

Faith Network 4 Manchester



Annual Report 2012-2013



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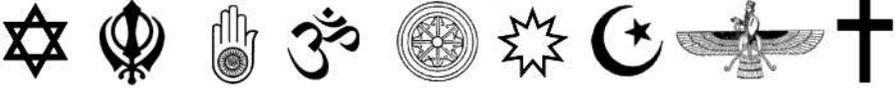


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FN4M (Faith Network for Manchester)

Faith Network 4 Manchester



Annual Report 2012-2013

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**Cover picture L to R: Bob Day, Andy Williams,
Qaisra Shahraz and Jonny Wineberg**

Message from the Chair

There have been incredible new achievements for the organisation during my first year as Chair of FN4M largely due to immense efforts by particular individuals but also to a growing sense of real teamwork in the Trustee body.



As you will see later in this report the opening of the Manchester Multifaith Centre was a particular highlight. There was a real sense of excitement and hope at the launch and we were delighted to welcome people from many different faith traditions. If this enthusiasm and commitment can be maintained in the coming years then there are concrete ways in which we can develop the multi and interfaith activity in Manchester for the benefit of all Mancunians.

The second highlight was hearing that our bid to the Equalities Fund had been successful. I want to acknowledge and give a big “Thank you” to Jonny Wineberg for doing a lot of this work. The grant has enabled us to employ a half time Community Development Worker for FN4M. Many of you will have already met the Revd. Andy Williams who was appointed to the post. It will also support some of our core costs for the Centre; a very part time administrator, Jessica Nightingale; two Women’s Workers to develop new women’s work across faiths, building on the work done by the Muslim Jewish Forum, who will partner with us on this, and a small amount to help run some of the activities. This means more fund raising is required for FN4M to do the necessary work that it has identified. So a big welcome to Andy and Jessica – we look forward to all you will help us achieve in the coming years.

The third achievement (rather than a highlight) although there was a collective sigh of relief on the completion of the task, was to up date all our policies and develop a substantial business plan. This behind the scenes work is essential but often goes unnoticed – so to all those on the Executive who helped us do this alongside others such as John Fagan, Community Engagement Officer in the Chief Exec's Dept – another big thank you.

You will also be able to read below some of the vast range of activities we have been able to organise and facilitate during the year. The reach and contribution of FN4M to the life of the city is impressive given its limited resources. For all those who have given their time willingly and generously, a big thank you.

I have been privileged to serve as your Chair this year and trust that 2014 will see FN4M helping bring a deeper sense of respect, equality, hope and justice for all the diverse communities in Manchester as we are able to work together more closely.

My thanks to everyone who has, and will, play a part in that.

Bob Day
Chair

FN4M's Meetings:

All public meetings are open to people of all faiths and none. However, membership of the FN4M 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 2012-2013

Chair	Revd Bob Day
Vice-Chair	Jonny Wineberg
Secretary	Revd David Gray
Treasurer	Rabbi Warren Elf
Member	Qaisra Shahraz
	Joe Malaika
	Amer Salam

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

FN4M opens Manchester's first Multifaith Centre

A gathering of 50 faith, political and community leaders was present for the opening of the Manchester Multifaith Centre, who reported feeling impressed, inspired and hopeful for its success.

Speakers at the launch were Cllr Naeem Hassan, Deputy Lord Mayor of Manchester; Jonny Wineberg, Chairperson of FN4M and Mark Weingard, a philanthropist originally from Manchester, who has helped fund the Centre. Cllr Naeem Hassan told the gathering, "It is so important for the community to be able to come together and celebrate the great diversity that is afforded to us. On behalf of Manchester, I am delighted to support the aims of the Manchester Multifaith Centre in bring together all communities in a common effort to fight the evil of oppression, intolerance and discrimination. I am sure that MMC will prove to be a great place to hold important events. Congratulations!"

Mark Weingard was unable to be present, but speaking via Skype said, "I always hear from people that the problems of this world stem from religion and that isn't true, every religion teaches love and respect for one another. Religion is a way for all of us to learn ethics to be guided through life by the light of God. The problem is never one of religion, the problems of this world stem from ignorance and lack of tolerance. For the future of our children, we need to co-exist, we are all part of the same family. I applaud your efforts to stand together and I am proud to support your vision."

