

Faith Network 4 Manchester



Annual Report 2013-2014



E-mail: mail@fn4m.org

Website: www.fn4m.org



twitter.com/fn4m



FN4M (Faith Network for Manchester)

Faith Network 4 Manchester



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Cover picture: Balbir Singh introducing Tarleton Academy pupils to the Sikh faith at the Dashmesh Gurdwara on a Diversity Day

Message from the Chair

As the report outlines this has been an exciting year for the Faith Network for Manchester. Revd Andy Williams was appointed as our first Community Development Worker (0.5 FTE), with a three year grant from the Equalities Fund, allocated by the City Council.

This also allowed for a part time admin worker and money to develop our work across the city which has expanded our reach to faith communities and schools. So a big 'thank you' to all our funders and supporters.

This is important because as the faith diversity of the city grows, understanding of each other's faith and cultural needs, and the ability to work together on social action projects, becomes even more pressing. Global events, together with increasing Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, challenge social cohesion, our ability to live together well and the need to tackle extremism of all kinds.

Through its work in establishing dialogue, engaging with pupils in schools and bringing together Women of Faith, FN4M is leading the way in developing innovative responses to the issues that face us. Our work offers an alternative 'window on the world' that is inclusive and values diversity. We have been able to grow partnerships that have resulted in new ways of working across the city, especially in response to food poverty where faiths groups have lead the way in responding to local need.

Historically the faith communities of our city have shown the vision required to address difficult situations together. The work of all those involved in the network, staff, trustees and volunteers, has shown how a small group of people can make a massive difference. Do come and join us, so that together we can make Manchester the sort of city in which all its citizens can be rightly proud to live, belong and participate.

Bob Day
Chair

FN4M's Meetings

All public meetings are open to people of all faiths and none. However, membership of the FN4M executive committee is comprised of and limited to, representatives of the 9 major UK faiths as detailed below

- Baha'i
- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jain
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Zoroastrian

Executive Committee Members serving in 2013-2014

Chair	Revd Bob Day
Vice-Chair	Vacant
Secretary	Revd David Gray
Treasurer	Rabbi Warren Elf
Members	Charles Kwaku-Odoi Joe Malaika (resigned) Amer Salam Qaisra Shahraz Grange Williams
Adviser	Jonny Wineberg



Bob Day (Chair) presents Eve Davidson with her Faith Community Development Course Certificate at the AGM in 2013

Faith Network 4 Manchester (FN4M) is Manchester's forum for interfaith and multifaith work and was set up in March 2004 with the specific brief of engaging faith communities in the decision making processes of the City. In fulfilling this task FN4M works to the aspirations of the Manchester Partnership, including supporting a coordinated approach to Voluntary Sector strategy.

Aims:

- to enable the voice of faith communities to be heard at all stages of local decision making and strategic planning
- to ensure the ethical dimension is always considered at all levels of local decision making and strategic planning
- to provide a forum for members of different faith communities across Manchester
- to meet together to consider the issues raised in local decision making and strategic planning

Mission Statement:

- To affirm and celebrate the faith, race and cultural diversity of the UK, especially in Greater Manchester, by raising awareness about the importance of peaceful and respectful coexistence in a multi faith society
- To support the principle that dialogue and cooperation can only prosper if they are rooted in respectful relationships that do not blur or undermine the distinctiveness of different religious traditions.
- Not to discriminate for reasons of faith, race, gender, sexuality, physical or mental ability
- To challenge any who promote or practice views prejudicial to the public good and inclusion of all
- To help make the UK a place marked by mutual understanding and respect between religions where all can practice their faith with integrity
- To be particularly mindful of the role young people play in society and encourage their development and involvement
- To encourage all places of worship to become eco-centres
- To be strategic and effective in delivering a broad range of innovative interfaith activities

Staff and volunteers

Following a successful bid to the Equalities Programme of Manchester City Council, FN4M was able to begin the year advertising for a half-time Community Development Worker. There was a strong field of applicants and the Executive was delighted to appoint the Revd Andy Williams, a Baptist minister, working in Burnley. Since 2001 Andy has been active in interfaith work in Burnley, being a founding member of the interfaith project Building Bridges in Burnley and lead member in establishing a partnership with Lancashire County Council for Building Schools for the Future, which led to the development of the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre and 'faith rooms' in each new build secondary school. Andy then chaired a partnership project between the Faith Centre and Building Bridges in Burnley, which placed pairs of Muslim and Christian Faith Friends in Burnley secondary schools. It was felt that this experience would be of great value in developing Manchester Multifaith Centre and the projects of FN4M.

