

THE INTER FAITH NETWORK FOR THE UK

Note of Link Meeting for Local Inter Faith Groups in the West Midlands Region of England

from 2pm to 3.30pm on Thursday 22 October 2020

by Zoom

Present: Mr Khurram Bashir (Highgate Inter Faith Group); Ms Lynette Coulston (Coventry Multi-Faith Forum); Mr Mahmood Dhall (Highgate Inter Faith Group); Dr Philip Economou (Rugby Inter Faith Forum); the Revd Tim Harwood (Shrewsbury Inter-Faith Forum); The Revd Catherine Lack (Worcestershire Inter-Faith Forum); Mr John Longcroft-Neal (Nuneaton and Bedworth Inter Faith Group); Cllr Rajash Mehta (Telford and Wrekin Interfaith Council); Dr Simon Nightingale (Shrewsbury Inter-Faith Forum); Mr Sohayb Peerbhai (South Shropshire Interfaith Forum); Dr Peter Rookes (Birmingham Council of Faiths); Mr Osman Sheikh (Coventry Multi-Faith Forum); Dr Yvonne Stollard (Worcestershire Inter-Faith Forum); the Revd Richard Tetlow (Highgate Inter Faith Group); Ms Cathy Wattebot (Coventry Multi-Faith Forum, Rugby Inter Faith Forum and Warwick District Faiths Forum); and Ms Pat Wilkinson (Solihull Faiths Forum).

In attendance: Dr Harriet Crabtree; Mr Ashley Beck; and Dr David Hampshire (Inter Faith Network for the UK).

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introduction

1. Dr Crabtree welcomed participants to the meeting. It was an IFN link meeting of the kind held for local groups in different regions. It was the sixth link meeting in 2020.
2. These meetings offered participants opportunities to share reflections and information. The meeting would be minuted and participants would receive a draft for clearance. If a participant wanted a particular point not to be minuted, for whatever reason, they should indicate that clearly. The meeting would be recorded and that once the note of the meeting had been agreed the recording would be deleted. Screengrabs of the meeting would be taken for social media purposes and if people did not want a photograph of them on social media to say that so they could be edited out before any picture was used. [No one present requested that].

Agenda Item 2: IFN and inter faith working during COVID-19 a short update

3. Dr Crabtree said that in February, when it became clear the impact that Covid-19 was likely to have, IFN had pivoted its work to help faith and inter faith groups in their Covid-19 response through information, encouragement and sharing of good practice. There had been a rapid shift to online working and more ringing people up and learning about them and what their needs were. The Inter Faith Network website had added a special section to its website with Covid-19 information and news of initiatives responding to need.

4. Many people were experiencing Zoom overload and also some groups were experiencing an impact on the strength of their links. The social capital that had been built up over the years meeting in person had remained strong but was being affected. Conversations with IFN member local inter faith organisation link people sometimes reflected that they thought their members felt at times isolated and disconnected from what was going on around them. The conversations reflected also that groups at times were self-critical: there were things their groups wanted to do or felt they should do but which they did not think they could achieve. While groups' perspectives of course reflected their own experience it was important to note that the current times are challenging for all within society and that what can or should be done will differ from in normal times; ordinary expectations don't necessarily apply.
5. Dr Crabtree asked participants present to introduce themselves, stating their name and the group(s) they were representing. The members at the meeting introduced themselves.
6. 'Roundtable' introductions took place.

Agenda Item 3: Local inter faith organisations' updates

7. Dr Crabtree invited representatives of local groups to explain briefly about the organisations that they were representing; share something of their work; and reflect on the challenges and opportunities that they were facing.

Birmingham Council of Faiths (BCF)

8. Dr Peter Rookes said that:
 - Covid-19 had brought challenging times.
 - BCF had been involved in fortnightly thematically focused meetings, which had been coordinate by Birmingham Voluntary Service Council. Topics had included homelessness and mental health. Dr Rookes had been the lead for 'faiths', supported by colleagues. There had also been monthly meetings with Birmingham City Council's cabinet member for equality, diversity, and safety. These had been very useful meetings, enabling a very close relationship with the City Council and the Voluntary Service Council to be sustained.
 - BCF had about 400 people on its mailing list. It sent out monthly updates and event listings, some which were faith related and others of which not but were ones in which people of faith might be interested. There were also mailing list recipients who were not religious.
 - Dr Rookes and Mahmudur Qureshi had been involved in Unity FM Radio programmes, connecting communities fortnightly. The next broadcast would be on the Monday following this meeting. Mr Ashley Beck (IFN) was due to be a part of a future programme.
 - BCF had been running a programme called Faiths for Fun for the last 13 years. This was for young people aged 7-12. It was done in conjunction with the Scouts. BCF put people into multi faith groups and then into a series of 'bases' to do a fun activity. It was an opportunity for children of different faiths to come together and learn something about each other's faith. It was also an

