ACROSS Newsletter





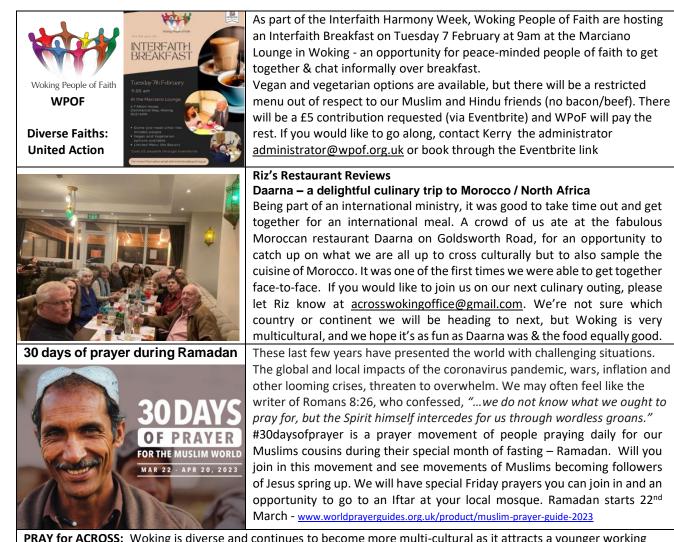
Winter Issue / February 2023



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

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.

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.



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 <u>acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com</u> Across is part of the Mahabba Network <u>www.mahabbanetwork.com</u>

'Cross cultural ministry in Woking'