## **ACROSS Newsletter**

# ACROSS Sharing Faith Across Cultures



#### Summer Issue / May 2023

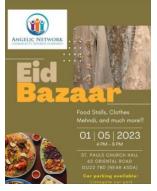
#### **Across Prayer Breakfast**



An extended PB was held at St Andrews aimed at looking back on 25 years of ministry and asking the Lord to guide the future years to come. John Wardill one of the founding members, started the session looking back at our history: from our beginnings in 1995 when Richard Cook, the then vicar of St Andrews invited churches to join a prayer breakfast to pray for the Muslim World; to its first project worker in 1998; charity status with 11 supporting churches in 2002 and now an established ministry in Woking seeking to share the Christian faith across cultures. Our focus is to continue to encourage and equip the local church to carry on making disciples of all nations. Along with some of the founders, we were joined by our regular supporters and also our

newest member from Hong Kong. We are now looking forward to the ministry continuing and growing with the ongoing support of local churches. We are planning to run our next training course soon. Watch this space ....





April 2023 was unusual in that Eid and Easter fell very close to each other and it provided opportunities for us to meet with and celebrate alongside the Muslim community. Invitations to Ifthars at the local mosques and an Eid Bazaar that was held at St Paul's Church brought Christians and Muslims together. It was great to welcome some new faces at the Night of Power prayer walk where groups of us walked through different parts of Woking including the Shah Jahan mosque to meet with and pray for local Muslims. The group were welcomed by the mosque with kindness. We are always grateful to God for the opportunities that this period in the Muslim calendar presents, in being able to draw alongside our Muslim brothers and sisters and show our care and Jesus' love for them.



understanding differences in faith and culture

Woking People of Faith is supported by Woking Borough Council and dates back to the beginning of Across when Richard Cook, vicar of St Andrews was keen not just to reach other faiths with the gospel but also to work with other faiths to bring harmony amongst the many diverse communities in Woking. The organisation is run by people from all faiths (Phil is the current chair) and is supported by WBC – it is reliant on engagement from the churches and all other faiths. If you would like to get involved, why not attend the 'Big Help Out' tea on June 11th at the Woking United Reformed Church and see what it might mean to be a part of this diverse and inclusive charity that organises a variety of social and informative events throughout the year.



The **Christian Agencies Network** lunch is a great platform where many of the local Christian agencies gather together and encourage one another and support each other in the various ways we serve the community. It reminds us that we are something bigger than ourselves, that the Lord has given us one another to bless the people who seek help from the various Christian charities that belong to the network such as; Christians Against Poverty, Street Angels, Woking Prayer Network, Foodbank, The Lighthouse and many others who provide more than a service, they carry the heart of the gospel in their work and Across are privileged to be a part of it.



Our aim this year is to gather more in person as well as online. After what seems to have been a long time meeting on Zoom, we have seen the benefits of meeting together to eat, pray and discuss how we as a like-minded church community can support and grow the cross-cultural connections many of our members are already involved with. It's great to see the interest growing and we have just welcomed our newest member on the board of trustees from Hong Kong which we hope will bring us a new and fresh perspective on the changing face of Woking as it expands and we see new nations arriving into our town. Why not contact us and update us on any cross-cultural work you are involved in ....

face-to-face prayer supper



On a recent trip to Turkey, we heard many stories of how local Christians are reaching out to help those rendered homeless by the two major earthquakes in February this year, that devastated a huge area in eastern Turkey and northern Syria. The relief work includes the ongoing provision of temporary shelter, food, clothing and basic supplies and will need to continue in the coming weeks and months. Please continue to pray that God's love and hope is shared among many shattered lives. John and Ann



Join Phil & the 'Mulla' in PRAYing for ACROSS:



- We give thanks that members from the local church in Woking took time to gather together to prayer walk near the mosque and the areas where there is a majority Muslim population.
- Please pray that the Lord will hear our collective prayers and that in seeking Allah our Muslim neighbours will find Jesus. Please pray for the positive relationships we have with the local mosques, for invitations to Iftars and friendships between church leaders and mosque leaders.
- Please pray that any seeds sown in those conversations will root and Jesus will reveal himself as Saviour and not just a prophet. Pray for the vicar Nick and his friendship with the Imam that we might see this happen.
- Please pray that after our vision prayer breakfast in April, that the ministry of Across will strengthen in building bridges and helping ordinary Christians love and reach their Muslim neighbours with the truth of salvation.
- Pray that the Lord will guide the trustees to make wise decisions gaining favour from the local church to continue supporting this vision. We give thanks for sustaining and protecting the ministry over the last 25 years.

**CALENDAR #Dates4Diary** 



#Across Monthly Prayer Meeting (1st Friday of month @ 8pm) 2 June, 7 July, 4 Aug on Zoom (or in person)
#JumaaPrayer every Friday at 12Noon on zoom, praying for Mahabba & Muslim friends

**#WPOF** Big Help Out Tea Sun 11 Jun at 3pm – WURC For **#PrayerBreakfast**, **#MahabbaMeal** & Next **#Training #HeadHeartHand** ... watch this space

Please contact Riz for Zoom & booking details (see below)

Please join us at our 'Big Help Out' Tea on Sunday 11th June from 3pm - 4.30pm at Woking United Reformed Church, White Rose Lane, GU22 7HA. We are looking for volunteers to help with the many events we organise through the year. Come and find out more about it and enjoy an afternoon tea.

For more information contact John Wes

W/DoE is supported by W



### '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 was formed by 10 churches working together and is based from St Andrews Church, Goldsworth Park, GU21 3LG.

Contact: Riz, the ACROSS Co-ordinator at <u>acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com</u> **Across is part of the Mahabba Network** <u>www.mahabbanetwork.com</u>