



## **Biographies of the Speakers**

### **AGM 2020**

#### **Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg**

Jonathan Wittenberg is the Senior Rabbi of Masorti Judaism UK and Rabbi of the New North London Synagogue.

A writer and thinker on Judaism, he is a President of the Council of Christians and Jews and a co-founder of Eco-Synagogue and J Tree global. He is deeply engaged in environmental issues and interfaith work.

Further interests include pastoral work, supporting refugees, hospice care, and literature, especially poetry. He teaches and speaks widely, including on Radio 4's Prayer for the Day.

We are blessed, very proud and fortunate tonight that he has agreed to commence our AGM with a short thought and message to guide us through our meeting

**Rabbi Jonathan ...**

#### **Chair**

**Nic Beech  
Vice Chancellor  
Middlesex University**

Nic joined Middlesex University as Vice-Chancellor in February 2020 having previously been a Vice-Principal of the University of St Andrews and Provost of the University of Dundee. He is a professor of management and is President of the British Academy of Management. His work has focused on identity and change in the creative industries and health sectors and he has held visiting chairs in business schools in the UK, The Netherlands and Australia. Nic holds several fellowships and is a member of the Council of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Nic is an elder of the Church of Scotland and until his move to London was a parish organist.

## **Panellists - Covid 19 Lessons Learnt: Reactions, Response and Results**

### **Julie Siddiqi**

Julie Siddiqi is a mentor, consultant and gender equality campaigner with a specific focus on Jewish-Muslim and other interfaith relations and on applying that to social action work together. She has a background in community grass roots work spanning 20 years and founded a local charity for Muslim women's needs, which she led for 10 years.

Julie is Co-founder of The Big Iftar during Ramadan, which has seen such events as the first ever Iftar (breaking of the fast) reception at Lambeth Palace hosted by Archbishop Justin Welby in 2014.

She was the Executive Director of the Islamic Society of Britain from 2010-2014 and is a Fellow in the Faith and Civil Society Unit at Goldsmiths University.

She was previously a member of the Government's National Muslim Women's Advisory Group and mentor for the Prince of Wales Charity, Mosaic. She is a Governor at Eden Girls School in Slough.

Julie was previously listed in the Times Newspaper's 100 Most Influential Muslim Women in the UK and is a regular voice on BBC Radio 4's Thought For The Day.

She is Founder and Director of Sadaqa Day, a one-day Muslim-led focus on social action and is Co-founder of the Jewish and Muslim Women's Network, Nisa-Nashim. She is Co-founder of Open My Mosque, a campaign to highlight and speak out about inequalities in UK mosques.

### **Propa Rezwana**

'Propa Rezwana Anwar is a 1st year Student Representative of Social Sciences, and Faculty Education Committee Member at King's College London.

Her internship at The Faith & Belief Forum fuelled her passion for interfaith endeavours, so she now sits on their Youth Council and also enjoys contributing to the establishment and success of the Barnet Multi Faith Youth Forum.'

### **Dr Kishan Manocha**

Dr Kishan Manocha has extensive experience in religious freedom issues in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and Central and South Asia as an advocate, researcher, trainer and consultant to a number of international and non-governmental organisations. He has been Senior Adviser on Freedom of Religion or Belief at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Warsaw since May 2015. Prior to that he served as Director of the Office of Public Affairs of the Bahá'í community of the United Kingdom.

Kishan holds degrees in medicine and law from the Universities of London and Cambridge respectively. He first trained in psychiatry, completing a Research Fellowship in Forensic Psychiatry, before studying law and going onto practise as a barrister.

Kishan has been a Visiting Research Fellow at the Carr Centre for Human Rights at Harvard University and a Fellow of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at Concordia University in Montreal. He has lectured in public international law and international human rights law at universities in Pakistan, Poland, and the UK, and is a Research Fellow at the Religious Freedom and Business Foundation, a Professional Associate at the Centre for Law and Religion at Cardiff University, and chairs the Faith Matters Advisory Board.

He was also actively involved in interfaith dialogue activities at the local and national levels in the UK for over two decades and is currently member of the Advisory Committee to the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect.

