



# Swanswell Festival Report



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# The Swanswell Festival Report

## PREFACE

The Swanswell Festival was organised as part of the UK City of Culture celebrations held in Coventry.

The UK City of Culture is a competition run by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS) every four years. The winning city benefits from increased profile; business investments and opportunities to support the local community in multiple ways. Coventry won the [2021 UK City of Culture](#) bid.

As part of the year-long celebrations, the city of Coventry marked a special community led festival 'Faith' with a host of spectacular and innovative events on the weekend of Friday 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Working closely with the City of Culture festivities was a grassroots led project by the Coventry Sacred Space Initiative Group which organised the Swanswell Festival held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The one-day event held at Swanswell Park was an insight into the rich cultural life of the city's diverse communities and cultural experiences which helps to offer the city's unique identity.

We are grateful to the **National Lottery Reaching Communities Programme** who supported the funding of the Swanswell Festival.



*Cllr Abdul Khan, Deputy Leader, Coventry City Council  
and Chair, Coventry Sacred Space Initiative Group.*

## COVENTRY SACRED SPACE INITIATIVE



**In early 2019, a group of faith leaders and community volunteers based around the inner-city of Coventry's Swanswell Park came together to discuss local regeneration in the area.**

They recalled their positive childhood memories and their personal and community journeys since the 1950s, when communities had little but still supported each other. This was the spark that ignited the Coventry Sacred Space Initiative.

In mid-2019, the Coventry Safety and Security Working Group, originally tasked to support the security of places of worship, was established with the support of Cllr Abdul Khan, Deputy Leader of Coventry City Council. This became the coordinating Group for the Initiative.

In January 2020, a [Summit](#) with delegates from over 100 organisations formally inaugurated the Initiative. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic suspended further work.

Currently, our plan is to build the Initiative through securing human and financial resources, crafting a Business Plan and establishing a legal entity to drive forward the Initiative. We were pleased to receive a development grant from the National Lottery and working with the Coventry Multi-Faith Forum to progress the work forward.

## OUR VISION

- To make Swanswell Park and Pool the new 'Central Park' of Coventry, with a range of activities for the whole family: a space that will be buzzing with music, art, and wellbeing activities.
- To celebrate the Swanswell Park district's 400-year history as Coventry's 'arrivals hall' for new communities in need of sanctuary and a new home: French Protestant, Jewish, Irish, African, Caribbean, Asian, Eastern European, and Middle Eastern.
- To create and maintain a space for creativity, hope and healing, where voluntarism and innovation are incubated, cultivated, and harvested for the good of all.
- To improve local living standards and the daily experience of residents. A welcoming space that attracts business, tourists, students, and everyone living in Coventry.
- To help address local social problems such as drug use, litter, and antisocial behaviour.

Nothing will happen without the support of those who live, work or worship in central Coventry. We therefore decided that a necessary first step was to invite local people to learn about the Initiative and contribute to our planning. And what better way to do so than through a Festival in Swanswell Park, the very heart of our area of focus!

So, on a cloudy afternoon on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021, around 250 people from many different backgrounds came together to hear presentations, listen to music, enjoy good food, try out yoga and contribute to discussions on matters of local importance such as mental wellbeing and protecting the environment.



*Asian Christians and Ukrainian performers.*

## SWANSWELL FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

The purpose of the Swanswell Festival was to raise the profile of the Coventry Sacred Space Initiative and help bring people together, share their knowledge and experiences and work toward building a peaceful community. Our key goals included:

- Access local communities with a view to exploring their hopes and aspirations and seeking information about how well the initiative would address local needs.
- Honour the 'ARRIVAL/WELCOME' area of Coventry and imagine/design activities that transform the concept of Initiative into a reality.
- Celebrate and Exhibit diversity of cultures, faiths/beliefs, communities, generations thereby reinforce cohesion and harmony in and between communities.
- Create an opportunity to discuss and debate matters (e.g., climate and environment, needs of young people, the Initiative, mental and physical wellbeing) that impact the lives of people across the city and beyond.

Organising of the Swanswell Festival was complicated by the fact that there was engagement with a multiple number of community organisations who were working together for a common goal. Many of them were working together for the first time.

All partners are committed to the Coventry Sacred Space Initiative, but the festival was the first time they had to put their ideals into action and organise a joint activity. Despite the novelty of the occasion, we were proud that we managed to pull together music and dance performances, sporting displays and activities to promote physical and mental wellbeing.

The festival followed two days of activities in individual faith communities under the banner of the Coventry City of Culture 'Faith' weekend. This gave the festival a much higher prominence in the city's calendar.

Although it was a wonderful experience to be part of the greater City of Culture events, there was an added challenge as many people were tired from arranging and participating in events on the Friday / Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> September 'Faith' event.

This, together with working in the open park area, without any storage or fixed stage facilities, was difficult. Our difficulties were further heightened with the poor weather which resulted in some people staying away or leaving early. The consequence of this was that we sadly had to take the decision to cancel the grand closing ceremony with the Pangaea drummers.

The festival was opened by **Cllr Abdul Khan** – Deputy Council Leader and Chair of Sacred Space Initiative Group in the presence of Lord Mayor of Coventry, Cllr John McNicholas and accompanied by Lady Mayoress. *See Appendix 1 for detailed programme.*





The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Coventry



Cllr Abdul Khan

Cllr Abdul Khan remarked with the following words: *“Here we are today, sat in Swanswell Park, celebrating and exhibiting our diversity of cultures, faiths and beliefs and thereby reinforcing cohesion. I am proud to welcome you all to our Festival.”*

Westminster was represented by the local MPs **Zarah Sultana MP** (Coventry South) and **Taiwo Owatemi MP** (Coventry North West).

The full-day event was packed with performances, cultural intrigue and significant statements offered by a variety of speakers.

The Lord Mayor of Coventry, **Cllr John McNicholas** was proud to be part of the festival stating:

*“The strength of Coventry lies in its diversity. Over many years, our city has welcomed people from every part of the world. We would not be the place we are today if we did not open our doors to others and make them part of our lives.*

*In our beautiful city we see temples, gurdwaras, churches, mosques, and a variety of other places of worship. We see celebrations from all cultures, and we enjoy incredible music, dance, cuisine, sport, and art.*

*I am so proud that these cultural ‘gifts’ have been brought to our city and that they are being shared with us. We are so fortunate - and this year we are sharing that fortune with the rest of the country as we celebrate our role as UK City of Culture and show everyone the gifts diversity brings. Diversity is something to be treasured and admired, but it is also something that has to be worked at...” (See Appendix 2 for full speech).*

There was a special reflection by **Osman Sheikh**, Chair of Coventry Multi-Faith Forum followed by the planting of a legacy tree.



*The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress with Osman Sheikh and family*

Mr Sheikh spoke about his own faith of Islam and further examined the teachings and values of diverse faiths and secular belief systems found in our society.

*“I begin with the opening verses of Surah Ar-Rahman from the Quran. These verses remind us of our origin, the need to communicate effectively, to be compassionate and to see one another as family and not enemy. To maintain environmental balance and not to interfere in its natural order.*

*The Concepts of Karma and Dharma, Action and Reaction, are not just spiritual or religious deliberations but part of the laws of Nature. It’s amazing just how inter-connected we really are with other living creatures. There are clear similarities and differences. As humans, we also have that rich diversity.” (See Appendix 3 for full speech)*



*Diversity of people, dress, communities, culture and much more...*



More positively, the festival featured a wide range of different cultural elements whilst also tackling some pressing subjects of public concern. Activities included Chair yoga by Dr Jotangia, youth football from the Irish Catholic community and martial arts by GKR. Lively performances included a Ukrainian Choir, Bharat Natyam and Phase One Steel Band. An impromptu fusion of Yeh Dosti (a very famous Bollywood song) was performed by the Ukrainian Choir with their Asian Christian friends.

There were presentations and open discussions on Physical and Mental Wellbeing, The Role of Young People, and Environment and Climate Change. There were important messages on mental health from Rachael Kelly from Coventry and Warwickshire Mind and Fred Kratt of the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit with Anton Noble of Guiding Young Minds.

