



Footsteps

Faiths for a Low Carbon Future



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Footsteps' has had a very active year. The steering group is becoming increasingly challenged to coordinate and respond to the growing number of opportunities and requests to make faith-based climate action contributions.

The main events Footsteps held during the year started with the annual Tread Lightly Conference in November 2019 held at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara, in neighbouring Smethwick. Lizzie Nelson, from Faiths for the Climate Network spoke and the conference supported financially by GreenFaith, the global interfaith environmental charity. In February we held with the Climate Coalition a #ShowtheLove event at the Birmingham Central Mosque. Finally, our summer activity took the form of a successful walk and study visit to the Tyseley Energy Park that also built links with the local community and St Cyprians Church.

Our work with young people included having a base at the BCF's Faiths for Fun in March and providing a faith perspective at a young social entrepreneurs training evening in the Ladywood community hall. Work on developing a web-based version of Small Footsteps resources has been making progress.

In addition, Footsteps had a presence or spoken at a number of faith and environmental events which are listed in the Attachment. Events included: community iftars, Sikh Environment Day tree planting and local community events in Kings Heath and the Martineau Gardens.

Footsteps has increasingly been taking a faith voice into the Birmingham public and political arena. This culminated in May with presenting a letter to Birmingham City Council calling on the Council to declare a climate emergency. The letter was endorsed by the Birmingham Faith Leaders group and supported by 45 individual community faith leaders. As a result, Councillor Waseem Zaffar committed to Footsteps being represented on the Climate Emergency Task Force being established. A Footsteps report '*Birmingham Climate Emergency – The Role for Faith Communities*' is about to be published.

The steering group endeavours to evaluate each event to better understand what works well. The attached list of Footsteps Events and Activities is based on the spreadsheet list used for planning and reviewing our work. Footsteps website carries reports on most events which attracts attention and favourable reactions.

Footsteps finances were in a sound position at the end of the year, with £1,466 of restricted funds for developing and disseminating Small Footsteps learning resources and £940 for general activities.

We are now entering a period of unprecedented concern and action on the climate. The activities of climate activists, many acting from conscience and faith, will become increasingly visible. During the coming year Footsteps will be doing all that it is able help faith communities work together and with others in addressing the enormous environmental and climate challenges we face.

Footsteps Events and Activities September 2018 - September 2019

extracted from Footsteps activity planning and monitoring spreadsheet

	Website	Footsteps annual report to BCF	https://footstepsbcf.org.uk/2018/09/14/a-year-in-the-life-of-footsteps/
	Website	Publicised GreenFaith 'Living the Change initiative as part of publicity for Tread Lightly 3	https://footstepsbcf.org.uk/2018/10/17/faith-communities-celebrate-global-week-of-climate-commitments/
	Stourbridge	Small Footsteps presentation at Stourbridge 'Love their place on the Planet' event	https://footstepsbcf.org.uk/2018/10/30/footsteps-help-stourbrige-love-their-place-on-the-planet/
	Website	Report on IPCC 1.5'C Climate report	https://footstepsbcf.org.uk/2018/11/22/report-on-ipcc-launch-event/
09-Nov	Birmingham Council House	Interfaith week Birmingham launch	Footsteps provided a spoken contribution
18-Nov	Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Smethwick	Tread Lightly 3 annual conference	See website report
Nov	Ladywood community centre	Social entrepreneurship briefing (Kamran has details)	Valuable event in terms of contact with young people and explaining Footsteps's work
30-Dec	BAHU Trust	Meeting with Jewish visitors in Birmingham for the Limmud Festival 2019 to learn about BAHU Trust and Footsteps	Kamran, Chris & Harriet Martin represented Footsteps. Margaret Jacobi sent apologies. Rabbi Jonathan Neril, The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development, Israel, David Krantz, Aytzim: Ecological Judaism, and Jamal Alkirnawi, A New Dawn in the Negev would like to keep in touch with Footsteps.
Dec 18 - Mar 19	Various	Footsteps speakers at other events	Kamran at Sacred Space interfaith supper in Hall Green; Ruth at Quaker Peace and Church event., Chris at Political Night Prayer, Cotteridge;
17-Feb	Birmingham Central Mosque	#ShowTheLove, Climate Coaliton camapign event	About 50 people. Report on Footsteps website. Activities useful but most people appeared to be more interested in conversations. Rebecca Hardy wants to maintain contact. (See Website)
	Website	Results of Footsteps survey of supporters	https://footstepsbcf.org.uk/2019/03/26/footsteps-survey-the-results/

10-Mar	Hamstead Hall Academy	BCF Faiths for Fun	Chris and Prubhjot manned base. 65 youngsters (almost all scouting movement) there and 45 #ShowTheLove badges made. Generally thought to be best ever FfF and very well organised. Picutre report on website
27-Mar	Peterborough Cathedral	IFN Local Interfaith Practitioners Day	Ruth & Shenaz spoke on our partnership experience but most people not environmentally orientated.
30-Mar	GN Gurdwara, Smethwick	Sikh Environment Day and fruit tree planting	John Nightingale joined with 60+ mainly young Sikhs planting fruit trees along canal.
22-Apr	Village Square, Kings Heath	Earth Day Celebration, 10 am - 1 pm	Chris and Harriet attended for Footsteps. Steady interest. Earth Day issues activity good conversation starter
11-May	Sparkbrook Islamic Centre	Our Common Home' Community street iftar	Ruth spoke for Footsteps at a joint Sunni and Shia mosque event attended by 200 people.
19-May	Martineau Gardens	Open day	Footsteps stall. Ruth coordinated. John N attended. Asking for volunteers via social media provided three volunteers
11-Jun	Council House	BCC climate emergency debate	Footsteps coordinated letter presented to Councillor Wazeem Zaffar who committed to a faith representative being on the Cllimate Emergency Task Force being set up by the Council. See Website
18-Aug	Tysley Energy Park	Interfaith walk and study visit	Walk will be around the perimeter of energy park. Sign posts. Actions (1) Need to get clearer directions and parking from TEP and include in final mail out (2) check suitability for wheel chair users (3) BBC WM reporter will be there, (4) Put llink to CM's interview on BBC WM on website. (KF to give PD recording) (See Website)