

Newsletter 2010

Bath Interfaith Group Newsletter

Bath Interfaith Group 01225 422252

Annual
subscription to
Bath Interfaith
Group:
£10.00
[£5.00 concs]

Bath Interfaith
Group
meetings are
free;
phone
John or
Shelagh James
(01225
422252)
for further
information
on events.

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Programme for 2010

Monday 12 April 7.30pm
Manvers St. Baptist Church (Coffee Lounge)
Bath BA1 1JW

Interfaith : Hopes for the Future
Mary & Marcus Braybrook will share their experiences of the recent Parliament of World Religions in Melbourne, and show a home-made DVD.

[Marcus will have copies of his new book :

Beacons of Light

[directions and information: 01225 422252]

Wednesday 12th May, 7.30pm

at the Minerva Centre, Bath

Islam and Modern Society

Farzana Saker, Secretary of West Wiltshire Interfaith Group

[directions and information: 01225 315591]

Saturday 5th June, 3 - 5pm

The Craft Room* 97 Lansdown Lane
Bath BA1 4NB

A gathering to mark **Wesak (Buddha Day)** -

Anne Bancroft will be interviewed by Kevin Tingay
[directions and information: 01225 422252; *approach from car park]

Sunday 11th July, 2-5 pm

New Oriel Hall, Brookleaze Bldgs, Larkhall
Bath BA1 6RA off Larkhall Square [parking in Somerfield carpark or nearby streets]

Annual Interfaith Social

a 'Bring and Share' event – all welcome of any faith or none
Help us celebrate 31 years of interfaith in Bath!

Monday 22nd March, 7.15 pm

in The Mayor's Parlour , The Guildhall,
High Street, Bath BA1 5AW
An Evening with our Patron the **Mayor of Bath, 'A Life of Change'**
With Chants, Hymns, Prayers & Psalms from our Faith Communities reflecting the Mayor's Theme.

[contact 01225 422252]



Some other local events in 2010

Bristol Interfaith Group Inter Faith Civic Event hosted by the **Mayor of Bristol: 18th March, 7 pm**, details on info@bifg.org.uk

The local Druid community celebrates at The Circus, Bath:
The Equinox
Saturday 21st March, 12 noon and
The Summer Solstice
Saturday 20th June, 12 noon
[Further details from Richard Carder 01225 313531]

Universal Worship Service
East Woodlands Village Hall, near Frome, second Tuesday of the month, 7.45pm
Contact Interfaith Ministers Roland on 01225 723629 [roland.pargeter@google.com] or Charles on 01373 462606 [charles.fhp@blueyonder.co.uk]



Our Links with Others:

Islamascope

Shelagh continues to represent our Interfaith Group, at Islamascope, which works for a better understanding between the Islamic community and the locality.

The Mayor of Bath's Multi Faith Gathering - Feb 2010



Meeting others...



Bath & NorthEast Somerset Faith Forum

Bath IFG Committee members Jane, Kevin, Rashad and Gary continue to sit on the Faith Forum, together with representatives of other religious groups in the locality. The main purpose of the Faith Forum is to engage with B&NES Council's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). The Faith Forum obtained funding from The Chrysalis Trust to carry out a 'Faith Audit' in our area, and this survey has largely been completed. A Report will be available later in 2010.

Read more about the Faith Forum on the website:

<http://communities.beintouch.org.uk/inovem/inovem.ti/faithforum/groupHome>

or contact the current Faith Forum Representative, Stewart Keiller, email: faithforum@communities.beintouch.org.uk.

Jane F O'Hara

Report on 2009 activities:

As usual, we covered a great diversity of topics and formats at a variety of venues and timings. Beginning with the annual evening with our Patron The Mayor of Bath [Cllr Tom Ball], we explored his theme '*Charity begins at home*' – stressing the importance of local charities in the life of the city, with guests Ian Sutherland, Director of Julian House, together with one of his successful users.

In April, Anglican Lay Reader Sarah Sheppard gave a presentation 'Every picture tells a story' exploring Christian art and the narrative of faith. In May we met to share lunch and a 'Time for Tranquility' (music and Bahá'í Writings) at the Minerva Centre. We learned in June about the significance to Sikhs of the life and martyrdom of the Fifth Guru.

Our successful annual Social Event, this year celebrating 30 years of interfaith in Bath, was held at the New Oriel Hall in July. Autumn meetings included readings and reflections to mark the UN Day of Prayer for Peace: a Quaker event held at the Friends' Meeting House. The October venue was Peter Walter's home, where he gave a fascinating talk on the Hebrew alphabet 'Building Blocks of the Universe'.

As an experiment, we met in November on a Saturday afternoon at Mount Haviland, for a topic inspired by the recent Marcus Braybrooke book 'Beacons of Faith' We shared stories about many inspirational people, including Abraham, Frank Bochman [moral rearmament], 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Evelyn Underhill.

At the year end, the Carders again welcomed us to their home, where the focus of the evening was an interview of Kevin Tingay.

Many thanks to all who contributed or gave hospitality.

*Richard Carder and John James,
January 2010*

More local events in 2010

Ammerdown Retreat Centre

Saturday 26 June

Marcus Braybrook: theme for the day **Why Interfaith?** [please note: no charge for participation in this day, by kind invitation of the Ecumenical Study Fellowship] see www.ammerdown.org, or contact John James for full details 01225 422252

Christian Science: News

The Christian Science movement celebrates 100 years of organization in Bath on 27th July 2010 - the date on which a Society of Christian Scientists was formed. The Society became a full-blown Church (known ever since as First Church of Christ, Scientist, Bath) in 1925.

