

Interfaith Calendar of Festivals Summer 2012

MAY 2012

1	Beltane	Pagan
2	Twelfth Day of Ridvan	Bahá'í
6	Visakha Puja/Buddha Day	Buddhist
10	Lag B'Omer	Jewish
17	Ascension Day -	Christian
23	Declaration of the Bab	Bahá'í
24	All Ascension of Jesus	Orthodox Christian

27	Pentecost	Christian
27-28	Shavuot	Jewish
29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah	Bahá'í

JUNE 2012

3	Trinity Sunday	Christian
7	Corpus Christi	Catholic Christian
3	Pentecost	Orthodox Christian
10	All Saints	Orthodox Christian
16	Lailat al Miraj	Muslim
	Guru Arjan Dev martyrdom	Sikh
20	Solstice, Litha	Pagan

JULY 2012

3	Asalha Puja Day	Buddhist
4	Lailat at Bara'ah	Muslim
9	Martyrdom of the Bab	Bahá'í
13-16	Obon	Buddhist
20	Ramadan Begins	Muslim
29	Tisha B'Av	Jewish

AUGUST 2012

1	Fast in Honour of Holy Mother of Jesus	Orthodox Christian
	Lammas	Christian
2	Raksha Bandhan	Hindu
	Lugnassad	Pagan
6	Transfiguration of the Lord	Orthodox Christian
10	Krishna Janmashtami	Hindu
14	Lailat al Kadr	Muslim
15	Assumption of Virgin Mary	Catholic Christian
	Dormition of the Theotokos	Orthodox Christian
19-21	Eid al Fitr	Muslim

SEPTEMBER 2012

8	Nativity of Mary	Christian
14	Elevation of the Life Giving Cross - Holy Cross Day	Christian
17-18	Rosh HaShanah	Jewish
19	Ganesh Chaturthi	Hindu
22	Equinox - Mabon	Pagan
26	Yom Kippur	Jewish
29	Michael and All Angels	Christian

Olaf Palme Memorial Peace Lecture

PROFESSOR Sir Richard Jolly of Sussex University spoke about Security for People—the Real Alternative to Crisis and War. The idea is that when individuals feel secure, the country will be secure. Surveys in European countries have shown that what makes people (as opposed to nations) feel insecure are concerns about jobs, finances, inadequate medical care and abuse from police or civil servants. Threats of terrorism or nuclear attack were way down on the list. Over the past 65 years the vast majority of armed conflicts in the world have been within countries—civil wars or oppressive governments. Nations willing to sacrifice sovereignty became more secure and peaceful—the EU being given as a good example. Emphasising police/military control fuels insecurity while financing schools, hospitals and job creation is beneficial all round.

Editor: John S. Summerwill 0113 269 7895 editor@concord-leeds.org.uk
Admin Secretary: Cynthia Dickinson 01924 863 956 secretary@concord-leeds.org.uk



Concord

LEEDS INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP

www.concord-leeds.org.uk

Newsletter - April 2012

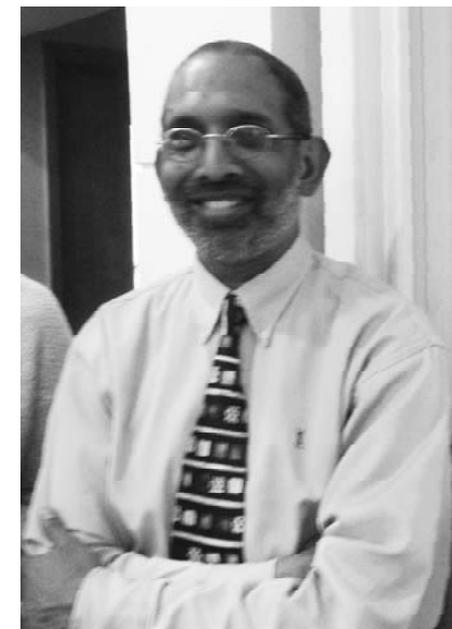
Beyond John Hick's Philosophy of Religious Pluralism: Back to the Future

ABOUT fifteen Concord members were part of an audience of about fifty at the talk by Gavin D'Costa on 22nd February, organised in conjunction with the University of Leeds Department of Theology & Religious Studies. Dr D'Costa is Professor of Catholic Theology at the University of Bristol. The audience, which included students and academics, was treated to insights that were academically rigorous and which had practical implications for anyone active within inter-faith work.

