

Multi-Faith Walk of Peace – 10th September 2017

Acting together for one world in peace was the theme of this year's Redbridge Faith Forum's Multi-faith Walk which took place on Sunday 10th September through Ilford.



The walk started at the Holocaust Memorial Gardens where about 70 people were welcomed by Co-Chair Phil Butcher who used some of the various words for peace in his greeting which are in daily use in different faith communities such as Shalom, Shanti, Assalamalikum. Phil then introduced Rabbi Michael Pertz who spoke movingly about the need for forgiveness and reconciliation and the need to move on from atrocities such as the Holocaust which had affected his family personally.

A booklet was given to each participant which included a map of the route to be walked, a description of the venues and the beliefs of the different religions including prayers for peace.

The walkers then set off to walk to the Buddhist Vihara in Balfour Road where bounteous refreshments were enjoyed, and several faith leaders were invited to light a candle. A very interesting talk was given about the 5 precepts of Buddhism.



More walkers joined the Walk at this point which continued to the Hindu Temple in Cleveland Road and welcomed into the Temple by Vinaya Sharma Redbridge Faith Forum Trustee. Vinaya spoke about the topic of peace from a Hindu perspective and visitors were offered

the gift of fruit.

The next venue the Ilford Islamic Centre was a short walk away where over 100 people gathered to hear from Imam Rafiq who spoke about the recent celebration of Eidul Adha which marked the end of Hajj where all are treated equal regardless of social status, nationality or wealth. Refreshments were enjoyed and the invitation was



extended to visit the mosque across the road.

Walkers then enjoyed chatting whilst proceeding to SS Peter & Paul Church in the High Road to be greeted by Paul Samuels who spoke about the Christian perspective on peace and was pleased to answer

questions. The group then moved into the recently opened Prayer Garden where the opportunity was taken to take some photographs.



The final destination was the Karamsar Gurdwara where everyone was invited to enter the prayer room. They received a warm welcome from Satwinder Singh a member Gurdwara Management Committee, then listened to a very thoughtful presentation from Tanveen Kaur..



The Walk proved to be a wonderful time of sharing and Redbridge Faith Forum is very grateful to all the faith communities who graciously opened their doors in welcome and to everyone who participated including police Faith Community Liaison Officers Shaz and Kaser who kindly provided an escort. Overall over 150 people participated as not everyone walked the whole route.

Comments received in feedback about the event included:-

“It was wonderful to take part in this Redbridge Peace Walk. I feel that we are bringing communities together, which will make our society more peaceful”

“Very interesting. I have lived here all my life and this is the first time Redbridge really felt like one community”

“A very refreshing experience, positive conversation, listening to others. Each place of worship gives a very good account of itself”

“It was a great event and my father and I learnt a lot.”

“So good to hear young people’s thoughts”

“A wonderful time. Great chance to speak and share. Thank you very much”

“A great success – year on year the numbers increase – the joy of people coming together in warmth, peace and goodwill is something wonderful to witness. Great to see the regulars and great to see those new to the walk. May the message of community cohesion continue to spread”

“It was a wonderful experience meeting the old and the new participants of different faiths and sharing the word of peace at the walk. We are so lucky to have Redbridge Faith Forum. Everything is good about the walk. Everyone was enjoying the spirit together. Many thanks to all faith places of worship for refreshments and all.”

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