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Communities

The Inter Faith Network for the UK
2004-2005 ANNUAL REVIEW

The Inter Faith Network for the UK

The Inter Faith Network was founded in 1987 to promote good relations between people of different faiths in this country and to “advance public knowledge and mutual understanding of the teachings, traditions and practices of the different faith communities in Britain, including an awareness both of their distinctive features and of their common ground”.

The Network’s 111 member bodies include representative bodies of the Baha’i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian faiths; national and local inter faith organisations; and educational and academic bodies specialising in inter faith relations. With them it works to promote understanding and respect between the faith communities in the UK. It does this through:

- Assisting enquirers who want to know more about a particular aspect of inter faith relations in this country
- Publishing resources to help people working to promote good inter faith relations
- Holding meetings and conferences where social and religious questions of concern to the different faith communities can be examined together
- Fostering inter faith co-operation on social issues
- Working with the media to ensure good coverage of inter faith issues

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The Inter Faith Network for the UK closed in 2024, with outward facing operations ceasing in April.

In order to ensure that the material in IFN's publications remained available to the public, to inter faith practitioners, and to scholars after IFN's closure, the copyright status of publications has been changed.

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The Inter Faith Network for the UK

2004-2005 ANNUAL REVIEW

A message from the Network's Co-Chairs

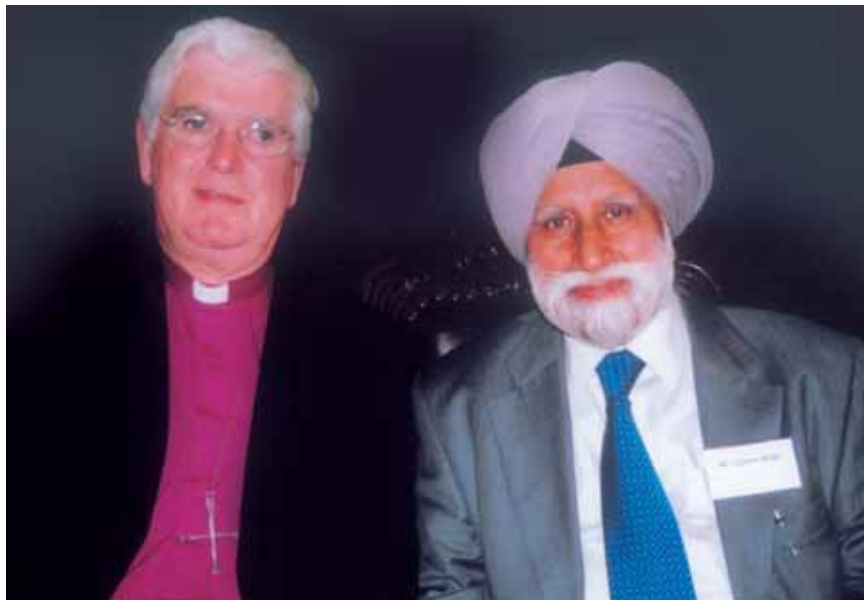
The coverage of this Annual Review has been extended to cover the period of the bombings in London in July and events in their immediate wake. These, together with a number of other developments across the last year, have prompted profound reflection on issues of identity, belonging, and shared citizenship. The need is abundantly clear for a deepening dialogue as we work together to build the kind of Britain in which we would all wish to live. The Network has an important role to play in encouraging and facilitating this debate and in the coming year it will be undertaking a wide ranging project on the theme of 'Faith and Citizenship' as part of its ongoing Faith and Public Life programme.

During 2004-05 the Inter Faith Network's work has had a particularly strong focus on providing resources to help the increasing number of people engaged in local inter faith initiatives. We are delighted that a new, expanded edition of *The Local Inter Faith Guide* has been produced, together with a partner 'local inter faith zone' for the Network's website. This, together with the 2005 edition of *Inter Faith Organisations in the UK: A Directory*, puts more information at the finger tips of those working for good inter faith relations at grass roots level across the UK.

The year has also been one with a special focus on young people and inter faith relations. The Network's very successful national meeting in Coventry in June brought together member bodies and young people of many different faiths to look at this topic. We are developing a wide pattern of links both with youth organisations and individual young people who are interested in this vitally important area.

Last year we referred to growing concern about the Network's precarious financial position. We are very pleased to report that during the last year there has been a significant improvement in this, with additional funding from the Home Office now pledged until spring 2007. The Network will still need the much appreciated funding which is received from its member faith communities and from other donors, including both Trusts and individuals. But we can now plan ahead for the coming two years with greater confidence.

We offer our warm thanks to the staff of the Network, who have, as usual, worked with commitment and dedication during what has been a difficult period, particularly because the Network office has been short staffed for some months. With the improved funding position we can now hope to add to our staff resources for the tasks which lie ahead.



Thomas Southwick

Rt Rev Dr Tom Butler

Jagjiwan Singh

Mr Jagjiwan Singh

Focus on inter faith organisations

The Inter Faith Network makes available information about the work of inter faith organisations so they can learn from each other's projects and so that more people can become involved in their work. It does this through publications, meetings and direct advice and support.

Information on inter faith organisations

Last year one of the Network's main projects was the compilation of *Inter Faith Organisations in the UK: A Directory*. As Britain's religious diversity grows, so too does the number of inter faith organisations working at local, regional, national and UK level to promote good inter faith relations. The directory contains contact details for, and information about, their work.



The first edition of the directory was published in the summer of 2004 and demand was so high that there was a need to reprint in January 2005. It was decided to produce an updated second edition for this purpose. This made it

possible to include some new entries and also to update contact details for some existing groups. The intention is to revise the directory annually in future. The next edition is scheduled for publication in January 2006.