Although openly admitting to possessing a different perspective on the philosophy of religious dialogue, Professor D'Costa acknowledged his debt both personally and professionally to the late John Hick. I remember being captivated by Hick's work myself whilst studying for A-Level Religious Studies many moons ago.

During his lecture, Professor D'Costa outlined some key principles of inter-faith engagement:

- recognising that there is more than one truth (using the famous analogy of the blind men and the elephant);
- putting theological principles to one side and focusing on the social issues that can bind faiths together;
- witnessing how different faiths practise their everyday beliefs;



- and identifying that any potential conflict should be resolved through 'dialogue' not argument.

Thanks to Cynthia for arranging the lecture with Dr Mel Prideaux from the Department of Theology & Religious Studies. Hopefully this will be followed by other collaborations between Concord and other partner institutions and organisations.

Simon Philips

West Yorkshire Community Chaplaincy Project

SIMON Phillips chaired Concord's March meeting held in the MultiFaith Centre of Allerton High School.

Ron Williams, project director for the WYCCP, gave a short presentation on work being done at HMP Leeds and Wealston. The main aim is to help inmates cope when released by offering a 'through the gate' service. Volunteers provide a valuable part of this service, getting to know the inmate while he is serving his sentence then assisting him after release. It is recognised that faith communities are well placed to help ex-offenders in this way and WYCCP aims to improve its connections and encourage more people



of faith to become volunteer link-workers. Anyone interested can find out more on the website www.wyccp.org.uk or by enquiring at Voluntary Action Leeds.

InterActive Sports Day

OUR good friend Mahboob Nazir (Muslim community LS11) has been working with Keith Ackerman (Jewish community LS17) to get youngsters playing cricket together and learning leadership skills. This soon expanded to multi-faith cricket matches and then to multi-faith, multi-sport activities and InterActive was created.

The latest venture was a mini-Olympics at Leeds Met for 200 primary school children, and although sport was the main attraction there were activities concerned with the Olympic values of fairness and respect. Concord's banner was there—it formed the backdrop for several of the outdoor photographs—and I helped out with the game of Global Bingo and Fairtrade refreshments.

Cynthia Dickinson



Concord Events

Saturday 28th April, 10am – 1pm CONCORD'S 7TH ANNUAL WALK OF FRIENDSHIP

10am at Jamia Masjid Bilal, Conway Road LS8 5JH, talk and tour of the Mosque. Follow the rainbow banners to St Augustine's RC Church and St Aidan's Anglican Church to hear about beliefs and practices.

Tuesday 15th May, 7.30pm LEEDS CONCORD AGM

in the Quaker Meeting House, Woodhouse Lane LS2 9DX for reports on Concord's year of activities

with guest speaker **Dr Mel Prideaux**, University of Leeds Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dept of Theology & Religious Studies on Religious Mapping of Leeds City Centre 2011

Tuesday 12th June, 7pm RITES OF PASSAGE IN THE SIKH TRADITION

A talk for Concord by **Dr Jatinder Mehmi** in The Sikh Temple, Chapeltown Rd, Leeds LS7 4HZ

Monday July 16th, 7.30pm FOOD, FEASTS & FASTING IN MUSLIM TRADITION

A talk for Concord by **Henna Iqbal** in the Quaker Meeting House, Woodhouse Lane LS2 9DX

Friday September 14th, 2pm RITES OF PASSAGE IN HINDU TRADITION

A talk for Concord in the Friends Meeting House, 136 Street Lane, Roundhay LS8 2BW

Wednesday October 17th, 7.15 for 7.30pm ANNUAL PEACE SERVICE

Join with nine faiths from Leeds, lighting candles for peace in the Civic Hall

From the InterFaith Network UK

A special programme called 'A Year of Service' is taking place during 2012. The Year provides an opportunity for marking in a practical way the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen. In each month, faith communities are hosting a day or days of volunteering and inviting people of other faiths and non-religious beliefs to join in. The days around which the programme is built reflect both religious festivals and dedicated faith-based special volunteering 'Days' shown below. Other faith groups around the country may, of course, choose to hold their own volunteering events linked to other days.

For more information contact info@ayearofservice.org.uk

April 21st – 22nd: Mahavira Jayanti – Jain
May 27th: Pentecost – Christian

June 16th: Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev – Sikh

July 3rd: Earthkind – Buddhist Action Day

August 4th–5th: Ramadan – Muslim

October 5th: Harvest – Christian

October 7th: Sewa Day – Hindu

November 18th: Mitzvah Day - Jewish

"The problems we face today, violent conflicts, destruction of nature, poverty, hunger and so on, are human-created problems which can be resolved through human effort, understanding and the development of a sense of brotherhood and sisterhood. We need to cultivate a universal responsibility for one another and the planet we share."