We hope to hold an Open Day - details will be available from Charles Hayward (01225 310684 or cop.hayward@btinternet.com)

Bath Jewish Burial Ground

An Open Day at the Jewish Cemetery has been provisionally fixed for Sunday the 24th October 11.00 am - 3.00 pm.

A fascinating historical place – there will be exhibitions and a tomb-stone trail. More details in the autumn newsletter or contact the Secretary, Friends of Bath Jewish Burial Ground 01225 833681 or

m.aylett@homecall.co.uk
www.bathjewishcemetery.org.uk



Local Interfaith News



Ursula Chick – A Life of Friendship and Service

Our dear friend Ursula Chick died at 95 last March. She often said “I’m looking forward to the next stage”, words which inspire me as I move on through life.

Her life mirrored the 20th Century – a gifted musician, she was swept into caring political life when she became Stafford Cripps’ (War time Chancellor of the Exchequer) daughter-in-law. Earlier she had, through the Society of Friends, taught music to unemployed miners and their families in the Rhondda in the 1930s. During the War as well as caring for her increasing family she ran a nursery for evacuees on the Cripps’ estate. She welcomed refugees and conscientious objectors to her home. Her faith was always open and inclusive.

When she came to Bath many years later, she became interested in Interfaith work, and met Rev’d Marcus Braybrooke. She was helped after the death of her second husband Bernard, and her son David, by her faith and by retreats at Ammerdown. She made two trips to India in her eighties, and I remember waving her off with my husband John one chilly February night at Bath Spa Station, tiny but doughty in anorak and trainers, off to the Holy Land.

Her simple and generous hospitality to our group exemplified her kindness. I visited her in Bridgemoor each week in her last years. Seeing her was a joy – we shared families, faith and above all poetry. Through her I first read ‘The Bright Field’ by R S Thomas.

Ursula remembered by Shelagh James

The Bright Field



*I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the pearl
of great price,
the one field that had
treasure in it. I realize now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying
on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.*

by R S Thomas

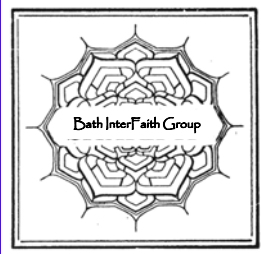
Projects

Faiths In Action - latest

Bath Interfaith Group, working with the local Faith Forum and City of Bath College, successfully has obtained funding through the FIA initiative for an Interfaith Development Worker. The project will run July 2010 to March 2011, bringing multifaith experience to the students at the college again the project is administered by CDF (www.cdf.org.uk). Contact Jane if you would like to see the summary of the project: [janefohara@blueyonder.co.uk]

Bath Spa University are co-ordinating a project about how Bath & NES can best engage with Faith Groups and are seeking your help and support – some of you will already have been contacted.

Jane F O’Hara



Bath Interfaith Group
Enquiries

The Secretary:
01225 422252
or

James890@btinternet.com

The Treasurer:

janefohara@blueyonder.co.uk

SHARIFH's motto:
'There is one religion -
the Religion of Love'

Bath IFG ... was formerly called SHARIFH

31 YEARS! Sharifh [Sharing the Future in Hope] was founded in 1979, by Dr Brian Pamplin, a scientist deeply interested in the relationship between science and religion. He wanted to provide a forum for open discussion and sharing of ideas and beliefs. After his death in 1985, Sharifh became Bath Interfaith Group and continues to promote fellowship among those of differing faiths.

If you would like to support Bath Interfaith Group, please send your name and address / email contact details to:

The Secretary,
45 Brooklyn Road, Larkhall, Bath
BA1 6TF
Email:
james890@btinternet.com

*BIFG Annual Subscription
£10.00 [£5.00 concs]*

Other Interfaith Groups in the Area and links of interest

Bristol Interfaith Group

Bristol Interfaith Group website:
<http://www.bifg.org.uk>

e-mail: info@bifg.org.uk

The Minerva Centre:

www.minervacentrebath.co.uk
01225 315591

West Wilts Interfaith Group

Meetings second Tuesday of the month.
Contact the Secretary for details of all events. Tel: 01225 868042

e-mail:

farzana_saker@yahoo.co.uk
Website: <http://wwifg.org.uk>

Bath Islamic Society has some very interesting articles written by Imam Rashad Azami on its website: <http://www.bathislamicsociety.org/articles.html>

Bath & NE Somerset SACRE has information for local teachers of Religious Education, see the website: <http://www.re-bathnes.org.uk/index.php>

Ammerdown Retreat Centre

Events in April on the Aramaic Lord's Prayer, and the Enneagram (an ancient, extraordinarily accurate, model of human personality and spirit); a Three Faiths Summer School in July.

See www.ammerdown.org, or contact Sarah Chabowska for full details 01761 433709, E-mail: info@ammerdown.org

Bath Interfaith Group Committee

Chair	Richard Carder (Druid)
Vice-Chair	Shelagh James (Society of Friends)
Treasurer	Jane O'Hara (Bahá'í Faith)
Secretary	John James (Christianity)
	Imam Rashad Azami (Islam)
	Anne Bancroft (Buddhism)
	Gary Webber (Judaism)
	Judy Ryde (Unitarianism)
	Charles Hayward (Christian Science)
	Michael Moore (Family Federation)
	Jay Bhai Shah (Hinduism)
	Patron: The Right Worshipful The Mayor of Bath