

For the Ealing Trinity Circuit, Methodist Church Meeting

Title of paper:

Southall Interfaith Secondary Schools Educator Report

Date of meeting:

8th March 2016

Purpose:

- For information

Author: Revd Karen Greenidge

Recommendation:

- *N/A*

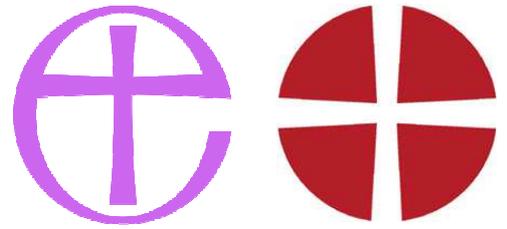
As I start my new role as the 'Southall Interfaith Secondary Schools Educator' I reflect on these three verses:

- ***For many are called, but few are chosen. (Matthew 22:14)***
- ***And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14)***
- ***Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' (Matthew 22:37:39)***

After much confirmation from the Methodist and Anglican church, from family and friends at my licensing and Induction service. I truly believe I was ***chosen*** by God for this role, ***for such a time a this***. I believe, timing is everything and as I enter this new phase of my ministry, I focus my vision for this role, by ***loving the Lord my God with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my mind***, for God's love for me is eternal and unconditional, and knowing that, I cannot keep this love to myself but share it with others, to ***love my neighbour as myself***.

Southall Interfaith Secondary Schools Educator

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Southall is home for me, born and bred as they say. I went to 'Three Bridges Primary School' (In my day it was called George Tomlinson) and Greenford High School. I went and grew up in St John's Church Southall and was Youth Development Worker at Emmanuel Church Southall, before becoming a Priest. God has given me a heart for Southall, its people, and especially our young people. Some may see Southall, as I have heard many times as dirty and a dump, but I see Southall as celebration of multi-cultural and multi-faith people cohabiting together despite our difference. I am who I am because I came from Southall. This unique place, taught me how to live and work with people who were different from me. As I embark on this new journey for the Secondary Schools in Southall, I embrace this new partnership with the Methodist Church, especially with the King's Hall Methodist Church, Southall (Urdu/Hindi).

Progress

For the last two months, I have been networking, getting myself known to people and organisations of who I am and what my role is all about. Below is a list of contacts so far:

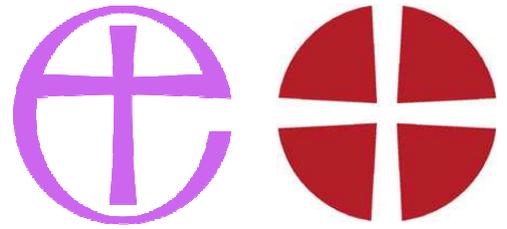
- Kris Bolt - Featherstone High School
- Quiet Zone in Northolt High School, with Peter Catford
- Gill Borg - School Safeguarding Training
- Ealing SACRE Meeting (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education), which I am now a member.
- Calum Burke, Youth Director for the Southall Anglican Group
- Nikkita Roberts, Apprentice Children's and Youth Worker - Youth Alpha with Southall Anglican Group
- Southall Task Meeting with Southall Anglican Group
- Lindsay Levkoff Lynn – Youth United Foundation (Founder and Patron: Prince Charles). Part of the VIP visit at St John's Church Southall
- Prevent Strategy Training at Wolf Fields Primary School in Southall
- John Seymore - Chaplain for Twyford and William Perkin
- Laurence Hillel - Willesden Area Interfaith Adviser
- Southall Faith Forum

Future Planning

I have completed a one-year plan that consist of my objectives, time scale of getting things done and support, training or funding needs I may need for future activities for the project. This contains, Church Relationships, School Relationship/Networking, Community Group Connections, Schools Work and Supervision and Reflection.

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As part of my Schools work I have devised an 'Interfaith Secondary Schools Work Plan' to take with me when I visit the High Schools in Southall, to give them an idea of what I would like to do.

Context

*The Christian churches in Southall, believe that Southall being a multi-faith community, should be the place to pioneer, interfaith cohesion in secondary schools. As '**Southall Interfaith Secondary Schools Educator,**' my role is to provide resources and materials for pupils, to develop an awareness of Christianity and of different faith/religion perspectives.*

Overview

Objectives 1: To develop Christian awareness in Southall secondary schools.

To provide a Christian voice in RE/Ethics/PSHE/Citizenship provision in Southall secondary schools and help schools deliver their SMSC requirements.

How?

- Develop and offer appropriate assemblies and classroom sessions from a Christian perspective, especially Christian festivals. Easter, Christmas, Harvest etc.

Objective 2: To engage good practise of building interfaith understanding amongst young people.

To create a network of youth ambassadors across faith, with the aim of building understanding and depth of conversation about faith through friendship with each other and also offer young people of all backgrounds opportunities for community service in Southall.

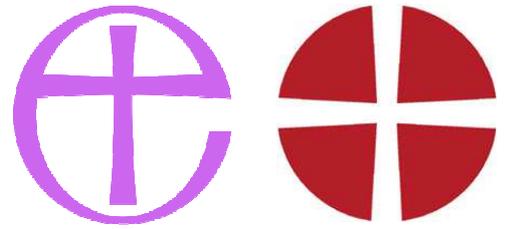
How?

- Create a RE/Ethics/PSHE/Citizenship classroom session called '**Youth Ambassadors**' once a month, if applicable or once a term. The idea is to make each pupil a **Youth Ambassador** to represent their faith or non-faith. To give them a safe place to express their faith/non-faith and cultural background. At some point, I would like this session to become an after school or lunch time forum, so to also become a place for the pupils to develop ideas, for community outreach in Southall, e.g. the homeless, house-bound etc.
- In these sessions we would discuss themed topics, offering/debating the different faith/non-faith perspective on morals, belief theories or ethical/social issues etc. For example, a Q & A session with pupils on different approaches to prayer, life, death, love, respect, money etc.

(At present Southall has a Faith Forum, I would like to build a cohesive interfaith panel as a resource for schools, to develop material for theme topics, as mentioned above).

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Future Idea

- **Quiet Zone:** *Create reflective space for pupils to reflect on their feelings, God and the world.*

Set in around several gazebos (or just in a classroom) with fairy lights to create a contemplative atmosphere there will be a space to write or draw a response to the invitation: 'If I could ask God one question...', or 'Who has hurt you recently...' etc.

Different activities are used for them to reflect, such as:

- Sand, to wipe things away. (Who has hurt you recently?)
- A tunnel, to face their fears.
- A tablet, to fizz and dissolve in water to help release any issues.
- A large world map, focusses their attention by acknowledging the issues we are facing today.
- Finally, there is space to sit and relax and ask such questions as, "Where am I on my journey through life?" and to commit these to paper in words or picture.

Finally

I am enjoying my role and I know it's not always going to be a bed of roses, but as the challenges occur, I will face them head on, with the strengthen and help from God. I end with this Bible verse, as I believe my role is to make **bonds of peace** and develop **unity** and harmony within Southall's multi-faith community, where at times we may struggle with, how to talk about Christianity in the secondary schools.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:3)