

Programme 2010

This series will be four evenings with a different format from the usual lectures. The focus will be on talking together with Hindus and Sikhs about the relationship between their faiths and Christianity. Each event will begin with a short presentation by the speaker, followed by dialogue with the chair:

Revd Dr John M Parry,
and then with the audience.

Thursday 7th October:

Shaunaka Rishi Das
'Hindu Perceptions of God'

Thursday 14th October:

Dr Sharada Sugirtharajah
'Living as a Hindu in Twenty-first Century
Britain'

Thursday 21st October:

Dr Indarjit Singh CBE, JP
'Sikh Perceptions of God'

Thursday 28th October:

Charanjit Ajit Singh
'Living as a Sikh in Twenty-first Century
Britain'

About our Speakers

John Parry is on the staff of Northern College, Manchester. He is now a minister of the United Reformed Church, though was originally ordained into the Church of Bangladesh. His field is Missiology and World Faiths, primarily Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism, thanks mainly to experiences of work in Bangladesh and Southall in West London. John has contributed to a number of publications and is author of *The Word of God is Not Bound*, (Centre for Contemporary Christianity, Bangalore), a history of the encounter of Sikhs and Christians in India and the UK.

Shaunaka Rishi Das is Director of the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, an independent Centre of the University of Oxford, and founder and trustee of Bhaktivedanta College, Belgium. He has practised as a vaishnava priest since 1982 and has been a member of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness since 1979. He is Convenor of ISKCON's Interfaith Commission and has served as an executive member of the Interfaith Network UK and as Chairman of the Northern Ireland Interfaith Forum. He is also a broadcaster and lecturer.

Sharada Sugirtharajah is Senior Lecturer in Hindu Studies in the School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion at the University of Birmingham. Her research interests include colonialism and religion, women and spirituality, religious pluralism, and diasporic Hinduism. Her publications include chapters in edited volumes, journal articles, entries in reference works, and contributions to resource packs on Hinduism. She is the author of *Imagining Hinduism: A Postcolonial Perspective* (Routledge, 2003).

Indarjit Singh is a nationally recognised journalist and broadcaster and a regular contributor to BBC's *Thought for the Day*. He is Editor of *The Sikh Messenger*. In 1989 he became the first non-Christian to be awarded the UK Templeton Prize 'for the furtherance of spiritual and ethical understanding'. In 1991 he received the Interfaith Medallion for services to religious broadcasting. He was appointed OBE in 1996 and CBE in January 2008.

Charanjit Ajit Singh is Chair of the International Interfaith Centre, Oxford and one of the Vice Presidents of the World Congress of Faiths. She lectures internationally and has contributed to many publications, including the book *Wisdom of Sikhism*, (One World Publishers, Oxford). She has experience in voluntary work in community cohesion and equalities and inter-faith matters. She is a radio & TV broadcaster.

Is there a true faith?

Is there one God, or do we all have our own?

How should people of different faiths relate to one another?

Why does religion often seem to divide rather than reconcile people?

Does religion have anything relevant to say to modern society?

Does your faith make you think?

Are you challenged by what other people believe?

Is your sacred ground exclusively owned?

Do you own your prejudices?

Do you have more questions than answers?

Then the Carrs Lane
Dialogues in Faith
ARE FOR YOU!

If you have not found it easy to discuss issues like these, this series of events at Carrs Lane is for **You!**

Carrs Lane has a long tradition of being on the 'open' wing of the Church, and in the past has played a prominent part in the development of the Civic Gospel.

The Church has a continuing concern for social justice and dialogue between people of different faiths.

Past Lectures have provided a platform for lively debate on liberal and unconventional views and an environment where such questions can be explored without embarrassment. The purpose of this series is to inform our understanding of faith and belief in our richly diverse society, to challenge stereotypes and to encourage dialogue.

We invite you to join us for this year's Dialogues, confident that your mind will be stretched and your imagination quickened. Whatever your background or faith, you are most welcome.

Do come along!



The events will take place at Carrs Lane Church (by Marks and Spencer)

6.00 to 7.30 pm,

including time for questions and discussion.

Coffee and tea will be available beforehand.

Tickets **£5.00** per lecture

For further information, contact us on 0121 643 6151, or office@carrslane.co.uk or see our website www.carrslane.co.uk.

Carrs Lane CHURCH CENTRE

Dialogues in Faith

2010

Carrs Lane
United Reformed
Church
Birmingham