Jonny Wineberg, who has known Mark since their days in the B'nai B'rith Youth Organisation together, praised Mark's philanthropic work and explained that he had requested Mark's support for MMC. Mark had decided that they, and 11 other friends, should have a sponsored slim and, as a result, donated over £12,000 to the project. This, along with support from Awards for All, enabled the centre to open.

MMC itself 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.

On the development of MMC, Jonny Wineberg said, “It has taken us over 2 years of planning and hard work to get here, but seeing the great response to what we have achieved so far is truly amazing. Now the hard work really starts and we will be looking for different communities to work closer together; decision makers to hear the faith perspective; awareness to be raised and respect to be enhanced between faith communities.”

“Some people have a view of faith as something outmoded,” said FN4M secretary Rev. David Gray, “It’s easy to see how they come to this mistaken conclusion when parts of the media are so ready to reinforce stereotypes and give an impression that different belief systems are not compatible with each other or fly in the face of science. The truth is very different and here in Manchester people of all faith backgrounds work together in mutual respect to benefit all who live, work, study or vacation here. The Multifaith Centre will enable us to do far more for the city we all love in the years ahead.”



**L to r Jonny Wineberg; Naeem Ul Hassan; Afzal Khan;
Bob Day at Launch of Manchester Multifaith Centre (MMC)**

We were pleased to welcome many different guests for the launch and to offer their reflections:

“This facility here will be fantastic, I think for lots of organisations to use it. Technically speaking the Jewish community is the oldest in Manchester and we have been here since 1750 and we welcome the ability we will have to have joint meetings and members of the various faiths to meet here in a pleasant atmosphere and we wish you well.” *Frank Baigel, President Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester & Region*

“It’s very important when people from different backgrounds have common space to share with one another, to meet with one another and to engage. It’s wonderful that here we know we can meet each other in friendship and really have a great time. This is the place for hospitality, a home; but a home is shared and we can share it together. We can be a living sign of what it means to understand one another, listen to one another and celebrate one another. So I say halleluyah for that, shalom, salam aleikum, namatse, this is a place of greeting, wholeness and health. I am thrilled to be here.” *Rev Steve Williams, Bishop of Manchester’s Interfaith Advisor, Manchester Council of Christians & Jews Co-Chair*

“It’s a brilliant idea and more importantly it happened. A vision that people got together and worked on is come to fruition. I think it’s going to be great for the City; it’s a great space and it’s in a great location.” *Rev Andrea Jones, CoE Curate in Moston and Newton Heath*

“It’s absolutely great from our point of view, being on the Rochdale Road couldn’t be better. We hope we might be able to use it.” *Rev Barbara Harrison, Chair, Rochdale Interfaith Council*

“I am really delighted to be here to support the Multifaith Centre, a wonderful initiative. And hopefully we will achieve a lot of things together.” *Councillor Luthfur Rahman, Councillor for Longsight, Lead Member for Race*

Do contact MMC and speak to Andy or Jess 0161 833 8822 to arrange a visit or to learn more about the centre and its work.



Diverse faiths represented at the launch of MMC in September

The new Manchester Multifaith Centre (MMC) is based at Ada House, 77 Thompson Street, M4 5FY and 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.

We have a host of activities that we are running at the centre, including:

Faith Community Development Course – see report below.

Dialogues and Workshops. See report below. If you have an issue you want covered, get in touch with us.



Lighting of Chanukah candles at the 2012 Festive Party at MMC

Scriptural Reasoning. We are in discussion with the Cambridge Interfaith Program to launch these discussions on sacred texts, which can act as a transformative interfaith practice.

In Your Faith, our young people's faith awareness project that 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. We are developing two new artefact packs, alongside other resources, to help make sessions even more lively and insightful. 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.

We are also planning Interfaith Week events, a new Multifaith Youth Group, Peace Malas, Laughter Yoga, Mitzvah Day Activities, Social Action Projects, Oral Histories, and much more coming soon. The Centre, and all activities, will be open to the wider community. We invite any group wishing to run any event at MMC to contact us. The venue is free to use, but donations would be welcome.

We are looking for anyone wishing to help us with some of their time. If you wish to volunteer or intern, please contact us.

