

SIFRE



Mutual Understanding

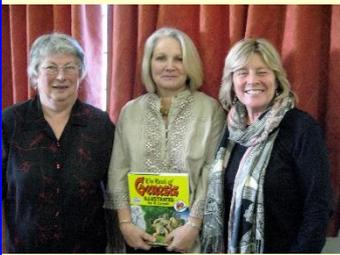
Supporting
Informing
Facilitating
Responding
Educating

Community Cohesion

Social Inclusion

Individual Well-Being

Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource



1991 - 2016

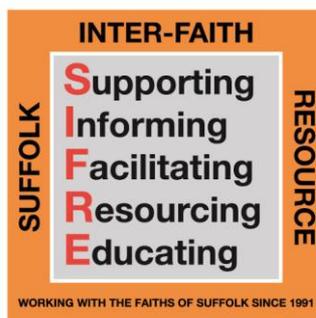
SIFRE is an independent charitable company serving Suffolk and East Anglia
Registered Charity No. 1042612. Limited Company No. 2992865. - Registered in England and Wales

Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource.

**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2015 - 2016**

**TO BE PRESENTED AT THE
TWENTY-SECOND
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY.**

**ON TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2016
AT 6.30 PM
IN THE CO-OP EDUCATION CENTRE
11 FORE STREET, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK, IP4 1JW;**



PLEASE NOTE

THE AGM FOLLOWS ON FROM THE EGM WHICH STARTS AT 6:15 PM

AND

**THE RECEPTION FOR MEMBERS, ASSOCIATES AND FRIENDS
BEGINS AT 7:30 PM**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND REFLECTIONS - SIFRE'S AGM 15:09:15

Dear Friends,

It is almost 25 years to the day since a local interfaith network was launched with the encouragement of the Mayor and the support of Concern, the then existing network of town centre Churches and with the commitment of representatives of other faith communities.

Its focus was initially on Ipswich but its activities and influence soon spread throughout the county. For some years SIFRE received enough financial support from the County Council to be able to employ some part time staff and for many years, until 2015 in fact, premises were provided by Suffolk College and latterly by UCS.

Thus for most of our 25 years SIFRE has had various centres in which to house its ever growing collection of resources and where it has tried to offer a welcome to anyone and to run seminars, courses and informal events. (The suitability of the various centres ranged from ideal to challenging!)

As its name suggests, SIFRE has endeavoured to be a resource for all the people of Suffolk. It has not had targets or a business plan. It has endeavoured to discern and respond to expressed or perceived needs as appropriately as possible within its capacity.

There are accounts of its work of various lengths - annual reports, booklets, the 20th year celebratory book "SIFRE Samplings", website records and the little booklet "SIFRE - Past and Present". I am not going to do another overview. It is more important to look forward.

It is the life-enhancing personal experiences which people have had which matter and the changes in outlooks or systems which may have been so gradual or subtle that they were probably not noticed at the time. For some years, government equality agendas gave explicit opportunities to make a real difference, but, over the years, changes to personnel and systems were sometimes the cause of major set-backs to SIFRE's purpose.

I would like now to mention a few of the SIFRE events which have inspired me over the years. Other people will have their own significant memories.

"Weep not for me, weep for yourselves and your children"

This was a well-attended SIFRE Lent course in 1995 based on Jesus' words to the women of Jerusalem on his way to the cross. It took place before the demise of "Concern" the supportive network of Ipswich town centre churches.

Christian women and women from other faiths spoke movingly and openly about their experiences of suffering, how they coped with it and how it is understood within their traditions.

"On Wings of Peace"

This was an evening of reflection through music, poetry and dance, held on 11th September 2002 to commemorate the destruction of the Twin Towers.

Organised by SIFRE, it was attended by over 400, and involved people of all ages and faiths and representatives of public bodies. Appropriately, Margaret Nelson, a Humanist Celebrant, provided the continuity.

A SIFRE study tour of Israel/Palestine

In the monastery at the peak of the Mount of Temptation in Jericho I was given a beeswax candle by a Greek Orthodox nun.

At the foot of the mountain I slipped and broke my ankle. The candle broke in half too, though it was held together by the cord at its centre.

Laid up in Ipswich Hospital I had this candle by my bed. A nurse from a Greek Orthodox background who was attending me recognised it.

Looking back on this painful experience which included traction and 19 weeks in plaster, I see that setbacks may be opportunities, though often in disguise, and that in our vulnerability we can become more aware both of our inner core and of the thread that binds us to each other, whether friend or stranger!

SIFRE was built on and has been sustained by friendships, in some cases very deep ones. That is what matters the most.

I do not see the closure of SIFRE as a setback.

We are indeed emerging from a crisis or indeed a series of crises - or put another way, challenging situations!

The last 2 years have been gruelling as we have sought to respond positively to these changes.

But I am convinced that the time is ripe for the winding up of SIFRE; to accept change, to welcome rebirth and to nurture new shoots.

"For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes!" (Dag Hammarskjöld)

AN OVERVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUFFOLK INTER-FAITH RESOURCE

Phase 1 - Roots

When the Religious Studies Department was created at Suffolk College it was able to benefit from the good relationships that were developing between people of minority faiths in Ipswich thanks to the work of Rev. Cliff Reed who had been building bridges with them and welcoming them into the Unitarian Meeting House for the annual Civic Celebrations of Community.

From the start, the Religious Studies programme at Suffolk College, alongside academic courses in Christian Theology, offered various short courses for the general public including: Judaism in Ipswich, Hinduism in Ipswich and Islam in Ipswich, presented by local members of those faiths. In addition, there were classes in Arabic and Qur'anic Studies for Muslims and others, taught by a lecturer brought over from the Islamic Academy in Cambridge. When Suffolk College later included Religious Studies in its degree programme, there were modules in world faiths, which in their turn strengthened the connections between academic studies and the life of the local community. So the ground was prepared for the formation of Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource.

SIFRE has always striven to be first and foremost a resource of people from different faiths, so our first task was to form and consolidate relationships with people from the many faith groups found in Ipswich and Suffolk. Friendships were formed through the writing of the two books - "Faiths in Focus in Ipswich and Suffolk" and "Finding our Way and Sharing our Stories". Individuals and groups were invited to join SIFRE, a diverse Board of Trustees met regularly and a small committee arranged events.

The Religious Studies Courses and SIFRE shared self-contained premises in a college annexe which had everything we needed – office, library, classroom, toilets, kitchen, car parking and even a garden landscaped through a donation from BT. People could drop in when they liked, we could stay open as late as we liked and we could also run events at the weekends. A real sense of community developed. Various people helped to run SIFRE in a voluntary capacity and we employed a part-time administrator.

Phase 2 - Outreach

Coinciding with the National RE Festival in 1997, we made contact with the schools in Suffolk and offered a programme of visits and visiting speakers. We organised town centre trails to significant religious sites and places of worship in Ipswich. We began to build up a team of tutors from the faiths who were prepared to go into schools and explain their beliefs and practices. We produced

basic booklets on Judaism, Islam and Sikhism to support our work in schools. We ran “World Religions Roundabout” courses for the WEA in many centres throughout Suffolk and we developed a Certificate of World Religions with the University of Essex. We accepted invitations to provide speakers for various voluntary organisations like Cruse and the Mothers’ Union. Our work with educational bodies expanded every year, calling for more and more resources. (Cynthia took early retirement and continued working full-time for SIFRE in an honorary capacity.)

Phase 3 - Engagement

Our next phase brought us into greater engagement with health and social care services. We became regular providers of training for hospital staff on issues of faith and culture, and developed close working relationships with the Chaplaincy teams at Ipswich and West Suffolk Hospitals. We contributed to consultations on the needs of the elderly, and assisted Suffolk Carers in the development of appropriate services for members of minority groups.