A full statement on crime and young people by Tom McNeil, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner can be found in *Appendix 4*:

*“The power of faith communities presents a wonderful opportunity to provide the community and support, and knits together the help, friendship, forgiveness, and guidance we need to provide young people being pulled into crime. I’m really pleased to see the Violence Reduction Unit take the role of faith communities seriously and thank you to everyone who is contributing to this.”*



*Jean Prescod, Event Team with Rachael Kelly, Coventry and Warwickshire Mind*



*Fred Kratt, WM Violence Reduction Unit (R) with Anton Noble, Guiding Young Minds*



*Dr Jotangia presenting a yoga session*



*Tony McNally, Climate Change Solutions*



*Karate for wellbeing*



*Guru Nanak Parkash Gurudwara  
Football Team*

**There were exhibits presented by faith and community groups.**



*Exhibition by TIA*



*Exhibition on Zoroastrianism*



*Bill Rattigan (Right) arranged an exhibition on the Bahá'i faith  
with Mehru Fitter of the Zoroastrian faith*





*The Legacy Tree:(L-R) **Zarah Sultana MP** (Coventry South),  
Lady Mayor and **Taiwo Owatemi MP** (Coventry North West)*

## **The Legacy Tree**

One of endearing symbols of the event was the planting of a tree to leave a legacy for the project and further highlight the role of the environment and how faith communities can play a pivotal role.

Voluntarism is at the heart of our vision for the Coventry Sacred Space Initiative. Many volunteers from different religious and cultural backgrounds worked together for the first time.

The diversity of community groups that performed for each other was unique, different and to be celebrated. It was gratifying to see a good level of attendance by VIPs over many hours, showing that Coventry Sacred Space is seen as a positive contribution to the City's future development.



## CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



As this is the year of climate change era and COP26 Conference in November 2021, it was pertinent that the event had a strong environmental element especially since we had an apt venue of an outside green space.

The different faith communities were adamant that faith has a lot to say about the importance of the environment and what we can do to help the planet. As a result, the different faith groups offered statements on their take of the 'Caring for the Environment.'

To see the individual statements of the different statements please go to the Together in Action website at [tia.org/gallery](https://tia.org/gallery) or please see Appendix 5.

## IN NUMBERS

- 23** Number of different nationality and ethnic communities' resident in Coventry attended.
- 8** Number of faith/ethnic groups who presented cultural performances.
- 15** Number of faith/ethnic groups + different traditions within faiths.
- 22** The number of volunteers who helped with the festival.
- 214** Number of volunteer hours worked before the festival.
- 314** Number of volunteer hours worked during the festival.
- 56** Number of volunteer hours worked after the festival.
- 6** Number of hours the festival lasted.
- 300** The number of free, nutritious vegetarian meals prepared by a local supplier and distributed to an appreciative crowd and other local people.
- 36** Number of 'Family Sports Bags' distributed to those who requested them, with the support of Sporting Equals, Think Active and Decathlon.



*Phase One Band*



*GKR Martial Arts*



*Ross and Mark Johnson*



*Young footballers from the Irish Catholic Community*

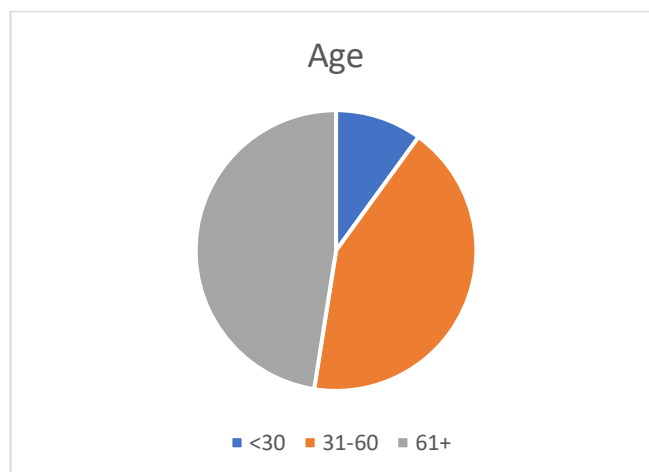
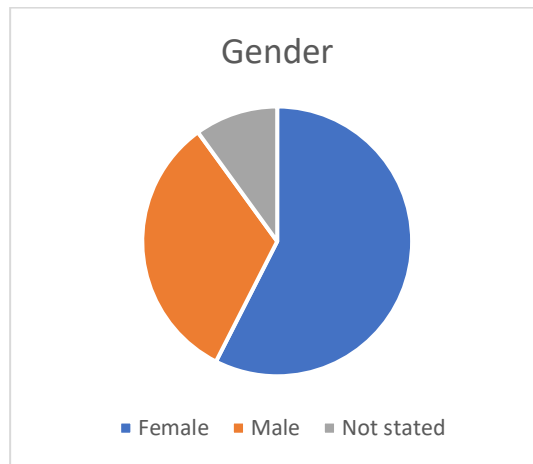
## SURVEY

As part of our development work, we also carried out a survey during the festival.

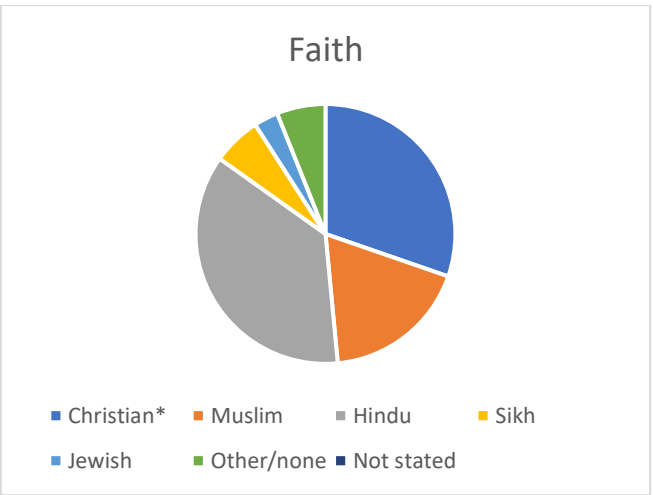
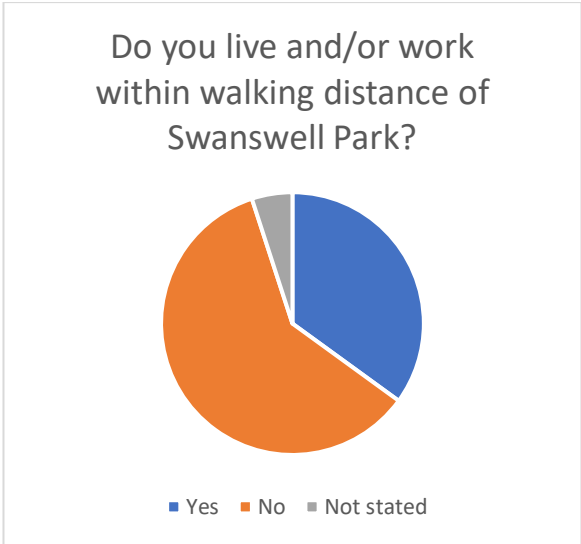
The survey was designed to gauge their views on the condition of Swanswell Park and Pool, the degree of community integration in Coventry, and the social challenges facing the area.

An analysis of the returns follows; although the sample was small, the analysis provides an illuminating snapshot of the perspectives of local people. It will assist us in developing a business plan for the further development of the Coventry Sacred Space Initiative.

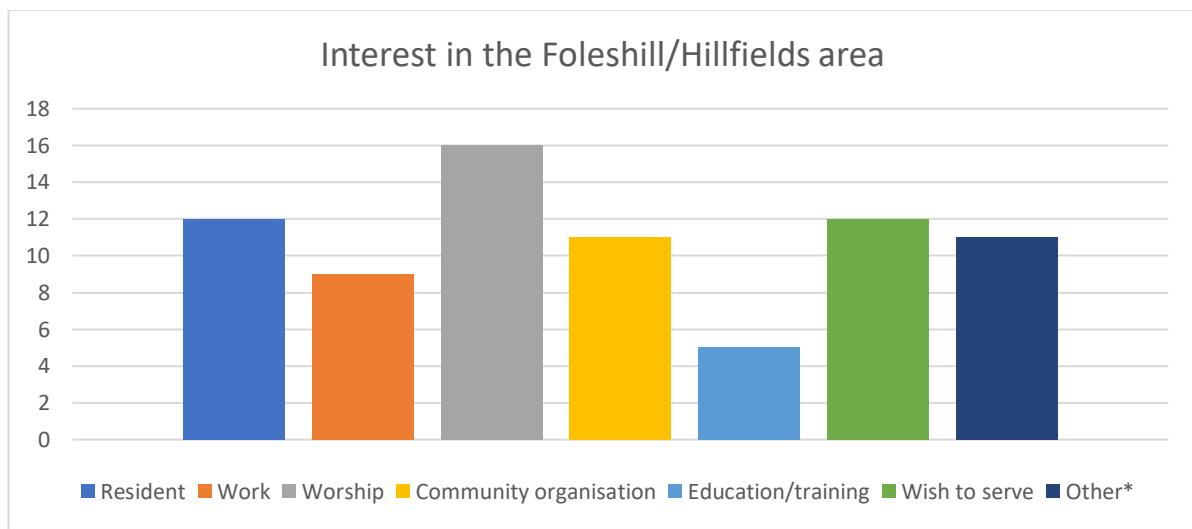
### Demographic breakdown of responses.







