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[Faith Centre Website](#)

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Any words from the Faith Centre this week simply pale into insignificance when one reflects upon the current situation in North East Japan. What scenes of utter devastation we have witnessed on our TV screens in the past days. The domino effect of earthquake and tsunami leading to a nuclear crisis at Fukushima Daiichi, all coupled with 7000 dead (and rising), thousands missing, thousands homeless, power failure galore, panic buying, heavy snowfall and so on. What next for these desperate and broken people? Add to this the unfolding crises in Libya, Bahrain and elsewhere. What pain our vulnerable global village is experiencing at this moment. Whatever we believe in or don't believe in, let us keep our brothers and sisters in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

-  **Lenten Reflections** – our sincere thanks to the Rev Gareth Higgs for leading our celebration yesterday, on the theme of “The Japanese Tsunami and the God who Suffers”. Next Thursday, we look forward to welcoming a very good friend of the Faith Centre, Andy Williams, Minister at Sion Baptist Church in Burnley Town Centre. Andy's theme will be “The Parable of the Bridesmaids” – Matthew 25:1-13 All are very welcome. **Thursday 24th March @ 1245hrs.** Soup and rolls to finish.
-  **Celebrating RE 2011** – preparations are well advanced for our RE 2011 celebration between **Wednesday 30 March and Friday 1 April inclusive**. At least seven local high schools are working with us, to generate a beautiful array of interesting themes e.g. the meaning of community; what it means to be human; the powerful link between religion / spirituality and art and the written word. And so on. Firmed up arrangements will be unveiled in next week's Faith Centre News. Please support the excellent RE being taught and studied in our local area. It is so important.
-  **Graduate Teacher Programme - Equality & Diversity Seminar** – what a terrific day I had at the Woodlands Conference Centre in Chorley yesterday, delivering workshops on behalf of the North West and Lancashire GTP Consortium - a partnership made up of Lancashire County Council, Edge Hill University and the University of Cumbria. Faith & Belief was the order of the day, a first class opportunity to impart some of the Faith Centre's central thinking and methodology to a large number of interested and inquisitive PGCE students, plus their advisors. An excellent way of forging new relationships within our education sector across Lancashire, Cumbria, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and beyond. We look forward to future visits from the students to our Burnley Campus! Congratulations to everyone concerned, a thoroughly nourishing day of discovery and self discovery.
-  **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land** – we send our prayers and very best wishes to 21 friends from the local Christian community, who will be flying out to Jerusalem on Monday morning for a week of pilgrimage. The party is being led by Fr Michael Waters and Fr Peter Hapgood-Strickland. We look forward to their many stories.

- ✚ **Spring Equinox = March 21 = Naw Ruz** - we send our very best wishes & prayers to our Baha'i community across Burnley & Pendle and worldwide – Happy New Year!!
- ✚ **Discover Muhammad** – celebration at the Faith Centre on **Tuesday 29th March** between **1730hrs and 2000hrs**. In partnership with Building Bridges in Burnley.
- ✚ **Perspectives on the Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.)** – date for your diary . . . **12 May** between **1900hrs and 2100hrs**. Talk in Blackburn – provisionally at Blackburn Cathedral – to be delivered by **Dr Philip Lewis** of Bradford Churches for Dialogue and Diversity. Further information to follow. Will be a very interesting evening.
- ✚ **Sacred Spaces – Inside Out** – a **FREE** conference for faith based organisations who want to make the most of **Learning Outside the Classroom** and the rich experiences which our young people can receive when opening their minds to the power of sacred spaces e.g. the Burnley & Pendle Faith Centre! Conference takes place at the **Manchester Buddhist Centre** on **Wednesday 23rd March** between **1000hrs and 1600hrs**. For further details, see poster attached or contact education@cte.org.uk
- ✚ **Human Rights, Religion and Belief Seminar** – please see attached details of a highly interesting seminar taking place in **Preston** on **Thursday 31st March** between **1000hrs and 1300hrs**. Human Rights have a long, rich and colourful history; and they have been used by countless sections of society to positively and successfully challenge inequality, discrimination and oppression. Long live human rights. Support this excellent initiative by emailing humanrightsact@hotmail.co.uk
- ✚ **Time for another Exhibition** – readers will recall the wonderful consolation and satisfaction we all experienced last year on the back of two highly significant exhibitions – Anne Frank *A History for Today* and the Thomas Whitham celebration. Plans are bubbling nicely for our Summer 2011 exhibition in mid June, which – unless we have a sudden change of mind in the next week or so (!) – will be a fascinating study looking at the global action plan currently underway to eradicate extreme poverty, reduce child mortality rates, develop a global partnership for the long term interests of the vulnerable and those on the edges of society and so on. Once again, the study will be firmly rooted in partnership working with a number of valued friends of the Faith Centre, our combined aim of raising awareness levels within our young people through the curriculum and opening the stage to our local community and beyond. Look out for further updates in the weeks ahead. (:
- ✚ **And why not some meditation?** - every **Wednesday** evening from just before **1930hrs**, our resident Buddhist Monk and fellow Welshman from Swansea, Kelsang Paljin, leads a drop-in meditation class, to which everyone is welcome. Numbers have been growing nicely, week on week. So why not come and sample . .

**"It has been said: wherever you go, there you are.
In other words: you are here. Always. Is it hard to accept that?"**

**Eckhart Tolle – (1948 -)
German Counsellor and Spiritual Leader
Now residing in Vancouver, British Columbia**