

Watford Interfaith Association organised a mass planting in our Peace Garden

Francoise Murphy

October 8, 2017



Watford Interfaith Association (WIFA) organised a mass planting in the Peace Garden in Cassiobury Park, Watford on the October 8th, 2017. (www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com/dates.html)

The Peace Garden is a project that was initiated 3 years ago by Watford Interfaith Association and endorsed by the Watford Faith community. Thanks to an offer of a half-acre in Cassiobury Park, a £2000 grant from the Watford Borough Council and various sponsorships the Peace Garden became a reality in the making. Jeff Bateman has been coordinating the project with a team of volunteers meeting on a weekly basis in the garden.

On Wednesday 4 October and Sunday October 8th, on the occasion of the Week of Prayer for World Peace a mass planting was organised in the Peace Garden. Thousands of bulbs of daffodils, crocuses, tulips, anemones, hyacinth, narcissi, cherry tree and more were planted during those 2 days. People from all communities of faith and no faith, young and old came together and offer their help. Some brought their own plants and bulbs. The Green Gym joined in the effort and lend us their tools. On Sunday, after one hour and half of planting all participants left their tools and came together in a circle in the labyrinth. Father Geoffrey Calvert (Chair of WIFA) invited everyone to take part in a 2 minutes silence for peace in our world; everyone praying in their own faith tradition. We concluded by reciting together the International Prayer for Peace:

Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth

Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust

Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.



It was a very uplifting and moving experience: praying together for peace, people from all backgrounds in this awesome environment of the Peace garden. We ended the afternoon with warm drinks and snacks and chatting with each other. We are all looking forward to spring to see the beautiful display of colours of all the flowers we planted! It will look fantastic!