Sadly, we lost our self-contained premises and were relocated via an office in Diocesan House to a prefabricated building in the College grounds next to the Chaplaincy. Although this move severely restricted our out of hours’ activities and we had much less space, we continued to run regular events for SIFRE members and others and were able to develop a close relationship with the College Chaplaincy team. Because we were on the College’s main site we became heavily involved with asylum seekers and much of our time and energy was directed to setting up a proper support system, which led to the founding in 1999 of the Suffolk Refugee Support Forum. In 1998 we produced the first edition of our “Inter-Faith Handbook for Community Use” building on Guidelines produced at St. Clements Hospital. We became closely involved in the development of the Multi-faith Chaplaincy at West Suffolk Hospital.

Phase 4 - Diversity

There was more and more demand for our tutors and courses and also for our advice. Our work with statutory bodies became more and more significant and our game “Diversity” began to make an impact on them. We moved yet again, into a very pleasant (but almost impossible to find) classroom in the main college. As it did not include any secure office accommodation, most of SIFRE’s administrative work now had to be done from home where David Capey was by now also working full-time for SIFRE in an honorary capacity as executive officer. We responded to the challenge of regionalisation, by working with other inter-faith and faith groups in the region in order to set up the East of England Faiths Agency (EEFA) in 2001 (see EEFA history).

After the attack on the Twin Towers, the fear of terrorism activated people to take more interest in community relations and to consider the impact that faiths have on society. SIFRE began to work in partnership with the police and other agencies supporting the local community. "On Wings of Peace", the commemoration which SIFRE organised for 11 September 2002, involved people of all ages and faiths and was attended by over 400, including representatives of the police, fire service, chamber of commerce and so on. Our "Inter-Faith Handbook" was by now in its third edition (2003) and much in demand.

Phase 5 - Partnerships

Government guidelines on the promotion of social inclusion, the recognition of cultural differences, and the need to involve faith communities, set the public agenda and Diversity became a buzzword within the statutory bodies and the voluntary sector. We were now working with the County Council, the Police, the Ipswich Borough Council, the local hospitals, primary care trusts, community education, and voluntary organisations, including Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations, to promote this agenda. We were invited to join more partnerships and networks. Organisations as varied as Rotary in Ipswich, Probus in Lowestoft, Cub Scouts in Needham Market, the Anglican Cathedral in Bury St. Edmunds and Chaplains in prisons asked us for speakers from the faiths. In response to this demand we expanded our team of faith tutors.

We received some core funding from the County Council and were able to appoint an Assistant to the Faiths Officer. We were involved in a major conference with Suffolk County Council on Questions of Identity, Faith and Culture, and we worked with the County Racial Harassment Initiative on the innovative and challenging Faces of Suffolk Photographic Exhibition which toured the county.

Phase 6 - Consolidation

This was a time of consolidation. A very supportive board of seven directors continued to oversee the legal, financial and training activities of SIFRE. Our Forum of Faiths was recognised as a valuable contact point and sounding board for the community, and we continued to provide an ongoing and interesting programme of events for our members and others in Ipswich and also in Bury St. Edmunds and Lowestoft, where we appointed honorary Faiths Officers to nurture SIFRE Circles.

We were increasingly involved with work in schools, with FE Colleges, the WEA and the Continuing Education Departments of Essex University and Cambridge University as well as with the statutory bodies, most of whom seem to be taking

the government's diversity agenda very seriously, even if they were short of funds to support it! We had by now built up a team of about 50 tutors from the faiths and we were employing a part time Faiths Officer, 2 part-time Community Liaison Officers and an Admin Assistant. We were very happy and settled in the College Bungalow, once the home of the caretakers. People were able to drop in and various community groups met there and felt at home.

Phase 7 – All Change

After being housed for many years by Suffolk College in various premises, culminating in the Caretaker's Bungalow, we moved house once again, this time to the upper floor of the Long St. Building, with the understanding that we would shortly become tenants of University Campus Suffolk, due to an impending exchange of land. This duly occurred and we settled in there for the foreseeable future. We were very grateful both to Suffolk New College and University Campus Suffolk for making such a generous arrangement with us.

Other changes also took place. Our Faiths Officer and Community Liaison Officers moved on to other posts and we replaced them with a Faiths Officer Team of volunteers. Under the government's community cohesion strategy and the creation of Local Strategic Partnerships, a parallel team of LSP Faith Officers came into existence which worked in close relationship with SIFRE and helped to raise the profile of the role of people of faith and faith communities throughout the county. This awareness was heightened by the presence of a SIFRE representative on the Strategic Board of the Suffolk Community Cohesion and Inclusion Partnership, and also on many other inter-agency partnerships and networks.

Phase 8 – Community Cohesion

In 2009 we launched Abrahamic study groups in every district and borough council throughout Suffolk, attracting a large number of people in centres including Bealings, Beccles, Bentley, Bury, Ipswich, Mildenhall and Needham Market. The following year the study groups continued on the theme of East meets West in Suffolk, bringing representatives of the Dharmic faiths into the conversations.

The publication of the government's document "Face to Face and Side by Side", spelling out its policy for inter-faith work and the creation of a national inter-faith week, gave us another opportunity to promote our various activities and stress the importance of the "Heart to Heart" dimension which seemed to have been missing from the government's perspective.

Phase 9 – Cutbacks

In 2010 the core funding from Suffolk County Council ceased and was replaced by a Service Level agreement with EEFA on SIFRE's behalf. The programme funded by this arrangement was an ambitious one but it succeeded in delivering locality study groups, faith awareness/diversity training, faith and culture seminars, forums of faith, twilight sessions for RE teachers, HMD events, and a rich programme for Interfaith Week. Through EEFA, SIFRE tutors continued to visit schools and visits to places of worship were also arranged. SIFRE continued to be represented on many interagency committees and to participate in events and activities throughout the County, but our loss of core funding made us become totally dependent on volunteers whose capacity was diminishing. This was made worse when further government cutbacks caused the end of the Service Level Agreement!

Phase 10 – The Inter-Faith Centre in the West Building of UCS: 2011-2015

We moved into the West Building of University Campus Suffolk where we were provided with a suite of rooms on the 1st floor. This included an office and a store room, and a seminar room which housed our multi-faith library of around 3000 books. It also stored the faith artefact boxes which can be loaned to schools through the Open the Box SACRE/SIFRE project. (This project has in its turn inspired the SIFRE Open the Tent experience during and after Interfaith Week in November.)

Over these recent years we have been able to develop relationships with various departments of the University, including with nursing, social work, radiography, events management, heritage, games, business studies and the art department. We are pleased that we have been able to arrange annual Faith Lectures in conjunction with UCS which are now becoming part of the UCS Academy series.

In this Centre we have offered monthly evening seminars open to all, regular language workshops language in Hebrew, Greek and Arabic, and a monthly Art and Spirituality afternoon group which includes attendees from Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim backgrounds.

Our most recent tasks have been the compiling and publication of our "Sharing our Stories" book and the assembling of a collection of complementary articles on the SIFRE web-site. In view of the popularity of our game Diversity which has now reached Japan and Australia, we have been exploring the possibility of its digitisation by a group of UCS students as a resource for GCSE Religious Studies students in particular. We are currently planning a conference for 9th July on Human Rights, Religious Rights and British values.

Metamorphosis – 4th June 2015 - We lose our Inter-Faith Centre

We vacated our suite of rooms as UCS had decided to refurbish the West Building as a Maths and Science block. We began a new stage in our life as we found our way without a Centre for the first time since our birth within Suffolk College in the early 1990s.

We are looking for a suitable home for our library and our other resources and we have a new postal address c/o Community Action Suffolk at Brightspace. We will be exploring new ways of working within the community while still maintaining our existing partnerships including that with UCS, both in Ipswich and in Bury St. Edmunds.