Andy began working for FN4M in July, joined by Jaye Little, who worked for one day a week as our voluntary summer intern, until September. Jaye was an excellent intern who organised the resources room and did preparatory research for the re-launch of the In Your Faith schools project, as well as assisting Andy.

The Equalities Programme grant included a little funding for administrative support and a recruitment process led to the appointment of Jessica Nightingale as a part-time administrator for just four hours a week from 1st October. Jessica, a Mancunian, studying for a Master's in Politics at the University of Manchester and having done interfaith work with the Three Faiths Forum, brought considerable enthusiasm and valuable local knowledge to her work.

The Equalities Programme also enabled us to appoint two Women's Peer workers for the Women of Faith Project, which is included below. We are grateful to our good friend Kush Chottera for volunteering to facilitate the use of MMC by opening and closing up and assisting those using it. We are also grateful to Pete Keane for volunteering to help us develop the website.

Manchester Multifaith Centre

Manchester Multifaith Centre (MMC) is based at Ada House, 77 Thompson Street, M4 5FY and it has four key aims:

- For people in Manchester of all faiths and none to meet together, learn from each other, share information, develop mutual respect and plan joint work.
- To provide resources for schools, youth, community groups and members of the public to learn about faiths and have a positive view of Manchester's diverse community.
- To deliver seminars/workshops/dialogues on issues of concern to people in Manchester that inspire participants to further action to address the issues concerned.
- To be a hub and centre of excellence for effective interfaith engagement, information sharing and promoting good practice.



MMC is an attractive place to meet

MMC is dedicated to the memory of the late Henry Guterman, who was President of the Jewish Representative Council of Greater

Manchester and Region from 1986 to 1989. He was a passionate worker for interfaith dialogue and was in a leadership role in many local faith groups, charities and welfare organisations. Coming to this country as a refugee in 1938, at the age of 12, he worked with great commitment to combat racism in all its forms.

FN4M has three dedicated rooms as part of MMC. In July, Andy and Jaye organised the rooms. Our cupboard supplier was persuaded to return to build the flat packs they had supplied and the envisaged quiet room, resources room and office took shape.

MMC is an attractive place to meet and has fulfilled its aims by welcoming a growing number of visitors for a wide range of meetings, dialogues and gatherings during the year. These included:

The Multi Belief Book Group which held its first meeting in January
The Council for Christians and Jews
The Muslim/Jewish Forum
The Sacred Sounds Women's Interfaith Choir
The United Reformed Church Interfaith Group
Human First for their Sophie Lancaster Film Workshop
GMIF Groups met with Natan Levy
Monthly Laughter workshops led by our good friend Robin Graham, a certified Laughter Yoga Leader Trainer.

We are looking for anyone wishing to help us with running MMC or the Network. If you wish to volunteer or intern, please contact us.

In Your Faith

In Your Faith, our young people's faith awareness project, uses informal education methods to engage and inspire young people. Sessions are for schools, colleges and youth groups, both in their settings and at MMC. The sessions increase awareness of different faiths by highlighting shared histories, respect for differences, practices, and positive contributions to communities. They disavow myths and challenge stereotypes, which many young people believe as fact.

The autumn term was spent building our capacity to re-launch the In Your Faith Project with schools and youth groups as follows:

- Contacting faith representatives who had worked with the project before and were willing to continue and approaching new representatives. We have 12, representing the main faiths found in the city.
- The 'Challenging Perceptions and Expanding Horizons' enrichment programme was finalised in partnership with the chaplains at the Manchester College.
- Andy began to develop relationships with one or two other schools and colleges.
- Publicity was updated and produced.

