

Israel / Palestine

As a result of our meeting with Mike Penning M.P. and other meetings I wrote to the Chief Rabbi about the illegal settlement building in the occupied territories. Although it contained my own views I trust it reflected the feelings of many of many of our members. The emails of support I received would suggest this. The responses from both the Chief Rabbi's office and the Israeli Embassy were disappointing, and the unwillingness to comment deafening in its silence. I had quite a careful and thoughtful reply from Mike Penning. We are considering how to move on re. this issue.

Interfaith

Margaret Slynn (Grove Hill) and I visited the House of Commons with others from the Sharing of Faiths Group (Dacorum) in June, at the invitation of Mike Penning. This was a fascinating visit with an interesting group of people, including a young man from Indonesia who calls himself a Catholic Buddhist.

National Interfaith Week

It is National Interfaith week 15 – 21 November and we hope to have an event during that time.

Two points I would like the Council to consider.

- 1) Now we are unfortunately no longer able to have the Amnesty International campaign at Christmas, should we consider another way of showing our support for prisoners of conscience during this period? It brings so much hope to people who feel alone and forgotten.

- 2) We are a wealthy parish. Do we give enough of our income to people and causes beyond ourselves?
I know some parishes, some less well off than we are, who allocate a fixed percentage of their income for this. I suppose the question I am asking is:
Do we look outward enough?
I realise that many of our parishioners give a tremendous amount of their time and energy to causes such as DENS and others, but these are very generous and motivated individuals. Should we be doing more as a whole community?

Richard Dodd
J&P Coordinator