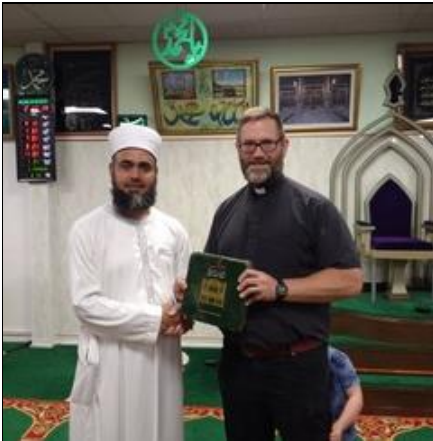


ACROSS

Sharing Faith Across Cultures

MAHABBA
 LOVING ALL MUSLIMS



Across Woking : Uniting to connect with other faith groups

Cross Cultural Ministry in Woking (Across) brings together Christians from churches in the area, focusing on sharing faith across cultures.

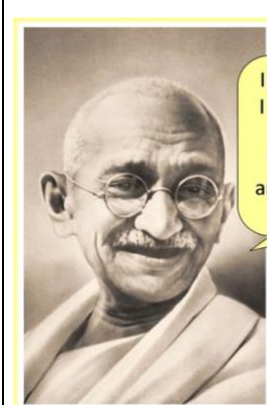
'Across' is a body of local churches in Woking, working together to reach out to the community and connect with people of other faiths. Woking has a large Pakistani Muslim population since Woking's Shah Jehan mosque, built in 1889, is the oldest purpose-built mosque in the country. The aim of Across is to reach out with Christ's love, building bridges across the community, with a particular focus on sharing faith across cultures. We emphasise gentle invitation, building relationships with people of other faiths and being respectful at all times. Prayer is also central – every month for the past 20 years, supporters have gathered to pray on a Friday, the Islamic day of prayer, and every couple of months we host a prayer breakfast. Training is also part of the work of Across, enabling ordinary Christians to reach out to ordinary Muslims and those of other faiths. If you would like to support this ministry, donations can be made by contacting Riz, Across Administrator at - acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com



Cutting cake on Across's 20th birthday

Sixteen years with Across – Margaret Hill

"Across had been set up 5 years before Rob & I returned from 6 months in Bangladesh. The training Across offered opened our eyes both to celebrate our exciting multicultural town and give us skills & confidence to share our faith. It helped me engage with families coming to Mums and toddlers at Emmanuel Maybury where we had many from Asia and also Europe. Rob became a class assistant at English for speakers of other languages. Through working with many different churches on behalf of Across, I count the close cooperation of those churches through so many different agencies as a great added blessing to our town." – quote from Margaret Hill

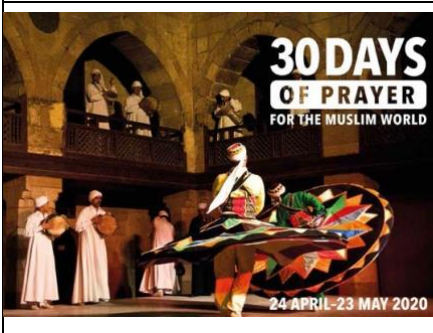
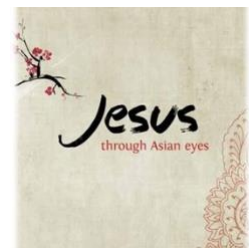


I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.

Jesus through Asian Eyes

When Gandhi was questioned by the missionary E. Stanley Jones why he rejected becoming a follower of Christ he stated, *"Oh, I don't reject Christ. I love Christ. It's just that so many of you Christians are so unlike Christ. If Christians would really live according to the teachings of Christ, as found in the Bible, all of India would be Christian today."*

Jesus through Asian eyes is a range of resources designed to help us reach out to the millions of people with an Asian background who live in the West. Some have only recently arrived; others have lived in the West for many generations. Asians are often more open to talking about spiritual things than many longer-established residents. There is a huge mission field on our doorstep!



30daysofprayer for the Muslim world & #LoveFast

Ramadan starts around 24th April, a time for us to pray for our Muslim friends and neighbours as they start to fast. Get hold of the guide and pray for Muslims all around the world. Mahabba also produces #LoveFast with a daily email to help us pray and act locally for people we know. You can sign up on the Mahabba website (www.mahabbanetwork.com/lovefast) on Twitter or on the Facebook page. Pray **globally** for movements of believers from a Muslim background and Pray&Act **locally** for Muslim friends & neighbours.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION



'Talk Easy' & 'Let's Talk'

'Talk Easy' has been meeting at St Mary of Bethany Church on alternate, term time Thursdays since 2016. We aim to give people with English as a Second Language an opportunity to practise speaking English and to build confidence usually within a framework of a topic. It's not a class, though we do have teachers organising the activities. We have a lovely friendly team, mostly drawn from our congregation, who relish the opportunity to get to know people from all sorts of nationalities! If you would like more information contact talkeasywoking@gmail.com - Clare Mall

'Let's Talk' conversational English sessions take place on Mondays: 9.30-11.00am at St. Paul's Community Halls. A place to practice the English language, ask questions, make friends, find out about life in Woking and enjoy refreshments. - Martin Smith



WOKING people of Faith 2 recent events

'Who do we think we are' - Woking People of Faith Sat 1st Feb

"Going home' is a journey to the heart of who we are, a place where we can be ourselves and welcome the reality of our beauty and our pain. From this acceptance of ourselves, we can accept others as they are and we can see our common humanity." (Jean Vanier) 'Who do we think we are?' Sharing our stories of migration at WOKING People of Faith event #WPOF #wearewoking #MahabbaMoments @ Parkview Community Centre

Woking Debates' topic was 'Islamophobia': ChristChurch, Sat 8th Feb.

'How much of a problem is it in Woking?' 'How aware are we of the problems faced by Woking residents who are Muslims?' Mohammad Shoaib, from Muslim Engagement and Development opened the discussion & some Woking Muslims shared their personal experiences. 'Some interesting points raised. Good turnout'. Kauther Akhtar WPOF/Surrey Faith Links.

More details of events on wpopf.org.uk 'Diverse beliefs: United action'



Across Calendar – what's coming up – ALL WELCOME:

Regular **Monthly Prayer Meeting** 1st Friday at 8pm held in Hills (H) or Simpsons (S) in Woking - 6 Mar (H), 3 Apr (S), 1 May (H)

Prayer Breakfast – Saturday 8th Feb – St Andrews, 8:30-10am Next prayer Breakfast on 25 April (TBC) the start of Ramadan

Church engagement sharing about Across at St Andrews 1/3: St Mary's Horsell 8/3; Heatherside 15/3

Mahabba Meal – Friday 3rd April, St Andrews. Richard Cook sharing on Beginnings & Endings – 7pm. Good fellowship & good food.

Ramadan #30daysofprayer and #Lovefast 24/Apr – 23/May Look for opportunities to pray for Muslim friends and attend Iftar meals.

"Sharing Faith Across Cultures"

'Cross Cultural Ministry in Woking' (Across) is a registered Charity (1106905) and exists 'to see people of all backgrounds become disciples of Jesus Christ'. Across is formed by 10 churches working together and our mailing address is St Andrews Church, Goldsworth Park, GU21 3LG.

Contact: the ACROSS CO-ORDINATOR acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com

Across is part of the Mahabba Network www.mahabbanetwork.com

'Cross cultural ministry in Woking' www.acrosswoking.org.uk

MAHABBA
LOVING ALL MUSLIMS

ACROSS
Sharing Faith Across Cultures