We cannot rise to every challenge, but we remain committed to building bridges between all groups in society and providing opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to meet, to share their experiences and to grow in mutual understanding.

Our new book “Sharing our Stories” is an important contribution to that process.

SHARING OUR STORIES

“Sharing our Stories’ is a collection of personal reflections about life from a diverse group of people. Although all have Suffolk connections, their stories highlight some of the challenges that face everyone wherever they live, including issues of gender, disability, race, persecution and displacement and the struggles individuals may have in maintaining their integrity with regard to their faith and spirituality.

People are often asked to state their religious affiliation and some are happy to be categorised in this way as Baha’is, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Humanists, Jains, Jews, Muslims, Pagans, Sikhs, Taoists and Zoroastrians (all represented in Suffolk). There are many others who see themselves as outside these boxes and their voices can also be heard through these stories.

REVIEWS

I have received the WONDERFUL book: thank you so much! I have looked through it and very much look forward to reading it properly over the next few weeks. It's already given me a very different view of the population of Suffolk.

Isabelle Wen, Buddhist

Some of the stories will make you smile and some are very moving. We recommend that you put aside any prejudices you might have about religion and religious people, and buy the book. This is about how people live their lives, their experiences, their families and their communities.

Margaret Nelson, Humanist.

'Sharing Our Stories' is a wonderful addition to the rich picture of Suffolk's faith communities. The headlines for each religion are well known, but the lived experiences and perspectives less so. What is so powerful about this book is that the traditions are exemplified through the lived lives of Suffolk people. Their stories bring to life the tensions, the joys and the hopes for a life well lived. Many of the contributors have been involved in inter-faith work, often supported by Suffolk Interfaith Resource and their contributions to conversations about how to live are important and deserve to be read. This is an important resource for all living in Suffolk, and especially our young people who have the right to hear the rich, interesting and very moving testimonies of many of their neighbours.

This book needs to be in every school library and used as a resource in every RE department in Suffolk.

*Mary Myatt
RE Adviser, Lead Inspector for Ofsted
and Servicing Officer for Suffolk SACRE*

"Suffolk Inter Faith Resource has, across the years, produced a series of excellent resources to promote inter faith understanding between people of different backgrounds in its area of England. With enormous commitment its small staff and volunteers have worked with local faith groups to provide opportunities for education about different faiths and opportunities for dialogue. They have also drawn together the stories of people of faith in their county. For 2015 World Interfaith Harmony Week they have launched a new compilation '*Sharing our Stories: Some Personal Reflections on Life and Faith*'. Rather unusually for such compilations, it contains a wide range of stories from people of many different religious - and also non-religious - beliefs who speak candidly about their lives and their faith. By turns moving, inspiring, fascinating and also shocking (some writers have lived through terrible experiences such as the Holocaust) and not uncontroversial in some views expressed, the book is a unique window into the lives of writers, each with much to tell us as fellow citizens of our multi faith country - and as global citizens seeking to live harmoniously in a multi faith world."

*Dr Harriet Crabtree, Director, Inter Faith Network for the UK,
2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH*

AN EXTRACT FROM “SHARING OUR STORIE”

ABDULLAH MAWAS A perspective on Syria

I am a doctor working in West Suffolk Hospital, but my place of origin is a village in northern Syria between Aleppo and the border with Turkey. In a recent talk which I gave to a SIFRE dialogue group meeting in the West Suffolk Hospital chapel, I shared my experience of living in the Middle East, in a country that used to have good inter-faith relations. For centuries the religious make-up of the population of Syria has been mixed.

Before the present conflict the percentages in Syria could be broken down as follows: Muslims 85%, of which 85% were Sunni, 10% Alwites and 5% Shias; Christians made up 10% and included the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch, the Melkite Greek Catholic Church, the Oriental Syriac Orthodox Church, the Armenian Apostolic Church and Eastern Catholic Churches; Druze accounted for 3% and there were also Jews, mostly in Aleppo and Damascus, either dating back to Biblical times or originating as colonies of refugees fleeing the Spanish Inquisition. There were several thousand Yazidis and also people with folk spiritual beliefs.

Syria’s history has been one of invasion after invasion – by Egyptians, Phoenicians, Hebrews, Aramaeans, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Seleucids, Romans, Nabataeans, Byzantines, Muslim Arabs, European Christian Crusaders, Ottomans, Western Allied Forces and the French. However, Syria became independent on 11th April 1947 and until recently remained comparatively stable. The various communities lived together harmoniously.

In a Gallup poll taken in 2009, 87% of Syrians “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that they always treat members of other faiths with respect. 78% said they had a positive opinion of Christians and only 5% said they had a negative opinion.

In pre-conflict Syria, it was common for friends of other religions to attend each other’s weddings and funerals, to mind each other’s children and to give food to each other. It was considered rude to inquire into someone’s religious background. In my opinion the Sunni/Shia dimension of the Syrian conflict had a greater basis in international rivalries than on the ground realities.

My Syrian brothers and sisters are now endangered. Villages and cities have been partially or completely destroyed. Medical facilities have been deliberately targeted and Syria is among the worst examples of targeting medical care as a weapon of war, as said by Donna McKay, executive director of Physicians for Human Rights.

I now work as a member of a multi-racial, multi-faith medical and nursing team at West Suffolk Hospital, in a place where community relations are peaceful. The contrast between this context and my place of origin could not be greater. Please hold my broken country and its neighbours in your hearts.

**AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
OF SUFFOLK INTER FAITH RESOURCE
IN THE CO-OP EDUCATION CENTRE,
11, FORE STREET, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK, IP4 1JW
ON TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 6:15 PM**

The EGM will be followed by the AGM.

AGENDA

1. To consider and vote on the following motion.

In the light of the current situation regarding staffing and finance, the Board of Trustee Directors consider that they no longer have the capacity to continue to run Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource. They therefore propose that the charitable company be wound up and its remaining assets be disposed of in accord with charitable law.

To be approved, this motion requires the approval of 75% of the registered membership. The membership has already been consulted by email and over 75% have supported the proposal. The motion will be put to the vote at the EGM and members present will be asked to vote and members absent will have their proxy votes recorded.

2. To consider and vote on the following motion.

Charity law requires any residual assets of any closed charity be donated to other charities with identical aims or deposited with a Community Foundation.

The Board of Director Trustees has agreed and proposes that the residual assets of Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource be deposited with the Suffolk Community Foundation as a SIFRE Trust fund empowered to make small grants to local inter-faith groups for inter-faith events involving representatives of three or more different faiths.

There is no other business for the consideration of members at the EGM.

The Trustee Directors have proposed that Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource be wound up and over 75% of the member have accepted this proposal. Consequently, there will be no (re)appointment of Trustee Directors and the existing directors will stand down on the winding up of SIFRE except that they will remain responsible for the decisions they made while they were in office

**TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF SUFFOLK INTER FAITH RESOURCE
IN THE CO-OP EDUCATION CENTRE,
11, FORE STREET, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK, IP4 1JW
ON TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 6:30 PM**

The AGM will be followed at 7:30 PM by a Reception for Members and Friends.

AGENDA

3. Welcome to Members of the Company.
4. Apologies for absence.
5. Minutes of the Twenty-First AGM held on 15th September 2015.
6. Matters arising.
7. The Report of the Board of Trustees.
8. Treasurer's Report and presentation of the accounts for 2015-2016.
9. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts for 2016-2017.
10. Any other Business.
11. Date of Final General Meeting to be arranged

The Trustee Directors have proposed that Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource be wound up and over 75% of the member have accepted this proposal. Consequently, there will be no (re)appointment of Trustee Directors and the existing directors will stand down on the winding up of SIFRE except that they will remain responsible for the decisions they made while they were in office

**TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF SUFFOLK INTER FAITH RESOURCE
IN THE CO-OP EDUCATION CENTRE,
11, FORE STREET, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK, IP4 1JW
ON TUESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 6:30 PM**

MINUTES

Present:

Company Members: Punna Singh Athwall; Cynthia Margaret Capey; Dr William David Capey; Dr Dababrata Chowdhury; Charles Croydon; Robin A Herne; Denis Johnston; Beverley Levy; Revd Carol Mansell; Lila Patel; Elizabeth Pettman; Revd Cliff Reed; David Sharp; Martin Spettigue; Bhupindar Singh Sually; Gurmeet Singh Sually; Anna-Marie Thirkettle; Richard Togher; Edward Andrew Neil Winship.