In February, the first new In Your Faith sessions were delivered at Wright Robinson College and Trinity CE High School, both on Islam, by our good friend Khalil Zeria. FN4M was also an exhibitor at the Greater Manchester Youth Hate Crime Conference attended by 200 students and staff and a good relationship was made with staff at Abraham Moss.

In March, two further sessions were delivered on Islam at Wright Robinson College and a session on Judaism for the Guides. As the year closed excellent relationships had been developed with the Heads of RE at Wright Robinson College, Abraham Moss High and Parrs Wood High, with good potential at Trinity CE High. There was plenty of interest in the work of the In Your Faith project in the secondary schools with ten sessions provisionally booked.

Faith Dialogues

Our dialogue events take a particular form 'What Faith Says About...' Where appropriate, we work in partnership with organisations that have particular knowledge in the area of concern and ask them to introduce the topic. Then people from different faith perspectives reflect together on the topic and try to discern whether there are specific actions that we can take collectively and in our own organisations.

We aim to have at least six interfaith dialogues and this year they were as follows:

- Aug. Faith and Fasting, including a wonderful Iftar meal
- Oct. Faithfully addressing food poverty
- Nov. Faith and International Interventions
- Dec. Festive Party with the Muslim/Jewish Forum
- Jan. Faith Communities Responses to Hate Crime
- Feb. Faith Communities and End of Life Issues

Women of Faith

The Women of Faith project builds on work undertaken by the Muslim Jewish Forum. It offers a series of bi-monthly events for women, exploring and celebrating their different cultures, taking a community development approach, working with their ideas, needs and concerns.

Eve Davidson and Farah Mitha were appointed as Jewish and Muslim peer women's workers in October to jointly facilitate the project. An initial consultation event took place at MMC in November, with fifteen women. There was a great atmosphere with plenty of ideas shared for future activities.

The second, poetry writing event, took place in a community shop in Cheetham Hill during the day in December. This went well, but numbers were disappointing. It was recognised that more funding than that provided through the Equalities Programme was needed.

The third event was a drumming workshop held at MMC in January, which again went well, but many of the women who attended were from one group. There was a concern that it was proving difficult to establish a core group of women attending each event. It was agreed to include extra funding for the Women of Faith project in our bid to Awards for All.



Women of Faith at the Poetry Writing Event in Cheetham Hill
Fourth from the left, Farah Mitha and second from the right, Eve Davidson.

In order to fit in the fourth event by the end of March, Bob Day arranged and co-facilitated, 'Sharing our Faith Stories' with Shabnam Sheikh. This was an interfaith discussion with a South Asian Women's group and women from the Trinity Community Church, held at the Roby. It was a great success.

Unfortunately for us, both Farah and Eve were unable to continue as peer workers for the second year. We want to express our thanks to them for all their hard work and the contacts they made with women of faith around the city, enabling the project to continue.

Peace Malas

The Peace Mala is a bracelet with fourteen beads representing different faiths and spiritual traditions. The workshop provides the opportunity to make a mala and be introduced to the golden rule in

each tradition In February Malaika, our facilitator, delivered our first Peace Mala workshop to the women's group at the Amani Centre. A Peace Mala Taster evening was also offered at MMC so that people could come and experience the potential of having a peace mala workshop for their own community or faith groups.

In March Malaika delivered workshops with a citizenship group at Wright Robinson College and with a year 10 RE class at Parrs Wood High School and a further session had been booked by a group at the William Temple Church in Wythenshawe.

The Peace Mala provides a great way for an existing group to begin, or to explore, other faiths further. If you are interested, please contact us.

Research Project

Whilst the research project is to be carried out in 2014/15, planning began in October 2013, with an initial meeting of partners, FN4M, Saheli and the Women's Solidarity Forum.