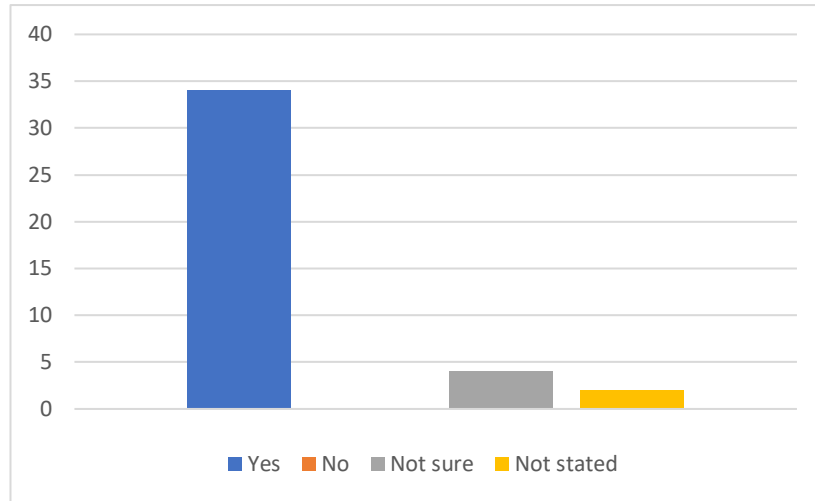
\* 2 Quaker, 2 C of E, 3 Indian Christian, 2 Orthodox, 1 Roman Catholic



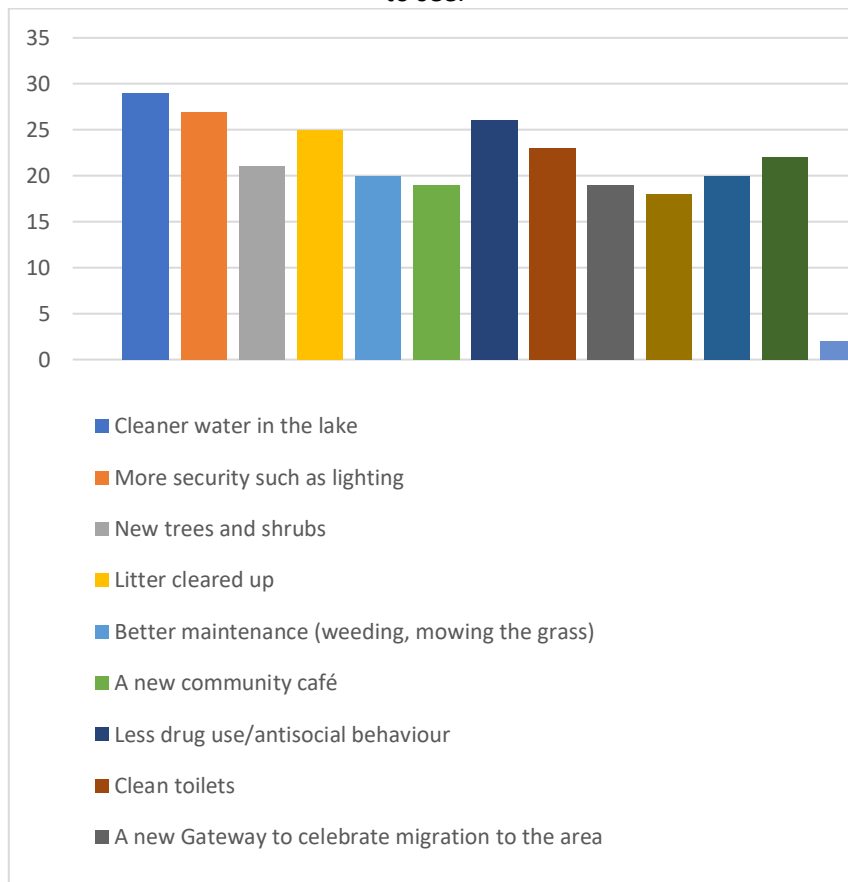
\* Responses included: "I live in Coventry and come to Foleshill for Indian food"; "Visitor" (2); "A general interest in this part of the city because of my work".

## Potential Improvements to Swanswell Park and Pool

Question: Do you think this area could be improved?

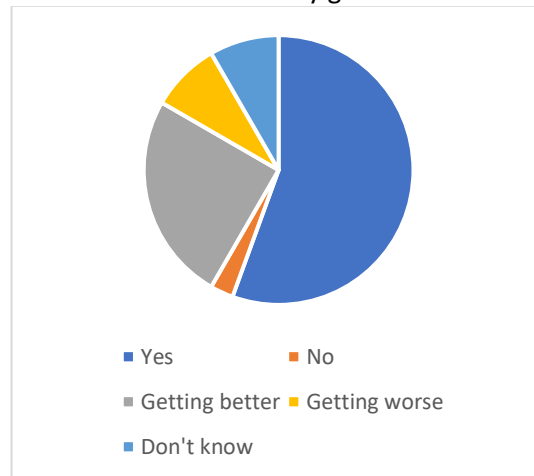


Question: Here are some ideas for improvements to Swanswell Park and its surroundings. Please put a tick against all those you would like to see.

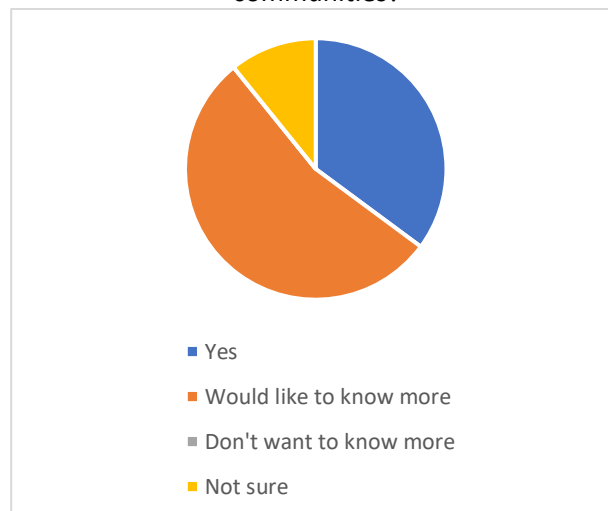


## Diversity in Coventry

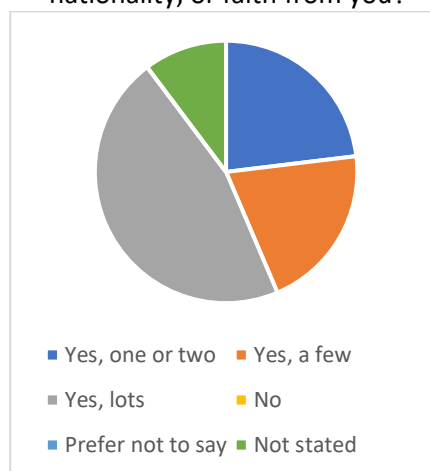
Question: Do you think people of different races, nationalities and faiths usually get on well in our city?



Question: Do you feel you know enough about other communities?

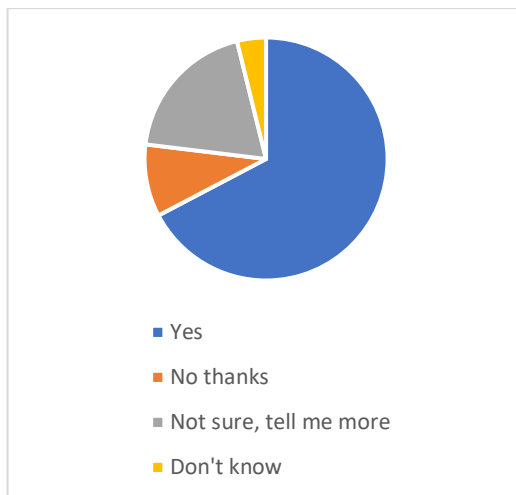


Question: Do you have friend or relatives of a different race, nationality, or faith from you?