Observers: Avtar Atwall; Liz Bennett; Vicky Cowdell; Kate Holmes; Tibbs Pinter;

1. Welcome to Members of the Company.

Revd. Cliff Reed welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Martin Spettigue to chair the rest of the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Anita Indira Beresford Webb; Jnanamitra Emmett; Roger Fern; Jean Gittens; Revd Canon Charles Jenkin; Sarah Jenkins; Mojlum Khan; Rosie Livingston; Manik Miah; Mary Myatt; Margaret Nelson; Rose Norgate; Revd John Peck; Rosemary Pickering; Dr Sushil Kumar Soni; Miss Elizabeth H Sugarman.

3. Minutes of the Twentieth AGM held on 16th September 2014.

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated in advance and these were accepted nem.con.

4. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising

5. The Report of the Board of Trustees.

The Chairman referred the meeting to the Annual Report and his opening report before leading the meeting through the written report. As last year he highlighted the library work undertaken by Cynthia Capey and Vanda Broughton and the Open the Box project led by Liz Bennett. Cynthia Capey then spoke to her report which spanned the academic year. She referred to some of the major events and achievements of the year.

6. Treasurer's Report and presentation of the accounts for 2014-2015.

The Treasurer presented the Accounts for 2014-2015. He reported that the financial position of SIFRE was stable and that in the year uncommitted income exceeded expenditure by £2.5K. During the year, SIFRE had paid for the production of 1000 books "Sharing our Stories" and

sales were such that income to the end of the financial year had almost covered the production cost. He speculated that income and expenditure for 2015-2016 would mirror the year concluded and that SIFRE would be increasing its bank balance by a similar amount provided no major expenditure was necessary.

Charles Croydon asked whether the library which is currently in store is covered by our insurance policy. The Treasurer replied that it is not specifically mentioned in SIFRE's policy and though it was of great academic value he thought it would be very difficult to put a value on it as there is insignificant money value in second hand theology books. It was agreed that the Board should pursue this matter further.

Punna Athwall proposed and Charles Croydon seconded that the account be accepted. The members agreed nem.con.

7. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts for 2015-2016.

The Treasurer again expressed his ongoing appreciation to Clive Mees who examines SIFRE's account every year and proposed that Clive be reappointed for 2015-2016. Cynthia Capey and Punna Athwall seconded this and the members agreed nem.con.

8. Election of Board Members.

The Chairman explained that our Memorandum and Articles require that SIFRE should have a Board of up to 9 Trustee Directors and that one third of the Board (3 Members) should stand down at each AGM and seek re-election if they so wish. At the beginning of the year there were 8 Trustees and during the year, David Sharp stood down. Charles Jenkin and Anita Beresford-Web were appointed 06/09/2012 and Martin Spettigue and Denis Johnston were appointed on 04/09/2103. Martin Spettigue, Anita Beresford-Webb and Barbara Mayhew have registered their desire to retire from the Board so in addition only Charles Jenkin is required to stand down. Cynthia Capey was co-opted during the year and will be standing for election.

Charles Jenkin has expressed his wish to be re-appointed and Dr Dababrata Chowdhury, Robin A Herne, Mojlum Khan and Gurmeet Singh Sually had been proposed and seconded.

There being no other candidates, the Chairman proposed that these six should be appointed. The proposal was seconded by Punna Athwall and carried nem.con

9. Any other Business.

David Capey asked the meeting to express its gratitude and thanks to Martin Spettigue for his sterling work as Chairman of SIFRE for the last 9 years. The meeting applauded Martin for this.

Charles Croydon drew the attention of the meeting to the SIFRE plan to present a series of seminars in 2016 dealing with the environment. He indicated that one aspect of this will be the issue of Air Quality. He drew

the meetings attention to this series and referred to the DERA consultation on Air Quality that is open until 6 November. The link is below

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/airquality/draft-aq-plans>

10. Date of next AGM was nominally fixed for 13th September 2016.

The meeting concluded at 7:15 PM

Members 2014-2015:

Revd Canon Christopher Andrews; Punna Singh Athwall; Anita Indira Beresford Webb; Revd Barbara Bilston; John Brentnall; Cynthia Margaret Capey; Dr William David Capey; Councillor Jane Chambers; Dr Dababrata Chowdhury; Revd James Corrigall; Charles Croydon; Mohamed Dada; Ann Dawes; Jnanamitra Emmett; Roger Fern; Jean Gittens; Belinda Gledhill; Lisa Joy Gordon; Paul Griffith; David Hart; Robin A Herne; Tony Horrocks; Dali Mehrji Rustomji Jabbar; Bernard Jasper; Revd Canon Charles Jenkin; Sarah Jenkins; Denis Johnston; Prabjot Kaur; Mojlum Khan; Moira Kleissner; Marina Kralina; Dr Jan L M Lelijveld; Beverley Levy; Rosie Livingstone; Caroline Mackenzie; Revd Carol Mansell; Tim Mason; Barbara Mayhew; Manik Miah; Wendy Mulford-Bevan; Mary Myatt; Margaret Nelson; Rose Norgate; Susan North; Revd Dr John Parr; Lila Patel; Revd John Peck; Elizabeth Pettman; Revd Cliff Reed; David Sharp; Revd Matt Smith; Dr Sushil Kumar Soni; Martin Spettigue; Michael Henry Stagg; Bhupindar Singh Sually; Gurmeetr Singh Sually; Miss Elizabeth H Sugarman; Anna-Marie Thirkettle; Richard Togher; Peter John Watson ; Elizabeth Wesley; Edward Andrew Neil Winship; Anthony Woodiing.

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE DIRECTORS
FOR 2015 – 2016.**

The Board of Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource (SIFRE) is pleased to present its Report and Financial Statement for the year ending 31st March 2016.

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers.

The Charity is an Incorporated Private Limited Company (Company No 2992865) registered on 22 November 1994 and registered as a charity on 6 December 1994. The registered address of the Company was until July 2015, The Inter-Faith Centre, The West Building, University Campus Suffolk, Waterfront Building, Neptune Quay, Ipswich. IP4 1QJ. It is now The Inter-Faith Centre, Brightspace, 160 Hadleigh Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 0HH

Until June 2015, the Charity had accommodation which was provided by University Campus Suffolk. This accommodation housed a library / seminar room and resource centre, an office, and a store room. It was furnished with fittings previously provided by the Suffolk New College and by University Campus Suffolk and / or donated by other supportive groups. It now has no permanent accommodation.

**The Honorary Life Presidents of SIFRE are: Revd. Clifford M Reed.
and Martin Spettigue**

The Honorary Officers of the Board for 2015 – 2016 are:

Martin Spettigue

Chairman

William David Capey

Treasurer

Directors

The directors shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016

William David Capey

Revd Canon Charles Jenkin

Denis Johnston

Beverley Levy

The directors shown below were appointed to the company during the period

Dr Dababrata Chowdhury on 15 September 2015

Robin Herne on 15 September 2015

Mojlum Khan on 15 September 2015

Gurmeet Singh Sually on 15 September 2015

Cynthia Margaret Capey on 09 July 2015

The directors shown below resigned during the period

Martin Spettigue on 15 September 2015

Anita Beresford-Webb on 15 September 2015

Barbara Mayhew on 15 September 2015

The Charity's Bankers are: The National Westminster Bank plc. Ipswich Tavern Street Branch.