Photograph: Leicester Council of Faiths

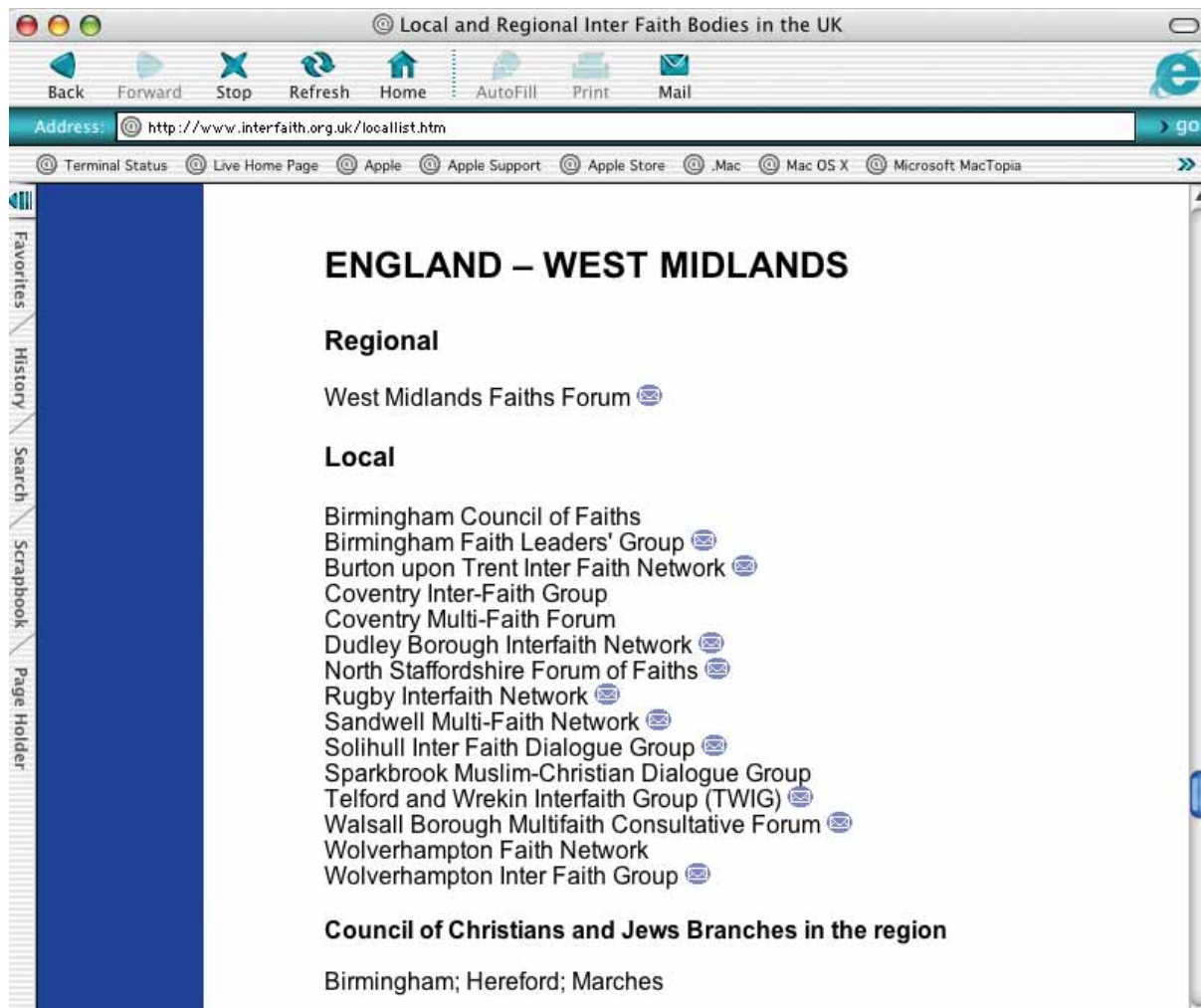
A local inter faith meeting at Leicester Council of Faiths' Centre

Local inter faith councils, forums and groups are very important contributors to developing respect, understanding and social cooperation in cities, towns and also many rural areas around the UK. They are the fastest growing category of inter faith organisation. There are now over 180 compared with under 80 at the start of 2000.

Linked to the directory, the Network has been developing new web-based resources to help local organisations. Local inter faith bodies and independent bilateral and trilateral dialogue groups are now listed on its site with contact email addresses for those which are willing to provide this. The site explains that, where no email address is given, the body prefers to be

contacted by telephone or mail and the Inter Faith Network office can supply details. The Network's website also provides information on where local branches of the Council of Christians

and Jews and groups of three Faiths Forum are to be found and contact details are given for finding out more about them. Regional multi faith bodies are also listed on the site.



The regional/local list at www.interfaith.org.uk

Network hosts meeting for national inter faith organisations

For the first time, a meeting was held this summer focusing on the work of the UK and national umbrella and linking bodies: the Inter Faith Network itself, the Scottish Inter Faith Council (SIFC), the Northern Ireland Inter Faith Forum and the Inter Faith Council for Wales (IFCW).



Participants at the St Mungo's meeting

The meeting was held at St Mungo's Museum, Glasgow on 21 June. It was arranged by the Network, hosted by SIFC and chaired by SIFC's Convenor, Dianna Wolfson. Topics of discussion included: how information can best be shared between the different national bodies and the UK Network so as to learn from each other's experiences; involving faith communities effectively; how to make bodies 'representative'

of the faiths; working with Government and other agencies; funding and staffing questions; and work on diversity training and equal opportunities. There were reports on the recent work of all the bodies represented, as well as a chance to hear about how they came into being and the ways in which they work.

This Autumn there will be a more general meeting for national inter faith organisations in membership of the Network to share news of their activities and to discuss issues of common concern.

Meeting on regional faith forums

There are now regional faith forums in a number of the English Regions. A meeting was held on 29 November by the Inner Cities Religious Council of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, in partnership with the Home Office and the Inter Faith Network, to enable participants from different regional inter faith structures in England to reflect on their roles and share experiences. It also enabled Government departments and Government Offices in the Regions to catch up with recent developments in this field.

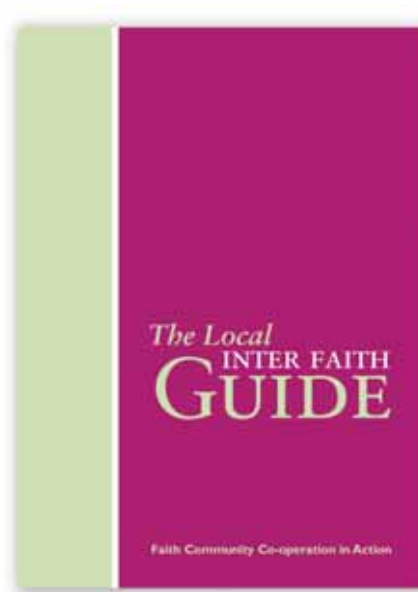
The Local Inter Faith Guide

This summer, the Network worked with its member bodies to produce a revised and expanded second edition of *The Local Inter Faith Guide: Faith Community Cooperation in Action*. It was published in association with the Inner Cities Religious Council of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, as was the first edition in 1999.

The ODPM made a grant towards the cost of the project and support was also received from the Church Urban Fund through their small grants scheme. The Home Office provided a project grant to enable free copies to be sent to all local inter faith bodies. The Network is grateful to these supporters and also to member bodies and trustees who commented on the text in draft and provided numerous case studies to illustrate the various topics the guide covers.

The *Local Inter Faith Guide* includes advice and information on:

- types of local inter faith initiatives
- getting involved in local inter faith activity
- starting a new initiative
- developing effective inter faith initiatives – ideas for activities and information on the nuts and bolts of running a body, from constitutions to membership to premises and funding



- working with local authorities, Local Strategic Partnerships and regional structures
- keeping local initiatives going successfully
- making the work known through the media.

As well as being published in hard copy, the new edition will be available on-line. A complementary local inter faith 'zone' on the Network's website will offer even more good practice examples and practical resources.

Some of the good practice examples in the new Local Inter Faith Guide

Sending speakers to schools

Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum (London) has been working in partnership with secondary schools and the the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education to develop a model to support religious education and community cohesion by encouraging faith leaders to visit schools. Three schools are piloting the project. A workshop took place led by the Head of RE at Mulberry School to look at how visits would be structured and to encourage faith leaders to be volunteers for the pilot. The idea is that volunteers will visit the classroom in pairs, as part of a lesson planned by the class teacher. They will be able to give faith perspectives and will also be role models showing respect and understanding across religions. *Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum*

Events for young people

In 2005, Birmingham Council of Faiths held a youth event, 'Living Between Cultures', in partnership with Birmingham Youth Service. This was described as a youth forum and brought together young people of various faiths – recruited by both BCF and BYS – for an evening of discussion in Birmingham City Council House. Young participants talked about some of the pressures they experience in living in a secular culture and following a religious tradition. As a result of the event, there are plans to try and set up

a youth inter faith group run by BYS with an annual contact with BCF. *Birmingham Council of Faiths*

Working with local authorities

Southampton Council of Faiths (SCOF) grew out of the Southampton Inter Faith Link and has developed alongside this more informal body. SCOF came into being to address the growing need for faith representation in the city. It has built a strong relationship with the City Council, engaging with it on areas such as community cohesion and community tension and on specific issues such as appropriate burial arrangements for Muslims. Since 2003, it has provided the Mayor with 'faith advisers' from each of the seven faiths it links. It is a source of faith representation at events such as the Remembrance Sunday service and the marking of the 60th anniversary of VE and VJ days which are organised by the Mayor's Office for the City Council. *Southampton Council of Faiths*

Working with RECs and other bodies

'Interfaith Kirklees' was launched in 2005. The project is overseen by Kirklees Racial Equality Council, with project partners Kirklees SACRE, North Kirklees Interfaith Council, Huddersfield Interfaith Council, faith communities across Kirklees, Kirklees Metropolitan Council and the Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber. It involves the development of seven 'faith centres' where school children actively engage with the faith of the community at that place of worship...

