

## **FROM "DAVAR" – HOUSE MAGAZINE OF NORTHWOOD AND PINNER LIBERAL SYNAGOGUE**

### **Interfaith Understanding**

Do you read the NPLS weekly email update and/or Davar? If so, you may have noticed the "CCJ Hillingdon Branch" logo.

I hope you may also have wondered what it's all about....

In 1942, during the darkest days of World War II, the Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, and Chief Rabbi Joseph H Hertz decided to form the Council of Christians and Jews, to combat anti-Semitism and to create greater understanding between the two religions.

Although there is a central organisation, the plan was always for people to come together in local branches to discover the humanity and similarity of the "other".

Her Majesty The Queen became Patron in 1952 and now the Trustees comprise the leaders of all the country's Christian and Jewish denominations. One of the most used slogans is "making dialogue make a difference".

The Hillingdon branch was formed over 20 years ago; it maintains a varied programme of speakers for most months of the year. Talks are always followed by a Q&A session, and this often leads to lively discussion.

Meetings are hosted by a wide range of churches and synagogues. (Without wishing to boast, the favourite venue is NPLS where the members are always made to feel most welcome!)

I have long held the view that, as Liberal Jews, we should "open our doors and windows" and let people come in to experience our Judaism, and get to know us as neighbours. The similarities between the Faiths far outweigh the differences, and getting to know someone creates its own trust.

The late and much missed Ruth Weyl was a stalwart of CCJ in this country (and a great supporter of the Hillingdon Branch), as well as being deeply committed to the running of International CCJ (ICCJ) for many years. She inspired a lot of us to become involved in interfaith activities; in my experience learning more about Christianity and other types of Judaism is always fascinating and has increased my understanding of my own faith.

Perhaps it is sad that an organisation like CCJ is still needed after 75 years. But its work is developing and entering new fields. A CCJ programme on university campuses is in place. CCJ is now involved in shared social action projects, and work with Christian clergy creating understanding of the Holocaust is constantly in demand.

Please look out for the notices of our branch meetings and come along to see what we're all about. I am sure you will enjoy the talks and meet interesting people.

Cynthia Drapkin  
Secretary, Hillingdon CCJ

## **FROM "CHALFONT ST PETER PARISH CHURCHES MAGAZINE"**

### **THE COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS**

The Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. CCJ, which was founded during the war years, is a national charity whose members consist of many denominations

of Christianity and Judaism. Among its Trustees are the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbi and its patron is Her Majesty the Queen.

CCJ brings together the Christian and Jewish communities in a common effort to fight prejudice, intolerance and discrimination between people of different religions, races and colours, and to work for the betterment of human relations.

There are branches all over the country - and internationally - where regular meetings are held in a friendly atmosphere for study and discussion on topics of mutual interest. Speakers at our meetings include Priests and Bishops, Rabbis and Professors of Theology and occasionally we invite people who hold office within the community, such as local Councillors or members of the Police Force to talk about how their faith can influence their working life.

I am privileged from time to time to be invited to attend services at the Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue and Jewish friends have attended services at St Peter's Church. We share much of the liturgy at our various services, the Psalms and readings from the Talmud and the Old Testament are familiar to us all.

Occasionally we are able to work together on charitable projects and when seasonal events coincide, such as the Jewish Chanukah which occurs within a few days of Christmas, we celebrate together, respecting and enjoying each other's traditions and making firm friends.

Wendy Graham  
Chair of Hillingdon CCJ