share – and there were over twenty of us, just fitting into the room adjoining our office.

Our minds were stimulated by Harun's talk. Like many of us, it was through circumstance – being born in a Muslim village- that he grew up and became committed to his particular faith, namely Islam. He had no hesitation in calling himself a fundamentalist, but made it clear that this

entailed commitment to the fundamentals of his faith, which teaches us to love our fellow human beings, to forgive and to abhor killing, since in killing one person we are killing all humanity. This was a far cry from the example of those whom we generally associate with fundamentalism. If



all people of faith were true fundamentalists – living in accordance with the essential tenets of their respective faiths, all of which revolve around love and compassion – the world would indeed be at peace.

Harun grew up in a multi-faith environment, living as he did in close proximity to a village where the majority were Hindus. Many of us nodded in agreement when, in a concluding comment to his most stimulating contribution, he stressed how much his involvement with inter-faith in Wolverhampton had helped him to deepen and broaden his understanding of his own faith.

Time fled by and we had to close the formal part of the meeting all too soon. However, many were able to stay on and continue to exchange their thoughts and comments informally – may future meetings prove to be as stimulating as this one was. Thank you, Harun, for starting us off so well!



Erik Pearce

*PS Meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month, from 12.45-2.00 (and beyond if you can stay). The next two meetings are on Tuesday February 18<sup>th</sup> (with Parveen Brigue) and Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup> (with Prem Lal).*





## Wolverhampton – 10 years a Fairtrade City

### *A challenge for all faiths*

During 2014 Wolverhampton is celebrating 10 years of being designated a Fairtrade City.

Fairtrade is a simple way each one of us can make a difference through our everyday choices. It's about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fairer terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. Fairtrade City status recognises the number of suppliers and groups actively promoting Fairtrade in the City.

The Fairtrade mark is an independent certification that these prices and conditions are actually being delivered to internationally agreed standards.

But Fairtrade has been around in Wolverhampton for a lot longer than 10 years. At first it was introduced and encouraged through the Christian Churches promoting the idea. In common with other faiths, the motivation was that the ideas of fairness and justice which are central to the faith should inform our lives and influence our personal decisions.

This tenth anniversary year is a good time to challenge places of worship of all faiths to consider their commitment to endorse the values that Fairtrade represents. Many Churches are now officially designated 'Fairtrade Churches', which means that they use Fairtrade goods in all their own catering (especially tea, coffee, sugar), they look to widen the range of Fairtrade goods they use, and they promote Fairtrade amongst their members, particularly during Fairtrade Fortnight each year and by running regular stalls selling Fairtrade goods.

Fairtrade status is possible for places of worship of all faiths. Is 2014 the year when your place of worship will get on board?

*by David Fulljames - voluntary manager of the Fairtrade Shop*



Notes:

*Fairtrade Fortnight in 2014 is 24<sup>th</sup> February to 9<sup>th</sup> March. It is a good time to develop how your organisation adopts Fairtrade, as there is national and local publicity. See [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) 'Wolverhampton Fair Trade' is a voluntary organisation which supplies a wide range of Fairtrade goods to individuals, and to groups who run stalls at places of worship, schools and other events. It also has a selection of information and publicity materials about Fairtrade.*

*See [www.wolvesfairtrade.org.uk](http://www.wolvesfairtrade.org.uk) or ring David on 07944 286 869*

*The Fairtrade Shop is run by Wolverhampton Fair Trade. It is located at 24 School Street in the City Centre (at the back of Darlington Street Methodist Church), and is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10am – 4 pm, and Wednesday evenings 5.30 – 7.30.*

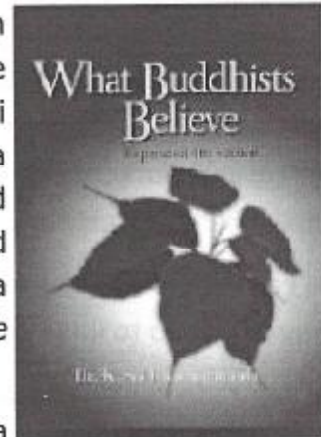
## TREASURES OF THE IVY GUTRIDGE COLLECTION

(Located in the Faith Section in the Central Library)