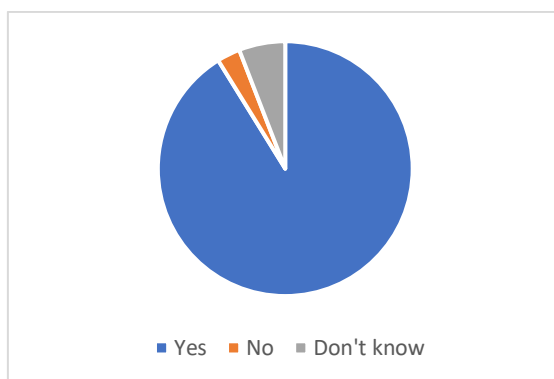


Question: Are you interested in getting involved in mixed community activities?

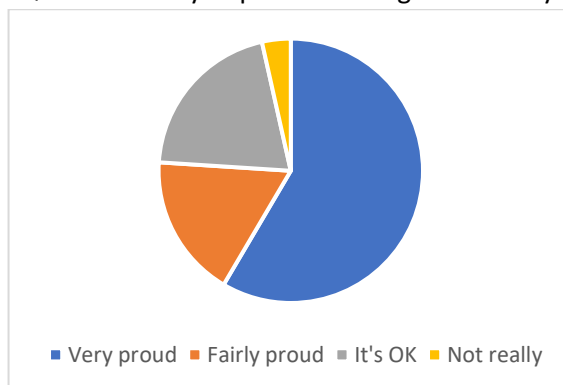




Question: Do you think Coventry City of Culture is a good chance for people to get to know each other?

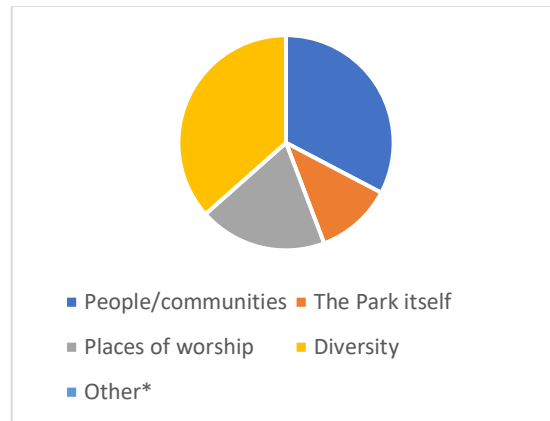


Question: Are you proud of living in Coventry?



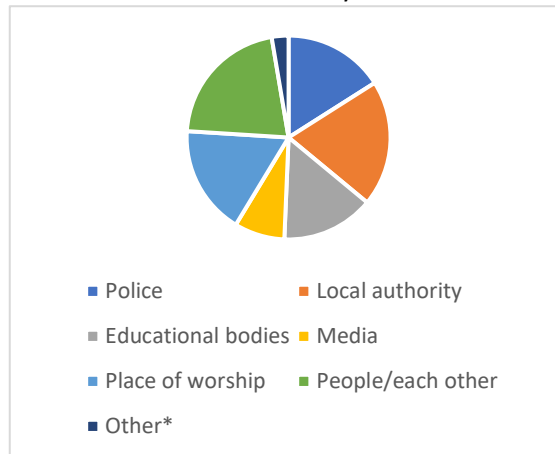
## Safety & Security

Question: What do you like about the area around Swanswell Park?



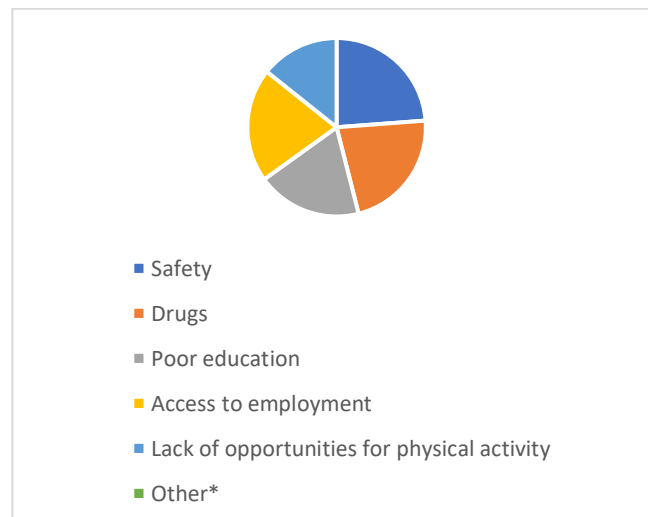
\* Responses included: "I was born here"; "It's friendly"; "Many aspects: friends, family, community, history, parks, nature, culture".

Question: Who could serve your needs better?



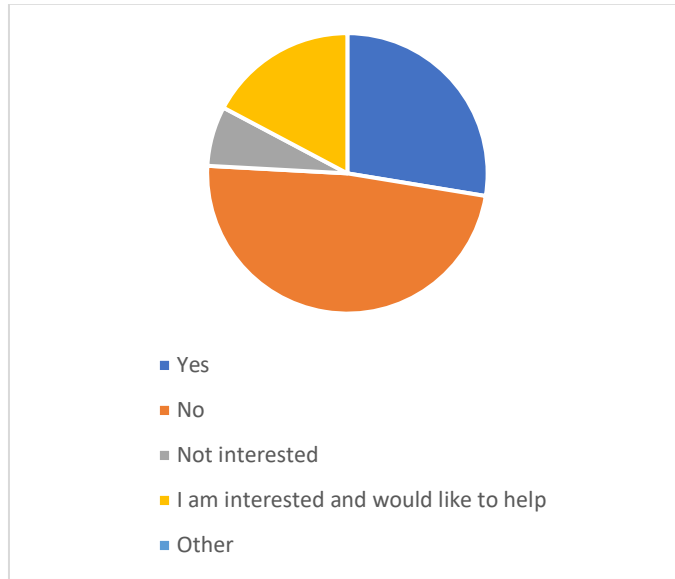
\* Responses included: "Politicians"; "More outreach"; "People need to know who to contact about issues".

Question: What concerns you most about the local area?

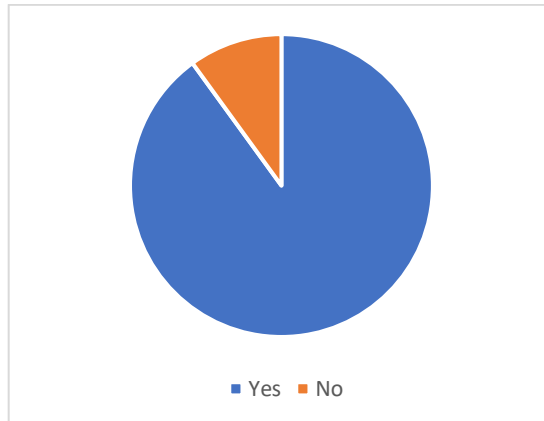


## Awareness of Coventry Sacred Space Initiative

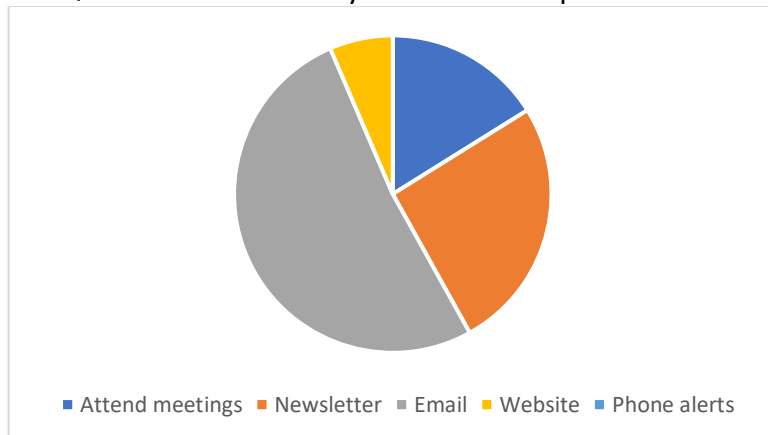
Question: Do you know about the Coventry Sacred Space Initiative?



Question: Would you like to be kept informed?



Question: How would you like to be kept informed?





## WHAT THEY SAID

As part of the event organisation, we also managed to interview people and get some feedback which would be offer a useful insight in addition to the survey.

Our host of the day **Ms Manjit Kaur** said that it was wonderful to see a whole host of participants who gave up their time to help the project.

