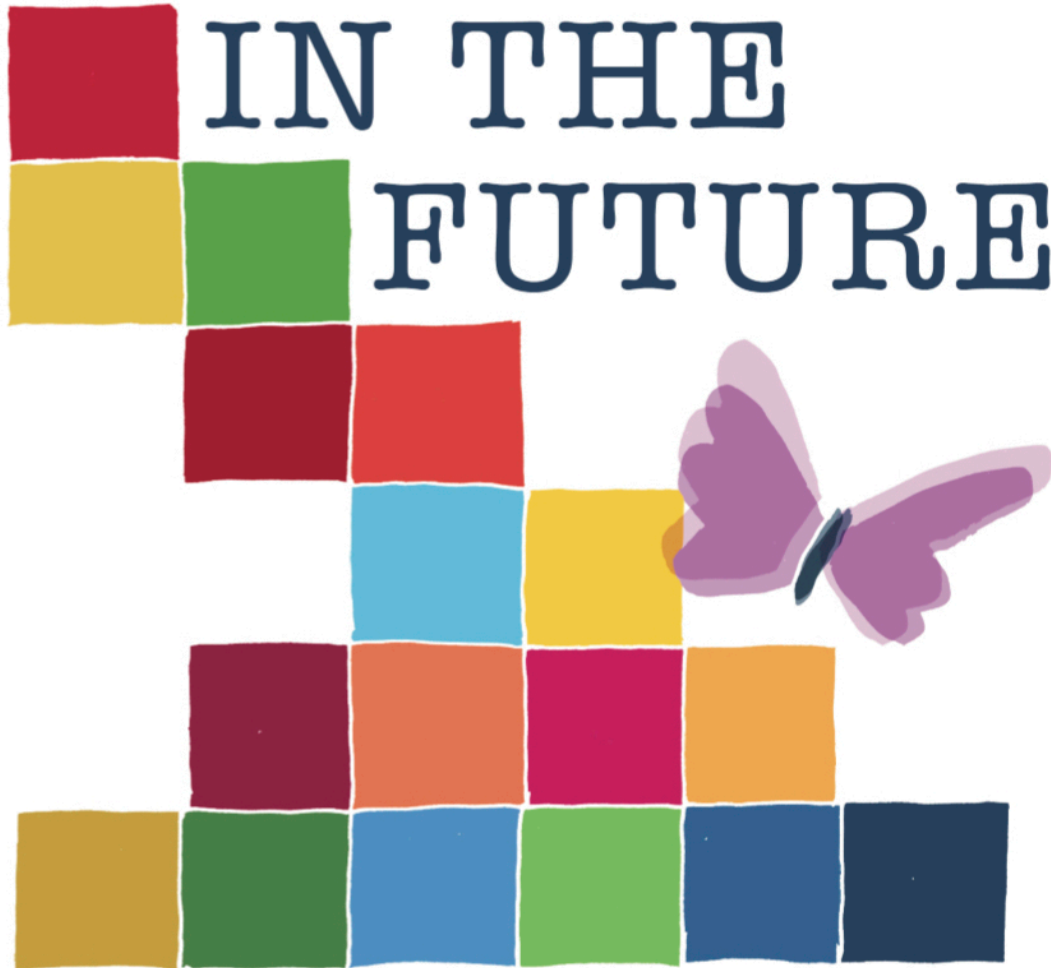


FAITH IN THE FUTURE



Welcome celebration for
Faith in the Future

Faiths, the United Nations and the
Sustainable Development Goals Meeting

The Lord Mayor's Chapel, Bristol, UK
8th September 2015

The Bristol Meeting – Faith in the Future – brings together key religious representatives from around the world to work side by side with the United Nations on the next 15-year programme of the UN. This programme, called the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), takes over at the end of 2015 from the original 15-year programme, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

The 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation
 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (taking note of agreements made by the UNFCCC forum)
 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss
 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

During the Bristol meeting, the faiths will launch their own 10-year long-term plans designed to complement and partner with the SDGs. These Commitments to action will be known as The Bristol Faith Commitments.

The Procession

The Welcome Celebration starts with the Procession of banners and delegates from The Marriott Royal Hotel, College Green. The Procession is joined by school children from St. Patrick's Primary School and by Youth Ambassadors from St. Bernadette's Secondary School. The Procession moves round College Green, past the Anglican Cathedral and the City Hall, to cross over and enter The Lord Mayor's Chapel.

The Lord Mayor's Chapel is unique in that no other city has such a chapel, owned and maintained by the city council. The chapel dates to the founding of the original Hospital in 1220. It was founded to "tend the sick, feed the poor and to educate twelve poor boys".

At the Reformation all monasteries were closed by order of Henry VIII and this befell the Chapel and Hospital. In 1541, the corporation of the city of Bristol bought the chapel and its buildings and lands. The Council agreed to continue its educational role and this led to the foundation of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Boys and the Red Maids' School – both of which exist to this day.

When the French Protestants were persecuted and fled as refugees to Britain in the late 17th century, the City lent them the Chapel as a place of worship until 1722 when they created their own churches in Bristol.

It is very fitting that at this historic meeting of faiths and the United Nations that we open in a chapel which has embodied the idea of religion and secular working side by side and honouring the role each has to play for over 450 years. For much of the 20th century, such a partnership was thought to be anachronistic and the chapel's role was under question.