### WHAT BUDDHISTS BELIEVE

by K. Sri Dhammananda

*What Buddhists believe* has much to offer in terms of an insight into the Buddhist way of life. The first edition of the book was published in 1964. The book's author, K Sri Dhammananda, presents the philosophy of the Buddha in a clear and concise manner which benefits both Buddhist and non-Buddhist readers alike. Dr K Sri Dhammananda graduated in Buddhist philosophy and literature from Universities in India and Sri Lanka. The foreword to *What Buddhists Believe* clearly highlights that:



"This book is intended mainly for those who have a genuine desire to know something about the basic Teachings as well as the more difficult aspects of the religion explained in a manner which can be understood in a modern context and without prior knowledge of the subject" (p. x).

The book has a logical order in its format, beginning with the life story of Siddhartha Gautama who after achieving enlightenment became known as the Buddha. The word Buddha is derived from the ancient Sanskrit term *buddhi* which is translated as the mind and/or intellect. Hence the term Buddha is indicative of one who has elevated one's consciousness to the level of higher reality or 'truth' through which one appreciates the concept of impermanence.

Dhammananda goes on to discuss the often repeated question of whether the Buddha was an incarnation of God. The author makes it very clear that the Buddha was self-enlightened, hence rejecting the notion of divine intervention which is found in the theistic faiths. By using the example of the Sikh faith here, I note a number of similarities as well as points of departure in the concept of realisation or 'awakening' – an element of all Indian Religions. Sikh teachings, similar to Buddhist philosophy, emphasise the importance of human effort in raising one's spiritual understanding from the level of a *manmukh* (self-centred individual) to that of a *gurmukh* (unselfish, egoless individual). Indeed, the human birth, according to Sikhi (Sikh philosophy) is the 'golden opportunity' through which one may work towards his/her liberation from the cycle of transmigration. However, the point of departure here is that overriding all aspects of natural law are the concepts of *Hukam* (Will of the Divine) and *Nadar* (Grace of the Divine). Granting of a human birth is the result of Divine *Nadar* according to Sikhi.



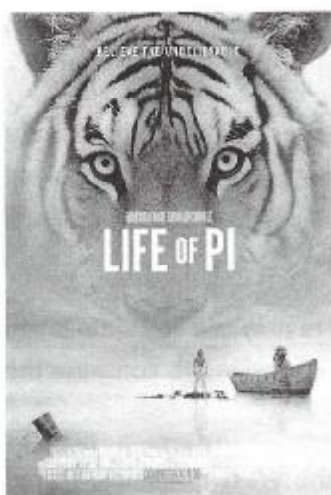
*What Buddhists Believe* goes on to address a number of themes and concepts, one being that of ritual and superstition. Dhammapada explores the Buddha's viewpoint towards external intermediaries in the path towards one's self realisation. He remarks that the Buddha found his own path after a number of trial and errors. The four signs that the Buddha had been shielded from as a youth are absolutely vital in order to understand in terms of his quest for finding the true meaning of life. The book aims to present the way of Buddhism without delving into cultural connotations of the many countries in which Buddhism is practised. Hence it focuses predominantly on the teachings of the Buddha and how these are applied in practice. *What Buddhists Believe* is a highly recommended text for anyone wishing to understand the significance of the Buddha's teachings in a modern world.



*Dr Opinderjit Kaur Takhar,  
Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies,  
University of Wolverhampton.*

## **Wolverhampton Inter-Faith and Regeneration Network**

Presents a special screening of



# ***The Life of Pi* PG**

**Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.**

(5.30pm for light refreshments with a 6pm prompt start)

**Light House, Chubb Buildings, Fryer Street, WV1 1HT**

*An opportunity to see, or see again, this critically-acclaimed box office hit*

**Tickets Adult: £10 Under 17: £5 available from WIFRN ([admin@wifrn.org.uk](mailto:admin@wifrn.org.uk))  
(01902-427601)**

**Or from the Light House Box Office (01902-716055)**

*Net proceeds will go to the Wolverhampton Inter-Faith and Regeneration Network (WIFRN).*

This well-attended meeting was organised by the Wolverhampton World Poverty Action Group and was held on 25 October 2013 at Lea Road Community Church, Wolverhampton.

Our first speaker Chris Bain, Director of CAFOD, outlined what was happening with the IF Campaign. The IF Campaign held a rally in London prior to the G8 leaders meeting in Northern Ireland on 17-18 June 2013.

