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[Faith Centre Website](#)

25MARCH 2011



RE 2011 – this month of national celebration comes to close this week . . albeit there is no end to the gift that is Religious Education. For our part, our wonderful local high schools have been busily preparing a variety of artworks, written articles and even a 2m x 1.5m patchwork quilt to make their statement on why RE is so important to them. So why not join us at the Centre for the culmination of all their efforts between **Wed 30th March and Fri 1st April**, when our displays will be in place to share with fellow students, staff and members of our wider community. We will hold a semi-informal launch on **Thur 31st at 1400hrs. ALL ARE WELCOME.** For e-bulletin readers, please see poster attached. We will kick off around 1100hrs on Wed when all the displays will be in place. Finally, do check out the RE 2011 website [RE 2011](#) and do come along and support our young people and teachers who make Religious Education a reality in this part of Lancashire,

-  **Learning Outside the Classroom (LOTIC)** – have you discovered that sometimes, those “last minute” decisions in life can so often be very good ones! A sudden change to the diary on Tuesday morning allowed me on Wednesday of this week to spend a splendid day with around 30 teachers, providers and other practitioners who are involved in the learning and development of young people beyond the classroom – sacred spaces, museums, parks, outdoor residential activities, not to forget the school yard and of course, faith centres like our own. A fascinating day, all in the peaceful and wholesome environment of the Manchester Buddhist Centre and the sun blazing outside. Congratulations to all those involved in organising the event. A great opportunity to meet people from around the country involved in this important work. Incidentally, we have just finalised another LOTIC experience, this time for Whitworth High School KS4 students, who will join us in May alongside to explore Peace & Justice and Equality as part of their GCSE studies. Look forward to it. For further info, see www.lotc.org.uk and www.reonline.org.uk/sacredspace
-  **Discover Muhammad** – celebration at the Faith Centre on **Tuesday 29th March** between **1730hrs and 2000hrs**. In partnership with Building Bridges in Burnley
-  **Lenten Reflections** – we find ourselves in the middle of a very powerful series of lunchtime reflections in the season of Lent. Sincere thanks to Andy Williams who led a wonderful reflection yesterday on one of the parables which focus on the end of time namely, the Ten Bridesmaids and how you “can’t borrow preparedness”. Next Thursday, our own Richard Hoyle of the Methodist District will be our speaker. **All are very welcome. Thursday 31st March @ 1245hrs.** Soup and rolls to finish. We then run on to 7th April with Fr Peter Hapgood-Strickland, followed by Fr David Arnold, Chaplain to Bishop Nicholas of Blackburn on the 14th. Come and join us.
-  **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land** – do keep our local pilgrims in your prayers. They return on Monday evening. May the remainder of their journey be a safe one.

- ✚ **Blessed Trinity RC College** – congratulations to the students and staff at the college last week who entered so fully into their Community Cohesion week. A very full and varied programme was prepared and enjoyed by so many. Well done to all involved.

- ✚ **Holly Grove Primary School** – it was an absolute pleasure to facilitate four visits to the Ghausia Mosque last week, along with a Buddhist input by Kelsang Paljin for Years 5&6. A week in which every student in the school experienced a new faith, in almost all cases, for the first time. Their next part of the journey will involve a full assembly to the whole school soon after Easter led by Rabbi David Braunold. The school, which caters for students with serious learning difficulties, ensure that all their young people enjoy an array of activities to learn about/from other faiths. Alongside this, we are delighted to have finalised a packed programme of similar events for students at **Christ the King RC Primary School** between now and July.

- ✚ **Angela Rawson** – my former line manager, will be returning to the Burnley Campus later this morning for a presentation by the Campus Partners. A time to say thank you, a time of recognition as we reflect on her huge contribution to the development of new learning opportunities for the young people of this area and the vision and determination she brought to make our co-located Campus a reality. Thank you Angela. Next week we will be saying good bye to some other valued friends/partners of the Faith Centre. See article in next week's Faith Centre News .

- ✚ **June 2011 Exhibition** – many thanks to all those who expressed interest in my article on our proposed exhibition, looking at important global issues in the world today. We will be holding an important summit meeting of all interested partners this **Tuesday (29th)** at the Faith Centre. A time of reflection and action, as we look to plan a high quality piece of work for our young people & valued communities. More information to follow. Do keep this important initiative in your thoughts & prayers.

- ✚ **St Peter's Church Burnley** – are holding a series of Lenten talks on **Wednesday lunchtimes** on the general theme of "What my faith means to me". On Wednesday (30th) yours truly will be leading the reflection at 12noon – with soup to finish.

- ✚ **Human Rights, Religion and Belief Seminar** – why not join in a highly interesting seminar which is 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. Do support this excellent initiative. For more info email Leah on humanrightsact@hotmail.co.uk

- ✚ **And finally . . .** as we reflect on the global scene, it is understandable to despair at devastation in Japan. Yet, look at restoration underway in Christchurch . . which admittedly was a quake 8000 times less in magnitude to NE Japan. Proof that out of the impossible comes hope. Today Christians all over the world celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation, the conception of Jesus, 9 months before Christmas. The central message is quite simply that nothing is impossible to God. For some in these turbulent times - locally, nationally and internationally - this calls for real faith

"Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see"
Hebrews 11:1