opportunity for their parents to meet each other when they brought their children to the event. This year BCF had held the event on Zoom, it had been highly successful. There has been a competition with 37 entries. It has been absolutely brilliant, people shouldn't underestimate the value of Zoom!

- BCF – which was always very active for Inter Faith Week – had 16 events coming up for the 2020 Week, and also a launch. Normally the launch would have been in the Council House but this time it would be on Zoom. The Lord Mayor, who was BCF's honorary president, and also the relevant cabinet member, would be present. BCF would be using it to launch a More in Common badge for the Scouts, with which BCF worked closely. The badge was proposed by the Jo Cox Foundation and Kim Ledbetter – the late Jo Cox's sister and Ambassador for the Foundation – would be part of that launch. The Birmingham launch was also in memory Dr Rookes' late wife Jean who had shared Jo Cox's commitment to 'more in common' and would have been so passionate about this work. He expressed his delight.
- Linked to BCF was the important initiative 'BCF Footsteps for a Low-Carbon Future', usually known by its shorter name 'BCF Footsteps'. This was a very active group to which Ruth Tetlow was integral. BCF was proud to have that as part of its organisation. It has punched above its weight and was taken very seriously by the City Council. It was now part of the task force for a low-carbon future for Birmingham.

9. Dr Crabtree thanked Dr Rookes. It was good to hear about the More in Common Scout badge. Also, to remember his late wife Jean Rookes, who had made such a significant contribution to inter faith relations in Birmingham and who had also contributed to IFN through participation in its meeting which had been much valued.

Coventry Multi-Faith Forum

10. Mr Osman Sheikh said that:
- Coventry Multi Faith Forum (CMFF) was for faith communities based in and around Coventry and parts of Warwickshire.
 - It had an annual peace walk but due to Covid-19 was looking at different formats.
 - Over the years, its greatest concern had been its base. It used to have office space at the Priory Visitor Centre but the Centre had changed hands. It was now based in the Centre virtually and did not have the same access that it used to have.
 - CMFF had had some ups and downs because everybody was trying to engage online and it seemed as though everyone wanted to be doing things at the same time!
 - Face to face encounter had benefits and which could not really be compensated for fully by virtual interaction. They had been keeping to the rule of six so they can have some interactions at a miniature level. CMFF had developed events with clusters of individuals on line or face to face to bring some sort of personal interaction. However, it was a challenge.
 - CMFF was looking at ways to be involved in inter faith work with schools, faith organisations, and educational organisations as well as developing cultural links.

- Coventry was going to be the UK City of Culture in 2021. CMFF had a few ideas for it and is hoping to contribute to that celebration.

11. Ms Catherine Wattebot said that the Inter Religious Dialogue Commission of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham would be running three inter faith evening sessions in November: Dare to Hope in a Time of COVID. Each session would have a person of faith and a responder; this would followed by small group discussions.

Highgate Inter Faith Group (Birmingham)

12. The Revd Richard Tetlow said that:
 - Highgate Inter Faith Group (HIFG) had been formed about a decade ago.
 - Two to three years ago there had been a number of murders in the Highgate area, which is central to Birmingham. Local people were asking what could be done about the situation. A group had got together from local churches and mosques.
 - From that had developed HIFG's work around mental health (mental health had been seen as at the root of the problem). HIFG had got in touch with the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Educators and they had led a session, initiated by HIFG, for over thirty people. That had had good outcomes. Large numbers of young Muslim people turned up and there had been a really good discussion at the Central Mosque where, Mr Khurram Bashir was based.
13. Mr Khurram Bashir said that he used to be part of a local group in Sparkbrook and that Mr Tetlow had approached him about the Central Mosque's involvement in a Highgate group. Close by there was a C of E Church and local synagogue so HIFG had representation across the community. It normally met every first Tuesday of the month - although not this month due to the current situation. HIFG was looking at a Zoom meeting for next month.
14. Mr Tetlow added that there was now a Progressive Christianity Network group, based in Selly Oak [PCNBham]. This also involved Muslims. There were around a dozen members and the purpose of the group was to explore questions such as about the nature of the God that both Christians and Muslims worshipped.

