



Concord

LEEDS INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP

www.concord-leeds.org.uk

Newsletter - October 2005

Standing Up for Peace

MEMBERS OF CONCORD joined with thousands of Leeds citizens in Millenium Square on Thursday 14th July to pay silent tribute to those who died or were injured in the London bombings, and to express their solidarity with Muslims in Britain at a time of great tension and anxiety. The Lord Mayor and leaders of the various faith communities—Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Hindu and Sikh—expressed their horror at what had happened, their particular sadness that the alleged perpetrators had come from Leeds, and their sympathy for all those suffering because of what the bombers had done. All said how vital it is that we should work together for peace, justice, mutual respect and co-operation—

values that are central to all faiths—breaking down the barriers that divide ethnic, cultural and religious communities.

Concord Annual Interfaith Peace Service

Wednesday 19th October
7.30 pm (note change of time)

Friends' Meeting House,
Woodhouse Lane
(opposite Engineering Building,
Leeds University)





Heroes for Peace

Presentations of Men and Women
of Faith

at 2pm on **Sunday 27th November**
in the Bury Theatre
at the **Royal Armouries**

Many people see religions as
being the cause of troubles and
wars. This event aims to show how
people from all faiths work for
peace—

heroes such as Dadi Janki, the
Dalai Lama, Martin Luther-King,
King Ashok, Yitzhak Rabin, Fethulla
Gulen, Starhawk and Guru Nanak

Ring 0113–220 1985 for your FREE
ticket

*Organised by Interfaith Dialogue
for World Peace, Leeds Concord
and Leeds Faiths Forum
Part of the Leeds Together for
Peace Festival*

Demonstrating in Edinburgh

A FEW HUNDRED FOLK travelled
in 'heritage' coaches by chartered
train from Leeds and York to
Edinburgh to join the Make Poverty
History demonstration. And what a
fantastic day it was! The weather was
wonderful, there was a carnival
atmosphere and, despite waiting over two
hours to get onto the streets (sheer
volume of people!) the march was great
fun. It was amazing that at 4 o'clock in
the afternoon the procession route
was still packed with people—mostly
wearing white, many carrying placards,
lots blowing whistles, some beating
drums, others dancing...and everyone
seemed happy.

Cynthia Dickinson

Women's Health Matters
(for women only)

Annual General Meeting

from 11.30am – 2.30pm

At Burley St Matthias Church Centre LS4
After the short business meeting there
will be an exhibition of WHM work,
talks, lunch and entertainment.

Free crèche bookable in advance;
transport available; vegetarian food

Phone 0113 2762851



Picnic and Walk



THE SUN shone brightly for Concord's picnic at the end of July and several people took the opportunity of joining the Walk for Peace already taking place around the lake. Altogether we clocked up 15 miles towards the total required 6,000 between Leeds & Hiroshima.

These photos show people at the picnic and walkers getting a peace flame candle from Linda Strickler.

Religion and Place in Leeds

Tuesday 11th October

10.00am to 11.30am

Leeds Church Institute

A meeting for people who have a responsibility for religious buildings in Leeds and its suburbs.

To reserve a place contact Zoe Kemp 0113 244 3413 or email zoe.kemp@crc-online.org.uk

Bradford Multi Faith Walk for Friendship

SEVERAL OF US from Leeds Concord joined a multi-faith crowd outside a suburban house in Bradford on a June Saturday morning. The house was in fact the Brahma Kumaris centre. Leaving our shoes at the door, we entered a serene, modern place of worship with images of light and peace, the start of Bradford's 12th annual Multi-Faith Walk for Friendship organised by Bradford Concord Interfaith Society.

After a brief welcome and introduction we were each given individually wrapped gift packs of biscuits for our journey. Each pack had a saying inscribed. Mine was "in any situation where there is inner peace and love, life changes for the better". Then after a civic send off by the Deputy Lord Mayor and his wife, we set off down the street with two banners bearing the message of our walk. We were children, older people and those in between. Our clothes varied from western to shalwar kamise and saris and two turbans. We included a black family, white children and elderly, and various people of south Asian origin.

A press photographer from the local paper was very supportive of our walk. He was a white African from Durban, and years spent covering wars in sub-Saharan Africa had made him yearn for any gesture towards peace.

Down a main road, past Asian market stalls, we then followed a side street to the Hussania Islamic Mission. The welcome committee ushered us in. This was a Shia mosque. Inside it was more decorated than a Sunni mosque, and somehow had quite a different atmosphere. There was a colourful patterned carpet, and the bright pictorial images on the walls depicted events in Shia history. Men and women were in the same room as no worship was going on at the time. Groups of small children were having a break from their Saturday Qur'anic classes, little girls in a screened off area, boys in another part of the room. They were not at that point learning recitations but doing "finding out" and "looking up" exercises to discover where it says such and such in the Qur'an.