The Independent Examiner is: Mr Clive Mees, Plumstead, Westhorpe, Suffolk.

Structure, Governance and Management.

The charitable company is constituted as a limited company and is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

Political and charitable donations

The Company made no political or charitable donations in the financial year 2015-2016

Company policy on the employment of disabled persons

The Company operates an equal opportunities policy and does not discriminate against anyone on grounds of disability. It endeavours to use disabled friendly venues for its meetings

Membership of SIFRE.

SIFRE recognises three categories of membership. These are:

MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY: are those individuals who have registered their membership with the Company and have paid their annual subscription fee.

- They are eligible to attend and vote at General Meetings,
- They can stand for election to the Board,
- They receive all SIFRE's mailings,
- They can attend meetings of the Forum of Faiths,
- They pay an annual subscription of £15.

ASSOCIATES: are individuals who support and engage in the activities of SIFRE but do not wish to be involved in the running of the Company.

- They will receive all SIFRE mailings except Company Members' mailings,
- They can attend but not vote at General Meetings,
- They can attend meetings of the Forum of Faiths,
- They will pay an annual subscription of £10.

AFFILIATE GROUPS: are established faith groups and other organisations who wish to be involved in Inter-Faith activity.

- They will receive all SIFRE mailings except Company Members' mailings,
- They will be invited to appoint two of their number to serve on the Forum of Faiths,
- They will pay an annual subscription of £25,
- Their representatives can attend but not vote at General Meetings.

A list of Members, Associate and Affiliate bodies is appended to this report.

The Board of SIFRE.

The Board of the Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource comprises up to 9 members who are elected by the Company Members at the Annual General Meeting. Board members normally serve for a period of 3 years, one third of the Board standing down each year. Those who stand down may seek re-election to the Board at the AGM. The Officers of the Board are appointed at the first Board Meeting following the AGM. The Board met five times in 2015 – 2016 and had an Awayday.

All the meetings were quorate.

SIFRE Staff.

In 2015-2016 SIFRE did not employ any staff but had a volunteer team of Faiths Officers together with various other volunteers who have assisted in the delivery of SIFRE's programme.

SIFRE has no accommodation and its Registered Address / Virtual Office is designated 'The Inter-Faith Centre'. It shares this with the East of England Faiths Agency and SIFRE members are often employed by EEFA for the delivery of commissioned events.

Barbara Mayhew and Barbara Richardson-Todd have represented SIFRE in a

variety of countywide networks. David Capey remained the voluntary Executive Officer.

SIFRE continued to be involved in statutory committees and it values the networking and awareness raising potential of this involvement. In particular, SIFRE representatives serve on various committees on diversity and equality.

SIFRE receives no core funding income from other bodies. Its only income comes from membership fees and donations, from the sale of its Handbook and the Diversity Game, and from tutors working for EEFA who choose to donate their earnings to SIFRE.

Inter-Faith Week activities and the 2016 Holocaust Memorial event were arranged by EEFA (commissioned by SCC)

During the year, the Waveney SIFRE Circle under Rose Norgate's leadership established itself as an independent group – Waveney Inter-Faith Circle

The day to day work of SIFRE continued to be conducted by two full time voluntary staff who work from home. The following staff have been associated with SIFRE in the last year.

Hon Executive Officer
(full time voluntary)

David Capey

Hon Inter-Faith Consultant
(full time voluntary)

Cynthia Capey

Hon Faiths Officer (Bury)
(occasional)

Barbara Mayhew

Hon Faiths Officer (Ipswich)
(occasional)

Barbara Richardson-Todd

'Open the Box' Project Officer

Liz Bennett

The Board would like to express its gratitude to all staff and volunteers for the work they have done for SIFRE in this last year. In particular it wishes to name Liz Bennett who has continued to be involved with and develop the 'Open the Box' project.

Board Responsibilities in Respect of the Financial Statements.

Company law requires the Board Members of SIFRE to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company at the year-end and of the net incoming/outgoing resources of the charitable company for the year then ending. In preparing these financial statements, the Board Members are required to.

- Select suitable accounting policies.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Board Members are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

External Examiner.

In accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 1985 a resolution proposing that Clive Mees be reappointed as external examiner of the Company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

Objectives, Activities and Achievements.

The purpose of the charity is to advance public knowledge and understanding of the teachings, beliefs, traditions and practices of the different religions and philosophies (including their distinctive features and common ground) of communities in Britain and in particular in Suffolk and East Anglia.

In Lowestoft and the Waveney District, our SIFRE Circle has evolved into becoming WIC (Waveney Inter-Faith Circle) under Rose Norgate's leadership. WIC has been meeting regularly and they were involved in Inter-Faith Week activities, the Christmas Tree project in Beccles and in Holocaust Memorial Day in Lowestoft.

In Bury St Edmunds, activities have been somewhat restricted but new opportunities are emerging and there are strong possibilities that a Bury group will be established.

Our ongoing links with the hospitals and hospices and our support for the development of multi-faith Chaplaincies is particularly important.

SIFRE staff have continued to serve on numerous statutory and voluntary sector committees including the Suffolk Joint Diversity Working Group; the Mayor of Ipswich's Civic Celebration of Community; Ipswich Hospital's Respecting Diversity User Group; the Forum of New and Emerging Communities; the Hate Crime Steering Group; the Traveller Support Group; the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education; and the Police Diversity Board; the Hate Crime and the Safer Communities forums and Suffolk Congress.

WHAT SIFRE HAS ACHIEVED IN 2015-2016.

- 1 The first half of the year was disrupted by the requirement that SIFRE vacated its accommodation in the West Building of UCS. SIFRE's collection of physical resources are presently stored in a space kindly provided by the East of England Co-operative Society Funeral Service. Its saleable items are warehoused by Kevin Mayhew to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. Its older records have been deposited at the Suffolk Record Office and its current records are housed by the Hon Executive Officer.
- 2 The Inter-Faith library – last year the task of cataloguing this was completed through the groundwork cataloguing by Anna-Marie and then with the professional advice and active involvement of Vanda Broughton who devoted nearly every Friday to the task. Consequential to the move, the library has been boxed up and remains in store until a suitable alternative space can be found for it.

- 3 “Open the Box” project – a scheme through which schools can hire boxes of books and artefacts to support RE - includes faith boxes for Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Humanism, Islam, Judaism, Paganism and Sikhism. This proves to be very popular and it continues to be run by Liz Bennett.
- 4 Our latest publication “Sharing our Stories” has sold well but there is still a sizeable stock to be sold.
- 5 Charlotte Stewart continues to run an inter-faith group of artists and others meeting on a monthly basis.
- 6 The following list has been extracted from our three programmes for Summer, Autumn and Spring.