At each centre, students find artefacts, displays and on-line facilities. Trained guides from the faith community are there to welcome pupils and support them through an interactive experience using packages designed by practising teachers and other professionals within the community. The project is not just for students – the centres are places for Kirklees residents to find out more about the faith of their neighbours. *Interfaith Kirklees project*

Providing advice and assistance to public bodies

Having been involved for some time in the community involvement side of Probationer Training, we have become close partners with Suffolk Constabulary and are helping to develop the inter faith/multicultural dimension of police training at all levels. We serve on the Police Diversity Programme Board and are a first port of call for support and advice in emergencies and various matters connected to community safety and cohesion. We now receive some funding from the police to support our work with Muslims. *Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource*

Working to enable both multi faith input to civic life and development of inter faith understanding

Glasgow Forum of Faiths brings together civic authorities and leaders of various faith communities:

- To work for the good of Glasgow
- To promote mutual understanding of the teachings, traditions and practices of the different faith communities in the Glasgow

area, including an awareness of their common ground and a respect for their distinctive features

- To recognise the problems experienced in the practice of any faith within the local community and to work together for their solution
- To work for harmony and peaceful coexistence and to promote dialogue and friendship between people of different faiths
- To oppose prejudice wherever it exists in the local community
- To work with faith groups and other inter faith organisations for shared religious values within civic society.

Glasgow Forum of Faiths

Work on events such as Holocaust Memorial Day

Members of all faiths and cultures came together to remember the victims of the Holocaust and of oppression and torture across the world at a ceremony on the steps of Blackburn Town Hall on King William Street in the town centre. This was arranged by Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Council, whose chair led the ceremony, in partnership with the Borough Council. The Minister from the Higher Crumpsall and Higher Broughton Synagogue in Salford gave the main address. Following the Mayor's closing address, the faith representatives lit candles at a short ceremony as a sign of peace, unity and hope for the future. *Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Council*

Connecting for the future: young people and inter faith relations in Britain

As the UK becomes increasingly religiously diverse, it is ever more important for young people to become involved in inter faith projects and initiatives and to build bridges of friendship and understanding.

Last year, the Inter Faith Network published *Connect: Different Faiths Shared Values*, in association with TimeBank and the National Youth Agency. This is an inter faith action guide for young people aged 16-25. It includes many ideas for projects which can be started and run by young people; guidelines for dialogue; and a 'Shared Values' section setting out the 'Golden Rule' as this is expressed in different faith traditions. The guide also includes a resources section. A webpage on the Network's site complements the guide (www.interfaith.org.uk/connect).

During 2004-05, the guide was ordered in bulk by many organisations around the country, from faith community bodies to local authorities. A project grant from the Home Office enabled additional copies to be sent free of charge to local inter faith organisations as part of work



to increase the involvement of young people in local inter faith activity. This grant also enabled a short survey of the current pattern of involvement and of groups' views on some of the challenges in carrying out youth-focused local inter faith work as well as their ideas for developing this.

Copies of *Connect* are also being distributed with the new resource book published this year by the National Youth Agency, *A Sense of Respect: Inter Faith Activities for Groups of Young People*, which will be used by many youth organisations.

Connect can be downloaded free from the Network's web site: www.interfaith.org.uk. Single copies are available free of charge from the Network office by sending an A5 sized addressed envelope with 35 pence postage.

Network's national meeting focuses on young people and inter faith relations

Because of the growing significance of inter faith work involving young people, the Inter Faith Network decided to focus its 2005 national meeting on the theme 'Connecting for the Future: Young People and Inter Faith Relations in Britain.'

In the last few years, an increasing number of inter faith youth projects have been taking place in many parts of the UK. The meeting, which took place in Coventry on 27 June at the Coventry Techno Centre, was a chance to reflect on the challenges of this vital area of work and to hear from, and talk with, some of the UK's younger contributors to building good inter faith relations.

Gaurav Prinja, Hindu participant in the Golden Jubilee Youth Forum and advisory board member for the *Connect* guide, offered opening reflections on the vital importance of young people who are active and involved members of the distinct faith communities engaging in work to promote inter faith understanding and cooperation. Dr Harriet Crabtree, Deputy Director of the Network, gave



Sue Houlton

an opening taster of the range of different kinds of youth inter activities happening in the UK and Sue Houlton of the National Youth Agency discussed how faith and inter faith issues fitted into the NYA's work.

Jagtar Singh, Sikh member of the Scottish Inter Faith Youth Council, and Dr Maureen Sier of the Scottish Inter Faith Council told the story of the second Scottish inter faith youth conference, which was held in Glasgow in November and attended by over 150 young people from all over Scotland. During a workshop later in the day, SIFC Youth Council colleagues, Haroon and Fariha Ahmed shared their experiences of taking part in the conference.



Rebecca Niknam

Rebecca Niknam of the Maimonides Foundation gave an insight into how the Foundation helps develop good relations between Jewish and Muslim young people through football and art, as well as more traditional modes of dialogue.



Sofia Maskin

Sofia Maskin from the Muslim tradition and Leicester participant Rachael Gilbert from the Catholic Christian tradition talked about their involvement in the Intercultural Leadership School and the impact taking part has had on their lives.

Graham Langtree, RE Adviser at the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, looked at the contribution which RE can make to promoting understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs. He explained how the first non-statutory National Framework for RE in England, recently published by the QCA, flags up the importance of pupils studying not just different religions but also how people of different faiths and beliefs relate to each other.



Preet Majithia



Rauf Bashir

In a closing panel, reflections on the way forward were offered by Preet Majithia, President, Cambridge University Hindu Cultural Society and member of Leicester Youth Inter Faith Group; Rowena Loverance, Commission for Inter Faith Relations of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and member of the Religious Society of Friends; Rauf Bashir, Building Bridges Project and Nelson Muslim community; and Rosalind Preston, Vice-Chair, Inter Faith Network.

The workshops

Workshop topics included: youth inter faith forums and conferences; inter faith dialogue across the generations; youth organisations and inter faith activity; developing inter faith understanding and cooperation on campus; educating for inter faith awareness; and Europe, the Commonwealth, the world (the wider picture for youth inter faith work).