Telford and Wrekin Interfaith Council

15. Cllr Rajash Mehta expressed his thanks for the opportunity to speak. He was pleased to be present. He thanked the Network for reaching out to the Telford and Wrekin Interfaith Council (TWIC) after seeing an article in the newspaper. He said:
 - There had not been an inter faith council in Telford, although there had been a faith sharing group that had stopped a while back for some reason.
 - About three years ago he had been Mayor of Telford. His theme had been about building bridges and bringing people together. After he left office he thought that it was important that this work carried on, bringing people and communities together. He was approached by the Police Superintendent in Telford, the Council and various other faith groups to take the work further. As a result TWIC was launched. TWIC had now become a charity.

- At the same time that IFCTW was launched the food banks were struggling, due to the volume of people that were attending them. IFCTW stepped in, organising some volunteers who could do deliveries for the food banks and offering other support.
- During the pandemic, members of IFCTW had made themselves available to be on call every evening after 6 o'clock and every weekend for food parcels. Faith groups had said that many people within faith communities were feeling embarrassed or were struggling to go to the food bank to collect the food. So there was outreach to community and faith leaders to identify those people so that food parcels could be got to them. There are more than thirteen different communities coming together delivering food and helping people in the community, from providing nappies to toiletries to food to uniforms. School uniforms were a particular issue for some families in Telford. Someone had stepped in to provide money so that families wouldn't have buy second-hand uniforms.
- Since March TWIC had been doing breakfast provisions for school children between the ages of 3 and 11 in the borough. Recipients received a breakfast box on a Saturday morning for the week ahead.
- The work of TWIC had featured on ITV news three or four weeks prior to this meeting. Every community had come together as a result of the pandemic. The support had been unbelievable and that it was good to see people from all walks of life, as well as faiths and communities, working together under one banner and under one umbrella.
- It had been an honour and privilege for him to work with so many people of different faith.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Inter Faith Group

16. Mr John Longcroft-Neil of Nuneaton and Bedworth Inter Faith Group (NBIFG) said that:

- The Nuneaton and Bedworth Inter Faith Group (NBIFG) had been in existence for at least twenty-five years and during that time it had waxed and waned a number of times.
- Currently the group had been experiencing a dip. Mr Longcroft-Neil was making efforts to contact faith communities. It was important that faith groups in any community came together as there as there had been so many issues on which it was important for faith communities to respond together with one voice.
- Within Nuneaton there were Baha'i, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu and Christian communities, and most of these had been supportive.
- An example of NBIFG's events had been a peace walk, inspired by a similar type of walk in Coventry. This included visits to a mosque, a gurdwara, and a number of churches and to a tree planted by Baha'is. The walk had been very successful and had won a Radio 2 Award. However, over the years it participation had dropped from a full range of faith groups to a handful of individuals.
- There had been some activities taking place locally where different faith communities had been working together. The local Muslim community had

arranged a number of events where people of other faiths had been invited (he himself had taken part).

17. Dr Crabtree commented local inter faith groups do sometimes go through cycles of greater and lesser activity and participation. From comments from members of such groups, there were a number of factors – including alternatives happening at any given time.

Rugby Inter Faith Forum

18. Dr Philip Economou of Rugby Inter Faith Forum (RIFF) said that:
- RIFF had been in existence for 20 years.
 - It linked individuals rather than organisations
 - It had been very active and quite large in the past, with many different faiths had been represented
 - Over the years RIFF had become a discussion group. There had been little in the form of social action in the wider community of the kind mentioned by some other groups at the meeting.
 - Currently RIFF had about a dozen active members.
 - RIFF for 19 years had an annual peace walk, like Nuneaton and Bedworth, where members walked from faith centre to faith centre. It had at times been very successful. However, in 2020 it had to be cancelled as there had been lack of interest.
 - RIFF's discussion meetings were also becoming increasingly less well attended. He said that the committee was struggling to understand what was happening and why that was the case but it seemed to be nothing in particular, no single cause. There simply appeared to be a decreasing interest in inter faith matters at the moment.
 - The group needed to rejuvenate itself and the committee was thinking about how to do that. However, Covid-19 had of course not helped.
 - The group continued to meet monthly via Zoom and the discussions in previous months had been centred on Covid-19.
 - At its meeting the following evening, RIFF would be hearing from a lay person who had been trying to gather the residents together in a care home for some kind of spiritual meeting once a week to maintain religious dimension to their life in the absence of a priest who had been struck down with illness.
19. Dr Crabtree observed that sometimes people become members of inter faith groups to have specific conversations and that when they feel they have had them they moved on. A mixed economy of different types of activity can be helpful.

