

Editorial

Much of this month's magazine is concerned with dialogue. Not a surprise really, considering New City's raison d'être is to build unity through dialogue!



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I particularly like the project that Keith Pennington was involved in, which included Muslims, Christians and Humanists: 'Towards better disagreement!' (page 6). New City has reported on Muslim/Christian dialogue on a number of occasions, but never this fascinating combination, which gives atheists and agnostics an opportunity to add their penny's worth to the conversation.

Before 'retiring', my work as a Religious Education specialist brought me into contact, both locally and nationally, with the British Humanist Association (BHA). I made some very good friends there and discovered that they had some very useful contributions to make to the whole area of Religious Education in our state schools, here in the UK. In the end, when friendships are forged, misunderstandings and prejudices begin to fall away. As Keith Pennington writes: 'As we talked, we learnt that this media image of the "typical" did not fit anyone, whether they are Muslim, Christian or Humanist. We are simply human beings who care about the world in which we live and want to build something better for the future. What we achieved over the five weeks was the beginning of a path that hopefully will lead to better understanding of others in our communities.'

I also like the title of Keith's article: 'Towards better disagreement'. It is the title of a book by Paul Hedges. Dialogue doesn't necessarily lead to unity of thought. In the end it is more about the way we dialogue, rather than whether we agree or disagree.

Paul Gateshill

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.