- Dr Sarah Smalley and youth contributors Lisa Elliott, Raihanna Hirji and Rebecca Owen discussed the experience of involvement in successful SACRE youth faith forums in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- Malcolm Stonestreet, Chief Executive of United Religions Initiative (UK), described its Spiritual Elders and Emerging Visionaries (SEEV) programme which brings older members and young people of faith traditions together to talk, and Musarrat Tariq, Clare North and John Murray talked about the SEEV event run recently by Nottingham Inter Faith Council.
- Maxine Green, consultant to the National Youth Agency and co-author with Carmel Heaney of the recently published NYA book, *A Sense of Respect: Inter Faith Activities for Groups of Young People*, discussed this new resource.



- Mark Wagthorn, Scout Association Programme and Development Adviser, Faiths, Beliefs and BME communities and Daljit Singh, Sikh representative on the Scout Association Faiths and Beliefs Team and member Minority Support Team and Group Scout Leader, 13th Southall, discussed Scouting and inter faith activity.
- Louise Mitchell, Youth Officer of the Council of Christians and Jews, talked about CCJ's work on campus and Pritesh Karia, student member of Warwick Inter-Religious Roundtable for Dialogue discussed the Roundtable's role and activities.
- Becky Hatch and Imogen Gregg from the Diversity and Dialogue Project talked about its work to get young people of different faiths to come together and find out about global issues and work together constructively for a better world.

- Rauf Bashir, Project Manager, Building Bridges Pendle Community Inter Faith Project, described the Project's work with local schools. Ramona Kauth, Rev Jo Mason and Yvonne Stollard described the Ladywood Interfaith Education Project, Birmingham jointly run by volunteers from different faith communities, which brings primary school students to visit the local places of worship.
- Susanna Darch, of the Royal Commonwealth Society talked about the "Youth CHOGM" project, together with Clare Linton and Niamh Quille, youth presenters from the recent Coventry Youth CHOGM.
- Preet Majithia and J R (Adseina) Alli from the multi faith youth team who went with Minorities of Europe to the Council for a Parliament of World Religions in Barcelona last year spoke of their experiences there.

A strong team of volunteer facilitators and note takers and very good support from the conference team helped ensure a very successful and worthwhile day. A full report on the day will be available in the Autumn from the Network office.

The Network was grateful to the Home Office for part support of the event and the production of the report through a project grant.



Sarah Thorley and Henny Rolan



Revd Otieno-Ndale and Chas Raws



Ven Tawalama Bandula and other audience members



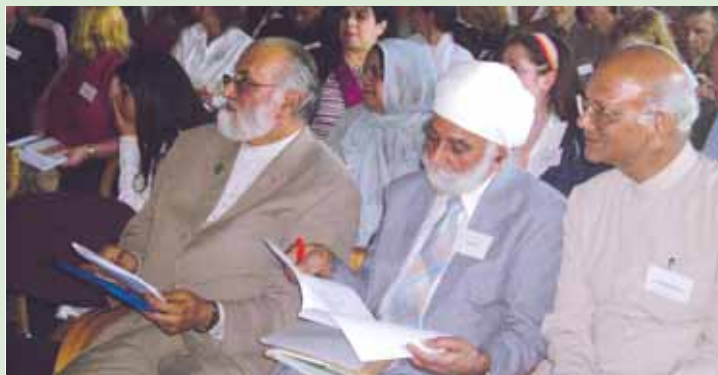
Participants enjoying a light hearted moment in Graham Langtree's presentation



Animated discussion over tea



Gaurav Prinja and Maureen Sier



Imam Dr Sajid, Ajit Singh and Dr Natubhai Shah and fellow participants



Glasgow youth participants Haroon and Fariha Ahmed and Jagtar Singh on their way down to the Coventry meeting

Photograph: Scottish Inter Faith Council

Inter faith issues in Religious Education and Citizenship Education

A new national non-statutory framework for Religious Education in England was published by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in Autumn 2004. It contains a number of references to the importance of dealing with inter faith issues in RE and underlines the contribution which RE can make to the promotion of an inclusive society and mutual respect and understanding between people of different faiths and beliefs. A Steering Group and a Writing Group had worked across the preceding year to help prepare a draft of the new framework document. These groups included representatives of 'faith and belief communities' and professional associations for Religious Education, as well as representatives of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and the Department for Education and Skills. The Network's Director served as a member of the Steering Group. The Network has long advocated the study of inter faith issues in RE and this was the theme of a seminar it organised in 2001 in association with the National Association of SACREs.

The framework is already having an impact. This year a number of the Network's enquiries have been from RE specialists working on texts for

covering inter faith issues in the context of teaching within the new framework. The *Connect* guide (see page 10) and the Network's code, *Building Good Relations with People of Different Faiths and Beliefs*, are resources which these publications will be mentioning.

The handling of inter faith issues within the relatively new discipline of Citizenship Education is also beginning to attract increased attention. The Network has recently started a new project 'Faith and Citizenship'. This will look at a number of aspects of how citizenship is seen by the different faiths and will also look at the resources which currently exist for looking at this topic within Citizenship Education.

Responding to the London bombings and events in their wake

On Thursday 7 July suicide bombers struck three tube trains and a bus in central London, killing 56 people and injuring 700. Four further bombs were taken onto London's transport on 21 July but no one was injured as the devices failed to explode. Condemnation of the bombings came from all quarters, including leaders of the UK's faith communities.

Following the bombings, Prime Minister Tony Blair and the leaders of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties, Michael Howard and Charles Kennedy, met with Muslim leaders at Downing Street to discuss the response to these and, more generally, tackling extremism and the practical steps which can be taken.

Home Secretary Charles Clarke held two meetings with religious leaders to reassure them of the Government's commitment to allaying any fears felt by the faith communities and encouraging them to work together in the aftermath of the tragedy. In the second meeting, Mr Clarke and Home Office Ministers Hazel Blears and Paul Goggins discussed with those present how to prevent young people being drawn into extremism. It was agreed, following this meeting, to set up a number of working groups, led by community members, to focus on particular topics. These working groups, supported by the Home Office, drew up proposals for discussion at a follow up meeting in late September. Hazel Blears and Paul Goggins also held a number of meetings across the country to meet members of the Muslim community and others in different areas. The Network office was represented at the London one.

The Network office and a number of its trustees have kept closely in touch with these developments. However, the Network's principal initial concern has been with the impact of the bombings and

subsequent events on inter faith relations around the country. Although the impact was not as severe as some feared, following the bombings there were reports of a number of attacks on places of worship and attacks on, and verbal abuse of, individuals. The Metropolitan police recorded 269 religious hate crimes in the three weeks after 7 July compared with 40 in the same period of 2004.

Immediately after the bombings the Commission for Racial Equality, through its Safe Communities Initiative, set up an 'observatory' to monitor any possible community tensions that might arise as a result of them. The Network wrote to its member bodies to ask them to report incidents to the CRE to help this process.

On 8 July, the Network issued a document, *Looking After One Another: The Safety and Security of Our Faith Communities*. This gives practical guidelines for faith communities to respond jointly to such problems as attacks on their places of worship and encourages building strong and effective inter faith links at local level. The document was sent to all Network member bodies and went early the following week, with a covering press release, to local authority officers with responsibility for faith and inter faith issues; Race Equality Councils; and key faith community contacts. It was subsequently circulated more widely by these contacts.

Looking After One Another had been under development since last year in consultation with the Commission for Racial Equality, the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Chief Fire Officers' Association as well as Network member bodies. The Crown Prosecution Service advised separately on aspects of the text. The document was finalised rapidly given the possible repercussions for community relations of the terrorist attacks in London.