We were given fruit and juice drinks, and heard an account of the origins of the Shia and their twelve consecutive Imam leaders. We were reassured that the "mission" in the name of the mosque was more what we would understand by the word "witness" than implying strong proselytising. The Shia we met were from Punjabi speaking families, originally from Pakistan where the Shia are a small minority.

Our next call was the multi faith prayer room at St Luke's, a major city hospital with the first NHS interfaith worship space.

St Joseph's Catholic church down the road was different again, reflecting the immigrant history of Bradford. During the 19th century the locality—Manchester Road—was known as the "Irish Sea" because so many Irish during the famine came to work in the mills there. A plaque reading "Pray for the soul of Patrick and Mary McGowan" reflected the church's Irish origins, in common with many English Catholic churches founded at that time. A more recent beautiful Polish icon reflected the next wave of newcomers. As well as eastern Europeans from the Baltic states, the congregation now is very cosmopolitan and includes African students and Filipino nurses. A Congolese choir sings once a month. It was a true multi cultural environment. We were welcomed with a cup of tea and space to eat our packed lunch.

A longer walk across Bradford's often derelict inner city led to the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara. Originally a 19th century Methodist chapel and mission made redundant by slum clearance, the elegant domed building adapted well to Sikhism. This faith carries on the "inner city mission" tradition of being in the community and providing for practical needs. This is exemplified by the big kitchen built into as part of lower floor of the gurdwara. In the upstairs worship area, instrumental religious music was played for us, and recitations given to introduce us to Sikh worship. Afterwards we were entertained to traditional Sikh hospitality with as many pecoras as we could eat and as much sweet tea as we could drink.

It was a fascinating day.

Evelyn M. Shire



A photo taken by David Goodman of Concord members & the Lord Mayor of Leeds at the Hiroshima Commemoration event, August 9th in Park Square.

Alcuin School Open Day

THE ALCUIN SCHOOL is a unity of faiths school, offering children a spiritual and philosophical education without being denominational. Children are educated so that the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of development are all cared for. It belongs to a group of worldwide schools who aim to put great words of wisdom at the heart of the curriculum, and attracts children from all faiths and cultures.

The school open day is on **Thursday November 3rd and all are welcome to come and see the school in operation.**

The school warmly welcomes guests at other times and can be contacted on 0113 2691173.

The Alcuin School can be found at 64 Woodland Lane, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, LS7 4PD. *Email:* alcuin@legend.co.uk
Website: <http://www.alcuinschool.co.uk>

Together for Peace Third Annual Peace Poetry Competition

Theme: The Colours of Peace

Poems will be judged in three age groups:
Primary school age; Secondary school age;
Adult

Poems must be no longer than 24 lines
and previously unpublished.

Deadline for entries: 14th **October**

Send your poem/s to Nicola Megson,
Deputy Editor, Yorkshire Evening Post,
Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 1RF

Final judging and Awards Evening as part
of the Together for Peace Festival

7.30pm on 18th November at Holy Trinity
Church, Boar Lane, Leeds

Further information from:

Guy Wilson 01423 770648

guy@wilson4004.freemove.co.uk

Interfaith Calendar October 2005 - January 2006

October	4 - 5	Rosh Hashanah	Jewish	
	4 - 12	Navaratri	Hindu	
	4 - 3 Nov	Ramadan	Muslim	
	12	Dussehra	Hindu	
	13	Yom Kippur	Jewish	
	18-26	Sukkot	Jewish	
	20	Birth of the Bab	Baha'i	
	23-30	Week of Prayer for World Peace	Interfaith	
	26	Simhat Torah	Jewish	
	30	Laylat ul Qadr	Muslim	
	31	Samhain (Halloween)	Pagan	
	November	1	All Saints Day	Christian
			Diwali	Hindu/Sikh
3		Eid ul Fitr	Muslim	
11		Armistice Day		
12		Birth of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i	
13		Remembrance Sunday		
15		Birthday of Guru Nanak	Sikh	
24		Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur	Sikh	
27		1st Sunday of Advent	Christian	
28		Ascension of Abdul-Baha	Baha'i	
30	St Andrew's Day	Christian		
December	8	Bodhi Day	Buddhist	
		Immaculate Conception	Roman Catholic	
	21	Yule / Winter Solstice	Pagan	
	25	Christmas Day	Christian	
	26	St Stephen's Day / Boxing Day	Christian	
	26 - 2 Jan	Hanukkah	Jewish	
	28	Holy Innocents	Christian	
January	5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh	Sikh	
	6	Epiphany	Christian	
	11	Eid ul Adha	Muslim	
	13	Maghi	Sikh	
	14	Mahayana Buddhist New Year	Buddhist	
	15	World Religion Day	Baha'i	
	29	Chinese New Year		
	31	Hijra - New Year	Muslim	