Under the heading of '2015 and all that' he asked the question "Is growth what we want?" He gave us a vivid picture of what was happening in the world. The economic crisis; 850 million people still suffering in poverty; growing inequality and resource scarcity; climate change and the unpredictable politics in the world. All of which were contributory factors to the poverty and scarcity of resources in the world.

Five organisations - Oxfam, Christian Aid, Save The Children, CAFOD and the Daily Mirror – are leading many other agencies in continuing to push the UK Government and the G8 to address the issues of global poverty, growing inequality and climate change. The IF campaign was looking at both aid and beyond aid because hunger and lack of food for the poorest is the "scandal of our age" They were continually urging the UK Prime Minister, David Cameron, to lead on helping to creating positive, long-lasting changes to the failing global food system.

World Leaders have pledged £2.7 billion to tackle malnutrition. The EU has agreed to accountancy principle to make financial transactions more transparent. The UK Government is committed to making companies provide information on who owns, controls and benefits from companies. The UK has also agreed to sign up to pushing for more transparency with regard to tax havens.

We need to push on with the fight because the world was 'Hungry For Change'. The issue of inequality in the use and availability of the world's resources must be at the centre of our campaign. We must keep international aid on the agenda at Government level and tackle the causes of poverty both here in the UK and abroad.

It will not be easy but the campaign must acknowledge the Big Picture challenges of inequality, climate change, extreme poverty and the shifting demographics of governments across the world. Looking ahead at the political opportunities we need to focus on the Development Goals for 2015, The Paris COP of 2015\* (*see below*) and, here in the UK, the General Election in 2015.

CAFOD co-chairs the global campaign and is seeking to listen to poor people; review the limitations and achievements of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) \* \* and is working to continue the progress made at 'Rio + 20' \*\*\*

Our second speaker, John Cooper, Christian Aid Regional Co-ordinator for the West Midlands, stated that there is hope for a better world. It is achievable.

He gave local and specific examples of the work Christian Aid had done with partners in Burundi. A remote tribe now had houses for the first time. So from small beginnings better things can happen.

John then described the Christian Aid focus of pushing for economic and tax justice. Tax dodging needs to be challenged. We need to challenge Companies and Governments but we also had to acknowledge that it was harder to empower countries where political changes were needed.



The political battle has begun. Wealthy people and companies have been getting away with tax dodging. Examples such as 19,000 companies listed at a single address. There is also a lack of transparency at tax havens such as the Cayman Islands and Virgin Islands.

Christian Aid asked for a public register. The media and the public could then see where the money flows and challenge injustice. Ordinary people were paying more tax than big companies

He finished by saying "Yes, it is hard to be a campaigner" But be encouraged to continue. Go and see the film 'UK Gold' \*\*\*\* about campaigning against tax avoidance in the UK. Be inspired to know that people power can "make the possible"

The audience were inspired to ask the speakers lots of questions about subjects as diverse as land grabbing by governments or how we could help the small farmers of the world.

We were encouraged to keep asking questions, be inspired, keep the subject in the media and in front of the politicians and big business. To keep raising questions about climate change, food campaigns for small farmers; international development and poverty across the world.

A very inspiring meeting, even though the subject was complex and easy answers were not easy to come by. There were lots of ideas to think about and follow up on.

Alan Marriott

#### NOTES:

\*The 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) is expected to take place in December 2015, in Paris, France (i.e. 30 November - 11 December 2015 )

\*\* Millennium Development Goals:

1. To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. To achieve universal primary education
3. To promote gender equality and empowering women
4. To reduce child mortality rates
5. To improve maternal health
6. To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. To ensure environmental sustainability
8. To develop a global partnership for development

\*\*\* The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development - or Rio+20 - took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 20-22 June 2012. It resulted in a focused political outcome document which contains clear and practical measures for implementing sustainable development.

\*\*\*\* Christian Aid has partnered with Oxfam and Action Aid to organise a nationwide tour of The 'UK Gold' film: a story 'seismic enough to shift perceptions of finance and flag forever.' UK Gold' follows Hackney vicar Father William Taylor as he stands up and speaks out against tax dodging.