-- The Dalai Lama

Big Jubilee Lunch Sunday 3rd June

THE Big Lunch this year takes place on Sunday June 3rd and will form part of the official Diamond Jubilee weekend celebrations as The Big Jubilee Lunch: <http://www.thebiglunch.com/join-in/jubilee-2012.php> The Inter Faith Network is a Key Supporting Organisation for the Big Lunch.

The Big Lunch aims to get as many people as possible across the UK to have a community lunch once a year. Since the project was launched in 2009 thousands of lunches have taken place across a wide range of communities. The Big Lunch is hoping that faith communities and inter-faith groups will again play a significant role this year, hosting and participating in lunches.

**Sunday 3rd
The Big Lunch in Roundhay
12.30 for 1pm**

Everyone is welcome to a Big Lunch 'street party' in St Edmund's Church grounds, Lidgett Park Road LS8 1JN

Food contributions appreciated but not essential. For more information contact Jenny on 0113 266 4532

Peace Garden

LEEDS City Council Peacelink Group has been discussing the idea of creating a Peace Garden in the city centre at Queen's Square. Hopefully there will be some sort of launch on June 20th – the day after the Olympic Torch enters north Leeds and before all the activities surrounding the Torch's progress through the city. The group would like as many "peace" people as possible involved in this project, from all faiths and cultures, old and young. If you are interested, please get in touch.

Cynthia Dickinson

Walk of Friendship

I hope you will join us for another Walk of Friendship on Saturday April 28th. We are meeting at 10.00 am in Jamia Masjid Bilal for a talk and tour then walking to St Augustine's RC Church, where we will be met by the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Cllr Revd Alan Taylor. After hearing about the different congregations and varied activities we continue to St Aidan's to see and hear about the Brangwyn mosaic amongst other things. Refreshments will be served at about 12.30; you are invited to bring your picnic lunch to enjoy with your new friends.

Cynthia Dickinson

Annual General Meeting, Tuesday May 15th

CONCORD has had another good year of events and activities—some better supported than others—but whatever we do, Concord can't exist without you. We are lucky to have a loyal core of members and a dedicated Executive Committee, but we could do with a bit of extra help. Although we have lots of friends in the Muslim and Sikh communities, at the moment we have no representatives on the committee from those faith groups. Maybe you can help?

After the business meeting Dr Mel Prideaux from the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Leeds University will give a short presentation on the Religious Mapping of Leeds City Centre, a piece of interfaith fieldwork carried out by her students. Although it is exam time we are hoping that some students will come along to answer questions about the work they carried out.

The meeting starts at 7.30 pm in the Quaker Meeting House on Woodhouse Lane.

Treasures Revealed in Leeds

THERE will be 30 places of worship open during Treasures Revealed in Leeds week—mostly churches but also a mosque, synagogue and stone circle. Look out for the TRiL brochures or check the website

<http://www.treasuresrevealed.co.uk/discover-explore/leeds/list-of-participants/>

As usual the week starts with Concord's Walk of Friendship on the Saturday morning in Harehills, which this year can be followed by a visit to St Edmund's and Lidgett Park Methodist churches, Roundhay, in the afternoon.

"Tolerance implies no lack of commitment to one's own beliefs. Rather it condemns the oppression or persecution of others."

-- John F. Kennedy

Olympic Torch

YOU will probably be aware that the Olympic torch is coming into the city of Leeds on June 23rd and 24th. And although the Olympics are mainly concerned with competitive sports, Olympic values include 'respect, friendship and equality'—all of which fit into Concord's ethos. The torch will be passing through areas where Concord has held Walks of Friendship. Why don't we join with our friends in those areas?

Sunday June 24th 6.35pm – along Harehills Lane past Potternewton Park Gurdwara and Jamia Masjid Bilal.

Monday June 25th 8.25am – from Cross Flats Park up Tempest Road past the Hamara Centre and All Hallows Church.

JOHN FOUNTAIN

(Interviewed by Trevor Bates March 10th 2012)

JOHN FOUNTAIN is a unique and special person, because his lifestyle is shaped by his physical conditions.

Since the age of two years he has been paralysed down his right side and for the last ten years his walking ability has been



complicated by a broken hip which could not be satisfactorily repaired.