Shrewsbury Inter-Faith Forum

20. The Revd Tim Harwood of Shrewsbury Inter-Faith Forum (SIIF) said that:
- Shrewsbury Inter-Faith Forum (SIIF) had been going for over 10 years.
 - It had about 90 people on its mailing list.
 - It held meetings on the second Tuesday of the month between 1 and 2 o'clock and these usually drew about 25 participants.

- At the meeting there was an opportunity for discussion, talks, planning of various things and reports and so on.
 - Individuals who made up the Forum were heavily committed to their own particular faith groups and the work they have been undertaking.
 - SIIF had a presence in local schools and members went around the schools together to support lessons and assemblies.
 - Once each year the Forum hosted a fun day at Shrewsbury United Reformed Church and rooms, where Mr Harwood had been the minister. This had arisen from the church's historic involvement in supporting the development of a Muslim community in Shrewsbury. Eventually the Muslim community had found its own premises but a link had been forged and the fun day was established to celebrate the diversity of faiths and cultures in the area. The event attracted between about 250 – 350 folks annually and included civic dignitaries.
 - Recently, the Forum had developed a project and he invited Simon Nightingale to share that with the group.
21. Dr Simon Nightingale talked about an inter faith initiative that was looking at the issues of climate. This was made up of members of Shrewsbury Inter-Faith Forum, and had had two meetings. The first had looked at how our individual faiths had led members of the group to think about the whole issue of the environment and our responsibilities. More than 50 people, including the Bishop of Shrewsbury, had attended the second meeting. At it, participants had discussed the work that they could do together to combat climate change and environmental degradation, not just as individuals but also as a local community in Shrewsbury, in Shropshire, nationally and internationally through a variety of agencies, many faith agencies, inter faith agencies and secular agencies. This climate inter faith group was just setting up and it was very heartening to see so many likeminded people wanting to talk and work together. He noted that his brother, the Revd John Nightingale, was a vicar in Birmingham and was part of BCF Footsteps.
22. Dr Nightingale also said that he and some others were member of the local SACRE; that he did work with the Universal God Centre in Shrewsbury; and that he ran courses on developing inter faith dialogue.

Solihull Faiths Forum

23. Ms Pat Wilkinson of Solihull Faiths Forum (SFF) said that:
- SFF had been instituted by the local Council in 2008 as a reference group and had had a high profile before going for a while into something of a decline.
 - In 2015 the Council had signed a Faith Covenant, which included the Faiths Forum, and that had benefited SFF and made the Council take more note of the group again.
 - SFF was a small group with a core group of ten people. Members of the group showed great belief in inter faith engagement and a passion for this important work. Whilst its events had been small its impact on local communities was much greater.
 - In Solihull there no non-Christian buildings, except one synagogue. However, people from a wide variety of faiths and beliefs were present in the Authority.

This was recognised by the Council and SFF had been tasked at the beginning of the pandemic to track down people from faith groups in Solihull, however small the number. It had taken two weeks to track down every single tiny faith group in the area, some of which had previously been unknown to them. SFF had come up with a list of over eighty different groups. The Council now communicated with them on a weekly basis about pandemic issues via an e-update. This had been a really positive development.

- The Council also had asked Ms Wilkinson to do a survey of faith groups offering online worship during June. The Council had welcomed this research.
- SFF had also been involved in helping foodbanks.

