

Since the New Year the Derby Deanery has seen two ecumenical/inter-faith events
In its parishes:

Firstly a “Wine tasting evening was organized by St. Georges, Old Normanton, parish
on March 4th.The evening was led by Tony Prior, who is a member of the Justice and
Peace Group. He enlightened us all about the origin and production of a selection of
Fair-trade Wines .There was also a talk by Rosy Townsend, again from the Justice and
Peace Group, about the work and lives of some of the fair-trade traders that she has
met. Ralph gave some information about how we can help, in a small way, the traders
– by opening a Fair-trade Savings Account. Money deposited in the account will only
be used to support ethical enterprises in the UK, like Café direct and Equal Exchange,
who pay a fair price to producers in developing countries. There were 39 people from
local parishes who came to sample the wares! and £85 was raised for CAFOD.

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Our second event was a ‘Food 4 Thought’- initiated by The Forum of Faiths for Derby,
which helps to bring people of different faiths together to learn more about each
other:

Madeleine Bridges, through the Forum of Faiths, organized a lunch time

Food 4 Thought event at Our Lady of Lourdes, Mickleover.

The theme she chose was Buddhist as this tied in with the parish decision to Connect2
Cambodia with CAFOD. The event was advertised throughout the Deanery and there
was a good response from the parishes around Derby. In all there were about 45
people present. David Callow from the Forum, who is a Buddhist himself, talked to us
about the different strands of Buddhism - Mahayana, Theraveda , Tibetan and
Nichiren . He showed us a Buddhist urn for encasing ashes, a Theraveda Buddha
loaned by Phil Henry – Multi Faith director, prayer beads belonging to David himself
and prayer flags used by the Tibetan Buddhists to fly from their homes to remind them
to pray.

David’s talk was followed by a meal prepared by staff and volunteers from the Forum
of Faiths. It was enjoyed by everyone, and as always, it was accompanied by some
lively conversations!



We plan to hold another food 4 Thought event in the near future, centered around the Hindu faith, in this way we combine ecumenism with a little inter-faith work and we learn about ourselves, our fellow Christians and our faith neighbours.

Sandra Endsor

