

GOOD PRACTICE REPORT

INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE IN ACTION

WHO is reporting? Sean Finlay

From WHERE? Wisbech Interfaith Forum (East Anglia Diocese)

WHAT did they do? First East Anglian Interfaith Pilgrimage to Walsingham (October 2015)

HOW can they be contacted? Seanfinlay@aol.co.uk, also see end of report

Forty people from all over East Anglia and from a variety of faith traditions gathered initially at the Catholic Shrine where they were welcomed by the Rector Monsignor John Armitage. The pilgrimage was organised by Cynthia Capey from Sifre (Suffolk Interfaith Resource) a longstanding interfaith champion and led by Fr. Michael Rear, a retired priest of the Diocese of East Anglia.

Following Mass we drove to the Anglican Shrine where we were greeted by Fr. Andrew Mitcham, Vicar of Walsingham. Over a shared lunch Fr. Michael talked about the history of the shrines. Our host produced a silver salver which was donated to the Shrine in 1968 by a young Egyptian Muslim who was a great devotee of Mary. The pilgrims were blessed with Holy water from the Holy Well and presented with an interfaith bead set, a link between the Catholic rosary and Muslim prayer beads.

A number of the non-Catholics present stated that they had visited the Shrines on a previous occasion and declared that their visits were most uplifting. The hope is that we can build on this initiative and that the special atmosphere of this Norfolk oasis can be experienced by more and more people of faith.

If you are interested in securing a set of beads or in having a speaker come to your group, Cynthia would be pleased to hear from you. She and her enthusiastic 'co champion' David can be contacted on 01437233447 (or visit www.sifre.org.uk).

The Diocesan Inter Religious Dialogue Committee holds quarterly meetings, and anyone interested is invited to come along. For more information on the work of this group please contact the Diocesan Lead, Brian Keegan whose email is

brian@briankeegan.demon.co.uk