South Shropshire Interfaith Forum

24. Imam Sohayb Peerbhai introduced himself as the representative of the Muslim community on South Shropshire Interfaith Forum (SSIF). He said that:

- The demographic of South Shropshire was heavily retired and elderly.
- South Shropshire Interfaith Forum (SSIF) involved a wide range of faiths.
- There were ten people on the Executive committee. The committee met four times a year for business. It needed some additional members to make it easier to maintain functions and ensure continued effective recording of proceedings.
- SSIF had an email distribution of about fifty people. However, meetings tended to be attended by a dedicated few.
- It held two types of meeting. In the winter months it held a series of round table meetings in the daytime, which attracted fifteen to twenty people. In the summer it held evening meetings on special topics such as climate, sexuality, terrorism, the economy. The summer months tended to be more popular, perhaps because people found the topics of interest. These special topic meetings had early on attracted fifty to a hundred people. However, in recent years there had been a drop in numbers.
- The Forum had been giving close thought to its focus, and what would attract more people to become involved.

Worcestershire Inter-Faith Forum

25. Dr Yvonne Stollard introduced herself as the Chair of Worcestershire Inter Faith Forum (WIFF). She said that:

- The Forum had been set up as a response to the London bombings in July 2005, and it covered the whole of the County.
- Despite a lack of general diversity in the area the group included Baha'is, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims, Quakers, Sikhs and Unitarians (although there were no communities of Hindus, Jews and Sikhs in Worcestershire).
- Since the early days, and following a somewhat fallow period, the work had expanded considerably. Now the Forum offered advice to local statutory bodies, provided speakers from different religions when required and also diversity training for schools.
- WIFF ran an annual Mitzvah Day event and organised the Holocaust Memorial Day service event in Worcester. There were various towns that had a

Holocaust Memorial Day event in Worcestershire; they had been doing that by themselves and hadn't involved the Forum. The City of Worcester had not held an event until about six years ago, and that changed with WIFF's assistance.

- WIFF also worked partnership with Holland House, which was a retreat house near Evesham. WIFF had run two conferences per year at Holland House, one on expanding knowledge of other faiths and the other on faith and public policy. The last conference had been on climate change, and the Forum had invited Footsteps from Birmingham to make a contribution along with some well-known speakers, including Martin Hudson.
- The highlight of WIFF's work each year had been the annual festival of faiths, which used to be called an inter faith picnic.
- The pandemic had been a challenge to WIFF. It had had to cancel all in person events. To keep members engaged WIFF had organised monthly Zoom discussions and a fun quiz.
- The Forum was currently organising a virtual Holocaust Memorial Day Event, a virtual conference on faith and sexuality and a Mitzvah Day project.

26. The Revd Catherine Lack said that

- WIFF had been involved in the Worcestershire County Covid Outbreak Control Plan Group. This had been a very positive development, reflecting a real valuing of what faith communities do. Her presence there had also been valued and it was good that WIFF had been consulted.

27. Ms Lack added that in her capacity as a university chaplain she worked mostly with young people and that she had noticed that inter faith engagement mainly involved older people, she would like to explore how better to engage younger people in this work.

Agenda Item 4: Discussion of any emerging key issues/themes

28. Discussion focused on what motivates faith communities to engage in inter faith activity.

29. Dr Crabtree opened the discussion by reflecting that a few of the motivations which people sometimes talk about include:

- a wish to create greater understanding between people;
- wanting to prevent or heal division and combat polarisation;
- a desire to increase social cohesion;
- interest in working together on social projects where faith groups are valued for what they can contribute;
- personal development; and
- being part of a community of people who have a common commitment to positive inter faith relations.

30. Dr Economou said that he thought that the prime reason many joined Rugby Inter-Faith Forum was to understand their own faith better through also coming to understand the faith of others. That was very much the personal human development aspect.