The preparation of guidelines of this kind was originally suggested at a meeting of representatives of faith communities and other organisations convened some time ago by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams.

To download *Looking After One Another: The Safety and Security of Our Faith Communities* go to www.interfaith.org.uk

The summer issue of the Network's newsletter carried extensive coverage of the many ways in which, following the bombings, people of different faiths and backgrounds around the country came together to remember the dead, pray for the injured and commit themselves to maintaining and strengthening community relations. These ranged from vigils and meetings linked to the two minute silence on 14 July, observed across the UK and in many parts of Europe to individual events held by groups at other times. In Oldham, for example, 'Standing Together', an event organised by the Council and Oldham Inter Faith Forum, brought the



Vigil in Trafalgar Square

Photograph: Associated Press

communities there together in Alexandra Park on 22 July to remember the victims of the London bombings; to show support for the emergency services; and to commit themselves to work together, across the communities of Oldham, to build respect and understanding and overcome the divisions and hatred which lead to such atrocities.

...These attacks strengthen our determination to live together in peace, and to grow together in mutual understanding. This crime must inspire us to work unceasingly together in pursuit of peace, justice and respect for difference.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and the Muslim Council of Britain

Britain is a good example of a multicultural society where all faiths have been living together peacefully. It is now more important than ever to ensure that we do not succumb to terrorism by allowing ourselves to become divided.

Hindu Forum of Britain

...The scriptures and teachings of all our faiths – Baha’i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh – denounce the use of all indiscriminate violence. To justify such actions in the name of any religion is totally contrary to our values and practice...

Religious Leaders of Scotland

We are united in deploring the use of murderous violence to achieve political or religious ends. We are most strongly distressed when perpetrators of violence claim they are serving God in this way. Such actions are no part of an honest observance of any of our faiths...

Merseyside Council of Faiths

As the leaders of tomorrow we find hope in the resilience and unity exemplified by Londoners. We will not be defeated in our quest to maintain London as a beacon of freedom, diversity and tolerance. We shall continue in our efforts to eradicate terrorism, racism and war – through education and understanding; for only through these methods can we truly claim to have mutual understanding and respect for one another...

National Union of Students; Federation of Student Islamic Societies; British Organisation of Sikh Students National Hindu Students Forum; and the Union of Jewish Students

...We praise the prompt actions of the national police in searching for the truth, and, at a local level, the high level of consultation that we have received from local police leaders. We pledge our full support to them in ensuring community harmony in these coming days when all need to remain calm and focused in maintaining Leicester’s reputation for good relations. As after 9/11, we affirm our declaration that faith leaders will consider any attack or act of vandalism against any religious building or individual connected with that community, as an attack on all of us.

Leicester Council of Faiths

Excerpts from some of the responses to the bombings on 7 July

Network Officers' Reflection

At the July meeting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Inter Faith Network, Rt Revd Tom Butler and Jagjiwan Singh (Co-Chairs) and Dr Manazir Ahsan, Hon Barnabas Leith, Neville Nagler and Dr Narayan Rao (Vice-Chairs) offered the following reflection:

“We continue to remember the pain and grief of those whose loved ones have died or been injured in the criminal terrorist attacks which have taken place in London. Our prayers are with them. All our faith communities have condemned unequivocally the attacks and have stood together in solidarity with one another in recent days. Vigils, services of remembrance, and acts of witness in towns and cities across the UK have borne witness to a powerful desire to remember the dead and injured and to oppose the violence used by the terrorists.

Bonds of respect and trust between people in Britain's different communities have been formed patiently and steadily over recent decades. These close relationships have become part of the fabric of our society at national, local and neighbourhood level. We can now see how strongly this fabric has been woven. It is resisting the attempts of those who wish to tear our society apart.

The Muslim community has condemned the terrorists for their criminal acts and for the twisted interpretation of Islam which they have used to support these. We welcome the widespread public recognition that this evil ideology is far removed from the character of the faith held by the vast majority of Muslims in this country. We express our solidarity with Muslim organisations and individuals as they work to tackle the challenges which face them.

From time to time, in the course of history, faith traditions have been betrayed and perverted by some who claim – wrongly – to be their genuine followers. Hatred and violence have often been the bitter harvest.

The fruits of true faith are the pursuit of justice, wisdom and peace and acts of care and compassion. When we celebrated the new Millennium some five years ago, representatives of the UK's different faith communities came together to express their commitment to work together with one another, based on these values we hold in common.

Now, more than ever, we need to redouble our efforts to build, together, a society where there is mutual respect, cooperation for the common good and commitment to a shared and positive future.”

Faith and the public agenda

Discussion and cooperation between people of different faiths are cornerstones of a mutually respectful coexistence. Good inter faith relations can, however, only really flourish when people of different religious backgrounds feel safe, secure and valued as members of a just society and where account is taken of their needs and their contribution is appreciated and actively sought.

Legislation and the development of Government policy and its implementation are highly significant factors in contributing to creating an inclusive multi faith society. For this reason an important part of the Network's work is to keep its member bodies in touch with developments on these fronts and to help facilitate discussion on them between different faith communities and between faith communities and central and local Government. The Network's Faith Communities Consultative Forum is an increasingly important channel for faith community representatives to talk together about issues of common concern, particularly those in the public arena.

The Network is an independent non-governmental organisation but values its close working relationships with the Home Office, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and

other Government Departments, as well as with other public bodies such as the Commission for Racial Equality and the Local Government Association. In January 2005 the Faith Communities Unit of the Home Office was merged with its Community Cohesion Unit to form a joint Cohesion and Faiths Unit. The Network has been in regular contact with this new combined Unit on a range of issues. The Network's Director also attends the meetings of the Inner Cities Religious Council in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Working Together: Cooperation between Government and Faith Communities

Last year's Annual Review referred to the Home Office report *Working Together: Cooperation Between Faith Communities and Government* and to the review of which its recommendations were the fruit. This review, in which the Network was involved, had looked at arrangements for consultation by central Government of faith communities.

A meeting in July 2005 took stock of developments since the report was published in February 2004. It found that a number of Government Departments are now making more structured arrangements for consultation with faith communities. A further meeting is planned for this autumn. An inter-departmental committee of officials, chaired by the Home Office, now helps to keep these arrangements under review.

Inter faith relations and community cohesion

Across the last three years, the Network has worked closely with a number of bodies on the community cohesion agenda. This has included partnership work with the Local Government Association (LGA) on *Faith and Community*, published in 2002 by the Local Government Association in association with the Inner Cities Religious Council of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Active Community Unit of the Home Office and the Inter Faith Network and on *Guidance on Community Cohesion* published in 2002 by the Local Government Association in association with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Home Office, the Commission for Racial Equality and the Inter Faith Network.

In November 2004, the LGA published *Community Cohesion: An Action Guide*. This builds on the 2002 guidance on community cohesion, outlining the principles underlying community cohesion and giving local authorities practical advice about how to build and strengthen cohesive communities in their area. It includes descriptions of the application of community cohesion in key policy areas, including working with faith communities, and includes case studies drawn from different local authority and other contexts. The Network office was represented on the drafting group for the guidance and the Network was one of the LGA's partners in its publication, alongside the Audit

Commission, Commission for Racial Equality, Home Office, Improvement and Development Agency and Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Network has also worked closely with these bodies on a number of other initiatives related to this topic during the year as well as contributing to the CRE's July conference on an 'integrated Britain'.

