



Newsletter

Office Move

After 3 years at St Paul's Church in Manningham we have moved.

As from 1st September 2008 our office is located at the Thornbury Centre, Leeds Old Road, Bradford, BD3 8JX. You can contact us via their switchboard number **01274 666649** or direct on **01274 669312** and of course by our emails, which remain the same; director@bcdd.org.uk and admin@bcdd.org.uk.

We would like to put on record our thanks to Canon Dr Arun John and the members of his congregation who have made us feel so welcome at St Paul's and given us help and advice when needed.



Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter. Once again we have had a busy year running courses for a wide variety of people and the coming year promises more of the same with a full programme of courses and seminars. We hope you will take time to have a look at our web-site

www.bcdd.org.uk which has gone through a revamp and is constantly evolving.

Feel free to let us know how we can improve it and the information it provides.

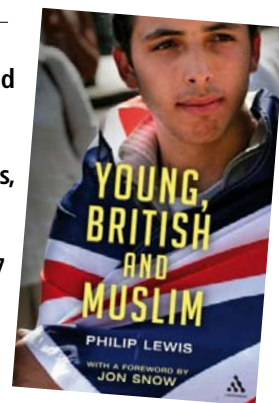
Young, British and Muslim

At the start of the year, Dr Philip Lewis Principal of BCDD, had a book published looking at the experiences of and challenges faced by young Muslims in Britain. On 8th June, the book was launched at a Hope 08 lecture at Bradford Cathedral when nearly one hundred people came to hear him speak about some of the realities of life for people who are 'Young British and Muslim'.

To give you an idea of the book, below is a short extract from a review by David Jackson in the Catholic Post. Of course, we hope it will encourage you to read the whole book...

Philip sketches in valuable detail British Muslim communities – valuable since we must realise that there are the same variations and divisions within Islam as there are within Christianity in this country. He goes on to describe the "Mind the Gap" intergenerational tensions in Muslim communities as the younger generations attempt to live out the faith in a complex world. He allows us to overhear some of the anguished and passionate debates going on inside Muslim communities about the role of Islam in British society. Finally Philip asks

Young, British and Muslim, by Philip Lewis
Continuum Books,
London 2007
ISBN:
978-0-8264-9730-7



'What of the future?' and concludes that the jury is still out as to whether Islamic adult formation for Imam or 'lay' Muslim will enable confident engagement with wider society or will turn them suspiciously inward.

BCDD is grateful to those who are funding us this year:



THE JERUSALEM TRUST



and all those who contribute to our support network through prayer, action and encouragement.

BCDD is an ecumenical resource providing learning opportunities for lay and ordained people, in Christian and multi-faith settings. Our vision is to build up church communities in multi-faith England so that together we can play a full part in mission and local community life.

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Pilgrims of Christ on the Muslim Road

*Paul-Gordon Chandler is a US Episcopal priest serving in the Middle East. He grew up in Muslim West Africa and has lived and worked extensively throughout the Islamic world with churches, Christian publishing and relief and development agencies.



Paul-Gordon Chandler, a US Episcopal priest serving in Cairo*, came to Bradford Cathedral last November to deliver a talk entitled "Pilgrims of Christ on the Muslim Road". In the talk he showed how Christ, whom Islam reveres as a prophet and Christianity serves as Lord, can close the gap between the two religions. He recalled the life of Mazhar Mallouhi, a Syrian novelist, who is a self-identified 'Muslim follower of Christ'. He explored the ways in which a Muslim may follow Christ while remaining an active participant in his/her Islamic culture. The sixty plus strong audience were able to question him on specifics after the talk and the ensuing discussions were lively.

To follow these issues through, BCDD organised two follow-up events; the first was an evening of reflection, held at Bishops Croft, to reflect on Paul-Gordon Chandler's book, once people had had a chance to read it. People spoke of feeling inspired by the story of Mazhar Mallouhi and explored how we could translate its 'teachings' into our everyday contact with

Muslim society in Bradford. The second event was a seminar, held in March at Bradford Cathedral Parish Rooms, entitled "Muslim Understandings of Jesus". This was given by Robina Ahmed and explained the role of Jesus from a Muslim point of view. Robina gave witness to Muslim honouring of Jesus and devotion to Mary



Mission and Ministry in Multi Faith Areas, a Pastoral Studies Unit

Once again we have successfully teamed up with Cranmer Hall, St John's College, University of Durham to offer a 10 day residential course in Bradford as part of the ordination training run by the college. This year nine students came to Bradford to spend time learning about ministry and mission in a mainly Muslim area. For the first time the course included three days on placement, working with various people in ministry in Bradford whose day to day work involves them in a variety of pastoral roles. Students saw first hand the work done by Touchstone, Sr Mary, Chris Howson, Dale Barton and Arun John. One of our students also got involved with the Jesus DVD

Project which was being run by St Philip's Church in Gillington.

One student wrote

"The programme was excellent and wide-ranging and I think we were all at times challenged and certainly inspired by the work that is going on in inter-faith matters in Bradford. I also believe that what I have learned will be of value in my future ministry whether that turns out to be in an inner city parish or not"

Another student sent us his thoughts:

"In reflecting on our placement in Bradford, I would say that it was a privilege to be resident in the city and to get to know some of its people and the wide range of exciting initiatives ongoing in Bradford. For example, the idea of a 'Sharakat' (Communion), with its emphasis on love and the encouragement of people to meet, share a meal together and to listen to each others' faith teaching with regard to common issues, has captured my imagination. We were

shown tremendous courtesy and hospitality at every turn in Bradford, and I have subsequently spent much of the summer reflecting on an inspirational placement."