Date	Place	Time	Title	Presenter / Contact
Sun 3 May 2015	St Michael and All Angels Church, Boulge. IP13 6BW*	3:00 PM	Reading of the delightful poetic Masterpiece* The Ruba’iya’t of Omar Khayya’m (The United Nations 2015 Year of Light) See: www.sifre.org.uk/lib/150503_boulge.htm	The Rt Revd Charles Muggleston
Fri 9 th July 2015	UCS at West Suffolk College		A Full Day Conference on Human Rights, Religious Rights and British Values	
Tue 15 Sep 2015	Co-op Education Centre	6:30 PM	SIFRE Members’ AGM	
Tue 15 Sep 2015	Co-op Education Centre	7:15 AM	Beginning of Year Reception for Members and Friends	Martin Spettigue
Tue 13 Oct 2015	UCS Ipswich	1:45 PM	Art and Spirituality workshop	Charlotte Stewart
Sat 17 Oct 2015	Walsingham	All Day	Interfaith Pilgrimage	Fr. Michael Rear
Tue 10 Nov 2015	UCS Ipswich	1:45 PM	Art and Spirituality workshop	Charlotte Stewart
Sun 15 Nov till Sat 21 Nov 2015			Inter-Faith Week	
Tue 17 Nov 2015	UCS Ipswich	5:30 PM	'UCS Academy Lecture Series Annual SIFRE / UCS Faith Lecture	Dr. Surinder Hundal
Sun 22 Nov 2015	St Peter's at the Quay	3:00 PM	Mayor's Celebration of Community	Mayor of Ipswich
Tue 8 Dec 2015	UCS Ipswich	1:45 PM	Art and Spirituality workshop	Charlotte Stewart
Tue 19 Jan 2016	WLT2 UCS	7:15	The Jain Concept of Jiv Daya	Dr Atul Shah

	Ipswich	PM	Compassion for all Living Beings	
Wed 27 Jan 2016			Holocaust Memorial Day	
Thur 11 Feb 2016	WAD1 UCS Ipswich	7:15 PM	The Humanist View of Nature	Denis Johnston
Wed 16 Mar 2016	Ipswich Hindu Mandir	7:15 PM	Hindus- Animals and the Divine	Dr Sushil Soni and others
Wed 13 Apr 2016	WLT1 UCS Ipswich	7:15 PM	Buddhists Tread lightly on the earth	Jnanamitra
Wed 11 May 2106	Ipswich Mosque	7:15 PM	Muslims and Jews Food laws	Beverley Levy and Mojlum Khan
8th June 2016	UCS at West Suffolk College		*Animals and Spirituality* Day Conference	Robin Herne
Wed 13 July 2016	Guru Nanak Gurdwara	7:15 PM	Thoughts on death and after in the Indic Religions	A panel of speakers and a general discussion
Wed 12 Oct 2016	W114 UoS Ipswich	7:15 PM	Baha'is Scientific and Spiritual Dimensions of Climate Change	Richard Togher (tbc)
Wed 9 Nov 2016	W114 UoS Ipswich	7:15 PM	Christians Many Heavens, One Earth	Charles Croydon (tbc)
Date to be confirmed			Angels from an inter-faith perspective.	Dr. Gudrun Warren (Librarian, Norwich Cathedral)

INTER-FAITH WEEK IN SUFFOLK 2015.

17th November – The Annual SIFRE / UCS Faiths Lecture

22nd November – The Ipswich Mayor's Celebration of Community

Other Observations.

Our inter-faith handbook remains one of our flag ship products. Also, our game 'Diversity', available in a smart A4 sized box with a folding A3 sized playing mat, has been purchased by all sorts of organisations from all parts of the UK and from people in many other parts of the world.

We are continuing to sell copies of "Sharing our Stories"

Financial Review.

I present the Annual Accounts for the year 2015-2016. Like all other charities, SIFRE still finds it impossible to secure core funding. Our main source of income is now subscription fees from our members which is supplemented by the sale of our books and the Diversity Game

In terms of income and expenditure there is nothing which I need to bring to your attention. Income exceeded expenditure by £2.6K and at the end of the financial year our total of cash in bank and capital assets totalled £27K. This is represented by £15K of cash in the bank and saleable stock costed at its purchase price of £12K. This stock includes our Faith Cards which we often give away as a promotional item.

I return to our Statement of Financial Activities (S.O.F.A.). In this, the finances relating to the new book "Sharing our Stories" are separated out from other activities.

Sadly, our membership has decreased this year and a lot of chasing up failed to secure subscriptions. Our telephone contract with our internet service provider continues to save us money on IT/communications. Wherever possible we are communicating by phone or email and only resorting to post when there is no alternative. Our expenditure on volunteer expenses has however started to increase.

We have had some good events and we have given Suffolk a good service.

The Board would like to register its appreciation to University Campus Suffolk for providing accommodation and associated service at no cost to SIFRE. (This provision was terminated in June 2015)

The Future.

About 12 months ago, SIFRE lost its accommodation at UCS. Although this was something of a loss and our library is still out of use, in this last year we have continued to provide a full range of events in other venues.

In October of last year, Cynthia and David Capey informed the Board that they would like to move into the background after this year's AGM.

The Board has met both with and without them to consider its options post the AGM.

The Board held consultations of members and friends in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds and all recognised that the type of work which SIFRE undertakes is increasingly valuable in the present world religio-cultural climate.

However, the Board was most concerned that the impossibility of obtaining core funding to employ staff to replace Cynthia and David meant that there was no one with the time, energy and commitment to take over the work they had been doing. At its meeting in July, it concluded that its only feasible option was to move to a simpler mode of operation.

It noted that what was previously the Waveney SIFRE Circle is now an autonomous group Waveney Inter-Faith Circle (WIC). It also noted that there is a nascent yet numerous inter-faith group forming in Bury St Edmunds. It therefore seemed right that a similar local group should exist in Ipswich.

SIFRE, which serviced the whole of Suffolk, is a registered charitable company. Whilst this was important when SIFRE was in receipt of funding and employed staff, it is now an unnecessary complication. The Board therefore envisages the establishment of THREE NEW small charities each governed by its own constitution which will facilitate inter-faith activity in its own locality.

The Board of SIFRE has agreed and proposed to its Company Members that the charitable company known as SIFRE is closed down and that small charities are established, initially in Ipswich, Waveney and Bury St Edmunds, to facilitate local inter-faith activity in these places.

Company Members were consulted by email and over 75% (all who replied) supported the proposal and a motion to consolidate this proposal will be put before the Membership at an EGM held immediately before the AGM in September 2016.

The Board, without Cynthia and David has been meeting together to lay the foundations of an Ipswich based inter-faith group which will continue to provide events and seminars etc in the Ipswich area.

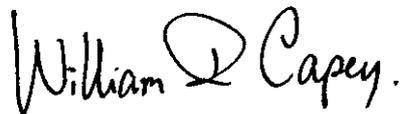
In Bury St Edmunds, a small group has been meeting to facilitate the setting up of a BSE based inter-faith group to provide events and seminars etc for the BSE area.

Contingent with the closure of SIFRE, its assets need to be dispersed in line with guidelines published by the Charity Commission. The Charity Commission directive is that assets have to be dispersed to other charities with near identical 'Objects' or deposited with a Community Foundation for distribution for purposes related to the 'Objects' of the closed charity. The Board proposes the

setting up of a SIFRE charitable fund managed by the Suffolk Community Foundation which will be empowered to make donations of up to say £250 to groups wishing to organise inter-faith events involving at least 3 of the many groups involved with SIFRE. There could be a proviso that should 'SIFRE' be resurrected and registered as a charity with 'objects' equivalent to SIFRE's 'object', then the residual funds should be made available to such a group at the discretion of the Trustees of the Community foundation.

SIFRE's store of books, games, etc. will need to be disposed of and a home is still being sought for SIFRE's library of 3000 books!

The Board wishes to express its gratitude to all those who have contributed to the running of events over the last year. It thanks its Membership and friends for their ongoing support and it looks forward to new beginnings in fresh pastures in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William D Capey." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D'.

Dr W David Capey (Hon Treasurer). 1st September 2016.