Past discussions between the Local Government Association and the Network office on the development of local inter faith structures in this country were reflected in the material tabled by the Local Government Association for discussion at meetings under the auspices of the European Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. At its plenary session this spring the Congress adopted a Resolution and a Recommendation on 'Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue: Initiatives and Responsibilities of Local Authorities'. The tabled report contained an annex reviewing inter faith activity in the UK and the support given to this by central and local government here and recommended a variety of initiatives ranging from efforts to combat exclusion through teaching of tolerance and respect to young people to the setting up of local inter faith councils.

In October, a detailed response was made on behalf of the Network's Executive Committee to the Government's consultation document *Strength in Diversity: Towards a Community Cohesion and Race Equality Strategy* which had been issued in May.

The Government published *Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society* in January as its response to the consultation. However, this did not address in any detail the contribution which inter faith activity is making, at both national and local level, to the community cohesion process (on which topic most of the Network's comments had focused). The Home Office subsequently agreed to a suggestion from the Network office for a review of inter faith relations strategy in consultation with the Network, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Department for Education and Skills, the Local Government Association and the Commission for Racial Equality. This has now begun.

A new Commission for Equality and Human Rights

In March the Government introduced into Parliament its Equality Bill, which was reintroduced following the General Election. The Bill reflects the outcome of consultations across the last two years on proposals for a new Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR). The Network office has been actively involved in these and has been represented in consultation meetings on the plans for the CEHR arranged by the Department of Trade and Industry. It also participates in the Equality and Diversity Forum, which brings together a wide range of organisations with an interest in equality, discrimination and human rights issues; and in a new grouping (which the Network

helped establish) now named the 'Religion and Belief Consultative Group on Equality, Diversity and Human Rights', which provides a joint framework for faith community and "belief" organisations to keep in touch with developments and discuss them with one another.

The planned CEHR will bring together the work of the Commission for Racial Equality, the Disability Rights Commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission and have responsibility for the new 'equality' strands of age, religion and belief and sexual orientation as well as work on promoting human rights. 'Equality/discrimination', 'human rights' and 'good relations' (including good 'inter faith' relations) will be the three key 'pillars' of the CEHR's work.

The Equality Bill requires the Commission to give particular attention in its work on 'good relations' to issues relating to race and religion/belief. The way in which the new Commission tackles this aspect of its responsibilities will clearly affect the future role of the Network and it is hoped that there will be more detailed discussion of this in the coming months.

The present intention is that the new Commission will be established in the autumn of 2007, covering all areas except those for which the Commission for Racial Equality is responsible, which it is planned would transfer to the new Commission by the spring of 2009.

Further legislation on religious discrimination

Last year's Review mentioned the coming into force of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations in December 2003. These implement, in relation to religion or belief, the 2000 European Directive dealing with discrimination in the work place on grounds including religion or belief. It noted that for some time the Network has had on its agenda the case for new legislation to give more general protection against religious discrimination and that, as it went to press, the Government had announced that it planned to introduce legislation on discrimination in relation to the provision of goods, services and premises on the grounds of religion or belief. Provisions to give effect to this commitment have been included in the Equality Bill setting up the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights. The Network office has been involved in consultative meetings on these arranged by the Home Office.

In parallel with the introduction of the Equality Bill, the Government has set up two reviews, one to investigate the causes of persistent discrimination and inequality in British society and one to develop proposals for a Single Equality Act which the Government hopes will be enacted during the lifetime of this Parliament.

Incitement to religious hatred

Last year's Review noted discussion on the case for legislation to prohibit incitement to religious hatred. At the end of 2003 the Government introduced into Parliament a more general Bill which contained provisions on incitement to religious hatred but these were dropped to secure its enactment before the General Election in May. Following the election, a Bill including only the incitement to religious hatred provisions was introduced into the House of Commons.

At a meeting of the Network's Faith Communities Consultative Forum on 16 December there was general support for a proposal that a joint statement should be made by faith community representatives supporting the Government's legislation on this issue. This was on the basis that the statement would be an ad hoc one, since the Forum itself is precluded by its own terms of reference from issuing policy statements of its own. However, the discussion at the Forum meeting paved the way for this statement and the Network office subsequently helped on aspects of its preparation and launch.

Safe Communities Initiative

The Network office has continued to participate in the work of the Commission for Racial Equality's Steering Group for the Safe Communities Initiative.

Information and advice

Enquiries

The Network office provides information and advice to a wide range of organisations and individuals. The table below shows a breakdown of the types of enquiries received over the past year:

Individuals	28%
Faith groups	11%
Schools, colleges and universities	11%
Inter faith bodies	10%
Other voluntary organisations	9%
Central Government	8%
Local Government	7%
Media	7%
Other public bodies	5%
Commercial organisations	4%

For some types of enquirers, such as companies and employees, the Network’s role is to help make them aware of relevant sources of guidance such as ACAS guidelines or the Shap calendar of religious festivals. In others, such as assisting the media or central Government, it helps enquirers in making contact with the relevant faith or inter faith bodies. On enquiries from national, regional and local inter faith bodies or from people wishing to develop these, the Network’s assistance may be ongoing over a long period. This year a total of 590 enquiries were logged.

Some examples of this year’s enquiries:

“My organisation is considering developing a multi faith prayer space. Are there particular issues which we should bear in mind in planning this?”

Enquirer from a bank in the City of London

“We are planning an inter faith event on shared values for Islam Awareness Week. Could you suggest possible speakers.”

Muslim enquirer, West Midlands

“Our new Chief Executive is interested in developing the work of the Council with faith communities. Could you give me some background about how other local authorities are approaching this?”

Local authority in Greater London

“Can you give us information about resources we can use to develop training about the needs of women of different faiths?”

A women’s refuge, North West of England

“I am a sixth former wanting to set up an inter faith group at my school. How do I go about this to make sure it works well?”

Sixth form student, South East of England

“My daughter is doing a project on Jainism. Are there organisations who can help her with information?”

Individual enquirer, Middlesex

“We are publishing a book on RE in the context of the new national non-statutory framework for RE and will be including a section on inter faith issues. Can you give us some examples of inter faith projects which we could use in this?”
Educational publisher

“Could you give me contact details for inter faith bodies in the Newport and Cardiff areas?”
Radio station in Wales

“We are developing a constitution for our organisation. Could you tell me how other comparable local inter faith bodies have handled the issue of ‘representation’ of faith communities in their constitutions?”
Local inter faith group in Yorkshire and Humber

“I am an advisory teacher for RE. We are working with SACRE next year on inter faith events/projects for local schools. Can you offer any advice on this?”
Individual enquirer from the South West of England

Network web site

The Network’s web site at www.interfaith.org.uk provides information about the work of the Network and its publications. The site currently receives around 2,500 visits each month.

The site allows the downloading of some of the Network’s publications as well as providing links to the internet pages of member bodies and of other projects with which the Network has been involved. It also gives email contact details for local inter faith bodies around the UK.

Past Network staff member Bhupinder Singh continues to help with the site, for which a new local inter faith ‘zone’ is being developed (see page 4).

Newsletter

The Network’s newsletter, *Inter Faith Update*, is published three times a year and is distributed to member bodies, subscribers, supporters of the Network, media religious affairs contacts and selected Government and other contacts.

