

# ACROSS Newsletter

**ACROSS**  
Sharing Faith Across Cultures

حبة  
**MAHABBA**  
LOVING ALL MUSLIMS

Spring / March 2021



Friends International Guildford (aka 'FIG') – prayer breakfast focus in March

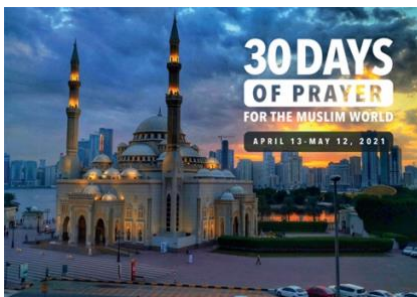
## ***Prayer Breakfasts: prayers for & from around the Globe***

UK borders have been firmly shut for some time now, but through the provision of Zoom we have been blessed in being able to continue to gather for our regular prayer breakfasts (minus the breakfast!) to pray for the work of the church across the globe. In October, Zareena shared her ministry in Woking with the Pakistani youth and in November we used Diwali to focus on the growing Hindu population in Woking. Already this year, we have welcomed Matthew Vaughan who shared his experiences of his 8 year stay in Pakistan which led him to write several books on his love for the local people and in February, the focus was the needs of the Syrian refugee children in Lebanon. This month we welcomed Lilli from Friends International Guildford, who shared how for over 30 years, the local church has been welcoming the thousands of international students who come from over 140 countries to study at Surrey university. These prayer breakfasts give us hope that the Lord is very much at work through his church and we all have our part to play if we are to make 'disciples of all nations'. Join us in April (Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>) for the next prayer breakfast when the focus will be Ramadan. More details to follow.



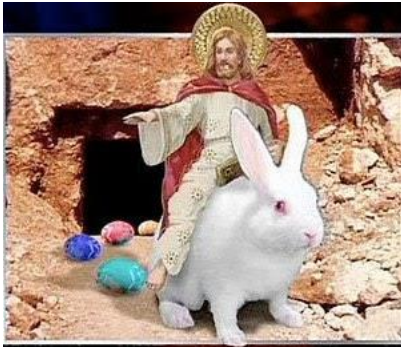
## ***Ramadan – c 13April to 12May 2021***

Ramadan starts on April 13<sup>th</sup> and we will be focussing on the Muslim world in our desire that all Muslims will come to know Jesus. As a church we can be discouraged by what we hear and see but as a Muslim Background Believer myself let me encourage you. My journey with Jesus began exactly 25 years ago during Ramadan and while praying on a prayer mat! As I begged the God I longed to know but didn't, to reveal himself to me in whatever form I would know to be the truth, the Holy Spirit did just that. That was the day I rolled up my prayer mat, the fasting stopped and my journey with Jesus began. Join us in April and pray so that more Muslims, like me, will come to know this man Jesus who we know to be more than a prophet. He is the Son of God and our Saviour. I haven't written a book but the writer of [Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus](#), Nabeel Quereshi did and is a story that resembles my own. Here is his testimony '[Christ Called Me Off the Minaret](#)' – Riz (Across Co-ordinator)



## ***30 Days of Prayer***

Every year during Ramadan we recommend the use of this resource to pray for the Muslim World covering all cultures, countries and sects. There is the option to purchase a PDF or hard copy version through [THIS](#) link (just £2 per copy). Please purchase your copy to pray for Muslims to hear the good news of Jesus and respond as I did. Locally, we will be meeting on Saturday 8 May (the Muslim Night of Power) for a prayer walk in Woking, there will be weekly Zoom prayers during the month of Ramadan and a Saturday prayer breakfast on April 24<sup>th</sup> which we hope to take place face to face (government guidance permitting). More information to follow.



Easter can be confusing with mixed images & message, but it is an opportunity for us to try to explain.

## Christmas, New Year and Easter

Our Christian traditions were celebrated very differently this year and Across had its own adapting to do. Our yearly International Carols which fills up Christchurch every year was put on hold for 2020. We did however join St Paul's and as socially distanced groups of 6, made our way around Woking to bless the local community with some traditional carol singing. The International Carols moved to Zoom with readings in various languages, a focus from Rev Emil in Lebanon on how the Light of the World has come in Jesus and prayers and a musical treat from the very talented Ghazarian family. If you weren't there do contact us for the recording. [HERE](#) is the beautiful Hebrew blessing that was also shared. Our plans for Easter include a prayer walk on Good Friday around parts of Woking, so please join us if you can. Easter is a great opportunity to share our understanding of what happened on the cross (& resurrection!)



images: BrothersonBikes

**Close Encounters:** I just had a great encounter with three Muslim men!! They were standing on the corner of the road looking at a building and speculating about whether it had been extended. I know my area very well and offered them a history lesson! So, we got chatting. They were all on bikes and I kind of assumed they might be students new to the area but it turns out they are all local, two born and bred in the area! So, one of them asked if I was a teacher and I said yes and told him which schools, he asked if I knew a particular lady, which I did, she used to work with me and I later taught her younger children in Nursery. Turns out he is the Imam of one of our mosques and one of his friends was his assistant. The other man knew several people I know, so it was really good to stop and chat about our area. I was able to greet them in their language which made them smile; the Imam invited me for a mosque visit on their open day as I said I had visited another mosque with some people from my church. **I said how important it was for people of faith to get to know one another and we parted with lots of smiles.** I also congratulated them on using bikes to get around as it is so much more an environmentally good practice. Just wanted to share this encounter with you as it was fun, and a very natural encounter and conversation. I think it took them by surprise for a moment. Being a teacher in the city really helps and has given me such a great opportunity to greet people openly with an expectation of friendliness which was reciprocated this morning. Praise God. (anon)



### Across Calendar – what's happening:

Regular **Monthly Prayer Meeting** (1st Friday of the month at 8pm) – 7 May, 4 Jun - ALL WELCOME NB. 2 Apr will be a Good Friday prayer walk.  
**Ramadan** – Starts 13 April. Order your 30 Days Prayer Booklet now  
**Across Prayer Breakfast** – Sat 24 April – Special Ramadan Prayers  
**Prayer Walk** – Saturday 8 May – Muslim 'Night of Power' from St Paul's Church – timings TBC. (+ Mahabba Zoom prayer same day)  
 Plus #JumaaPrayer every Friday at 12 noon  
 Please contact Riz at [acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com](mailto:acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com) for Zoom details & more information on any item

## 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 is based at 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'