MEMBERSHIP OF SIFRE IN THE YEAR 1st SEPTEMBER 2015 TO 31st AUGUST 2016

The following are registered as Company Members who are eligible to vote at the AGM and may stand for membership of the Board

Revd Canon Christopher Andrews	Bury St Edmunds	Mrs Barbara Mayhew	Bury St. Edmunds
Mr Punna Singh Athwall	Ipswich	Ms Mary Myatt	Wales
Robin Bennett	Bury St Edmunds	Ms Margaret Nelson	Ipswich
Mrs Anita Indira Beresford Webb	Ipswich	Mrs Susan North	Ipswich
Mr John Brentnall	Southwold	Revd Dr John Parr	Bury St Edmunds
Ms Samantha Brook	Ipswich	Lila Patel	Ipswich
Mrs Cynthia Margaret Capey	Eye	Revd John Peck (deceased)	Woodbridge
Dr William David Capey	Eye	Mrs Elizabeth Pettman	Felixstowe
Councillor Jane Chambers	Ipswich	Revd Cliff Reed	Ipswich
Dr Dababrata Chowdhury	Ipswich	John Rudge	Penzance
Mr Charles Croydon	Ipswich	Neil Salter	Ipswich
Ms Jnanamitra Emmett	Ipswich,	Mr David Sharp	Ipswich,
Mr Roger Fern	Ipswich	Richard Shone	Diss
Belinda Gledhill	Ipswich	Revd Matt Smith	Woodbridge
Mrs Lisa Joy Gordon	Ipswich	Dr Sushil Kumar Soni	Ipswich
Mr Robin A Herne	Ipswich	Mr Martin Spettigue	Ipswich
Mr Tony Horrocks	Felixstowe	Mr Bhupindar Singh Sually	Ipswich
Mr Dali Mehrji Rustomji Jabbar	Ipswich,	Mr Gurmeet Singh Sually	Ipswich
Mr Bernard Jasper	Ipswich	Miss Elizabeth H Sugarman	Ipswich
Revd Canon Charles Jenkin	Ipswich	Mrs Anna-Marie Thirkettle	Ipswich
Mrs Sarah Jenkins	Ipswich	Mr Richard Togher	Ipswich
Mr Denis Johnston	Woodbridge	Mrs Elizabeth Wesley	Ipswich
Mr Mojlum Khan	Ipswich	Mr Edward Andrew Neil Winship	Ipswich
Ms Beverley Levy	Ipswich	Mr Anthony Wooding	Ipswich
Mr Tim Mason (deceased)	Ipswich		

Associates of SIFRE for the year 2015 – 2016.

The following are registered as Associates; they are not eligible to vote at the AGM and they may not stand for membership of the Board.

Revd Ann E Baeppler	Ipswich	Mr Jonathan McNabb	Ipswich
Mr Geoffrey V Birkby	Bury St Edmunds	Barbara Richardson-Todd	Ipswich
Mrs Anne Boiley	Braintree	Mrs E Anne Seward	Ipswich
Mr David C E Boiley	Braintree	Mr Peter Sewell	Ipswich
Maggie Cooper	Ipswich	Mrs Linda Sheppard	Ipswich
Ms Emily Ford	Stowmarket	Shirley Smith.	Reydon
Mrs Harriet Frazer	Saxmundham	Dr Anne C Spalding	Woodbridge
Alex Gordon	Ipswich	Mrs Rebecca Steiner	Ipswich
Ian Hartley	Ipswich	Mr Martin C Tilley	Bury St Edmunds
Mrs Kiran Kumar	Lowestoft		

Associate Faith Groups of SIFRE for the year 2015 – 2016

Mr Nicholas Edgell	Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich	Ipswich
Stake President Simon Fagg	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	Colchester
Enid Kimes	Ipswich and Diss Society of Friends	Diss
Mrs Beverley Levy	Suffolk Liberal Jewish Community	Ipswich
John Mellis	Suffolk Humanists and Secularists	Ipswich
Mr Martin Spettigue	Sri Chinmoy Centre	Ipswich
Ms Charlotte Stewart	Sea of Faith (Ipswich Group)	Ipswich
Mr Adrianus van Helvert	Soka Gakkai International (SGI) Suffolk	Ipswich

Associate Agency Groups of SIFRE for the year 2015 – 2016

Mrs Christine Christenson	Ipswich Borough Council	Ipswich
Belinda Couldridge	Community Action Suffolk	Ipswich
Rowena Kerslake	YMCA Suffolk	Ipswich

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of.

The Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource.

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2016, which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities
- have not been met; or.

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name:.



Clive Mees.

Relevant professional qualification or body: DMS Cert Ed.

Address: Plumstead, Westhorpe, Suffolk.

Date: 31 August 2016.

Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource
BALANCE SHEET - For the period from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016

	2015/2016	£.p .	£.p .	2014/2015	£.p .	£.p .
	Note					
Tangible assets						
Tangible fixed assets	15	-		-		
Other tangible assets (saleable stock)	16	12,005.55		12,857.25		
Current assets						
Debtors and Prepayments	17	1,701.17		4,198.92		
Cash at bank		<u>13,605.85</u>		<u>12,843.22</u>		
		15,307.02		17,042.14		
Income received in advance	18	-		-		
Creditors: amount falling due	19	<u>357.13</u>		<u>4,696.78</u>		
		357.13		4,696.78		
Net assets			<u><u>26,955.44</u></u>			<u><u>25,202.61</u></u>
Total Funds 2015/2016		16,955.44		15,202.61		
Reserved Funds		<u>10,000.00</u>		<u>10,000.00</u>		
Total funds			<u><u>26,955.44</u></u>			<u><u>25,202.61</u></u>

For the year ending 31st March 2016, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource and signed on their behalf by

William David Capey - Treasurer

Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource
Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)
for the period from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016

INCOMING RESOURCES

	Total Funds 2015/2016	Total Funds 2014/2015
	£.p .	£.p .
Accommodation	-	10,000.00
Donations, grants and similar income	2,079.34	2,213.92
Membership Subscriptions	1,170.00	1,909.00
Activities to further the charities objects:	516.90	2,047.50
Sale of Sharing our Stories	1,855.00	4,085.00
Forum of Faiths Events	-	390.70
SIFRE / EEFA Human Rights Conference	707.50	-
Sundry Income	812.98	122.10
Seminar Door Receipts	25.00	96.00
Bank Interest	5.92	4.74
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>7,172.64</u>	<u>20,868.96</u>
 RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Accommodation	-	10,000.00
Staff Salaries and Expenses	160.70	150.00
Centre and Office Related Expenditure	1,500.10	1,060.03
Expenses re SIFRE AGM	237.60	237.60
Inter-Faith Events	67.08	886.76
Expenses re Human Rights Conference	1,218.94	-
Events - Hire of Rooms	48.00	348.00
Other Expenditure	943.61	293.01
Saleable resources	-	4,573.00
Volunteer Staff Expenses	392.07	941.94
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>4,568.10</u>	<u>18,490.34</u>
 NET INCOMING RESOURCES	 <u>2,604.54</u>	 <u>2,378.62</u>
 LIQUID ASSETS AT 1st APRIL 2015	 2,345.37	 (33.25)
LIQUID ASSETS AT 31st MARCH 2016	4,949.91	2,345.37
 SALEABLE STOCK AT 1st APRIL 2015	 12,857.24	 10,994.50
Movement in saleable capital assets	(851.72)	1,862.74
SALEABLE STOCK AT 31st MARCH 2016	12,005.52	12,857.24
 TOTAL LIQUID ASSETS AND STOCK	 16,955.44	 15,202.61
 CONTINGENCY RESERVE FUND	 10,000.00	 10,000.00
 TOTAL FUNDS AT 31st MARCH 2016	 <u><u>26,955.44</u></u>	 <u><u>25,202.61</u></u>

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2018

- 1 a The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective March 2000), the Companies Act 1985 and follow the recommendations in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2000 (revised 2005)
- b Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The value of services provided by occasional volunteers has not been included.
- c Grants are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable.
- d Incoming resources from sales of books and the Diversity Game and from investments is included when receivable.
- e Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.
- f Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration on each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is subsumed as office costs.
- g Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, which in all cases is estimated at 4 years. Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceed £500.
- h Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- i Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs

