

Monday 22nd February 2010

Jonathan Brown and Izzy Harris, Riding Lights Theatre Company

Riding Lights Theatre Company has been based in York for over 32 years. The company's work is wide ranging and has embraced co-productions at York Theatre Royal and tours to some of the country's major theatres as well as community work in schools, prisons and churches. Much of the work within local communities is supported in a number of ways by people providing voluntary services - from families opening their homes to people organising and publicising performances. In addition, the company is supported financially by regular, personal donations from nearly 2,000 people nationwide.

Jonathan Brown, General Manager for Riding Lights will be joined by Izzy Harris, Touring Theatre Administrator for the Company and the latest Riding Lights Roughshod Company - which is entirely comprised of volunteer actors - to give a talk, illustrated with performance, on the important role that volunteers make to the work of one of the UK's most successful independent theatre companies.



Monday 1st March 2010

Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal OBE

Inderjit Bhogal is a leading Theologian, Methodist minister and former President of the Methodist Conference. He is currently the CEO of the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum. His work in interfaith relations was recognised with an OBE in the 2005 New Year's Honours list. Inderjit's recent interfaith activities include being a leading figure within the City of Sanctuary movement, which began in October 2005 in Sheffield. City of Sanctuary is a movement to build a culture of hospitality for people seeking sanctuary in the UK.



In September 2007, with the support of Sheffield City Council and over 70 local community organisations, Sheffield became the UK's first official 'City of Sanctuary' — a city that takes pride in the welcome it offers to people in need of safety. There are now City of Sanctuary initiatives in 15 towns and cities around the country.

Monday 8th March 2010

Revd Dr Philip Bee, Director of The Oastler Centre

Born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, but brought up in York and then the South-East, Philip studied Geology at Bristol University, before working in Corporate Finance for the International Tin Council, Tenneco and British Gas in London during the 1980s. Trained as a Methodist minister at The Queen's College Birmingham in the early 1990s, he developed a keen interest in interfaith dialogue and undertook a PhD in Ecological Theology in addition to the ordinary studies associated with ministerial formation. He was ordained in 1996 and served three churches in Coventry whilst acting as Chaplain at the University of Warwick. He became Superintendent Minister of the Huddersfield East circuit of the Methodist Church in 2001, completing his appointment there in August 2006. Philip was appointed Director to the Oastler Centre in September 2006 and has since been working to develop work that will assist churches and Christians of all persuasions to engage their faith more fully with economic life in Leeds.



Monday 15th March 2010

David Efird, Provost of Vanburgh College

David Efird is a Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of York. He teaches Philosophical Theology and Theological Ethics on the University's new MA in Philosophy, Theology, and Ethics. Some of the research questions he is working on in these areas are: Jesus is a person having two natures united one to the other; can we understand the Eucharistic bread and wine in the same way? Would it have been morally right for Abraham to have killed Isaac if God had not withdrawn his command to Abraham to sacrifice Isaac?



Monday 22nd March 2010

Revd Stuart Petty, Senior Chaplain York Hospitals

Stuart Petty is the Senior Chaplain at York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. He has been at the Trust for two years and prior to this appointment was a full time Hospital Chaplain in the Black Country, at Walsall and Wolverhampton. York Hospitals have a team of two full time chaplains, (currently at time of writing have three sessional chaplains) and over 30 volunteer ward visitors.