In addition, the event has helped build relationships and rejuvenate old ones. *For longer interview, see Appendix 6.*



**We are part of the One Coventry Partnership, a platform for people and communities from all backgrounds to come together to help make ‘One Coventry’ – Our Coventry.**

### **The Coventry Sacred Space Initiative:**

- is broad based and community led,
- benefits the whole of Coventry
- is multifaceted e.g., sports, health, cohesion, art, culture, economic regeneration
- complements existing regeneration plans for the city
- is supported by diverse organisations within the community, public, voluntary, and business sectors

Other than the event itself, we got an insight from a local resident about their needs and how the project can help. She felt that practical steps around the park and clearance of litter and drugs would really make a difference. *For longer interview, see Appendix 7.*



### **The Very Revd John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry**

“It was a great day! I wish you every success with the Initiative.”

**Mehru Fitter MBE, Co-ordination Group member; Zoroastrian community representative**

“This was a brilliant start to the Sacred Space Initiative, which has provided us with food for thought. We now need to start thinking about the next event.”



*(L-R) Mehru Fitter, Osman Sheikh and Manjit Kaur*

## **FESTIVAL ORGANISERS**

Deepak Naik	-	Problem solving
Sanil Modessa	-	Logistics
Balbir Kaur	-	Refreshments
Avi Tordjman	-	Security
Manjit Kaur, Jean Prescod	-	Stage Management
Viraj Vora	-	Survey
Pareesh Solanki	-	Photography
Mehru Fitter	-	Faith stands
Fred Kratt	-	Debate facilitation
Nilesh Chubasama	-	Site maintenance
Jean Prescod, Jane Sault	-	The Legacy Tree
Warwick Hawkins, Pareesh Solanki	-	Report
Harry Cook, Jen Davies	-	Liaison with City of Culture
Julie Harrison	-	Liaison with West Midlands Police
Mohammed Bashir	-	Liaison with Coventry City Council

## **COVENTRY SACRED SPACE INITIATIVE**

The Initiative hosts a diversity of members from the community whose role will be to take the work forward in the coming years. The Initiative is currently managed by the Reference Group – see its *Terms of Reference, please see Appendix 8*. For Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee, please see Appendix 9.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following organisations and people for the support they gave the Swanswell Festival in so many ways.

- Christian Life Ministries
- City of Culture
- Coventry Jewish Reform Community
- Coventry Multi-Faiths Forum
- Coventry & Warwickshire Humanist Association
- Coventry City Council
- Deputy Leader, Coventry City Council
- Coventry Cathedral
- Community Forum
- Coventry Quakers
- Coventry Synagogue
- GNP Gurudwara
- Gospel Hall
- Grapevine – Coventry & Warwickshire
- Guru Nanak Parkash Gurudwara
- Jamia Mosque, Eagle St, Coventry
- Local Members of Parliament
- Lord Mayor of Coventry and Lady Mayoress
- MIND Coventry
- Methodist Central Hall
- Our Hillfields
- Pagan Federation in the West Midlands
- Pru Porretta, one of the 14 Coventry City of Culture ‘Lady Godivas’
- Puros Catering
- SACRE - Coventry & Warwickshire
- St Osburg Church Coventry
- Shree Krishna Mandir
- Sporting Equals, Think Active, Decathlon
- St Marks Church
- Violence Reduction Unit
- Voluntary Action Coventry
- Cllr David Welsh
- West Midlands Police
- West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner





We work with communities and their young people to build self-sustaining, flourishing environments in which self-belief and a 'can do' spirit delivers well-being for all through opportunities, justice, and hope. They will develop the capacity to identify, lead and enthuse others with 'can do' attitudes to be active leaders in their communities.

Capacity building will begin with reinforcing self-worth and an appreciation for: the worth of other people, cultures and backgrounds, our mutual interdependence, individual responsibilities, and rights. The aspiration of every person to live together with all others in harmony, with respect in the hope of a positive future.

The guiding principles for TiA's development: we will be to maintain the quality of our governance and management, our services and overall effectiveness to the highest standards of excellence.

TiA will:

- work with other organisations in a spirit of cooperation.
- seek to maintain a focus on innovation and flexibility through constant vigilance to identify new needs and being open to working in new ways.
- work especially with young people and younger adults to help them appreciate the value of the life they possess and of their ability and opportunity to make change happen for themselves, for others less able and their community.

**For further information please go to [TiATrust.Org](http://TiATrust.Org)**



**For further information, please contact:**

**Deepak Naik, Together in Action ([deepak.naik@ntlworld.com](mailto:deepak.naik@ntlworld.com))**

**Mohammed Bashir, Coventry City Council ([mohammed.Bashir@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:mohammed.Bashir@coventry.gov.uk))**

**TO SEE THE PHOTO GALLERY, PLEASE CLICK [tiatrust.org/gallery](http://tiatrust.org/gallery)**

## APPENDICES

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**12.30**

Cllr Abdul Khan

Dep. Council Leader & Chair, Sacred Space Initiative Group

**12.35**

Cllr John McNicholas, Lord Mayor of Coventry

Zarah Sultana MP, Coventry South

Tom McNeil, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner

**12.50**

Reflections - In memory of people, we have lost.

Osman Sheikh, Chair of Coventry Multi-Faith Forum

**12.55**

Legacy Tree

Symbol of solidarity by the faith and community groups linked to the SSIG

The Lady Mayoress and Zarah Sultana MP

will tie a golden ribbon to the pot housing our tree



PROUD TO BE A  
PRINCIPAL  
PARTNER



Sporting Equals  
Promoting ethnic diversity across sport & physical activity





### **PART 1: PHYSICAL & MENTAL WELLBEING**

**13:00** - Chair yoga with Dr Jotangia  
**13:25** - Football (Irish Catholic Community)  
**13:40** - Ukraine Choir  
**13:50** - Bharat Natyam

**14:00** - Discussion: Mental Wellbeing  
Rachel Kelly, Coventry & Warwickshire Mind  
*Lunch will be provided during this session*

**14:45** - Reflection - Faith and Mental Wellbeing

### **PART 2: THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

**14:50** - Gidda (Punjabi)  
**15:05** - Martial Arts (by GKR introduced by Quaker group)  
**15:20** - Phase-One Steel Band

**15:40** - Discussion and Interview  
Fred Kratt, West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit  
Anton Noble, Guiding Young Minds (GYM)

**16:10** - Reflection - Faith communities & empowering young people

### **PART 3: ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE**

**16:20** - Football (Girls -Sikh)  
**16:30** - Polish Community Choir  
**16:40** - Boxing Irish community

**17:00** - Discussion - Environment  
Tony McNally

**17:30** - Reflection - Faith and the Environment

**17:40** - Ghakha Sikh Community

**17:55** - Cycle of Life  
Wheat Field Jam (Parmjeet Bamrah, Anabell Febles, Mahandra Patel, Abraham Paddy Tetteh and Luke Weaver) (Part of God's Workshop: Of Clay and Straw - Pangaea Sculptors' Centre and Media Mania).

## Appendix 2: Lord Mayor of Coventry Speech



Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you so much for inviting me to such a wonderful event that reflects our city's beliefs so well.

The Sacred Space Initiative and the Swanswell Festival support our work as a welcoming multicultural city of sanctuary, giving our newest arrivals the support, they need and helping them to become a part of our city and build new lives. They help us to celebrate our many diverse cultures and faiths that bring so much to all our lives. They help us to bring communities together to make a stronger city, and they support our work in many areas, from promoting wellbeing to helping young people and the elderly.

It is so good to see today's event so well supported by all areas of the community – and such a packed and exciting programme. The strength of Coventry lies in its diversity. Over many years, our city has welcomed people from every part of the world. We would not be the place we are today if we did not open our doors to others and make them part of our lives.

In our beautiful city we see temples, gurdwaras, churches, mosques, and a variety of other places of worship. We see celebrations from all cultures, and we enjoy incredible music, dance, cuisine, sport, and art.

I am so proud that these cultural 'gifts' have been brought to our city and that they are being shared with us. We are so fortunate - and this year we are sharing that fortune with the rest of the country as we celebrate our role as UK City of Culture and show everyone the gifts diversity brings. Diversity is something to be treasured and admired, but it is also something that has to be worked at.

Sometimes those who come here need some extra help in being a part of our city. They need to be shown they are valued and just how welcome they are. We work very hard to provide that help and that assurance, but we could not do so without the support of many fantastic groups and their dedicated volunteers.

Thank you to everyone involved in today's event and in the work of the Sacred Space Initiative. And thank you to everyone here for your help during the pandemic and the way you have worked as a community to keep one another safe. There is still some way to go, but your efforts so far have made possible events like today – when we meet as one community.

Enjoy the day everyone, and my very best wishes to you all.

