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[Faith Centre Website](#)

1 OCTOBER 2010

- ✚ **Autumn Talks 1 - Meeting God in Friend and Stranger (MGFS)** – many thanks to the 30+ people who came along for our first talk of the season on Tuesday, a first class consideration of this recent document from the Catholic Church on dialogue of all kinds, including that of an interreligious nature. Wonderful to see such a diverse audience, who contributed to a really healthy debate afterwards - so essential to a good evening! Special thanks to the team from Leeds Diocese who led the discussion and to Mark Poulson who drove all the way from London for the talk - great effort!

The document more or less said quite articulately, with the exception of the dogmatic language, what I had been saying or trying to say to my contemporaries during my 15 years of interfaith work.
Afzaal Mahmood - Community Development Officer

- ✚ **Autumn Talks 2 - Jerusalem . . . Home for 6 Years . . a personal reflection** – join us for an evening of insight and sharing led by Brenda Dorrian, a Sister of Notre Dame de Sion, who spent a number of years in the Holy City, establishing deep friendships with the people of this very diverse place. Talk will take place on **Tuesday 19 October at 1930hrs**, refreshments beforehand from 1900hrs. **All are very welcome.** See poster attached. For a higher resolution, check our web site by clicking on [Jerusalem Poster](#)

- ✚ **Kelsang Pagpa** – is a Buddhist monk and the Resident Teacher at the Vajravarahi Centre in Preston, a good friend of the Centre. Today we are delighted to welcome him for a morning of sharing and questioning by the pupils of Casterton Primary School, as they reach the end of their RE Week celebrations. Happy questioning!

- ✚ **The Rt Rev Terence Brain** - is the Catholic Bishop of Salford. Next week, we very much look forward to welcoming him to the Faith Centre and Burnley Campus for the first time. He will also be blessing the new St John's RC Primary School on Thames Ave.

- ✚ **Touchstone - Bradford** - is a Methodist-based organisation which reaches out to the wider communities of the city and West Yorkshire. In June 2010 we had the pleasure of welcoming a number of their representatives to the Centre for discussions. This week, we were delighted to take delivery of their September 2010 newsletter, in which the Faith Centre was the front story. We greatly appreciate this and look forward to our next encounter. To view their newsletter click on [September 2010](#)

- ✚ **Thomas Whitham Exhibition** - please note that during w/c 8 and w/c 15 November, the Faith Centre will be hosting an exhibition to celebrate the life of Thomas Whitham VC who served in World War I. We are currently working closely with the Thomas Whitham Sixth Form to construct the programme and look forward to visiting Towneley Hall later today to meet with Mike Townend of Burnley Council. The Hall is supporting the initiative by way of artefacts and other items of value. Look out for a flyer soon for local schools and the community, detailing times of opening etc

✚ **Anne Frank . . . Competition** - on the subject of exhibitions, we do of course have very warm memories of our two week celebration in June 2010 to honour Anne's life. It was good to hear from Adam Kirkby of Anne Frank Trust UK this week, who informed me of a competition for schools and other educational establishments who wish to ensure that their community is free from disrespect, hatred and prejudice. For details on the background to the competition and other info, click on [Sapling Competition](#)

✚ **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

✚ **Faith Centre Strategic Group** - next week we look forward to holding our first meeting of the academic year, when leaders from our local high schools and faith communities will gather to share and plan ahead. A perfect opportunity for developing good practice and generating new ideas. For the first time our meeting will take place away from the Campus - the roadshow beginning at Marsden Heights

✚ **Free Community Training** - interested in the planning system and local development policies? If so, why not check out an event at Burnley CVS on Monday 4th Oct at 6pm

✚ **And finally . . .** the Meeting God in Friend and Stranger talk the other night left us with much to think about . . . living in positive relationship with others (which naturally requires much unpacking); to “achieve” that, having a greater understanding for who we are and what we stand for (sometimes termed, our “tradition”); the unity of the human race; the need for dialogue at various levels . . . in action, in theological exchange, in . . . and finally, in action again and the way we live out our lives. Ah, that word dialogue again. There is dialogue on the interpersonal and there is dialogue on the global. On both counts, we would do well to ponder the words of the Dali Lama, as together, in our global village, we look to what may lie ahead. Are his words merely an ideal or something real and tangible?

“It is my belief that whereas the twentieth century has been a century of war and untold suffering, the twenty-first century should be one of peace and dialogue. As the continued advances in information technology make our world a truly global village, I believe there will come a time when war and armed conflict will be considered an outdated and obsolete method of settling differences among nations and communities”

His Holiness the Dalai Lama