### **Steve Miller**

Steve is a social entrepreneur, community activist and independent consultant. Originally an adventure playground worker, Steve has over 35 years experience in the voluntary sector.

Steve was on the original steering group of Faith-Based Regeneration Network and has been a consultant to a number of faith projects and organisations. Steve is a Fellow of the Faiths and Civil Society Unit at Goldsmiths College, London.

Steve has been responsible for forming or co-creating various third sector organisations including Tzedek, Jubilee Debt Campaign, Restore Community Projects and North London Action for the Homeless. Steve is a facilitator assisting many groups with organisational dynamics, strategic planning, creativity and leadership development.

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## **Duncan Hanton**

Duncan and Jill Hanton and their three children established Trinity Church in the autumn of 2003, as part of a Newfrontiers London Church Planting initiative.

Duncan desires to build a church in Colindale full of people of all nationalities, ages and backgrounds who come together to worship and create a culture and environment where people know the love of the Jesus and the Father and are encouraged to be all they are destined to be to see God's Kingdom grow.

Trinity Church strives to support the local community in many diverse ways and are a real example of the true meaning of loving and respecting their neighbours.

## **Suchita Raj**

Joined Barnet WIN seven years ago and she represents Hinduism in the network and was appointed their chair in 2019. She strongly believes that women should play a significant role in guiding the next generation to a better future, future with less prejudice! Her and WINs main goal is to bring women of different faiths together in order to make everyone aware of the similarities and differences of different faiths and try to remove the misconceptions about different religions, by having healthy debates and discussions, on their rituals, practices and festivals.

## **Mayor of Barnet – Caroline Stock**



Cllr Caroline Stock is Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet.

On Tuesday 21 May 2019 Cllr Caroline Stock was inaugurated as the 55th Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet.

Cllr. Caroline Stock was born in Barnet and grew up in Totteridge.

She went to St. Andrew's Primary School in Totteridge, where her future husband also attended! She studied for a BSc in Human Biology at Kings College, London.

She worked at different hospitals including Chelsea Hospital for Women and Queen Charlotte's Hospital and went on to obtain a PhD at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School. Her doctorate investigated human fertilisation, working in the field of In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF).

Having lived in Totteridge all her life Caroline became a member of the Totteridge Residents' Association which works to protect the area for future generations. Caroline became Chairman of the Association and campaigned to prevent overdevelopment of land and building on the Greenbelt.

She currently sits on the Totteridge Manor Association. Caroline became involved with the Neighbourhood Watch, the Barnet Safer Engagement Group and then joined the Community Action Panel (CAP). Taking on the Chair of the CAP, she worked closely with the local police, which allowed her to fight local issues.

As a Governor of Woodridge Primary School in Woodside Park, she learnt important skills in the role as the Special Educational Needs Link. Using her experiences from being a governor, Caroline became a volunteer for the local Home-Start, helping vulnerable families in crisis. For six years Caroline has helped coordinate a homeless winter shelter in collaboration with Together in Barnet and Homeless Action for Barnet.

Caroline was elected onto Barnet Council in 2014 and has taken a special interest in Children and Health. In 2015 Caroline launched the Mayor of Barnet's Golden Kilometre in response to the rise in childhood obesity. It is a scheme where primary schools are encouraged to run/walk a daily kilometre.

Following on from this she is trying to raise the understanding of Type 2 Diabetes promoting exercise and healthy eating at Diabetic Awareness events. She is continuing this work as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and in collaboration with Barnet Public health is launching six Healthy Heritage walks around the Borough.

Working with councillors, residents groups and other organizations such as the London Wildlife Trust Caroline has helped set up the "Darlands Conservation Trust".

The Darlands is a beautiful stretch of land in the Totteridge Greenbelt that is very close to her heart having played there as a child. It has been neglected over time and the Trust hopes to raise substantial funds over the next few years to try and restore this area.

Caroline has been privileged to attend engagements and events which have highlighted the wonderful diversity of the Borough. Visiting every corner of Barnet she has met incredible individuals and organisations that are having major impacts on others lives.

Caroline has always been interested in art and in particular sculpture, photography and silverwork and recently undertook a Diploma in Art and Design at the Hampstead Institute. She is married to Richard Stock and they have two children