Network membership

New member bodies

At the Network's Annual General Meeting, held in Coventry on 27 June, eight organisations were accepted into membership:

- Hindu Forum of Britain
- Minorities of Europe Inter Faith Action Programme
- Altrincham Inter Faith Group
- Coventry Multi Faith Forum
- Hounslow Friends of Faith
- Newham Faith Sector Forum (in place of previous member body Newham Inter Faith Association)
- Telford and Wrekin Interfaith Group
- Warrington Council of Faiths.

This brings the total number of Network member bodies at the present time to 111.

Membership review

A review of patterns of Network membership is planned across the coming year. This will look at issues such as whether the current types of membership category remain appropriate and whether the pattern of bodies in membership reflects adequately the situation in the UK.

Trustees

At the AGM, Rt Rev Dr Tom Butler and Jagjiwan Singh were re-elected as Co-Chairs, and Dr Manazir Ahsan as a Vice-Chair, for the coming year. Hon Barnabas Leith and Dr V P Narayan Rao were elected as a Vice-Chairs in succession to Jehangir Sarosh and Om Parkash Sharma. Neville Nagler was elected as Vice-Chair in succession to Rosalind Preston.

Others who stood down from the Executive Committee included Archbishop Kevin McDonald and Abdul Rauf Mirza, as well as Sister Isabel Smyth who had served on the Committee since 1997. Ann Noonan, Gul Muhammad and Pramila Kaur were elected in their place. Ven Tawalama Bandula (replacing Ven Pandit Wilamajothi), Rev Daniel Otieno-Ndale (filling the vacancy left last year by Rev Simon Reynolds) and Rev Guy Wilkinson (replacing Ven Michael Ipgrave, who resigned as a Committee member following his appointment as Archdeacon of Southwark) were all co-opted to the Committee in the course of 2004-05. They were elected at the AGM to serve on the Committee for the coming year, along with Dina Gold who filled the place left vacant by Rosalind Preston. All who stood down were thanked for the important contribution which they had made.

Trustees 2005–06

Executive Committee Members 2005-06

Co-Chairs

Rt Revd Dr Tom Butler
Mr Jagjiwan Singh

Vice-Chairs

Dr Manazir Ahsan MBE
Hon Barnabas Leith
Mr Neville Nagler
Dr V P Narayan Rao

Treasurer

Mr Ramesh Shah

Other Executive Committee members

Dr Fatma Amer
Ven Tawalama Bandula
Ms Dina Gold
Dr Elizabeth Harris
Mr Phil Henry
Ms Pramila Kaur
Mr Ayub Laher
Mr Shabbir Lakha
Mr Gul Muhammad
Mrs Ravinder Kaur Nijjar
Mrs Ann Noonan
Mrs Regina O'Callaghan
Rev Daniel Otieno-Ndale

Mr Nitin Palan
Rabbi Alan Plancey
Dr Nawal K Prinja
Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid
Mr Resham Singh Sandhu MBE
Mr Jehangir Sarosh
Janet Scott
Mr Alan Schwartz
Dr Natubhai K Shah
Ms Priti Shah
Mr Om Parkash Sharma MBE
Sr Margaret Shepherd
Dr Indarjit Singh OBE
Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick
Rev Guy Wilkinson

Staff

Over the past year, Brian Pearce has continued to serve as the Network's Director and Harriet Crabtree as its Deputy Director. At the beginning of 2005 Gaylina Nguyen moved from being part-time clerical assistant to become full time Finance and Administration Assistant. Hannah Mercer, from the ProspectUs employment agency, has worked for the Network during the year as its Secretary/ Administrator with Katie Keady from ProspectusUs offering additional assistance at busy points during the year.



Hannah Mercer and Gaylina Nguyen preparing for the National Meeting



Bhupinder Singh with Committee member Dr Fatma Amer

In November, Bhupinder Singh left the Network to return to help run his family's hotel business. He had worked for the Network since 1998 as its Information Officer. A presentation was made to him by the Executive Committee at its meeting in October and he returned to assist on the Network's National Meeting in Coventry in June where members had a chance to thank him for his work for the Network. It is not, however, completely a case of goodbye! Bhupinder has been working with the Network this spring and summer on the development of its website (see page 5).

Henny Rolan, who worked as a student clerical assistant for the Network from 2000 to 2002 returned from Indonesia this year to do a master's degree and offered very welcome assistance to the office during the summer. Anne Breivik has been appointed to a temporary post of 'Faith and Citizenship Project Officer' to carry out a survey of resources, particularly for young people, in this important area. Her last job was at the Citizenship Foundation.

Thank you to Rosalind Preston

Rosalind Preston stepped down at the AGM not only as a Vice-Chair, but also from membership of the Executive Committee, on which she had served from 1993. During this time she served once as a Co-Chair and twice as a Vice-Chair. In these capacities, she oversaw at a number of points the work of the General Purposes Subcommittee.

A presentation was by Bishop Tom Butler and Jagjiwan Singh to Mrs Preston on behalf of all the members of the Network to mark her tremendous contribution to the life of the Network and to inter faith relations in the UK over these years.



Bishop Tom Butler making presentation to Rosalind Preston

Statement of Financial Activities

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

For the year ended 31 December 2004

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2004 £	Total 2003 £
Incoming Resources				
Donations, Legacies and similar income	55,300	205,944	261,244	228,847
Operating Activities in the furtherance of the charitable objects	—	9,372	9,372	8,311
Investment Income	—	3,142	3,142	2,516
Total Incoming Resources	<u>55,300</u>	<u>218,458</u>	<u>273,758</u>	<u>239,674</u>
Resources Expended				
Cost of generating Funds	<u>—</u>	<u>10,271</u>	<u>10,271</u>	<u>7,711</u>
Charitable Activities				
Consultation, Information and Advice	—	108,821	108,821	109,127
Meetings and Conferences	—	31,601	31,601	23,981
Research	—	7,715	7,715	38,145
Publications	23,902	22,104	46,006	40,576
Support	24,618	—	24,618	
Management and Administration	<u>—</u>	<u>16,906</u>	<u>16,906</u>	<u>15,347</u>
	<u>48,520</u>	<u>187,147</u>	<u>235,667</u>	<u>227,176</u>
Total Resources Expended	<u>48,520</u>	<u>197,418</u>	<u>245,938</u>	<u>234,887</u>
Net Incoming Resources For the Year	6,780	21,040	27,820	4,787
Funds at 1 January 2004	<u>10,180</u>	<u>42,663</u>	<u>52,843</u>	<u>48,056</u>
Funds at 31 December 2004	<u>16,960</u>	<u>63,703</u>	<u>80,663</u>	<u>52,843</u>

All the charitable company's operations are classed as continuing. Movements in reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2004

	£	2004 £	2003 £
Tangible Fixed Assets		21,490	6,066
Current Assets			
Debtors and prepayments	34,879		12,780
Cash at Bank and in Hand	39,498		41,334
	<u>74,377</u>		<u>54,114</u>
Creditors: amounts due within one year	15,204		7,337
Net Current Assets		<u>59,173</u>	<u>46,777</u>
Net Assets		<u>80,663</u>	<u>52,843</u>
Funds			
Restricted Funds		16,960	10,180
Unrestricted Funds		<u>63,703</u>	<u>42,663</u>
Total Funds		<u>80,663</u>	<u>52,843</u>

These Financial Statements were approved by the Executive Committee on 7 June 2005 and signed on their behalf by Mr Ramesh Shah, Treasurer.