***Cllr John McNicholas, Lord Mayor of Coventry***

### Appendix 3: A Reflection by Osman Sheikh



As chair of Coventry Multi-Faith Forum, I have been asked to do a reflection that represents my own faith of Islam and also encompasses the teachings and values of diverse faiths and secular belief systems found in society.

I begin with the opening verses of Surah Ar-Rahman from the Quran. These verses remind us of our origin, the need to communicate effectively, to be compassionate and to see one another as family and not enemy. To maintain environmental balance and not to interfere in its natural order.

The Concepts of Karma and Dharma, Action and Reaction, are not just spiritual or religious deliberations but part of the laws of Nature. It's amazing just how inter-connected we really are with other living creatures. There are clear similarities and differences. As humans, we also have that rich diversity.

The lines between 'secular' and 'sacred' have become somewhat blurred. Our intentions, aspirations, speech, actions, delayed reactions and inaction all carry consequences. Covid-19 is a prime example. Scenes of chaos and human misery, portrayed on TV screens in a way never done before. People clamouring for medical help. Countless deaths amid helplessness and hopelessness. Fear etched on the faces of patients, relatives, medics and politicians.

We cannot talk about Covid and not commemorate all those affected by the uncharted journey of this pandemic. Those that fatally succumbed and those that have fully recovered. Those who were unable to complete final rites with their loved ones and those unable to grieve properly at their loss. Those who are enduring long-term impacts of Covid and still unsure about their future.

We salute the efforts of all those within the NHS, all grassroots activists, heroic volunteers at places of worship and community organisations, and all those that went beyond their call of duty. We give respect to those that stayed indoors and did whatever they could to help minimise virus transmission.

A prime example of loss of life is the Holocaust where millions of innocent Jewish men, women and children lost their lives. Another example 20 years ago is the horrific attacks in New York on September 11th. A bunch of evil idiots creating havoc on the twin towers that led to loss of life of nearly 3 thousand innocents. World leaders and allies responding with a war on terror that over 20 years has led to the loss of life of nearly a million innocent men, women and children across the world. Even today, millions of people are being persecuted because of their colour, religion or ethnicity. Many lives are being lost to genocide across the world.

On the flip side, Covid-19 has also had a positive impact. We've realised that prevention is better than cure. We now appreciate the importance of social distancing, treatment and vaccination. These shared experiences have helped develop affinity towards each other. A weak sense of belonging has begun to be replaced with a stronger sense of identity and ownership of common issues.

This weekend has seen a series of events in Coventry as part of its City of Culture status. Coventry is a globally recognised place of Sanctuary, Peace and Reconciliation. The City is celebrating the contributions of diverse communities and faiths that make the city so special. Each faith tradition and secular belief system has references to the topics just mentioned. Language is critical in the way we express ourselves, verbally and bodily. It can enhance the ability of others to understand us. In between, there are many factors that can influence us one way or the other.

Later today there will be a symbolic gesture in the form of the gift of a Legacy Tree demonstrating solidarity among faith and community groups and wider society. So, how can we serve the purposes enshrined in that gift? In recognition of the art our eyes and ears have enjoyed during these three days, I wish to share a quote attributed to Pablo Picasso, the artist. He said, "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

As global citizens, we need to be good role models. Show care, compassion, and respect for others. Protect the interests of our global family. The question we all need to ask ourselves is: "At personal and social levels, do we reflect more on our commonalities? Or do we focus more on our differences?"

I want to share a notice I came across some 40 years ago at a tea stall in Gujarat, India. The notice was to discourage people from asking for credit and to encourage customers to settle the amount due promptly. It said "Since man to man is so unjust, I have trusted so many, to my sorrow. So pay today, and I will trust you tomorrow."

The world follows a pre-ordained pattern. Humans as custodians of this planet have a responsibility towards the environment. To ensure we do not exploit resources. To behave justly and not interfere unjustly. To respect one another. To not allow our ego or greed to disrupt the "balance". We do not need mere slogans and empty promises. What we need is prompt and real action. We talk about Unity, Walking Together and Hope. We also need to walk the walk. We owe this to ourselves and our future generations.

I want to conclude with sentiments found in Hindu Vedic scripture. Other faiths and belief systems and traditions will also have similar references. It's in Sanskrit: *Wasu dhaiva Kutum bakam*. The whole Earth is One Family.

***Osman Sheikh, Chair, Coventry Multi-Faith Forum***



#### **Appendix 4: Tom McNeil, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner**



It's a privilege to be here. I'm representing the Police and Crime Commissioner, who I know genuinely cares and believes in the importance of faith communities in their compassionate leadership role in society. I know you're here today to discuss lots of important issues and hopefully with optimism, hope and passion. But of course, to harness that optimism, we need to recognise the major problems we face.

It is a great tragedy that we have lost people to violent crime in recent times – I wish we could have these human beings back – and we have to do everything we can together to tackle the issues that drive this crime, including poverty, mental ill health, challenging home environments including

issues such as domestic abuse and substance misuse, and lack of support for issues like learning needs and school exclusions.

The power of faith communities presents a wonderful opportunity to provide the community and support, and knits together the help, friendship, forgiveness, and guidance we need to provide young people being pulled into crime. I'm really pleased to see the Violence Reduction Unit take the role of faith communities seriously and thank you to everyone who is contributing to this.

My relationship with faith has always been a deeply positive one. I attended a diverse primary school with children representing multiple faiths, where I witnessed the powerful sense of belonging and pride children enjoyed with their families and their celebrations of faith – our assemblies often revolved around different celebrations and lessons, and I remember being in awe at witnessing some of the prayers and again the pride of their faith.

My grandmother came from Italy and was a devout Roman Catholic, and although it wasn't a faith shared by her children, the moral duties she took from her faith drove her to be the best mother and grandmother she could – she saw compassion from her religion as an essential driver of her work as an adult social carer.

My late grandfather came from Jamaica was not what I would call a religious man – he was quite stern, a little scary and wouldn't always share his emotions. But many years ago, when I was very young having real problems at home, he looked after me one night. He saw I hadn't washed my face properly and when he cleaned my face with a flannel, he said in a half smiling way "what would Jesus say if he saw your face like this?" It was a surprising thing to hear him say as he'd never discussed religion with me before, but it was a lovely moment, and a window into his tenderness and his moral foundations.

I say all of this, just to express my empathy with the profundity of the morality and compassion that so often comes from faith & therefore to express the PCC's commitment to faith groups, and the VRU's work with faith groups going forward and a beautiful foundation of our society and as a way of addressing some of our biggest challenges.

***Tom McNeil, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner***

## Appendix 5: Caring for the Environment



### CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

## Bahai



Reflect upon the inner realities of the universe, the secret wisdom involved, the enigmas, the inter-relationships, the rules that govern all. For every part of the universe is connected with every other part by ties that are very powerful and admit of no imbalance, nor any slackening whatever.

Every man of discernment, while walking upon the earth, feelth indeed abashed, inasmuch as he is fully aware that the thing which is the source of his prosperity, his wealth, his might, his exaltation, his advancement and power is, as ordained by God, the very earth which is trodden beneath the feet of all men. There can be no doubt that whoever is cognizant of this truth, is cleansed and sanctified from all pride, arrogance, and vainglory.

We cannot segregate the human heart from the environment outside us and say that once one of these is reformed everything will be improved. Man is organic with the world. His inner life moulds the environment and is itself also deeply affected by it. The one acts upon the other and every abiding change in the life of man is the result of these mutual reactions.




### CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

## Buddhism




There are core Buddhist teachings that would lead a person to have much less of an impact on the environment. For instance, 'Right Intention' teaches one to avoid acting on the intention of desire, ill-will or harmfulness, and instead to act upon their opposites, which are the intentions of renunciation, loving-kindness and harmlessness. Renunciation is an important intention as it implies living simply, being content with little and understanding that following greed and selfish desire only bring suffering. Buddhists take great care not to harm or hurt any living creature.

The Noble Eightfold Path of Buddhism teaches that wisdom and compassion are the ground for ethical action and speech.



### CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

## Christianity



St John wrote 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.' (John 1:14) Reflecting on this Douglas Moo and Jonathan Moo wrote in 2019, 'The most shocking claim of scripture is that it is this same Jesus, the creator and sustainer of all that exists, who takes on flesh, becoming part of his own creation.' If 'God so loved the world ...' (John 3:16), so should we, living according to our need, not our greed, living more simply that others can simply live and delighting in God's beautiful creation.

