

## **WIHW The World Interfaith Harmony Week February 1-7 2024 in Westmorland and Furness England UK**

### **Report by WFDEIP Westmorland and Furness Diversity Equity and Inclusion Partnership (formerly SLEDP South Lakeland Equality and Diversity Partnership) about WIHW 2024 in Westmorland and Furness England UK**

WFDEIP Westmorland and Furness Diversity Equity and Inclusion Partnership (formerly SLEDP South Lakeland Equality and Diversity Partnership) was delighted that WIHW World Interfaith Harmony Week was again celebrated in Westmorland and Furness including South Lakeland and Kendal. Councillor Guy Tirvengadam (Former Mayor of Kendal and Chair of WFDEIP and founder of Kendal Unity Festival) commented "I am always delighted that Kendal puts on a variety of events in WIHW. It is wonderful that a small town is able to make an important contribution to the vital work of understanding each other and social cohesion". Jacquetta Gomes (WFDEIP Lead on Interfaith and Multifaith) said "Westmorland and Furness is a wonderful place to live and I am pleased that it continues to offer opportunities to participate in WIHW".

We are especially proud that we may be offering an event by the oldest person to lead an event who demonstrates to the world that anyone of any age can make an important contribution to understanding and peace. 94 year old retired Roman Catholic Priest Monsignor Francis Slattery has been involved in interfaith work in Cumbria since 2002. He has received local and national recognition for his contribution. He has held a WIHW events every year since 2017 (except 2023), including a celebration of his 90th birthday in 2019.

### **WFDEIP Westmorland and Furness Diversity Equity and Inclusion Partnership 7 Day Event**

WFDEIP Westmorland and Furness Diversity Equity and Inclusion Partnership supported two daily half hour at home sessions every day of Inter Faith Week at 7am and 7pm. Participants read The Golden Rule and to undertook an appropriate practice from any faith or none (for example chanting, meditation, reading, reciting). The Golden Rule is available at <https://worldfaiths.org/our-poster/>

<https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/pec-events/wfdeip-world-interfaith-harmony-week-event/>

This event was included on the IFN Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom events page "WIHW home sessions - WFDEIP Westmorland and Furness Diversity Equity and Inclusion Partnership"

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/events>

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/>

### **Friday 2nd February 2-4 Event in The Mayors Parlour Kendal Town Hall**

The Mayor of Kendal Councillor Julia Dunlop hosted an event to celebrate WIHW. The guests included the WFDEIP Westmorland and Furness Diversity Equity and Inclusion Partnership Lead on Interfaith and Multifaith Jacquetta Gomes who assisted The Mayor in organising the meeting, the Chair and members of the SLIF South Lakeland Interfaith Forum

Committee and representatives of local faith communities. A helpful and informative workshop was led by a SLIF South Lakeland Interfaith Forum committee member.

The Mayor was photographed with WFDEIP Westmorland and Furness Diversity Equity and Inclusion Partnership Lead on Interfaith and Multifaith Jacquetta Gomes and the book *Women in British Buddhism*, by academic Caroline Starkey which included Jacquetta as the first female Buddhist Fire Chaplain. (Routledge Critical Studies in Buddhism Series) (ISBN: 978-1-138-08746-0).

This event was included on the Kendal Town Council Facebook page

Kendal Town Council Facebook 7 February 2024

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=709620131283118&set=a.266253088953160>

<https://www.facebook.com/kendaltowncouncil/posts/pfbid0BSDot2r7cq3kCUvrpHEqYWXYKjyVsHdJZVUP5KVyqX8HfDGBgNj7JkZC8YpcnVSul>

### **Monday 5th February Event led by a 94 year old retired Roman Catholic Priest**

Monsignor Francis Slattery (a 94 year old retired Roman Catholic Priest) led an afternoon session of meditation/prayer and study. Monsignor Slattery commented "Every year this is an occasion to celebrate our differences and richly varied beliefs. It was a joy to be able to come together and just express what we do have in common, even if we do have differences of expression. What we did was share a time of meditation or prayer, of reading the Psalms and a Blessing. This many of us did in our own homes. It was a simple reminder of our togetherness, a fact we share a common language when speaking of our faiths and a joy in knowing others have similar expressions. We have to be thankful at this time for this simple act of faith which hopefully binds us more closely together."

<https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/pec-events/participate-at-home-in-session-of-meditation-or-prayer-and-study-run-by-a-94-year-old-retired-roman-catholic-priest-who-may-be-the-oldest-person-to-lead-a-session-in-wihw-world-interfaith-harmony-wee/>

### **WIHW Resources**

WFDEIP Westmorland and Furness Diversity Equity and Inclusion Partnership (formerly SLEDP South Lakeland Equality and Diversity Partnership) is honoured that the booklet *Cumbrian Supplement for the national booklet* by South Lakeland Equality and Diversity Partnership (SLEDP) (Second Edition 2019), is on the WIHW website resources page and will have been used in WIHW 2024.

WIHW webpage Resources

<https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/resources/>

Guides

[https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Cumbrian\\_Supplement\\_for\\_the\\_National\\_Booklet-2009.pdf](https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Cumbrian_Supplement_for_the_National_Booklet-2009.pdf)