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[Faith Centre Website](#)

**24 SEPTEMBER 2010**

- ✚ **Meeting God in Friend and Stranger (MGFS)** – fostering respect and mutual understanding between different world religions and clarifying the Catholic Church's stance on interreligious dialogue. Join us at the Faith Centre on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010, when we will welcome friends from Leeds Diocese. Kicks off at 1930hrs with refreshments from 1900hrs. Everyone is very welcome to attend.
- ✚ **RE Showcase Celebrations** – we are currently busily working up a series of interactive workshops for local primary school students, as part of our preparations for Interfaith Week, which takes place during w/c 22 November. The workshops, which will take in such themes as dance, poetry/literature, art and others are due to take place on certain days during w/c 1 and w/c 8 November. A letter will be issued to local Headteachers/ RE Co-ordinators next week. We hope for a enjoyable fortnight!
- ✚ **Celebrating RE 2011** – it is always a joy to meet up with Helen Harrison, the Lancashire Consultant for RE and Collective Worship. During an interesting discussion yesterday, we considered further ways in which the Faith Centre could assist, including contributing material for the new syllabus as well as offering meaningful activity for our young people during the national week of Celebrating RE during March 2011. The basis for this could well be our November 2010 celebrations (above). A very good website has been created for the March 2011 programme - [www.celebratingre.org](http://www.celebratingre.org) Good to see Religious Education receiving increased profile!
- ✚ **Website** - we have recently been updating our web pages, relating to images and scripts for our events during the 2009/10 academic year. When you have a moment, do check out [Faith Centre](#) and [Events and Photos](#). We have also recently been producing a *photo montage* for another project, looking back on highlights of last academic year. I thought you may like to view it - see attached. Sincere thanks to Hilary Shaw at Lancashire County Council for all her ongoing help and support.
- ✚ **CAFOD Quiz Night** - like a good quiz? Then St John's Ivy Street Burnley is the place for you **this evening at 7.30pm** when CAFOD will be running an evening to support their emergency aid work around the world e.g. in Haiti and Pakistan most recently . . . and their long term work to help poor and vulnerable people lift themselves out of poverty. Professional quiz masters, so a good night is promised. Do please support.
- ✚ **Video Conferencing (VC)** - following on from last week, we look forward to providing an input for KS2 students at Kirkby Thore Primary School in Penrith in Oct, when we will be looking at the "21<sup>st</sup> Century Society" through the witness of people of different faiths, in this case, from valued Hindu and Muslim partners. Looking forward to it!

✚ **Cohesion and Beyond** – Lancashire Global Education Centre (LGEC) and Lancashire County Council are jointly hosting a: 'Equality and Diversity in Action: Community Cohesion and Beyond' Conference on Friday 8th October 2010 at the Dunkenhall Hotel and Spa near Blackburn. Sir Keith Ajegbo of the Institute of Community Cohesion is the keynote speaker, with presentations from a range of schools. For more info and to book, contact Sarah Hetherington at LGEC on 01772 252299

✚ **The Papal Visit . . . a reflection by Anne-Marie Coppock** - I was so privileged to be among the congregation to witness the historic visit of Pope Benedict XV1 to Westminster Abbey and experience the great fellowship between the leaders of the Christian Faiths in the United Kingdom. There was a real sense of history and genuine welcome not only for the Pope but for all those representing the various denominations and agencies who were gathered together in prayer and song. Throughout the visit, Pope Benedict's central theme – that a democratic and secular society is enriched, indeed needs, ideas and people of faith –came through. At his Westminster Hall speech to political and civil society leaders, Benedict affirmed what the UK and the Holy See had worked on together – the MDGs, fair-trade, debt relief, an international arms trade treaty - and looked forward to future work on promoting environmental responsibility. The speech praised the commitment to reach the UN target of 0.7% of gross national income spent on aid. A joyous week-end and one in which we were challenged to live up to the ideals of our faith.

*Anne-Marie is a CAFOD Diocesan Manager based in Salford*

✚ **Burnley URC Church** - yesterday evening it was a pleasure to visit the URC faith community in the town centre to give a talk on Aspects of Prayer. The community have always been a great support to the work of the Faith Centre. It was therefore good to repay the compliment. Many thanks for their kindness and warm welcome.

✚ **And finally . . . a thought for the weekend:-**

“At every moment in every person's life there is work to be done, always work to be done, some of it small, some of it Great. The Great Work, in a sense, always has to do with healing the world, changing the world, and, as a necessary predicate to that, understanding the world. You rise every morning aware that you are called to this work. You won't live to see it finished. But if you can't hear it calling, you aren't listening hard enough. It's always calling, sometimes in a big voice, sometimes in a quiet voice.

**Tony Kushner (1956 - ) Playwright & Screenwriter**