Supporters in 2004

The Inter Faith Network's programme of building good relations between the different faith communities in the UK is funded through grants and donations from trusts, organisations and individuals supportive of its work, including its member faith communities, as well as through the subscription fees of its member bodies. The Network also received a grant from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and is currently receiving a Home Office strategy grant.

The Trustees of the Network thank most warmly all those who have given financial support to its work during the calendar year 2004 and also those who have given the gift of time to help work for good relations between the faiths in the UK.

Government Funding

Home Office
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

Trusts, Foundations and Companies

Allen Lane Foundation
Alma Royalton Kisch Trust
Ardwick Trust
Hugo Gryn Memorial Trust
ICIC Foundation
Mercers' Company
National Youth Agency

Swan Hellenic
TimeBank
West London Synagogue Charitable Fund
Westminster Foundation

Faith Community Organisations

The Network's member faith communities provide funding towards the Network's budget on a structured basis, with contributions varying in amount with some reference to the relative sizes of the different communities. The sources of contributions received in 2004 have varied from community to community. In some cases these have included donations from individuals, who are included in the lists of that category of donor.

During 2004 donations were received on behalf of member faith communities from the following organisations and trusts:

Baha'i Community in the UK
Board of Deputies of British Jews
Church of England
Community of Buddhist Contemplatives
Community Security Trust
Institute of Jainology
Jain Samaj Europe
Jamyang Buddhist Centre
Liberal Judaism
London Buddhist Centre
Mahavir Trust
Mayfair Islamic Centre

Methodist Racial Justice Projects Fund
Movement for Reform Judaism
Muslim Council of Britain
National Council of Hindu Temples
Network of Engaged Buddhists
Network of Sikh Organisations (UK)
New Kadampa Tradition
Sikh community in Scotland
Swaminarayan Hindu Mission
Telford Buddhist Priory
Thai - British Buddhist (Buddhavihara) Temple
United Reformed Church
United Synagogue
United Jewish Israel Appeal
Western Ch'an Fellowship

Individual Donors

(including donations from a number of individuals as part of structured faith community funding)

Mr Basheer Ahmad
Mr Anil Bhanot
His Honour Jonathan Crabtree
Mr Tom Gulliver
Mrs Ravinder Kaur Nijjar
Miss Beryl Pearce
Ms Clare Salters
Most Ven Dr Medagama Vajiragnana

We would also like to thank:

Mrs Lorna Barbour
Dr Richard Boeke
Sir Jack Stewart-Clark
Mr John Dorrell
Eileen Forrester
Ms Dina Gold
Mrs Sheila Hayes
Professor John Hick
Dr Raheem Khan
Dr Dermot Killingly
Mr Mark Littlewood
Mrs Jenny Nicholson
Mary Pimm
Mr David and Mrs Jean Potter
Mrs L Probert
Mr Wilfred G Richardson
Mr Geoff Robson
Mrs Joy Sabour
Mr Rashid Siddiqui
Mrs Celia Jane Smith
St Thomas' Church, Huddersfield
Mr David Stevens
Joe Upton
Dr Stephen Vickers
Rt Rev Roy Williamson
West Somerset Inter Faith Group

.....And others who also kindly gave donations, but prefer not to be listed.

Inter Faith Network for the UK

Member Organisations 2005–06

Faith Community Representative Bodies

Arya Pratinidhi Sabha (UK)
Baha'i Community of the United Kingdom
Board of Deputies of British Jews
Buddhist Society
Churches Agency for Inter Faith Relations
in Scotland
Churches' Commission for Inter-Faith
Relations (Churches Together in Britain
and Ireland)
Council of African and Afro-Caribbean
Churches (UK)
Friends of the Western Buddhist Order
Hindu Council (UK)
Hindu Forum of Britain
Imams and Mosques Council (UK)
Islamic Cultural Centre, Regents Park, London
Jain Samaj Europe
Jamiat-e-Ulama Britain (Association of
Muslim Scholars)
Muslim Council of Britain
National Council of Hindu Temples
Network of Buddhist Organisations (UK)
Network of Sikh Organisations (UK)
Quaker Committee for Christian and
Interfaith Relations
Roman Catholic Committee for Other Faiths,
Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha of GB
Swaminarayan Hindu Mission
Unitarian and Free Christian Churches
Interfaith Subcommittee
Vishwa Hindu Parishad (UK)
World Ahlul-Bayt Islamic League
World Islamic Mission (UK)
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

Inter Faith Organisations

Northern Ireland Inter Faith Forum
Scottish Inter Faith Council
Inter Faith Council for Wales/Cyngor
Cyd-Ffydd Cymru
Alif Aleph UK
Christians Aware Interfaith Programme
Council of Christians and Jews

Interfaith Foundation
International Association for Religious
Freedom (British Chapter)
International Interfaith Centre
London Society of Jews and Christians
Maimonides Foundation
Minorities of Europe Inter Faith
Action Programme
Religions for Peace (UK Chapter)
Three Faiths Forum
United Religions Initiative (Britain
and Ireland)
Westminster Interfaith
World Congress of Faiths

Local Inter Faith Groups

Altrincham Inter Faith Group
Bedford Council of Faiths
Birmingham Council of Faiths
Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Council
Bolton Interfaith Council
Bradford Concord Interfaith Society
Brent Inter Faith
Brighton and Hove Inter-Faith Contact Group
Bristol Inter Faith Group
Burnley Building Bridges
Cambridge Inter-Faith Group
Canterbury and District Inter Faith Action
Cardiff Interfaith Association
Cleveland Interfaith Group
Coventry Inter Faith Group
Coventry Multi Faith Forum
Derby Open Centre Multi-Faith Group
Dudley Borough Interfaith Network
Gateshead Inter Faith Forum
Gloucestershire Inter Faith Action
Harrow Inter Faith Council
Hounslow Friends of Faith
Huddersfield Interfaith Council
Lancashire Forum of Faiths
Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship
Leeds Faith Communities Liaison Forum
Leicester Council of Faiths
Loughborough Council of Faiths
Luton Council of Faiths

Manchester Interfaith Forum
Medway Inter Faith Action
Merseyside Council of Faiths
Interfaith MK (Milton Keynes)
Nelson and Brierfield Building Bridges
Newcastle Council of Faiths
Newham Faith Sector Forum
North Kirklees Inter-Faith Council
North Staffordshire Forum of Faiths
Northampton Faiths Forum
Nottingham Inter Faith Council
Oldham Inter Faith Forum
Oxford Round Table of Religions
Peterborough Inter-Faith Council
Reading Inter-Faith Group
Redbridge Council of Faiths
Rochdale Multifaith Partnership
Sheffield Interfaith
South London Inter Faith Group
Southampton Council of Faiths
Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource
Telford and Wrekin Interfaith Group
Warrington Council of Faiths
Watford Inter Faith Association
Wellingborough Multi-Faith Group
Whalley Range (Manchester) Inter Faith Group
Wolverhampton Inter-Faith Group
Wycombe Sharing of Faiths

Educational and Academic Bodies

Centre for the Study of Jewish-Christian
Relations
Centre for the Study of Islam and
Christian-Muslim Relations
Community Religions Project,
University of Leeds
Institute of Jainology
Islamic Foundation
Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby
National Association of SACRE's
Religious Education Council for England
and Wales
Shap Working Party on World Religions
in Education
Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter

The Inter Faith Network for the UK

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