*Elizabeth
Bernheim,
Imogen
Gregg
and
Pippa
Meer.
See story
below.*



Diversity and Dialogue - a project with young people

CONCORD'S September meeting was addressed by Imogen Gregg, a development officer with Save the Children, who is involved with various projects and research linked to Dialogue and Diversity. She shared with us some of the projects and events that have been taking place locally.

As a group we discussed some of the issues surrounding multi-faith and multi-culture among young people. It was interesting to hear the perspectives and perceptions of the people within the group. We looked at a series of statements and tried to put them in order of importance. This was a difficult activity because as individuals we have our own priorities and philosophies. We considered the challenges associated with diversity projects and the importance of sustaining ongoing and consistent links.

It was an interesting evening and a good opportunity to hear about the work that is facilitated by Save the Children in our area. Thanks to Imogen for taking the time to speak to us.

Pippa Lee Meer

The Sikh community humbly invites you to join us to Pray for World Peace.

Akhand Jaap No.9

Prayers for World Peace

24 hours non-stop Vaheguru Chanting
Starts 5.00 am, Saturday 8th October
Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha Gurdwara
78 Ladypit Lane, Beeston, Leeds,
LS11 6DP [01132 711 630]

<http://www.sikhkids.com/akhandjaap.htm>

For further info email us:

aj9@sikhkids.com or call 07958 175 880

Since September 11th 2001, Sikh youth have been organizing Akhand Jaap events consisting of 24-hours of non-stop Vaheguru Chanting (the word Vaheguru when translated means the Lord Is Great) for peace and humanity in the world. Each time these prayers take place the events has managed to involve more and more people. These prayer happen twice a year and whilst previously they have been held at Gurudwaras in London. AJ9 is being hosted by the Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha Gurudwara in Leeds. The glory of the Akhand Jaap is that the doors are open to all to attend and participate regardless of their beliefs, be they young and old, Sikh or non Sikh for everyone to come together in prayer to collectively ask the Almighty to shower love, compassion and understanding throughout the world.

YORKSHIRE & HUMBER FAITHS FORUM

THE YORKSHIRE and Humber Faiths Forum, based in Leeds, is a new, innovative organisation. It has been established to strengthen and reflect the contribution of faith communities to a range of regional agencies, as well as representing them to these bodies.

We are looking to recruit 21 members from around the region who will form the first Faiths Forum Council. The Council will be responsible for driving the Forum forward.

The Council will include the nine world faiths recognised by the Inter-Faith Network for the UK: Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian.

We are looking for people of faith who are committed to making Yorkshire and Humber a better place to live and work. Members will have strong links to their faith communities and understand the contribution that faith communities make. They will have experience of partnership working, both with other faiths and statutory partners and will understand the link between faith and policy.

For a full description of the role and application form please contact:

Linda Wood-Mitchell on 01924 331585 or by email Linda.wood-mitchell@yhassembly.gov.uk

or visit the websites:
www.yhassembly.gov.uk
or www.crc-online.org.uk

The closing date for applications is 14 October 2005.

TIDAL Vigil

On the 24th and 25th October, the EU Development Ministers will be meeting in the Queens Hotel, Leeds. Although the agenda is yet to be finalised, key discussion are likely to take place on aid effectiveness, trade and human security. To mark this occasion, we would like to invite you to attend

a Vigil

on City Square outside the Queens Hotel
from 5pm to midnight on the evening of the 24th October.

It is vital that the EU Development Ministers recognise the support for the Make Poverty History campaign around the UK and that we are there to remind them of our commitment to fight for more and better aid, debt cancellation and trade justice. If you are able to attend and would like more information, please contact Ben Margolis at bmargolis@oxfam.org.uk or on 0113 394 4293.

Finally, we would like to ask groups to commit to making a banner representing the Global Call to Action Against Poverty coalition (of which Make Poverty History is the UK coalition) from each of the European Union states.

More information on GCAP can be found at www.whiteband.org

Ben Margolis on behalf of Make Poverty History, TIDAL and Oxfam

*This newsletter edited by John S.
Summerwill, October 2005.*

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