The logistical nightmare (a first for Carmel, our administrator) of arranging accommodation, venues and meals for the students was made worthwhile by the messages of appreciation received from the students at the end of the course.



Christian Engagement with the new Muslim Presence in England

For the first time, we offered an MA module validated through Cranmer Hall, University of Durham titled "Christian Engagement with the new Muslim Presence in England". Five students completed the module which was run partly in Bradford and partly in Durham. It was well received by the students who took part with the following named as some of the 'best things' about it:

- The in-depth exploration of contemporary issues
- The people we met in Bradford
- Good 'level' of input: accessible, clear, balanced, but good depth as well.

As a result the module will be running again. It can be taken on its own or as part of the full MA in Theology and Mission. For more details about the MA please contact

St John's College on 0191 334 3894

Christian Muslim Relations Course

After consultation and feedback from previous attendees on our Christian Muslim Relations course, this year we changed the format from a four day course to two 24 hour sessions set three months apart. This gave the participants a chance to digest what they had learned in the first part of the course and take it with them into their daily life. During the interim three months, participants kept a journal of their experiences so that they could identify issues that arose. Teaching sessions and structured reflection were then offered on these issues when the group re-convened for the second half of the course.

The first part of the course includes sessions on making sense of Islam, a visit to a Mosque and Christian mission and ministry among Muslims. The second focused on responding to extremism as well as dialogue and evangelism in mission. Feedback included, "Everything was helpful because the course really did model the process of experience – reflection – outcome" "The encounters

with Muslims were valuable and their stories were most insightful" "The story of the woman who became a Christian was a highlight"

The course has proved successful in Bradford so we have now branched out and are offering a similar course in Blackburn.

NIACE

The National Institute for Adult Continuing Education chose Bradford as one of its five locations to run a pilot programme for its Award for Continuing Professional Development for Faith Leaders and Workers. BCDD, Bradford Council for Mosques and Bradford District Faiths Forum worked together to run this four month programme. Eight people, from a variety of faith backgrounds, completed the course and all agreed that they got something out of it; whether a recognisable qualification, a chance to get to know people from other communities or learning the definition of diversity.

The course also gave BCDD an opportunity to work with another organisation from a different faith background. It gave a window to the public to show that Christians and Muslims can work happily side by side, without compromising either of their religious beliefs.



So successful was the course that NIACE have asked the Bradford team to run the course again next year and plans are underway to run the course from November 2008.

How we have all learnt and grown together
George

Everyone's equal, no matter what.
Fozia

Definition of Diversity
Anjum

Reflections on a Ministry of Presence and Engagement in BD3



How long have you been in Bradford?

We came to Bradford at the end of August 2007 after twenty years in Lancashire. Dale was licensed as priest in charge of two Anglican parishes, St Clement's and St Augustine's in BD3 on September 11th. Three Sikh friends came to the licensing and he was commended to the congregations by the chairman of Lancashire Council of Mosques. Regrettably because of the pressure of work leading two inner city congregations in Christian worship and mission, and working on the rather big in tray of them both, there has been only a little time to spend developing new friendships with other faith communities so far.

Twelve of our twenty years in Lancashire were in a parish which had a mosque and a temple where we got to know people. Then nearly eight years were spent supporting the churches ecumenically on their inter faith relations. Dale claimed to be the only Christian minister in England with the keys of a mosque! Time to move on, and we were looking to work in Christian witness and service to churches where Christians are a faith minority. St Clement's has the third highest proportion of Muslims of any parish in the Church of England, more than any in London. St Augustine's is number one hundred. This means that links with local schools, projects and groups naturally involve meeting people of other faiths.



What were your first impressions on coming to live in the city and have those impressions changed?

Our first impressions of Bradford were of poverty and rubbish plus some very grand buildings from the days when it was the richest city in England. Within ten days of our moving in to BD3 a burning car nearly arrived in our back garden. Welcome to Bradford!

The early impression of a lack of control over what happens on our streets has been confirmed in the first year. Not that we feel insecure. We don't. We do think that a greater clarity of understanding by the Council and Police of the difference between race, faith and culture would be helpful

How would you describe your ministry in Bradford?

St Clement's has an active social engagement with our neighbourhood through the Anchor project working with schools, on environmental issues and with the elderly. Dale thinks this church does a fantastic job for the City of Bradford. St Augustine's is developing its work with older people and parents at home with small children, by re-opening our church café. In addition many local people come into the building to use the municipal library based there and we work closely with Rashid the librarian.

Back in February we held a half night of prayer for Pakistan on the night of the election. During the course of the evening about thirty Christians came to pray for peace and justice. The local community knew of the event as it was announced on a large poster outside the church. That was an opportunity to show the local Church cares about people and events in Pakistan and it was reported in the Bradford Telegraph & Argus and the Yorkshire Post.

We have seen all the head teachers or deputies of the nine primary schools and the two secondaries in our first year. All but two of the primary schools have sent cohorts of children to church as part of their RE programme. Feversham Primary School reception class has made a DVD of their visit and in it Muslim pupils explain the Christian faith as they heard about it and saw it. St Clement's has a lot of Victorian art with which it is easy to tell the Christian story.

Both congregations have become more diverse. To our joy a number of African families have become part of us. Last week nearly two hundred people came to eat pizza with us as we celebrated St Augustine's day. They included some of our Muslim neighbours who accepted our invitation. Some of the children came too to the Kidz Fun Day on the Saturday morning with the theme "Our God is Awesome". BD3 is a great place to be a Christian. It is probably easier to talk about Christ here than in other post codes. The needs are obvious.

Dale & Beverley Barton