Father, Help us to tread your earth lightly, as people Reconciled by God with God, Reconciled by God with one another and Reconciled by God to his wounded planet, Living simply that all may simply live, to the glory of our risen saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN (A Coventry themed prayer, 2018 by the Diocesan Environment Officer)



### CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

## Islam



One of the most important attributes conferred on human beings is the faculty of reasoning. This, above all, might well be the deciding factor in humanity's appointment by God as His representatives on earth. Here are the relevant verses from the Holy Quran.

In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful.

Allah Most Gracious! It is He Who has taught the Qur'an. He created man. He taught him speech and Intelligence. The sun and the moon follow courses by precise calculation.

And the stars and the trees prostrate in adoration. And the heaven He raised high and He has set the balance So establish weight with justice and fall not short in the balance.

It is He Who has spread out the earth for His creatures Therein is fruit and palm trees producing sheathes of dates, corn with its leaves and stalk for fodder and sweet-smelling plants. Then which of the favours of your Lord will you deny? (Quran 055.001-013)

Humans were not created to function exclusively on instinct. The "explanation" was taught to us because we had the capacity to reason and understand. There is order and purpose in the whole pattern of creation. The Sun and Moon following stable orbits make life possible. The stars that enable us to steer courses and the trees that give us sustenance, shelter and other beneficial uses.

The whole universe is in submission to the Creator.

The world will function smoothly so long as creation follows a pre-ordained pattern. Humans then have a responsibility by virtue of being able to reason, to behave justly, to not interfere with the environment unjustly and ensure "to transgress not in the balance." We owe this to ourselves and our future generations as much as for sustaining the rest of creation.



## CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

### Humanist



As humanists, we rely on reason and science to make logical decisions and, as defined by our Golden Rule, we do not want to treat anyone in a way that we wouldn't like if done to us. Human happiness is very important for the one life we believe we have.

These humanist principles lead us to believe that climate change is real, that the western world has been the main contributor, and that we should act now to help millions of people around the world who are already being affected by droughts, flooding, storms, heatwaves, and fires which result in famine and loss of homes and livelihoods.



## CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

### Hinduism



Hinduism teaches the five great elements (space, air, fire, water and earth) that constitute the environment are derived from Prakriti, the primal energy, the creator. Hindus worship and accept the presence of God in nature.

The whole universe, living and non-living is created by the creator for a purpose. They are interdependent on each other for their care and they are in harmony. Human beings should respects and value nature. Hindus believe that harmony in nature brings peace to human beings.

Protecting and looking after the environment is part of Hindu Dharma, the eternal law of the universe. Hindus refer to the earth as 'Mother Earth' and respect the earth as our own biological mother.



## CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

### Jainism



One who neglects or disregards the existence of earth, air, fire, water and vegetation, disregards his own existence which is entwined with them - Mahavir -

All life is bound by mutual support and interdependence...  
(If one does not care for nature, one does not care for oneself).  
- Tatthvartha Sutra -



## CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

### Judaism



Bal Tashchit - You shall not destroy. The rabbis extended this principle of not destroying into peacetime too, also not wasting anything, not causing pain.

Tikkum Olam - repairing the world. Careful earth stewardship, taking responsibility for the earth: The responsibilities for both 'caring and repairing' the earth are very much expected of the individual as well as the community.

These principles are there in our age-old traditions, but applying them often needs a modern interpretation.





## CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

### Pagans



Pagans believe that the Earth is our mother. Everything we are and everything we have comes from the Earth and we love and venerate her as a goddess whom we know by many names.

We also love and venerate the wider universe – the moon and stars. Pagans understand that we are part of nature and that everything in the universe is connected.

Consequently, our environment should be treated with love and respect. Our festivals are tied to the Wheel of the Year as we celebrate the longest day and the shortest day – and all the days in between that are landmarks in the natural world and our relationship with it (e.g. seedtimes and harvests!)



## CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

### Quakers



Quakers have always had a love of the natural world and a sense of responsibility towards its care. Most early Quakers in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries lived in farms or small settlements and knew at first hand their dependence on nature's resources in their own localities. The duty to take care of 'God's creation' and to live in harmony with it in their own contexts would have been very evident to them.

In 1772, John Woolman was already challenging Quakers to be mindful of the needs of future generations: The produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age.

During the 20th century, awareness of the finiteness of the earth's non-renewable resources grew rapidly, as did an understanding of the increasingly significant impact of humanity on the natural world with regard to pollution, depletion of resources, agricultural practices, global warming, and much else. 'Earthcare' became an important and ongoing focus for Quaker witness and continues to be so.

At the International level Quakers continue to pay particular attention to climate change, to sustainable food systems, and to the use of natural resources. Quakers have been active in modern nonviolent direct action campaigning in regard to caring for the environment for many years, locally, nationally and globally.

In Britain Friends have pledged themselves to become a low-carbon sustainable community, and Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) works to develop thinking about sustainability and climate justice, and what a sustainable economy could entail. EcoQuakers in Ireland works on similar issues. Australian and New Zealand Friends are also active on environmental matters. Many groups of Quakers in Africa work locally on sustainable agriculture, and on tree planting schemes to reduce erosion and to absorb carbon dioxide.



## CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

### Sikhism



"Pavan guru, paanee pitha, maathaa dharth mahath" [Ang 8 SGGSJ]  
"Air is Guru, Water is the Father and Earth is the Great Mother of all."

Guru Nanak Dev Ji (the first Sikh Guru) in the above verse refers to the Earth as the Great Mother and also makes it clear in the below verse that the Creator (God) resides within the creation:

"Khaalik Khalak Khalak Mehi Khaalik Poor Rehiou Srab Thaanee" [Ang 1350 SGGSJ]

"The Creation is in the Creator, and the Creator is in the Creation, totally pervading and permeating all places." Therefore to realise God is to experience God through the creation and therefore extending love, care and compassion to the creation is a form of spiritual engagement.

The 7th Guru (Guru Har Rai Sahib Ji, pictured above) personified this message by setting up animal sanctuaries for sick animals and herbal gardens to provide free medicines. To celebrate this, Sikhs around the world commemorate Sikh Environment Day on the 14th of March every year by planting trees in our local communities, using organic and low carbon produce for the langar (free kitchen) or taking our children and communities into the countryside and educate others on how we can contribute to the environment.



## CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

### Spiritualist

"All are but parts of one stupendous whole,  
Whose body Nature is and God the soul."

This reminds Spiritualists that God is in effect body and soul that envelops all humankind.

Thus, caring for the environment becomes a way of living meaningfully and respectfully within God's presence, giving meaning to Spiritualism's Fifth Principle of Personal Responsibility that inspires us to act in the best interests of the lives we now share with the earth and future lives to come. Resulting from our caring for the earth and all there is, we enable God's vision of our connection with that one stupendous whole

We Spiritualists sing,  
God of the granite and the rose  
Soul of the sparrow and the bee;  
The mighty tide of being grows  
Through all thy creatures back to Thee.

Thus round and round the circle runs  
A mighty sea without a shore  
While men and angels, stars and suns  
unite to praise thee evermore.





## CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

### Zoroastrianism

Zoroastrians believe that everything God has created is pure and should be treated with love and respect. The role of human beings is to honour not just the Creator but also His Seven Bounteous Creations - the sky, water, earth, plants, animals, human beings and fire. Zoroastrians are expected to care for the environment by avoiding pollution and waste and restoring what has been damaged.

## Appendix 6: Interview with Ms Manjit Kaur\_Director of Coventry SACRE and Member of the Coventry Sacred Space Co-ordinating Group



Do you judge the event to have been a success?

**MK: Of course!**

What went particularly well?

**MK: Participants who said yes and gave up their time. Building up of our relationships and rejuvenating of old ones. The number, range and type of political leads that attended. Beginning to share our narrative.**

Do you think it was successful in raising public awareness of the Coventry Sacred Space initiative?

**MK: Andy Street's Faith Policy Advisor said he knew about it! Locally we need to work on it in this area. I think linking to national events might be helpful, e.g. the Big Clean Up, as this area needs to become a safe place to play for children, helping to occupy young people and supporting violence reduction by stopping them going the wrong way.**

Are there ways in which the festival might have been improved?

**MK: Stalls/movement with a bit of entertainment work better than lectures. There needs to be a mixture of old and young presenters. We should also consider the days, dates and times of events.**

Do you feel that Coventry Sacred Space is now back on track after Covid?

**MK: As it is a new entity, it's too soon to say.**

What needs to happen as a priority?

**MK: Plan a clean-up of the park!**

If additional funding were to be secured, where would this best be used?

**MK: We need an admin office, a website where people can get information about events, and an admin clerk to co-ordinate the contribution of all of us. This person would create our posters/leaflets, publicity e.g., through social media, risk assessments etc.**

## **Appendix 7: Interview with a local resident, aged 57**

Do you like living in Coventry?

