

# FAITH ENCOUNTER PROGRAMME

## Faith Guiding Course 2011

Have you ever taken a person or a group of people of a different faith, around your place of worship?

Through this course you can enhance your skills and gain an Institute of Tourist Guiding Certificate (Level 2 qualification)



The Faith Encounter Programme seeks to train people of all faiths in Birmingham as **Faith Guides**, so that places of worship are better equipped to offer high quality educational visits.

**70 people of 8 different faiths in the West Midlands have successfully completed the course so far.**

The towns and cities of the West Midlands are home to a rich and diverse heritage of faith communities with beautiful sacred buildings.

These treasures can be significant visitor attractions and also become a valuable resource for faith diversity training. They include both historic sites and new centres.

They are already visited by many school, college and adult groups. These visits are invaluable in breaking down barriers and promoting respect and understanding between people of different faith communities. They are also inspiring experiences.



The course is designed to provide participants with the **knowledge, understanding and skills** required for successful guiding around a particular place of worship.

We are looking for participants from all the major religious traditions represented in Birmingham:

**Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, & Sikh.**

Minor traditions are not excluded if they have a place of worship.

## The Course

### When ?

Thursdays 6.00 - 9.00pm,  
from Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 2011- Feb 9<sup>th</sup>  
2012 with a 2 week Christmas  
break.

### Where ?

Lozells Methodist Community Centre,  
113, Lozells St, Birmingham, B19 2AP  
0121 554 9360

### Who can apply ?

There will be **20 places available**.

Applicants must be over the age of 18 and have the ability to communicate well in English.

Applications are welcomed from practising members of any faith community. In addition to completing the application form, applicants need to submit a reference from a leader of their local place of worship

### Application forms

Phone or email the Course Director:  
Ruth Tetlow 0121 449 4892

[ruthtetlow@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthtetlow@btinternet.com)  
[www.faithencounter.org.uk](http://www.faithencounter.org.uk)

### Assessment

- A one hour written exam
- A short guided tour

### Fees

The course is offered at the discounted rate of **£33**, which is the registration fee to the Institute of Tourist Guiding. This may be subsidised by the place of worship. Concessions may be available.

## Course details

The aims are achieved through the study of **three key areas**:

1. Knowledge of and ability to **communicate the guide's own faith**
2. Awareness of, and competence in, **tour guiding skills**
3. Understanding of **other faith traditions**

The course will include **four visits** to places of worship of different faiths.

Participants will be given opportunities to engage with each other in discussion and questioning, and the sessions will include plenty of practice in guiding skills. **Private study, including the keeping of a journal, will be required.**

### Management

The course has been pioneered by the Faith Encounter Programme since 2007. The Faith Encounter Programme aims to develop respect and mutual understanding between people of all faiths and communities in the West Midlands. It is managed by a Steering Group composed of leading members of Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh faiths. It has been funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government but currently relies on funding from charitable trusts to supplement its income. It is a member of the West Midlands Faiths Forum, and is supported by Birmingham SACRE.