Featuring a stunning soundtrack by Thom Yorke and Robert Del Naja, it reveals how the UK's tax havens are complicit in maintaining the financial secrecy that fuels tax dodging, robbing poor countries of an estimated US\$160 billion a year.

#### LOCAL EVENT

**'UK Gold' will be shown locally at: Arena Theatre on Friday 28 March 2014 at 7.30pm**

The tickets are free and are obtainable from Arena Theatre 01902 321 321 [www.arenatheatre.info](http://www.arenatheatre.info)

or from the Fairtrade Shop, 24 School Street Weds, Thurs, Fri 10am – 4 pm & Weds 5.30 – 7.30pm

Details at [www.wolvesworldpovertyaction.wordpress.com](http://www.wolvesworldpovertyaction.wordpress.com)

**All good things come to an end**, so the saying goes. As you may already know I will be leaving WIFRN at the end of March. This change, though difficult, will hopefully offer both Inter-Faith and me a new challenge and new opportunities for the future.



In fact the recent history of regeneration work has constantly gone through periods of change since its inception in 2005. First it was the *Faith Regeneration Unit*, then it merged with the *Faith Network* to become the *Wolverhampton Faith Regeneration Network* and finally in 2010 it merged with the *Interfaith Council* to form the WIFRN.

Like 'Dr Who', it has often regenerated itself into something new while at the same time keeping the essence of what it is. Looking back, I can say that each time the change resulted in some differences but as a result of these changes we managed to meet and take on-board new challenges and opportunities that were present at the time.

Change, although difficult and at times painful and unwelcome, is not always a bad thing and as a person of faith I believe God is in the process of change and this belief can bring us excitement and fear in equal measures, as you never know what God might ask of you next!

Looking back I am pleased with the contribution regeneration has made to the City through the work we have delivered: *5 Steps to Successful Funding* workshops, *Energy Efficiency Workshops*, and more recently *City of Sanctuary*, and the setting up of a Job Club in Bilston. These are just a few of the projects we have helped deliver. I believe that we have directly or indirectly made some difference to the lives of people we have engaged with through this work.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported and assisted me over this time; there are many and I will only miss people out if I try and name them (also I don't have enough space) but especially to the Lichfield Diocese and Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District for their support and funding. Also to Devi and Mike in the office and my Line Manager Revd John Howard for his support and guidance.

The future will offer many challenges for Wolverhampton in the aftermath of the financial cuts and the remaining austerity, and the impact upon community cohesion these austerity measures may have. These changes in our communities will present new opportunities for Inter-faith and in the year it celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary its work will be as important as ever.

So let's look forward not back, embrace change and new opportunities, trust in God and enjoy the journey and see where it takes us.

John Waterfield



## Inclusivity at St. Peter's Collegiate CofE Academy

At St. Peter's Collegiate Church of England Academy religious inclusivity is important to us. Although we are an Academy following the doctrines and teachings of the Church of England the Principal, and Governors, acknowledge that all faith traditions have ultimate truths. The basis of our pastoral guidance is our **5 Keys to Learning**:

- ♦ **Be Respectful,**
- ♦ **Be Responsible,**
- ♦ **Be Supportive,**
- ♦ **Be Reflective,**
- ♦ **Be an Active Learner.**

The 5 Keys to Learning	
<b>BE RESPECTFUL</b>	Respect yourself, others and the school environment
<b>BE RESPONSIBLE</b>	Arrive on time, be equipped and neatly dressed
<b>BE SUPPORTIVE</b>	Listen and learn from others and let others learn from you
<b>BE REFLECTIVE</b>	Think how your actions impact on others
<b>BE AN ACTIVE LEARNER</b>	Be engaged, curious and conscious in all you do

The 5 Keys to Learning - Christianity	
<b>BE RESPECTFUL</b>	Respect yourself, others and the school environment
<b>BE RESPONSIBLE</b>	Arrive on time, be equipped and neatly dressed
<b>BE SUPPORTIVE</b>	Listen and learn from others and let others learn from you
<b>BE REFLECTIVE</b>	Think how your actions impact on others
<b>BE AN ACTIVE LEARNER</b>	Be engaged, curious and conscious in all you do

All schools would acknowledge that these attributes give sound guidance to students, and teachers, in the way they should conduct themselves. However at St. Peter's we wanted the 5 Keys to Learning to encourage not only **positive** conduct but certain key attributes as well. This would lead to effective learning and positive behaviour. Furthermore as a faith school we felt that the 5 Keys to Learning did not go far enough. We felt very strongly that they needed to be linked to the six world faith traditions.

