

Editorial



The main article this month: 'Together on the wings of unity' (page 4) reports on the deep friendship and dialogue which continues with our Muslim brothers and sisters. Readers will remember how Wings of Unity was born in July 2016 with students from the Islamic Centre of England led by Dr Mohammad Shomali when they visited the Sophia University at Loppiano, Italy (See New City June 2017)

Since the inauguration of this innovative project, various visits have taken place, which show that when mutual love is put at the heart of everything, God intervenes, deep relationships are born, and real dialogue emerges.

The Focolare here in the UK is also enjoying regular meetings with Dr Shomali and some of his family and students. Every six weeks we meet at either the Islamic Centre of England, based in London or at the Focolare Centre for Unity in Welwyn Garden City. There are about sixteen of us in total. First of all we have an informal chat over a shared meal. This is followed by a more formal discussion on a prepared topic. To date we have discussed Muslim and Christian perspectives on: humility; emptying ourselves (as the key to effective dialogue); truthfulness and justice; and engaging with the scriptures. It is an opportunity to learn from one another and develop a real sense of being a family together. I find that dialogue with another faith not only helps me to better understand that faith, but also deepens the knowledge and understanding of my own faith and culture.

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Photo by Jacqi Dunbar

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New City is an expression of the Focolare Movement, which takes as its inspiration Jesus' prayer to the Father "May they all be one" (Jn 17: 21). Over the last seven decades Focolare has grown from a small community of around five hundred in Trent, northern Italy, to a world-wide community of several hundred thousand people of all ages and backgrounds. It has also spread beyond the confines of the Roman Catholic Church, to many other Christian traditions, to other faiths and people of good will.

New City works to promote mutual understanding and respect through dialogue. Together with our readers we want to discover how to 'build bridges' in the different sectors of society and in personal life. We are convinced that dialogue, based on mutual love, is the only way to build a more united world which is based on universal values such as justice, equality, truth and peace.