Today, when every major international secular agency from the UN through the World Bank to environmental organisations like the WWF are seeking to partner with the faiths, it stands as a symbol of the wisdom of such partnerships and of mutual affirmation of care for the world.

The Procession will be greeted by The Lord Mayor, Clare Champion-Smith, and her Sword Bearer, on behalf of the City.

Welcome to the Lord Mayor's Chapel

Rev. Prebendary Harold Clarke, Chaplain

Opening Song

The children of St. Patrick's Primary School, Redfield, Bristol, sing: 'All the nations of the Earth.'

Reading

The Opening Reading is from the Daoist Classic book, the *Dao De Jing* and is read by Master Yang of Mao Shan, China, Vice President of the China Daoist Association.

The Dao
Pours out everything into life –
It is a cornucopia
That never runs dry.

It is the deep source of everything –
It is nothing, and yet in everything.

It smoothes round sharpness and untangles the knots.

It glows like the lamp that draws the moth ----

Dao exists, Dao is
But where It came from I do not know.

It has been shaping things
From before the First Being,
From before the Beginning of Time.

Formal City Welcome

The Lord Mayor of Bristol, Clare Champion-Smith, welcomes the delegates on behalf of the City and County of Bristol.

Reading

The Hindu reflection is taken from the Vedic tradition and is read by Dr. Nanditha Krishna, President of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation.

*Om sham no mitrah sham varunah sham no bhavatvaryamaa
sham na indro brihaspatih sham no vishnururukramah
namo brahmane namaste vaayo
tvameva pratyaksham bhrahmaasi
tvaameva pratyaksham brahma vadishyaami
ritam vadishyaami satyam vadishyaami
tanmaamavatu tadvaktaaramavatu
avatu maam avatu vaktaaram
Aum shaantih shaantih shaantih*

Om

May the Guardian of the Cosmic Order be propitious towards us,
May the Waters be propitious towards us,
May the Sun be propitious towards us,
May the Rains and the Divine Teacher be propitious towards us,
May the long-striding Sun be Propitious towards Us,
Salutations to the Supreme Creator
Salutations to the Breath of the Supreme Being,
You indeed are the Visible Creator,
I proclaim, You Indeed are the Visible Creator,
I speak of the Divine Truth,
I speak of the Absolute Truth,
May That One protect me,
May That One protect the Preceptor,
Protect me,
Protect the Preceptor,
Om peace, peace, peace.

Taittiriya Upanishad, 1.1.12

*Om sahanaa vavatu Sahanau bhunaktu
Saha veeryam karavaa vahai
Tejas vinaavadhi tamas tu maa
vidvishaavahai
Om shaanti shaanti shaantihi*

May He protect us.
May He give us happiness.
May we all work together.
May our knowledge be superior.
Let us not hate each other.
Om peace peace peace.

Taittiriya Upanishad, 2.2.2

Asatomaasath gamayaa
Tamasomaa jyotir gamayaa
Mrityomaa amritam gamayaa
Om shaanti shaanti shaantih

Lead us from evil to good
Lead us from darkness to light
Lead us from death to immortality
Om peace, peace, peace!

Brihadaranyaka Upanishad, 1.3.28

Formal Welcome – United Nations

By the Deputy Secretary General and Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support of the United Nations Development Programme, Magdy Martinez-Soliman.

Reading

The Jewish reading is from Isaiah 58:6-12. Next week it's Rosh Hashanah, the start of a new Jewish year and a new 7-year cycle in Jewish time. The text from Isaiah is a central part of the Jewish calendar, and is read in every synagogue in the world on Yom Kippur, at the center of the holiest day of the year. It is read by Rabbi Arthur Waskow on behalf of Hazon.

6 Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the fetters of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

7 Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him, and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

8 Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thy healing shall spring forth speedily; and thy righteousness shall go before thee, the glory of the LORD shall be thy rearward.

9 Then shalt thou call, and the LORD will answer; thou shalt cry, and He will say: 'Here I am.' If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking wickedness;

10 And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in darkness, and thy gloom be as the noon-day;

11 And the LORD will guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make strong thy bones; and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

12 And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places, thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in.

Formal Welcome – ARC

Martin Palmer, Secretary General of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation, on behalf of ARC's Founder, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh,

Reading

A reading from the Sikh Holy Book, the Guru Granth Sahib, is chanted by Dr. Rajwant Singh, President of the Sikh Council on Religion and Education and President of Eco-Sikh.

*Henceforth such is the Will of God:
No man shall coerce another;
No person shall exploit another.
Each individual has the inalienable birthright
to seek and pursue happiness and self-fulfillment.
Love and persuasion is the only law of social coherence.*

Guru Granth Sahib 74

*There are the lowest men among the low castes. Nanak, I shall go with them.
What have I got to do with the great? God's eye of mercy falls on those who take
care of the lowly*

Guru Granth Sahib 15

Why Do We Care?

The students of St. Bernadette's Secondary School, Whitchurch, Bristol have worked on the 17 SDG themes and their art work is on display during the meeting. They present to us what the SDGs mean to them and pick up on the theme, Why Do I Care?

Prayer

St. Patrick's Primary School have written their own prayer for the occasion.

Closing Song

The children of St. Patrick's Primary School, Redfield, Bristol, sing: 'Grant us peace, give us courage.'

Closing Blessing

Rev. Prebendary Harold Clarke, Chaplain



The Faith in the Future meeting is a unique event bringing together representatives of the major religions of the world with key leaders from the United Nations and other international secular organisations. The meeting is co-hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC).



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*