

# ACROSS Newsletter

**ACROSS**  
Sharing Faith Across Cultures

محبة  
**MAHABBA**  
LOVING ALL MUSLIMS

## Autumn Issue / October 2023



Celebrating the Wardills

The Simpsons hosted an afternoon tea in September in honour of John and Ann Wardill who have served Across faithfully for over 25 years since the ministry began in 1997. John was one of the founding trustees and a member of a local church. He and others partnered as the local Church to build a ministry for Christians wanting to share their faith with Muslims and those of other faiths. Ann established a successful women's ministry in Woking including an after-school club for Muslim girls as well as meeting with Muslim women to share Prophet Stories from the two holy scriptures. There were many other ways that the couple have shown their love for Muslims and we look forward to seeing how that will continue.



It was great to bring back the Across craft tent to the local family fun day, arranged by the mosque. Attending family events and offering a craft activity, is a great way for the church to engage with Muslim families in a relaxed way. It opens the door for friendship and conversation. This is the first craft event we have managed to put on since COVID and we plan on continuing to engage with the community as much as we can in this way. **SAVE THE DATE – we are hosting an International/Interfaith Ladies Christmas Craft event on Sunday 10 December from 3pm to 5pm at St Pauls. Ladies please start thinking about who you might bring. More details below.**

### Reaching the Heart of Muslims



**Head, Heart, Hands Training.** Local Christian agencies and individuals are finding themselves interacting more frequently with Muslims as both friends and associates. Across has just completed a well-attended training course based on 1) **Head** - having some background knowledge of the Muslim faith. We were privileged to have Zafar a Muslim and resident of Woking come to share what his Muslim faith means to him. 2) **Heart** – the attitude we can have as a church wanting to know and love Muslims - we heard from a Muslim background believer (MBB) about his personal journey 3) **Hand** – another MBB shared what it all meant in practice. We will repeat the course when there is more demand.



Loving all Muslims:  
Head-Heart-Hand



This 3-part training focuses on Loving All Muslims with all of our: Head (knowledge) Heart (attitude) Hand (practice)

Tuesday 3rd, 10th and 17th October from 7pm until 9pm  
St Paul's Church, 62 Oriental Road, Woking, GU22 7BD

Hosted by ACROSS

Please RSVP to [acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com](mailto:acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com) to book your place. We look forward to seeing you.

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### 15 days prayer for the Hindu world



15 Days of prayer for the Hindu world 5<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023  
Join with Christians around the world to pray for Hindu people during Diwali – the Hindu Festival of Light. The annual 15 Days of Prayer for the Hindu World Guide is calling individuals and churches to take 15 days to learn about and pray for our world's one billion plus Hindus. Please order your copies ONLINE and we will use them during Zoom prayers and at other opportunities during our prayer times and see how God will move amongst the growing community of Hindus in Woking.  
<https://www.worldprayerguides.org.uk/product/hindu-world-prayer-guide-2023/>

### The Song of the Angels



Christchurch Woking  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm

### Christmas Multi Cultural Events

\***International Carols at Christchurch Woking** - Sat 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm - Theme: The Song of the Angels: 'Glory to God in the Highest - Peace on Earth - Goodwill to all people.' Let us know if you want to take part reading or singing in your own language.

\* **International Ladies Craft event**, As we look for more opportunities to meet face to face, Across are hosting this event to take place at St Pauls on Sunday 10 December between 3pm and 5pm. This is an opportunity for Christian women to bring an international friend to a Christmas event that is respectful of all faiths while sharing a little of the Christian message of love and hope. Please start thinking of who you might invite along and if any ladies would like to take part in the hosting, please let Riz know at [acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com](mailto:acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com)  
**Please mark both dates in your diary.**



We are delighted to welcome both Candy and Philippa as new Across committee members. Candy has been with us for a while and brings her experiences from Hong Kong, and has already made connections with Muslims in the area and generated a lot of interest in the ministry of Across. Philippa is a teacher, lives in Woking and worships in Guildford. Philippa spent many years teaching in Turkey and loves to visit whenever she gets the opportunity (in fact she is there right now!) having made many friends there over the years. We look forward to what they will both bring to the ministry. Please note: **there is room for more**. If anyone is interested in serving on the Across committee we would love to talk with you. More information available from the Across office: [acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com](mailto:acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com)

### Prayer



- We give thanks for the long serving members of Across and all that they bring to the ministry. Please pray as some move on and new members replace them that the Lord's vision for the world, will to be at the heart of all we do.
- Please pray for all the various ways the local church is involved in cross-cultural work. Whether it is members teaching, serving at the Lighthouse, schools ministry or in the church, please pray the Lord will use us to shine Jesus' light wherever we go.
- Pray for the fruit of the Head Heart Hand training at St Pauls, that those who came to find out more about reaching Muslims with the gospel will be encouraged and feel better equipped.
- We give thanks for the growing number of believers from a Muslim background supporting the ministry. We pray this will be an encouragement to Christians, knowing that Jesus is the Saviour of all Nations.
- Please pray for the Christmas planning for the Across International Carols and Christmas craft. That we will be able to host a transforming event as we witness God's love for all His people.

### CALENDAR #Dates4Diary



**#Across Monthly Prayer Meeting** (1st Friday of month @ 8pm) 3 Nov, 1 Dec, 5 Jan, 2 Feb (on Zoom or in person – to be advised each month)  
**#JumaaPrayer** every Friday at 12Noon on Zoom, praying for Muslim friends  
**#PrayerBreakfast** Sat 25 Nov 8.30am at *St Andrews* - focusing on Central Asia  
**#Interfaith event** Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. at Surrey University 3-7pm (via WPOF)  
**#International Carols – 'Song of the Angels'** our highlight event will be at *Christchurch Woking* on Saturday 9 December at 7pm  
**#International Ladies Christmas Craft** - Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Dec at *St Pauls* - sharing the Christian message of love and hope.

### '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 out of St Andrews Church, Goldsworth Park, GU21 3LG.

Contact: Riz, the ACROSS Co-ordinator at [acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com](mailto:acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com)

Across is part of the **Mahabba Network** [www.mahabbanetwork.com](http://www.mahabbanetwork.com)

'Cross cultural ministry in Woking'