Activities and Events

Tarleton Academy Diversity Days

A telephone enquiry from a Lancashire School led to FN4M facilitating visits for many of the pupils in each year group to experience diversity in Manchester, in a way that they don't in their own community. Three visits were made by years 7, 9, and 10, over 230 pupils, to the Khizra Mosque and the Dashmesh Gurdwara. For most pupils, it was their first experience of meeting Muslims and Sikhs and visiting their places of worship. This was an excellent example of partnership working with the mosque and gurdwara, with additional support from Khalil Zeria.

A big thank you to the teams of people from each place of worship who hosted these visits and responded to the many questions of the young people. When the pupils returned, the Head of Humanities said, "they were buzzing with excitement about the whole experience". The pupils were a credit to their school.



Tarleton Academy pupils learning about the Qur'an at the Khizra Mosque



Tarleton Academy pupils enjoying refreshments at the Dashmesh Gurdwara

Promotion and Publicity

We are continually working at promoting and publicising the work of FN4M and the Multifaith Centre. This year we designed and produced a FN4M/MMC bookmark and a number of leaflets for the projects. Our FN4M pop up display was completed, thanks to Jonny Wineberg, and this enables us to have a strong visual presence at events, as seen at the Manchester Cathedral Hate Crime event. We also have a new website which we have begun to develop.

Representation

FN4M continues to actively pursue our aim of getting faith on the agenda of decision makers and has engaged at various levels across Greater Manchester and beyond. We have engaged among others the Manchester City Council, Greater Manchester Police, the Homeless Network, the Challenging Hate Forum and the City of Sanctuary.

We have contributed to a number of consultations and provided feedback on policy papers on a wide range of issues. FN4M represents faith groups in Manchester's Voluntary Sector Assembly.

Challenging Hate Forum

FN4M is represented at the Challenging Hate Forum monthly meetings convened by the Dean of Manchester Cathedral. This Forum has in attendance representatives from City centre places of worship and statutory agencies including the Fire Chief, Chief Constable, Deputy Leader and Deputy Chief Executive of Manchester City Council.

Policing and IAG

Members of the Executive continue to engage with the local policing teams providing support from a multi-faith perspective. This involves advisory meetings; specialist support for particular operations from gang/drug related to anti-terrorism; acting as an observer when warrants are served and generally ensuring that policing takes account of the needs and sensitivities of faith communities.

Manchester City of Sanctuary

FN4M continues to be involved in the development of Manchester City of Sanctuary. This is a grassroots organisation working to make

cities and towns across the UK become welcoming and friendly to refugees and migrants seeking sanctuary from war, trauma, and persecution. www.cityofsanctuary.org/manchester-city-sanctuary

Greater Manchester Interfaith Networks Forum

FN4M has been actively involved in forging collaboration and partnership working among the interfaith groups and networks across Greater Manchester.

Community Engagement

There is a sense in which all the work of FN4M is about community engagement in a wide variety of ways with individuals, groups and networks. We hope that while our staff have limited availability, FN4M is more available and accessible. Certainly the phone began to ring more often during the year as people realised there could be someone at MMC to talk to, especially on a Monday or Tuesday. The network responded to a number of events during the year, especially the disturbing event in Woolwich, with its strong connections to Greater Manchester. A piece of work that started last year and was completed early this year was the twelve session Faith Community Development Course. The participants, from five different faiths, had the opportunity to be presented with their certificates of accreditation at the AGM in December. On this occasion we went on to be amazed by the guitar skills, some quite unorthodox, of our guest speaker and performer Aziz Ibrahim.

Manchester Equality Hub

FN4M continues to be involved in developing Manchester City's equality hub. The Hub has representation from all equality strands across the public and voluntary sectors. The Hub continues to act as a forum for engaging other statutory agencies.

