

ACROSS Newsletter

ACROSS
Sharing Faith Across Cultures

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MAHABBA
LOVING ALL MUSLIMS

Winter Issue / February 2023

Hong Kong prepares for Lunar NewYear23



The **Across Prayer Breakfast** provides us with an opportunity to focus our prayers on a specific culture or faith. The Lunar New Year is being celebrated across the world - the Year of the Rabbit - & we have invited Candy Wong from Hong Kong to join us to share her experience of leaving Hong Kong recently, to come to the UK. She will share how the Lord has been guiding her to find work, friends & a church here. She will also help us to pray for all the recent settlers from Hong Kong and the country they have left behind and tell us a bit more about what the celebrations mean for the new year. All are welcome. St Andrews, Goldsworth Park, Sat 4 March from 8.30am.



Zareena sharing about Across at St Andrews Church

Church support for the ministry of Across has enabled us to continue sharing faith & building bridges with local people from all cultures & faiths for over 25 years. In 1996, the then vicar of St Andrews along with a number of Woking's churches partnered together with a mission to help local Christians connect with their international neighbours & be more effective in sharing the love of Jesus. St Andrews invited Across to share more about this continuing vision earlier this month and Phil & Zareena went along to thank St Andrews for their financial support which extends to providing the café for us to host our regular prayer breakfasts. With Rev Scott Smith as the Head of Mission, we look forward to strengthening the support we already have and are delighted that one of his church members was inspired to sign up to be more involved.




Love Came Down – theme for the international Carol Service

Traditional Christmas services are the norm in all churches but the International Carol Service held at Christchurch Woking offers a unique opportunity to make it a truly global celebration. John 3:16 was read in c 20 languages from almost every continent, a real demonstration of how God loved the world so much he sent Jesus to us ALL. The songs and readings took us around the world including Ukraine who were represented by a group of women and children who formed the choir after arriving in the UK. We are thankful to all who took part and for the Nigerian singers who got the whole church on their feet and dancing as part of a joyful Christmas celebration.




ENGAGE celebrating 25 years of reaching local schools with the gospel at the Woking URC

As part of the Week of Prayer for Christian unity, the Woking Prayer Network have been encouraging the local church to unite in prayer for Woking. There was an in-person celebration service at the WURC for the work of Engage, which has been taking the gospel into 33 local schools and local colleges for 25 years. The focus on Day Two of the prayer week was for the ministry of Across. Included in its many prayers for the town, the Woking Prayer Network have prayed for Woking over a number of years, to see *'people from other faiths and religions come profoundly to faith and have an impact for God in their communities'*. We support that vision.



Woking People of Faith
WPOF

**Diverse Faiths:
United Action**



INTERFAITH BREAKFAST
Tuesday 7th February
9.00 am
At the Marciano Lounge
6-7 Albion House,
Commonwealth Way, Woking
GU24 0NF

- Come and meet other like minded people
- Vegan and Vegetarian options available
- Limited Menu (No Bacon)
- Cost: £5 payable through Eventbrite

For more information visit www.eventbrite.com

As part of the Interfaith Harmony Week, Woking People of Faith are hosting an Interfaith Breakfast on Tuesday 7 February at 9am at the Marciano Lounge in Woking - an opportunity for peace-minded people of faith to get together & chat informally over breakfast.

Vegan and vegetarian options are available, but there will be a restricted menu out of respect to our Muslim and Hindu friends (no bacon/beef). There will be a £5 contribution requested (via Eventbrite) and WPOF will pay the rest. If you would like to go along, contact Kerry the administrator administrator@wpof.org.uk or book through the Eventbrite link



Riz's Restaurant Reviews

Daarna – a delightful culinary trip to Morocco / North Africa

Being part of an international ministry, it was good to take time out and get together for an international meal. A crowd of us ate at the fabulous Moroccan restaurant Daarna on Goldsworth Road, for an opportunity to catch up on what we are all up to cross culturally but to also sample the cuisine of Morocco. It was one of the first times we were able to get together face-to-face. If you would like to join us on our next culinary outing, please let Riz know at acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com. We're not sure which country or continent we will be heading to next, but Woking is very multicultural, and we hope it's as fun as Daarna was & the food equally good.

30 days of prayer during Ramadan



These last few years have presented the world with challenging situations. The global and local impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, wars, inflation and other looming crises, threaten to overwhelm. We may often feel like the writer of Romans 8:26, who confessed, *"...we do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."*

#30daysofprayer is a prayer movement of people praying daily for our Muslims cousins during their special month of fasting – Ramadan. Will you join in this movement and see movements of Muslims becoming followers of Jesus spring up. We will have special Friday prayers you can join in and an opportunity to go to an Iftar at your local mosque. Ramadan starts 22nd March - www.worldprayerguides.org.uk/product/muslim-prayer-guide-2023

PRAY for ACROSS: Woking is diverse and continues to become more multi-cultural as it attracts a younger working demographic from various parts of the world. The numbers of Hindus & Muslims living in Woking continues to grow. The vision of Across is **'sharing faith across cultures'** - expressed in our mission to see people of all backgrounds become disciples of Jesus Christ. We aim to help ordinary, everyday Christians from our local churches, love their neighbours & be more effective in sharing the love of Jesus. The first purpose-built mosque in the UK is here in Woking, We as a Church have the privilege of joining together to welcome people of all nations into the Kingdom of God. Please pray for the local Church to continue to support the ministry of Across, which is now in its 25th year. We rely on funding & personal involvement from a few local churches & our prayer is that this will grow, as more churches acknowledge the need to be more effective in learning, sharing & praying for all nations to become followers of Jesus. Please pray for those with a heart for people of other nations to join our training & prayer events as well as activities to engage with local Muslims and those from all other faith and cultural backgrounds. Please pray for more opportunities to host more events such as mosque visits & social events that will connect us with those from other faiths.

CALENDAR

Here's what's happening:



#Across Monthly Prayer Meeting (1st Friday of month @ 8pm)
3rd Feb, 3rd Mar, 7th April on Zoom

#JumaaPrayers every Friday at 12Noon on zoom, praying for Mahabba & Muslim friends

#WPOF Interfaith Breakfast Tue 7 Feb at 9am – Marciano Lounge

#Across Prayer Breakfast – HongKong. Sat 4th March @ St Andrews 8:30

*Please contact Riz for all Zoom & booking details (contact below)

'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 acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com
Across is part of the Mahabba Network www.mahabbanetwork.com

'Cross cultural ministry in Woking'