Born in Knaresborough, he is the eldest of three siblings. John's father, who belonged to the family that owned Broughton Street Linen Mills, was a teacher at the King James' Grammar School in Knaresborough, situated across the road from the family home. John's mother hails from Dublin and his matriarchal grandfather established a veterinary practice in Knaresborough.

PROFILE

12TH IN A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS
WITH MEMBERS OF CONCORD

John's upbringing was in the Roman Catholic Christian tradition, ending his schooling at St John Fisher RC High School in Harrogate. We are not surprised therefore to discover that John has always had a strong leaning towards congregations with strong and visual liturgical expressions of Christianity. He supports the Russian and Greek Orthodox congregations in Halifax, Bradford and Leeds and is warmly welcomed by them.

In consequence of this ongoing interest in religion John has established links with the Ukrainian and Serbian Orthodox clubs (and prior to closure, the Latvian club) as well as the Polish Catholic club in Leeds and the Serbian Club in Bradford. Resulting from his brother James' involvement as a shop-owner in Whitby John is also proud to be a member of the Leeds Chamber of Commerce and Industry along with him.

John's ventures in community service find him supporting the RSPCA locally, Marie Curie in Tadcaster, and St Gemma's in Leeds. Whilst he is a willing street collector for charities, his greatest delight is being a volunteer alongside others in special money raising events or open days which promote the particular cause. Indeed St Gemma's have acknowledged with a special award John's more than 20 years support for them as an assistant volunteer.

John has a very large and varied library of books which reflect his enquiring mind and early hope to work as a librarian, which however, never came to fruition. At school, History, Geography and

Profile of John Jountain (continued)

Nature Study held his attention. In his more adult years visits to Leeds and York City Museums and Art Galleries compliment those early interests. Maybe it is because of John's restricted mobility that he has, we find, a fascination with shipping lines, ports of entry and aircraft. In addition his tastes in music embrace his support for the Leeds Symphony Orchestra and their concerts (particularly when they play in Knaresborough), and of music by Beethoven and Mozart, whilst still delighting to hear modern solo singers e.g. Elkie Brooks and relishing the humour of Ken Dodd!

His membership of Concord came by his introduction to interfaith gatherings in Knaresborough. There he met John and Catherine Margham, who encouraged him to visit Leeds Concord about 15 years ago, and he has been a keen supporter ever since. John also serves as a member of our Executive Committee

John is a most positive person and is an ambassador of encouragement for people who live on the fringes of society, demonstrating perseverance and pointing the way to enrichment, colour and diversity to those of us who would live in the mainstream of security. We value John's involvement with Concord and trust that he will find it equally rewarding to promote tolerance and mutual respect between the various faith communities in our part of the world for many years to come.

John does not own or drive a car and yet he has an extraordinary ability to use either the public transport services or taxis to get to his places of interest whether near or far. Suffice to say that in spite of the restrictions on his lifestyle John has been able to spend holidays in the Republic of Ireland, Paris, the Rhine, Istanbul, Turkey with the hope of visiting New York in the foreseeable future!

Equalities Assembly

DAVID Gold, LCC's facilitator of the Religion or Belief Hub, sent the following note to all who have shown an interest and/or attended Faith Hub meetings:

Please note that we have decided to postpone the next Religion or Belief Hub (May 17th) meeting whilst work takes place to engage with interested parties, try to broaden representation and develop a clear focus.

The current representatives, Cynthia Dickinson and Jay Simpson, will still represent the Religion or Belief Hub as appropriate. At this point we expect to go ahead with the meeting scheduled for Thursday 6th September, 6pm – 8pm, Civic Hall.

We will keep you informed of developments.

Kind regards, David Gold

Sadly the Faith Hub has not attracted the necessary support from representatives of faith communities for it to function in a meaningful way. Some of the other Hubs have elected representatives, discussed items of concern at their local meetings as well as Hub meetings then taken these concerns directly to the Assistant Chief Executive of Leeds City Council at the Hub Representatives Network meetings of the Equalities Assembly. Various issues have then been taken on board by the relevant departments, who have been invited to address and answer questions at the Hub Reps meetings. While the wheels of democracy do seem to turn slowly, they are turning. People in 'minority' groups are beginning to feel that their voice is being heard, their concerns noted and that action is following.

The Faith Hub should be the point where problems or concerns with Leeds City Council that affect faith communities can be discussed then taken to the Assembly.