Inter Faith Network UK

Inter Faith Network UK is the national organisation of interfaith groups and networks across the UK. FN4M has been actively involved in its events. www.interfaith.org.uk

Faith Network for Manchester Income and Expenditure, 2013/14
(for the year 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014)

FN4M Expenditure 2013/14

Staffing ¹	13,095.18
Payroll ²	75.00
In Your Faith Session Payments ³	175.00
MACC TLI ⁴	2,932.25
Hospitality ⁵	47.78
Rent ⁶	7,200.00
Women of Faith ⁷	1,109.80
Peace Malas ⁸	150.00
Office Equipment and Stationery	264.38
Telephone	85.67
Printing and Postage	55.13
Travel and Expenses ⁹	524.60
Conferences ¹⁰	100.00
Insurance	335.41
Website Domain	65.96
Awards for All Repayment ¹¹	357.00
Sundries	<u>206.00</u>

Total Expenditure **£26,779.16**

FN4M Income 2013/14

Manchester Alliance ¹²	1,867.50
Manchester City Council Equalities Fund ¹³	18,750.00
Manchester City Council Hate Crime Grant ¹⁴	140.00
Donations ¹⁵	106.20
MACC TLI ⁴	3,012.25
In Your Faith ³	85.00
School Visit ¹⁶	300.00
Muslim Jewish Forum ¹⁷	150.00
Bank Interest	<u>7.30</u>

Total Income **£24,418.25**

Excess of Expenditure over Income **£2,360.91**

Notes to the Accounts

1 Staffing relates to employment of a part-time Community Development Worker since August 2013, a part-time Administrator since October 2013 and support costs before this.

2 Payroll services are provided by MDA and Co. at a cost £15 per month.

3 'In Your Faith' is the schools' project we run, initially as part of the Manchester City Council Grant, under the 'Prevent' banner. It is now part of our commitment under the Equalities Fund Grant, although also seen to be part of our core ongoing work. Payments are to sessional workers and those who hosted sessions. Donations are from recipient schools.

4 The MACC TLI figures relate to work for the Transforming Local Infrastructure programme that MACC subcontracted to FN4M. We received £3,012.25 over the last financial year for this and paid out £2,932.25 to those who delivered the work on our behalf, keeping a proportion for administrative costs.

5 The figure for hospitality is the cost of refreshments for Faith Dialogue events.

6 This represents the cost of renting the Manchester Multifaith Centre (FN4M's base since 1st August 2012) at £600 per month.

7 The Women of Faith programme is one of our projects as part of the Equalities Fund Grant and represents the cost of two peer workers and events, between October 2013 and March 2014.

8 Peace Malas are a venture FN4M supports and seeks to promote. We have made a commitment to run a certain number of Peace Mala events through our Equalities Fund although the grant does not cover all the costs.

9 Expenses primarily include travel to and from designated events and meetings.

10 The figure for Conferences comprises our contribution to the Interfaith conference run by Bolton Interfaith Group during Interfaith Week 2013.

11 This relates to a repayment to Awards for All for funds not used from their previous grant, which was shown as a liability in last year's accounts.

12 This was the final grant contribution, for April to June 2013, from Manchester City Council via MACC for FN4M's engagement and participation in a variety of strategic forums and within MACC (Manchester Alliance for Community Care).

13 The Equalities Fund Grant from Manchester City Council was our main source of funding for last year's FN4M projects and activities.

14 This was a one-off grant from Manchester City Council for running a Faith Dialogue on Hate Crime around Hate Crime Week.

15 These donations are ad hoc donations from users of the Multifaith Centre and small donations through our Shopping App.

16 This is money received from Tarleton High School for arranging a Study Day for a large group of their students.

17 This is a donation received from the Muslim Jewish Forum for hosting an event for International Women's Day.

FN4M Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2014

Assets

Cash in Bank at 31 March 2014	£5,283.46
Total Assets	£5,283.46

Liabilities

Fund Raising Consultancy	£350.00
Payroll	£45.00
Total Liabilities	£395.00

Excess of Assets over Liabilities **£4,888.46**

Represented by:

Donations (restricted for rent and existing projects)	£4800.00
Other funds	£ 88.46

'Other funds' are unrestricted funds available for FN4M for general or other use.

Faith Network 4 Manchester
Charity no 1144161

MANCHESTER

 **MULTIFAITH** 

    
 **CENTRE** 

Dedicated to the work and memory of Henry Guterman

Tel. 0161 833 8822 Email. mme@fn4m.org www.fn4m.org

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