**Yes. There are good amenities, good shopping, efficient transport and a hospital nearby.**

What are the good things about this area?

**There is a good sense of community. It's good that faith groups are coming together. There is no violence between communities, and everyone helps each other.**

What's not so good?

**The drugs problem is very bad. It used to be a beautiful place for families to visit but now it's dangerous for kids.**

What's would help?

**Better lighting to deter the drug addicts and antisocial behaviour. Put a barrier around the water to stop children falling in. Sort out the rats and plant more flower beds. The faith trail is a nice idea.**

## **Appendix 8: Coventry Sacred Space Initiative Group Terms of Reference**

### **1: Aims of the Coventry Sacred Space Initiative (CSSI).**

- To create a space(s) for hope and healing, where creativity and enterprise are incubated and shared by all.
- To contribute to the regeneration of Swanswell Park/Pool and surrounding area.
- To honour and celebrate the Swanswell Park/Pool area as Coventry's 'arrivals hall' for communities in need of a sanctuary, home and hope.
- To help manifest City of Coventry's – City of Peace and Reconciliation.
- To proactively work across diverse communities, sectors and interests thereby create a platform and means for One Coventry.

### **2: Purpose of the CSSI the Reference Group**

The purpose is to lead the development and success of CSSI, by:

- Make key strategic decisions that develop the Initiative.
- Being alert to opportunities that attract e.g. funds, partnerships, help...
- Act proactively to avoid and overcome challenges.
- Ensure human, financial and other resources and opportunities are used effectively
- Initiate action that ensures CSSI is promoted widely, and learning is shared with others
- Establish Working Groups to complete a tasked (with an aim, timescales, scope, members) or element of work. (Annex 1)
- Lead work to establish a legal entity and other tools to ensure the long-term stability, viability and success of CSSI.

### **3: Membership**

- Members are people or organisations interested and committed to work that leads to CSSI success
- Members reflect the whole of Coventry and ensure the diversity of communities is embraced fully in its work.
- Special effort to include and seek the views of minority within minorities e.g., young people, women, physically/mentally challenged will help ensure the views of 'missing or hidden voices' is respected and accommodated.

### **4: Expectations of Members**

- Members are expected to originate, and work together on, actions designed to progress CSSI.
- Members will contribute strategic understandings, fresh perspectives and objectivity acquired through their experience.
- Will endorse and comply with the Seven Principles of Public Life (Annex 2), and with the policies and procedures relating to Conflict of Interest described at <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/trustees-staff-and-volunteers/trustee-board/conflicts-of-interest/>.
- Members are expected to attend at least 50% of meetings called.



## **5: Meetings**

- Meetings will take place a minimum of once a month and will be organised by the TiA Trust.
- TiA Trust will provide a progress update to the CSSI, report and give feedback related to financial matters including securing funds or partnerships etc.
- Agendas will have the format set out in Annex 3
- If Members have agenda items, they wish to be discussed they are requested to propose these to the TiA Trust, preferably prior to the meeting.
- The date, time and location (online/face to face) of every meeting will be proposed and agreed by all members; ideally this should be done in advance at the beginning of every calendar year.
- These Terms of Reference will be reviewed at the beginning of each calendar year, to ensure that the Reference Group continues to fulfil its functions satisfactorily.

## **6: Dissolution**

**The Reference Group will be dissolved if any of the following circumstances take place:**

- Dissolution is approved by a simple majority of Members
- Membership falls below 10 Members
- The Group does not meet for a period of 18 months

Together in Action Trust  
March 2021

## **Annex 1**

### **Working Groups**

**Aim:** To support the Reference Group in its endeavour to deliver CSSI.

**Purpose:** To complete the Task (set by the Reference Group) to its best ability, within time and report progress to the Reference Group regularly.

### **Membership**

- People identified by the Reference Group
- People recruited by the Working Group (Reported to the Reference Group)

## **Annex 2**

The Seven Principles of Public Life

**Selflessness:** Advisory Committee members should take decisions solely in the public interest. They should not do so to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

**Integrity:** Advisory Committee members should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their duties.

**Objectivity:** In carrying out public business, including making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for roles, Advisory Committee members should make choices on merit.

**Accountability:** Advisory Committee members are accountable for their decisions and actions to the people of Coventry and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate.

**Openness:** Advisory Committee members should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

**Honesty:** Advisory Committee members have a duty to declare any interests (either private or in relation to any other official or public role they may have) relating to their duties, and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

**Leadership:** Advisory Committee members should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

### **Annex 3**

#### Meeting agendas: standing items

1. Welcome, Apologies, Declarations of Interest
2. Notes of previous meeting
3. Matters Arising
4. Coventry Sacred Space Initiative Update (TiA Trust)
5. Items for Consideration
6. Finance
7. Report of Working Groups
8. AOB
9. Date of Next Meeting

## **Appendix 9: Coventry Sacred Space Initiative Advisory Committee Terms of Reference**

### **1: Aims of the Coventry Sacred Space Initiative (CSSI).**

- To create a space(s) for hope and healing, where creativity and enterprise are incubated and shared by all.
- To contribute to the regeneration of Swanswell Park/Pool and surrounding area.
- To honour and celebrate the Swanswell Park/Pool area as Coventry's 'arrivals hall' for communities in need of a sanctuary, home and hope.
- To help manifest City of Coventry's – City of Peace and Reconciliation.
- To proactively work across diverse communities, sectors and interests thereby create a platform and means for One Coventry.

### **2: Purpose of the CSSI the Advisory Committee**

The purpose is to support the development and success of CSSI, by:

- Offering advice to the Reference Group, helping it to overcome challenges.
- Make best use of all its human, financial and other resources and opportunities.
- Making introductions to individuals and organisations that can help deliver CSSI
- Proactively initiating work that may lead to CSSI's realisation ensuring the Reference Group is kept informed.

### **3: Membership**

- The Advisory Committee will have a minimum of five Members, including representatives of:
  - Coventry City Council
  - Key Stakeholder Bodies
  - Faith and Belief Communities (see Annex 1)
  - Others

### **4: Expectations of Members**

- **Members are expected to originate, and work together on, actions designed to progress CSSI.**
- Members will contribute strategic understandings, fresh perspectives and objectivity acquired through their experience.
- **All members of the Advisory Committee will endorse and comply with the Seven Principles of Public Life as set out in Annex 2, and with the policies and procedures relating to Conflict of Interest described at <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/trustees-staff-and-volunteers/trustee-board/conflicts-of-interest/>.**
- **Members are expected to attend at least 50% of meetings called.**

## 5: Meetings

- **Meetings will take place a minimum of twice a year and will be organised by the Secretary.**
- **Agendas will have the format set out in Annex 3; they will be proposed by the Secretary and agreed by the Chair.**
- If Members have agenda items, they wish to be discussed they are requested to propose these to the Secretary, preferably prior to the meeting.
- **The date, time and location (online/face to face) of every meeting will be proposed by the Secretary and agreed by all members; ideally this should be done in advance at the beginning of every calendar year.**
- Minutes will be kept by the Secretary and agreed by the Chairman, before being circulated in draft form to the membership for approval at the subsequent meeting.
- **These Terms of Reference will be reviewed at the beginning of each calendar year, to ensure that the Advisory Committee continues to fulfil its functions satisfactorily.**

## 6: Dissolution

The Advisory Committee will be dissolved if any of the following circumstances take place:

- **Dissolution is approved by a simple majority of Members**
- **Membership falls below five Members**
- **The Committee does not meet for a period of 18 months**

### Annex 1

#### Advisory Committee Membership: Faith and Belief Communities

Representatives and people from different faith and belief communities with populations in the City together make up the Reference Group for the Coventry Sacred Space Initiative. The Reference Group will devise a rota system, whereby three of its members will attend every meeting of the Advisory Committee and represent the interests and perspectives of the wider Reference Group.

### Annex 2

#### The Seven Principles of Public Life

**Selflessness:** Advisory Committee members should take decisions solely in the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.



**Integrity:** Advisory Committee members should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their duties.

**Objectivity:** In carrying out public business, including making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for roles, Advisory Committee members should make choices on merit.

**Accountability:** Advisory Committee members are accountable for their decisions and actions to the people of Coventry and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate.

**Openness:** Advisory Committee members should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

**Honesty:** Advisory Committee members have a duty to declare any interests (either private or in relation to any other official or public role they may have) relating to their duties, and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

**Leadership:** Advisory Committee members should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.