

Faith Lives Introduction

Wolverhampton is described these days as a "Millennium City". This is good, because Wolverhampton reflects very aptly within her citizens, the rich variety of religious and cultural colour that a 21st century city should exhibit.

For over a quarter of a century, the Wolverhampton Inter Faith Group, now known as 'Wolverhampton Inter Faith Council' has promoted and created opportunities for people from different religious backgrounds to meet together, make friends with each other, and out of this friendship develop the healthy bloodstream of mutual respect and understanding, that a peaceful society thrives upon. The WIFC celebrates a working towards a greater unity within an exciting diversity.

Since a number of serious racial/social/religious disturbances in Northern urban centres during the Summer of 2001 and the awful terrorist atrocities of the 11th September 2001 and beyond, there exists today, the realisation more than ever before, of just how important faith is to the lives of many people. There is now more of a desire to learn about the different faiths that surround us.

"Faith Lives" has been produced by the WIFC as one of its contributions to this increasing need for education, understanding and knowledge-building that will help more sensitive ways of working with each other at all levels of social and professional interaction. It is also intended as a resource for the development of understanding and community cohesion and for our younger faith community members.

The "Faith Lives" editorial team has commissioned a number of sections to be written by members of different faiths. They cover the most significant religious groups within this city. The aim of these faith-portraits is not so much to provide a theologically water-tight description of belief: they are not meant to be essays. "Faith Lives" is intended to be a set of tools that will give a glimpse into how people of different faiths actually LIVE.