ACTIVITIES

Festive Party

One of our first events at MMC, this is now an Annual fixture. Run in partnership with The Muslim Jewish Forum, Hindu Jewish Association, Christian Muslim Forum and Council of Christians and Jews, it drew people from all faiths together in a special atmosphere.

Dialogue Events

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. Our focus on developing Manchester Multifaith Centre meant we did not run dialogues for the first part of the year.

In January our discussion was on 'Faith Says About Drugs & Alcohol'. We looked at: Why do different faiths have different rules about alcohol? What do the Holy Books say about substance abuse? Are Faith Groups doing enough to help people with alcohol and drug problems? Our conclusions centred around the need to do more to engage young people through In Your Faith and redeveloping Faith Youth Manchester.

In February we discussed 'What Faith Says About Disability'. This addressed questions of: What can faith groups do improve accessibility to places of worship? What do the Holy Books say about working with/caring for disabled people? How could people of faith better support disability groups? We welcomed speakers from Manchester Disabled People Access Group and GMCDDP. There was a recognition of increasing pressures on disabled people and a commitment to challenge injustices wherever possible.

In March, 'What Faith Says About Sustainable Environment' addressed questions of: What do the Holy Books say about caring for the environment? What can faith groups do to reduce their carbon footprint? How could people of faith better support the

climate change agenda? We welcomed Caroline Downey, Director of MERCi and Zahid Hussain, Eco-Mosque Project, Salford University who led the discussion.

Laughter Yoga Raves

We ran four of these at MMC during the year in August, November, January and March, in partnership with Feelgood Communities CIC. The Centre was packed as participants experienced this unique form of gentle exercise incorporating a willingness to laugh, plus yogic breathing (Pranayama). The sessions are not based on jokes, but are based on the concept of laughing for no reason except that it is good for us. With a sense of playfulness, this soon leads to real laughter! Robin Graham, a certified Laughter Yoga Leader Trainer, led the sessions and we plan to continue these into the next year.

Faith Community Development Course

One of the most exciting projects of the year was the delivery of this accredited course. Held at Manchester Multifaith Centre, it attracted 12 participants from five different faiths: Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism.

The 12 sessions covered the principles and values of community development, its practical application, equality and diversity, faith, leadership, legal obligations and much more. Participants found their values challenged, skills sharpened and their confidence heightened as well as enjoying learning about other faith perspectives.

Evaluations showed a sharp improvement in abilities:

	Before Course	After Course
Ability to plan and organise for Faith Community Development	3.5	7.5
Confidence in supporting development of social/ community action projects	5.5	8.5

Examples of participant evaluation comments:

“I appreciated the opportunity to study and learn in depth about the different topics covered in the Units and particularly enjoyed the Leadership Unit and also learning about equality and diversity,

different faiths, and recent legislation requirements. I particularly valued the opportunity to reflect on my own faith and faith values.”

“I learnt to respect a person’s faith and belief even if it challenges your own personal beliefs. Every one is entitled to believe in what they feel is right for them. To have the patience and understanding to value one another including their faith and practices.”

“I really enjoyed the course and I felt that the trainer went above and beyond his role to ensure that all the students were clearly informed. I would highly recommend the training that the Faith Network 4 Manchester deliver and would like to be kept informed of any other training events. Thank you so much.”



Faith Community Development Course participants in discussion and workshop

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, NHS, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and the Crown Prosecution Service.

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 to become a 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. The groups meet on a quarterly basis and these meetings are hosted and chaired by groups in rotation. The launch event of National Interfaith Week 2012 in Greater Manchester was themed 'Rings of Faith' and we were very pleased to have footballer Fabrice Muamba as part of the event. The event focused on how sport can link communities following the huge success of the Olympic Games. Participants gave extremely positive feedback including: "Some great role models in our communities", "Fabrice's story was very inspiring" and "Very well organised and very interesting with excellent networking opportunities",

Community Engagement in Manchester

FN4M has continued to work with a number of networks under the umbrella of Macc, including youth, learning and skills, health, children & families, environment, and BME, to design a model of engagement within the voluntary community and faith sector. www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/involving-communities.

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.

