**Bolton Interfaith Council – S O Report – December 2016**

**Introduction:**  A very warm welcome to everyone at this last meeting of the year. This year has flown past and here we are ready for another year with challenges and uncertainty. Since we all last met on 10th October, once again a hectic period with much to do with our own led events, supporting partnership events and faith trails as main activities which whilst it takes a lot to deliver events no doubt very rewarding. Last few months have been very difficult with Anna’s absence and she is greatly missed.

Please see the brief summary of items listed below and you are always welcome to find out more from me.

**BIYA:** Our young ambassadors continue to meet and progress gradually. This Thursday the group will be going out to eat in the new Vaults in Market Place and on 15th the group will be holding a Christmas Party at the Emmanuel Church from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm. This will be Bring and Share food event and All members of the executive and volunteers are invited. Please confirm with me if you are attending. You would be most welcome.

**Website:** The website is kept up dated with events but needs a lot to make it a more interactive website. Please do visit the website which gets many hits and also has “ Analysis of the National Interfaith Week” and some very inspiring photos in community events page.

**Events – Supportive:** supported BHF led Sharad Purnima Garba at Community College, attended Annual Meeting for Interfaith UK in Peterborough with Saeedbhai- Excellent event, Black History at Afro Caribbean Centre, Diwali Celebrations at Royal Bolton Hospital and Bolton CVS AGM with display of our work.

**Our Events** – Just before our previous meeting we had the *interfaith Cricket & Rounder’s*, Peace Prayers during week of prayers for world peace- well supported by faith group partners, six schools, Carl Austin and Friends Meeting House. This was followed by the activities during the *national interfaith week- 13 to 20th November*. Looking back we had some excellent events which were highlighted by partnership work- joint efforts and support by so many schools, faith- community groups, places of worships and many individuals whose immense contribution made it all possible for a successful week of events in Bolton. It is so vital that in the year ahead we ENHANCE those relationships through the work of BIC. Please see my “analysis of the week” on our website in “Strategic officer’s bi- monthly report.”

Apart from above the faith trails work continued with many requests –all listed on website.

**Caroline Wyke:** As you may aware that Caroline from Bolton Christian Community Cohesion has left her position almost a month ago. An excellent- friend/ colleague who will be missed very much and I have acknowledged her support for our work. She has an official leaving do this Thursday – details have been sent to all members.

**Discussion on Shared Values in House of Lords-** There was a very interesting and thought provoking discussion, views on challenges, letters from constituents – sadly some very negative views, positive comments and much more was on air in a broadcast. The debate was initiated by Archbishop of Canterbury – Reverend Justin Welby. One thing for sure there is immense work to be done in view of rise in hate crime and many other issues facing our communities.

**Other issues**: funding, accounts to be merged, looking at year ahead- events- participation, sustaining work, executive meeting dates, face photo of executive members.

Any questions – please do speak to me.

My sincere appreciations for the support to members of the executive, volunteers, partners, places of worship, individuals, funding organisations and Young Ambassadors who are an inspiration.

Kind regards – Chan for BIC 5TH December