31. Ms Lack said that in her experience people who want to be involved in inter faith activities often tended to be on the more liberal end of their faith. There was a need to engage with those of a more conservative leaning.
32. Dr Rookes said that it was important, firstly, to have variety in a programme, so that it was not all the same thing repeated continually. Secondly, ensuring wide involvement called for developing partnerships. Thirdly, organisations like the Birmingham Council of Faiths did not need to do everything themselves: they also needed to encourage and facilitate other organisations to take on an inter faith role. Thus, if a mosque, for example, was putting on an event, it would look to opening that event up to people of other faiths, similarly with Jews, similarly with Christians, similarly with Baha'i and so forth. In Birmingham there now was a wide range of those partnerships, there was variety in inter faith activity and that encouraged more local faith groups and non-faith groups actually to put on events that appealed to people of faith.
33. The Revd Richard Tetlow said he agreed with Dr Rookes. He added that he had got immense pleasure out of his involvement in inter faith encounter and that, too, was a motivator.
34. Mr Osman Sheikh thought that when faith group groups are contacted by those reaching out to them, certain questions arise: What is in it for them? What is in it for us and why are they doing this? It is a human kind of reaction, to question the motives of those who reach out to engage. Some of the key ingredients to strengthen inter faith involvement were encouragement, practical support for inter faith activity, and also coordination both at a national level and at a local level. This helped to bring groups together.
35. Dr Crabtree offered the further reflection that during the early 2000s under the Labour government, there had been a number of relevant funding schemes which had encouraged involvement and new activities. The time of greatest funding for inter faith encounter and activity had been the period from 2001 following the terrorist attacks in the USA and in the UK. The Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund and the Faith in Action programme had led to more support for inter faith engagement at a number of different levels – including regional. This had had many positive effects and drawn more people into inter faith engagement. However, there also had been downsides. For example, quite a number of local inter faith groups had received funding for short periods of time and appointed paid staff members to carry out work. But then, when the funding dried up, voluntary trustees had sometimes struggled to take up the reigns and continue work begun by staff whose contracts had come to an end. There had been demoralisation and, in some cases, significant shrinkage. Funding was helpful but planning needed to be sustainable.
36. The publications section of the IFN website contained reports on each of the day meetings that IFN had done for local groups over the last few years. Those contained many ideas from local group members about kick starting, rebuilding, and growing. Times had changed; people had some different expectations and hopes and inter faith groups were now operating in a landscape with quite a

number of different types of initiatives with an inter faith dimension. This could be very positive. Also online engagement, while it did have its limitation, might well involve more young people because they could engage at different times of day and for shorter periods of time (which when you are in the midst of your career or university or college or raising a young family can be helpful).

Agenda Item 5: Inter Faith Week

37. Dr Crabtree invited participants to share what they had planned for Inter Faith Week, where plans had been made. The following plans were shared:
- Solihull Faiths Forum: Over the last year a relationship had developed between SFF and a local hospice. Working with a social worker at the hospice, members had developed an online event, planned for 12 November, with seven or eight speakers exploring the theme of finding peace in the pandemic. Speakers would be from different faiths and one of no faith. What made the event unique was the potential audience centred on the hospice, those receiving care, their families and those who worked there.
 - Birmingham Council of Faiths: BCF had organised seventeen events altogether, which included a launch event. These included one held by a Buddhist group, focused on faith and mental health; one on Sanctuary, City of Welcome; and one called Dare to Hope put on by the Catholic Archdiocese. There would also be events being organised by the Scouts and a Footsteps event.
 - Shrewsbury Inter-Faith Forum participant Dr Nightingale referred to the Inter Faith Week Buddy initiative, which IFN was promoting. He was excited about that. It was his hope that others would roll this out for the Shrewsbury group and participants would afterwards talk about the experience.
38. Dr Crabtree said that IFN was getting a lot of interest from local groups about the Inter Faith Week buddy scheme. Under this scheme, two people of two different faith or belief backgrounds engage for a few weeks together to talk about some agreed questions of common interest and concern – and about faith and belief in the context of the pandemic. Information could be found on the Inter Faith Week Buddies page of the Inter Faith Week website. Ashley Beck, had been working with Humanists UK, as there were Humanists who would like to be in a buddy dialogue with people from different faith backgrounds. There were still a few Humanists interested to find a 'buddy'.
39. Some participants at the meeting had talked about a dip in engagement with their activities: this was one of the best times of year to push the message out "We're here, we're doing good things, we'd love you to join us and be part of our important work". Indeed Inter Faith Week had originally come into being in large part because local inter faith groups had felt that there really needed to be a time in the year to shine a spotlight on inter faith activity. So this was a perfect moment for local inter faith groups to take the spotlight, shine it on their work through social media or local paper or radio. In this way they could find a way to highlight and celebrate what was good about what they were doing and encourage more people to get involved. Even if they were doing things at other times of the year, Inter Faith Week was a chance for banging the drum and reminding people of their incredibly important work.

Close of the meeting

40. Dr Crabtree thanked all who had participated and shared their news and reflections. It had been a privilege to hear about the work that all the groups were doing and how they were working to find ways to keep connecting, encouraging connection and developing their work in a changing world – and at a time of pandemic.
41. The meeting ended at 3.30pm.

26 April 2021