Manchester Transforming Local Infrastructure (TLI) Programme

FN4M has been a key partner of the Manchester TLI programme throughout the process of Office of Civil Society scheme. Manchester was awarded just under £400,000 to support infrastructure redesign across the City.

www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/transforminglocalinfrastructure



FN4M Chair, Bob Day, along with Executive members Jonny Wineberg and Warren Elf, met with Jewish Leadership Course participants in February

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 and AGM. www.interfaith.org.uk

Faith Network 4 Manchester



Annual Report

Financial Statement

for the year

1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013

Prepared by **Rabbi Warren Elf**
FN4M Treasurer

Independently examined and approved by

Tony Simmons

Signed.....

Faith Network for Manchester Income and Expenditure
(for the year 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013)

FN4M Expenditure 2012/2013

Staffing: Core work of admin, co-ordination, etc ¹	10,175.00
In Your Faith Sessional Payments ²	105.00
MACC TLI ³	9,720.00
Training Course ⁴	3,000.00
Hospitality ⁵	76.25
Rent, Deposit and Keys ⁶	5,465.00
Office Equipment and Stationery ⁷	557.91
Resources ⁸	2,604.32
Furniture ⁹	3,090.56
Travel and Expenses ¹⁰	762.58
Conferences ¹¹	172.00
Website Domain	65.96
Subscriptions ¹²	70.00
Sundries	80.21
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Total Expenditure **£35944.79**

FN4M Income 2012/2013

Manchester City Council/MACC ¹³	8,950.00
Donations ¹⁴	502.80
MACC TLI ¹³	10,000.00
GMPA ¹⁵	797.50
Bank Interest	27.46
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Total Income **£20277.76**

Excess of Expenditure over Income **£15667.03**

Cash in bank at start of year	£23,311.40
Less Deficit for year	<u>£15,667.03</u>

Cash in bank at end of year **£ 7644.37**

Notes to the Accounts

1 Fees primarily paid to SupremeJC Consultancy Limited for administrative and representative functions of FN4M, including website and database management, e-mail and other communication with our contacts, attendance at designated meetings and required administrative work for and from those meetings.

2 'In Your Faith' was the schools' project we ran as part of the Manchester City Council Grant, under the 'Prevent' banner. This figure is £105 paid for sessions as part of the In Your Faith project from the previous year that was only invoiced to us in June 2012.

3 The MACC TLI figures relate to the Transforming Local Infrastructure programme that MACC subcontracted to FN4M. We received £10,000 over the last financial year for this and paid out £9,720 to those who delivered the work on our behalf, keeping a proportion for administrative costs.

4 This figure was for the Community Development Training Course that we delivered as part of our Awards for All grant from the previous year. The course ran from December 2012 to March 2013.

5 The figure for hospitality is the cost of food and refreshments at the MMC Launch.

6 This represents the cost of renting the Manchester Multifaith Centre since 1st August 2012 at £600 per month, the deposit and the cost of extra sets of keys. This was financed through a large donation the previous year.

7 This figure represents the cost of office equipment, stationery and other costs incurred in setting up the office at the Manchester Multifaith Centre.

8 These are the resources we have purchased to set up the Resource Centre. This was financed through the Awards for All grant received in the previous financial year.

9 This is the cost of tables, chairs, bookcases and cupboards for the Multifaith Centre. This was financed through the Awards for All grant received in the previous financial year.

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

11 The figure for Conferences comprises the cost of delegate participation at the Interfaith Network UK Conference.

12 This figure represents two years of subscriptions for membership of the Interfaith Network UK, one year having been invoiced and paid late, after the end of the previous financial year.

13 This is grant money from Manchester City Council via MACC for FN4M's engagement and participation in a variety of strategic forums and as a result of our role within MACC (Manchester Alliance for Community Care).

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

15 This is money that was agreed by GMPA towards the cost of the previous year's If...If...If... Conference for Greater Manchester Interfaith organisations.

FN4M Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2013

Assets

Cash in Bank at 31 March 2013	£7,644.37
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Total Assets	£7,644.37
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Liabilities

Awards for All Grant Repayment:	357.00
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Consultancy	350.00
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Total Liabilities	£707.00
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<u>Excess of Assets over Liabilities</u>	£6937.37
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Represented by:

Donations(£6600 restricted for MMC rent)	6600.00
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Other funds	337.37
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'Other funds' are unrestricted funds available for FN4M for general or other use.