

ACROSS Newsletter

ACROSS
Sharing Faith Across Cultures

محبة
MAHABBA
LOVING ALL MUSLIMS

Spring Issue / April 2024



We are devastated to be mourning the loss of Ann Wardill, who went to be with our Lord in February. Just six months earlier, we had celebrated Ann's retirement from over 25 years of ministry with Across. We celebrated her work amongst women, which included an after-school club for Muslim girls which she ran from her home, as well as meeting with Muslim women to compare the prophet stories found in both the two holy scriptures. Ann visited no less than 40 countries with her husband John, demonstrating her genuine love for people from all nations. She had a particular heart for the people of Turkey and spent many months supporting local churches in Izmir. Despite stepping back from Across, Ann continued to help at St Michael's after school club for mainly Muslim families and gave a meaningful talk on 'angels' at the angel themed International Christmas Craft event, held at St Pauls in December. Although we mourn her loss, we can rest assured that the angels Ann spoke about, are now rejoicing in heaven at her arrival, but we will miss her greatly.








Easter & Eid were just a week apart this year. While Christians remembered the sacrifice of Jesus, Muslims focused on the sacrifice they make for their faith, by fasting for 30 days. Across held a special prayer supper in March, to pray for revelation for Muslims to know Jesus's sacrifice for them. This was in partnership with [Mahabba](#) (a national Christian network with a vision to see ministry among Muslims as a normal part of church life). Invitations to Iftar suppers (breaking of the fast meal) is growing and many of us attended Iftars in various mosques, including Shah Jehan and the Bangladeshi Community Centre. Shia and Sunni Muslims form the majority of



Muslims in the UK but there are also other Muslim groups & Ahmadi's are growing. The large Ahmadi mosque in Morden held a few events during Ramadan including a Peace Symposium and the Big Iftar. They will be hosting a Women's Peace Symposium on June 22nd with invitations to those outside the mosque to attend. If you are a Christian woman and interested in coming, please email Riz. We see these events, as opportunities to build bridges with the Muslim community and share faith. Our desire is for all Muslims to know Jesus.



Bangladeshi Iftar @ GoldsworthPark

<p>Big Thankyou to New Life Church</p>  <p>Mission of the month</p> 	<p>CHURCH SUPPORT It is through the funding and support of local churches, that the Across ministry has continued for nearly three decades. As churches face many financial challenges, this will understandably impact on the ministries they are able to support. We want to acknowledge the support we have received from <u>New Life Church</u> over the years. Margaret Hill, a member of NLC was one of the founding members of Across. It stemmed from a passion for sharing the gospel with Muslims and those of other faiths, having spent time in Pakistan and other parts of the world. <i>We trust that New Life members will continue their engagement in the cross-cultural ministry of Across.</i></p> <p>Across is the mission of the month at <u>Christchurch Woking</u>, another local church supporting the Across vision to see people of all backgrounds become disciples of Jesus Christ.</p>
<p>Woking World Day of Prayer</p>  <p>St Dunstan's Catholic Church</p>	<p>A Celebration of Cross-Cultural Ministry in Woking</p> <p>Across is hosting a <u>Thanksgiving Service and Tea</u> at St Andrews Church on Sunday 16 June to celebrate over 25 years of cross-cultural ministry in Woking and how the Lord continues to bring different communities and backgrounds together. At the <u>World Prayer Day, at St Dunstan's Church</u> the prayers were written by Palestinian Christian women and it was attended by the Muslim Mayor of Woking, Ilyas Raja.</p> <p><u>Friends International Guildford (FIG)</u>, the international student ministry at the University of Surrey is hosting a cross-cultural morning on Sat 27 April to explore how churches can grow communities that both welcome & represent a diversity of cultures in all areas of church life. If you would like to attend, you can book your place at St John's Stoke Church, Guildford through Eventbrite</p>
<p>PETITIONS & PRAYERS</p> 	<p>*As Muslims end the holy fasting month of Ramadan, a time used for seeking to know more of God, we pray that they will find Jesus their Saviour. We give thanks for all the Iftars we have been invited to which has brought the *Christian community and Muslim community together at a time when the world is hostile. We pray for cross cultural relationships in Woking to strengthen as a result.</p> <p>*We pray for the Lord to grow the Across ministry by providing a trustee with a heart for reaching people from cultures outside of our own.</p> <p>*Please pray for us to use our limited resources wisely. That we will know how to use them to support the local church through training and engagement.</p> <p>*Please pray for opportunities for the local church and local Muslim community to keep meeting and sharing faith and that through our time together seeds of truth can be planted.</p>
<p>CALENDAR #Dates4Diary</p> 	<p>#Across Monthly Prayer Meeting (1st Friday of month @ 8pm) 3 May, 7 Jun, 5 July, 2 Aug (on Zoom or in person – to be advised each month)</p> <p>#JumaaPrayer every Friday at 12Noon on Zoom, pray for Muslim friends</p> <p>#FriendsInternational – Growing Cross-Cultural Ministry – St John's Stoke, Guildford – Sat 27 April at 9.30am to 1pm Eventbrite</p> <p>#FaithsinHarmony WPOF Thurs 6 June 7pm at Park View, Sheerwater</p> <p>#AcrossAnnualThanksgiving Sun 16 Jun 4pm to 6pm at <i>St Andrews</i></p>

'Sharing Faith Across Cultures'

'Cross Cultural Ministry in Woking' (Across) is a registered Charity (1106905) and exists 'to see people of all backgrounds become disciples of Jesus Christ' Across was formed by 10 churches working together and is based out of St Andrews Church, Goldsworth Park, GU21 3LG.

Contact: Riz, the ACROSS Co-ordinator at acrosswokingoffice@gmail.com

Across is part of the Mahabba Network www.mahabbanetwork.com

'Cross-cultural Ministry in Woking'