The 5 Keys to Learning - Islam	
<b>BE RESPECTFUL</b>	Respect yourself, others and the school environment
<b>BE RESPONSIBLE</b>	Arrive on time, be equipped and neatly dressed
<b>BE SUPPORTIVE</b>	Listen and learn from others and let others learn from you
<b>BE REFLECTIVE</b>	Think how your actions impact on others
<b>BE AN ACTIVE LEARNER</b>	Be engaged, curious and conscious in all you do

As an Academy this is important to us because some of our students come from these faith traditions. Therefore the 5 Keys to Learning were, in a sense, given a religious make over. They were linked to the six world's faith traditions; Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism.

The 5 Keys to Learning - Sikhism	
<b>BE RESPECTFUL</b>	Respect yourself, others and the school environment
<b>BE RESPONSIBLE</b>	Arrive on time, be equipped and neatly dressed
<b>BE SUPPORTIVE</b>	Listen and learn from others and let others learn from you
<b>BE REFLECTIVE</b>	Think how your actions impact on others
<b>BE AN ACTIVE LEARNER</b>	Be engaged, curious and conscious in all you do

We believe that in doing this we showed how, as an Academy, we value the teachings and beliefs of other faiths. Furthermore we believe that the 5 Keys to Learning will have more impact, and relevance, to students that are not of the Christian faith. This is crucial when dealing with academic achievement, behaviour and other pastoral issues. We hope that these 'religious' 5 Keys to Learning will guide, direct and give meaning to our students throughout their lives, not only in school, but as they grow and mature into young adults.

M Cooper (Assistant Principal)

The 5 Keys to Learning - Hinduism	
<b>BE RESPECTFUL</b>	Respect yourself, others and the school environment
<b>BE RESPONSIBLE</b>	Arrive on time, be equipped and neatly dressed
<b>BE SUPPORTIVE</b>	Listen and learn from others and let others learn from you
<b>BE REFLECTIVE</b>	Think how your actions impact on others
<b>BE AN ACTIVE LEARNER</b>	Be engaged, curious and conscious in all you do

The 5 Keys to Learning - Judaism	
<b>BE RESPECTFUL</b>	Respect yourself, others and the school environment
<b>BE RESPONSIBLE</b>	Arrive on time, be equipped and neatly dressed
<b>BE SUPPORTIVE</b>	Listen and learn from others and let others learn from you
<b>BE REFLECTIVE</b>	Think how your actions impact on others
<b>BE AN ACTIVE LEARNER</b>	Be engaged, curious and conscious in all you do

The 5 Keys to Learning - Buddhism	
<b>BE RESPECTFUL</b>	Respect yourself, others and the school environment
<b>BE RESPONSIBLE</b>	Arrive on time, be equipped and neatly dressed
<b>BE SUPPORTIVE</b>	Listen and learn from others and let others learn from you
<b>BE REFLECTIVE</b>	Think how your actions impact on others
<b>BE AN ACTIVE LEARNER</b>	Be engaged, curious and conscious in all you do

Do you or your place of worship have an inter-faith related event that you want to promote in this newsletter or an article about faith that would be of interest to others?

If so, let us know: Tel 01902 427601 or email [admin@wifrn.org.uk](mailto:admin@wifrn.org.uk).

## **Dates for Your Diary**

### **Bring and Share Lunch**

February 18th at 1pm lunch led by Parveen

March 18th at 1pm led by Prem

April 15th at 1pm led by Bhajan

(At the WIFRN office. Please arrive from 12.45pm for a prompt 1pm start.)

### **April 7th 2014**

Film Show at the Light House 6.30pm—The Life of Pi

(see page 11 for details)

### **Saturday 14th June 2014**

Garden Party at Bishop Clive's to celebrate WIFRN 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

(More information to follow)

### **Saturday July 5th 2014**

Visit to Worcester Cathedral and local Mosque

(More information to follow)



Tel 01902 427601: [admin@wifrn.org.uk](mailto:admin@wifrn.org.uk).

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