

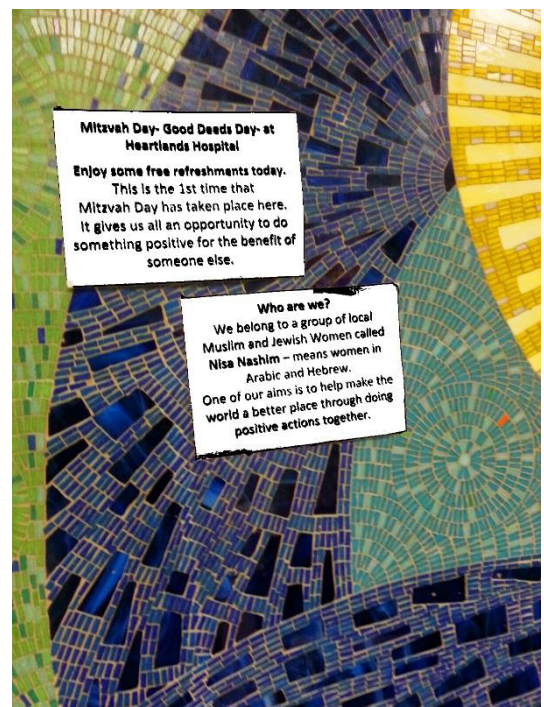
Interfaith Events attended by Members of our Community

November 2015

Mitzvah Day at Heartlands Hospital, 22th November

A number of our ladies took part in getting together with women of the Jewish community to serve cake to visitors at Heartlands Hospital. Mitzvah is a Jewish led national day of good deeds, where Jewish people together with others of faith or no faith and join them to help make people's lives better through a simple act of kindness. At Heartlands free cold drinks and cakes were offered to visitors, staff and patients. Visitors were also given the opportunity to write out get well cards provided free of charge to bring comfort to patients who did not have visitors. This was Jewish community's message following the event:

"Thank you all for making our effort at Heartlands so worthwhile. All the cake went, most of the cards were written and everyone - patients, staff and visitors who came for cake was so appreciative of our efforts and very complimentary about the cake, more than £90 was raised. Doing this together was a great experience and I look forward to other opportunities for us to work together. Ruth J



Visit to the St Paul's Convent, Selly Park, 23rd November

Our ladies were invited to attend a 'Quiet Morning' session at the St Paul's Convent led by Richard Wharton, Chaplain of Queen Elizabeth Hospital. As we joined together in reflection, Richard said the following after the event:

"It was lovely to have yourself and Kaniz with us last week for our quiet morning. It is a wonderful thing to be able to pray together in ways that honours our different faith traditions, and also to acknowledge together the need we all have of Allah. May Allah bring you many blessings, as you too bring blessings to many different people."



Birmingham Council of Faiths arranged Study Day on 'Understanding Sikh Faith at the Nishkam Centre, Soho Road, 14th November

The community members welcomed our ladies with a lot of warmth and their hospitality was exceptional. They provided a place of prayer and at the close of the seminar they brought a silver bowl, some warm water and a fresh towel to wash our hands. During the whole seminar the word 'seva' meaning 'selfless service' was mentioned constantly and we realised how faith inspired this concept at the core in their activities. Topics discussed were:

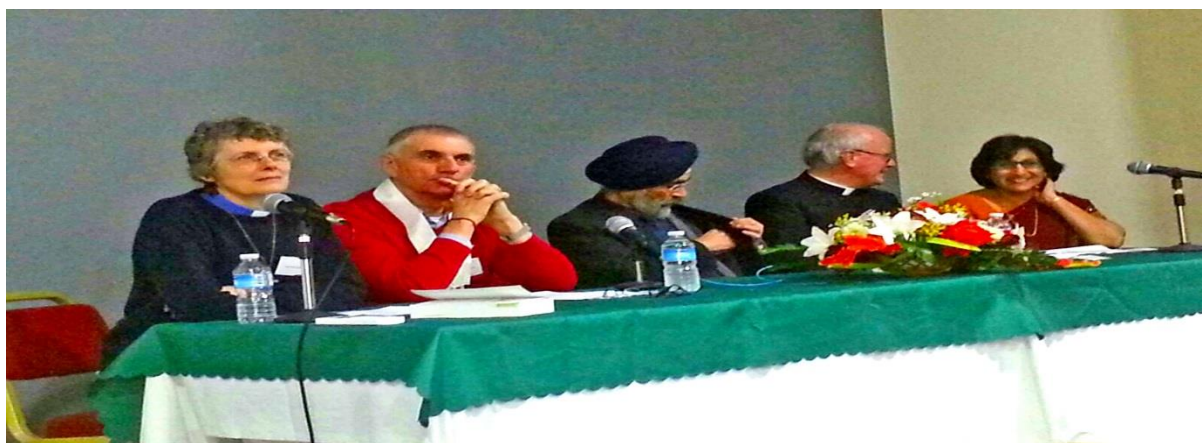
- 'The heart of Sikh dharam': Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh Ji
- 'Who are the Sikhs?': Dr Pyara Singh Bhogal
- 'Sikhs as learners and disciples': Gopinder Kaur Sagoo
- Visit to Gurudwara
- 'Sikh selfless service': Dr Sujinder S. Sangha OBE



Interfaith Event at The Hub, Solihull, 29th November

Ladies of our community received a very warm welcome by the Muslim community of this newly established centre. Rehanah Sadiq, Muslim Chaplain at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, led The Hub's opening ceremony. The Hub aims to provide services and events for people of all faiths and none in the local community.

Dinner was served giving time for attendees to mingle and chat with members of the local community and of other faith congregations. Dinner was followed by talks given from representatives of the Jewish, Church of England, Buddhist, Sikh, Catholic, and Hindu communities, who all spoke passionately about welcoming and opening doors to others. Later Mathew Norris presented ideas for utilising The Hub for the benefit of the local community and questions were invited from the audience.



It was encouraging to see the representatives of so many different faiths come together with respect and encouragement for this new community of Muslims. Insha'Allah this venue will be hosting interfaith events going forward and we look forward to assisting them with their initiatives. The building consists of a prayer room, wash room facilities, two large conference halls, and a large well equipped kitchen and these will be available to hire for training and other events.

Event marking the 80th Anniversary of the Birmingham



Progressive Synagogue, 5th December

On this occasion the Progressive Synagogue community was celebrating its 80th birthday. Our ladies sat in the Saturday Sabbath sermons read in Hebrew and English and reading of the Torah from scrolls led by Rabbi Dr Margaret Jacobi. This Progressive Jewish community is active in interfaith and social welfare activities within Birmingham and the West Midlands and gives a special place to serving the wider community as part of their faith requirements.

At the end of the official worship gifts were presented to guests including Birmingham's Lord Mayor Councillor Ray Hassel. Prominent members of Progressive Synagogue reminisced about the early days and how they started out as a small community in an old building going on to establish a large modern purpose built synagogue with growing community.

The programme ended with a special Sabbath lunch where our ladies met and talked to members of the Synagogue community. The whole congregation was warm and welcoming and lots of interesting conversations took place.



On interfaith activities

Sheikh Nuru Mohammed gave an insightful lecture on the benefits of interfaith activities and his lecture can be viewed on Youtube with the link below:

Seminar by Sheikh Nuru Mohammed - The KSIMC of London - 28 Nov 2015

<https://youtu.be/GVuOW6Ir8dA>

If anyone would like to be involved in interfaith events, please contact unity@ksmnet.org