

ACROSS Newsletter

ACROSS
Sharing Faith Across Cultures

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MAHABBA
LOVING ALL MUSLIMS

Summer Issue / August 2022



Pop Up Café @ St Michaels Sheerwater

Churches across Woking host regular activities for the local community. It was a great opportunity to go along to St Michaels' last pop-up café before the school holidays to see how a dedicated group of church volunteers open up the church every Tuesday after school for local families from all cultures and backgrounds to meet together, share a snack & enjoy activities and story time. Community is at the heart of its focus. If you would like to support the Pop Up Café with your time when it restarts in early September & to find out how, please email Riz at acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com



Across Prayer Breakfast – St Andrews Goldsworth Park

Not many of us get the call to "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you" (Gen12) but we were blessed to hear from Cody who shared his calling to one of the most remote parts of the world, to an African island where English is not spoken and Islam is the main religion. To hear a young man speak about such a call is an inspiration to us to meet with those who the Lord has brought to our shores and who we can share his love and message of hope with.....

***You don't have to travel far to meet someone from another culture....
..... here are some examples:***



Sheffield International Outreach

10 people from various churches, locations, and backgrounds responded to a call for workers to do door to door evangelism and to run a book stall. A main point of the mission was to receive invites to come back to houses, especially from Mirpuri (Pakistani) people. This to my surprise and I suppose unbelief happened quite a few times. We are still receiving positive stories about re-visits from Christ Church Central Sheffield. I knocked on over 500 doors, with the help of a partner and as a group we must have knocked on 5000's of doors. There has been talk of doing a similar thing in Sheffield next year as well talk of whether we could or should do the same in Woking/Guildford. Hoping for more challenges and excitement ahead – **(Dave from Woking who responded to that call)**

painting of
cross cultural
Eastwood
leisure centre
by Zareena



Close encounter of an interfaith kind:

This morning I went swimming at Sheerwater leisure centre. In the steam room an Iranian man who lives in West Byfleet and studies at Kingston University engaged me in conversation. A good place to meet people of non-UK origin and with last night's Across prayer meeting fresh in my mind I invited him to Church! (Luke)

Our next Zoom monthly Friday Across prayer meeting is on Friday 2 September at 8pm, please join us.

Afghanistan a year on...



Life is a struggle for many and we remember Afghanistan a year after the Taliban took control. Jane reminds us of that change:
Afghan society can be brutal towards women and with the arrival of the Taliban things have become so much harder. My young student and class helper's brother punched her in the eye so hard that the retina all but disintegrated. I showed the scans to an eye surgeon who said there was no hope. Instead of blaming the boy, I was castigated for being the bearer of bad news. Frozan had been a keen football player with ambitions to be a doctor. She tried to kill herself when the Taliban marched into Kabul. Her small private school where I have been teaching once a week online for the past two years, was started by an Afghan friend of mine for poor children. Last August, all girls over 12 had to "graduate" and the entire school had to close recently after ISIS threatened to kill the girls. Plans to continue secretly are on hold because fighting and

bombing in the area is too intense. A bomb exploded metres from Frozan last week on her way home. She narrowly escaped death. I now teach her and her old headmistress once a week online when wifi is working. I also teach older girls three times a week at a sister school in another part of Afghanistan. These lessons are a lifeline, a connection with the outside world and a thread of hope that life might not always be like this.

Andrew and I both have other students who turn up every week on the dot to discuss deep issues of life and I spend my week fielding WhatsApp and Telegram messages from students and teachers. I can listen, care and pray. They love receiving encouraging psalms in Dari. The English lessons are fuzzy, disjointed and chaotic, but we all laugh a lot, and sometimes cry. My longing of course is that they will feel the love of the Saviour. They have been brought into our lives for His reasons, and He has a plan for them to somehow come to know Him.

WPOF Faiths in Harmony



Come Follow Me

Mahabba Bristol is running a Joining the Family training session and you are invited to join online. It is great if you are wanting to know more about welcoming a new believer from a Muslim background into the church family. Sometimes we can overlook the needs and difficulties of someone who has just given their life to Jesus - particularly from a Muslim background. Here are the details - Joining the Family Autumn zoom course on 6 consecutive Monday evenings from Sept 26th . Register via link below: <https://forms.office.com/r/DHb99QWb8K>



Here's what's happening:

- #Across Monthly Prayer Meeting (1st Friday of month @ 8pm) 2/Sept, currently on Zoom + 7/Oct (Special Mahabba National Prayer event) + 4/Nov & 2/Dec
- #JumaaPrayer every Friday at 12 Noon praying for Mahabba & Muslim friends
- #JoiningtheFamily. Autumn zoom course (run by Bristol) 26 Sept for 6 weeks
- #MahabbaMeal 30 Sept (TBC) theme and venue TBA
- #InternationalCarols 17 Dec (TBC)

*Please contact Riz for all Zoom 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 at 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'