2 Donations, grants and similar income

Donations include all monies given to SIFRE together with tax reclaimed under the Gift Aid Scheme

	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Donations	24.00		120.00	
Donations (Gift Aid)	105.00		252.00	
Donations (General)	196.97		51.40	
EEFA Staff and Tutor Income donated to SIFRE	525.70		666.52	
Elizabeth Walters Grant	508.00		-	
Income - Gift Aid Tax Repayment	219.67		349.00	
		1,678.34		1,438.82

Grants and Fees for Inter-Faith Events

	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Fees & Grants - Egmond Weekend	-		276.00	
Event - Holocaust Memorial Day	250.00		250.00	
Event - Inter-Faith Week	250.00		250.00	
		600.00		776.00

Intangible Income

The SIFRE Centre is housed in the Long Street Building of University Campus Suffolk

The ownership of our Centre is in the process of being transferred from Suffolk College to University Campus Suffolk. University campus Suffolk has indicated that it will continue to honour a commitment to provide heating, lighting, water and cleaning. The accommodation cost quoted is an estimate of the sum of these provisions based on knowledge of the local situation

	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Accommodation	-		10,000.00	
		-		10,000.00

Grant for Staff Salaries and Expenses

Suffolk County Council continues to provide us with a grant to enable us to employ staff.

This grant is being used to employ a Faiths Officer, a Community Liaison Officer and an Admin Assistant. It also covers the expenses of the Hon Education and Training Officer and the Hon Executive Officer.

	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Income - Grants for Staff Salaries and Expenses	-		-	
Previous year's pay not claimed	-		-	
Income - Grants, Fees etc for SIFRE Staff Salaries	-		-	
		-		-
Donations, grants and similar income		2,078.34		12,213.82

3 Membership Subscriptions

Total Memberships has decreased since last year. Allowing for the fact that Schools have not been asked to affiliate this year the number of Affiliate Memberships has increased by one.

the number of Associates remains the same and the number of Company Members has decreased by 8.

	No. of Members	No. of Members		
Subscriptions - Affiliate Agencies	3.00	13.00		
Subscriptions - Affiliate Faith Groups	8.00	15.00		
Subscriptions - Associates (Gift Aid)	14.00	18.00		
Subscriptions - Associates	6.00	9.00		
Subscriptions - Members (Gift Aid)	40.00	53.67		
Subscriptions - Members	9.00	11.80		
Total Paid Up Membership	80.00	120.27		
Potential Membership	234.00	132.00		
Membership Subscriptions (Continued)	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Subscriptions - Affiliate Agencies	75.00		325.00	
Subscriptions - Affiliate Faith Groups	200.00		375.00	
Subscriptions - Associates (Gift Aid)	140.00		180.00	
Subscriptions - Associates	60.00		90.00	
Subscriptions - Members (Gift Aid)	600.00		805.00	
Subscriptions - Members	135.00		174.00	
Free Members	(40.00)		(40.00)	
Total Paid Up Fees		1,170.00		1,909.00
Potential Income including outstanding fees		3,450.00		2,090.00

4 Activities to further the charities objects:

Sales of Publications and Resources

The pattern of SIFRE's sales of its resource material have changed over the years. The two big sellers remain the Diversity Game and the Handbook of Faiths (previously called The Inter-Faith Handbook).

	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Book - A Handbook of Faiths	166.60		1,071.00	
Book - Faiths in Focus	-		3.00	
Book - Inter-Faith Handbook (3rd edition)	-		3.50	
Book - Primary Hinduism	-		-	
Book - Children of Abraham	-		3.50	
Book - Pagan Pieces	-		-	
Book - Sacred Spaces	-		3.50	
Faith Resources - Set of 12 Faith Cards	571.20		1,041.25	
Faith Resources - Set of 12 Faith Posters	-		-	
Game - Diversity (new boxed edition)	120.00		660.00	
Game - Diversity Playing Mat	55.00		497.50	
Income from sale of Inter-Faith Beads	119.00		-	
Income - Open the Box	116.00		100.00	
Deposits - Open the Box	-		-	
Unit Discounts on non SoS Price	(630.90)		(1,329.25)	
Sales of Publications and Resources		516.90		2,054.00
Activities to further the charities objects:		516.90		2,054.00

4a Sale of Sharing our Stories

Book - Sharing our Stories @ £15	2,640.00		7,500.00	
Discounts on SoS Sales	(785.00)		(1,930.00)	
		1,855.00		5,570.00

Forum of Faiths Events

	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Event - Forum of Faiths on 22 July 2014	-		-	
Forum of Faiths Events				

SIFRE / EEFA Human Rights Conference

	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Event - HR, RR & BV Conference	707.50		-	
SIFRE / EEFA HR Conference		707.50		-

5 Sundry Income

	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Relocation Fees	757.48		-	
Sundry - Postage and Packaging	55.50		122.10	
		812.98		122.10

16 *Saleable Stock

	The Diversity Game	The Diversity Game Boxed	The Game Mat	Faith Cards	A Handbook of Faiths	Finding Our Way	Sharing our Stories	of which Sharing our Stories SoR	of which Sharing our Stories Contributors
	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Stock as at 1st April 2015	0	920	80	1504	566	17	599	0	0
Stock added in the year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	36
Total stock for year	0	920	80	1504	566	17	599	6	36
Sold in 2015-2016	0	4	2	96	29	0	176	-26	36
Stock written off in 2015 - 2016	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stock as at 1st April 2016	0	916	78	1408	537	17	423	32	0
Purchase price of stock 2014 -2015	14.10	14.65	20.00	-	1.00	1.00	-	-	-
Purchase price of stock 2015 -2016	-	7.50	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	4.56	4.56	4.56
Selling price of stock 2015 - 2016	30.00	30.00	27.50	5.95	5.95	3.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Cost value of stock as at 1st April 2015	-	6,900.00	1,140.00	1,504.00	566.00	17.00	2,730.24	-	-
Cost value of stock added in the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27.36	164.09
Cost value of total stock for year	-	6,900.00	1,140.00	1,504.00	566.00	17.00	2,730.24	27.36	164.09
Possible gross income from sales in 2015 - 2016	-	120.00	55.00	571.20	174.60	-	2,640.00	(390.00)	540.00
Samples, Gifts and Discounts	-	-	-	-	-	-	(235.00)	135.00	345.00
Actual gross income from sales in 2015 - 2016	-	120.00	55.00	571.20	174.60	-	2,875.00	(525.00)	195.00
Cost value of stock sold in 2015 - 2016	-	30.00	20.00	96.00	29.34	-	802.21	(118.51)	164.09
Possible net income from sales in 2015 - 2016	-	90.00	35.00	475.20	145.26	-	1,837.79	(271.49)	375.91
Actual net income from sales in 2015 - 2016	-	90.00	35.00	475.20	145.26	-	2,072.79	(406.49)	30.91
Value of stock written off as at 1st April 2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cost value of stock as at 1st April 2016	-	6,870.00	1,100.00	1,408.00	536.66	17.00	1,928.03	145.86	-
Summary of movement of saleable stock	£ . p								
Cost value of stock as at 31st March 2015	12,857.24								
Cost value of stock added in the year	27.36								
Cost value of total stock for year	12,884.60								
Possible gross income from sales in 2015 - 2016	3,170.80								
Samples, Gifts and Discounts	(100.00)								
Actual gross income from sales in 2015 - 2016	3,270.80								
Cost value of stock sold in 2015 - 2016	859.04								
Possible net income from sales in 2015 - 2016	2,311.76								
Actual net income from sales in 2015 - 2016	2,411.76								
Cost value of stock as at 31st March 2016	12,005.55								
Movement on saleable capital assets	(851.70)								

17 Income outstanding	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Previous Years' Income Outstanding (Invoices)	792.50		423.90	
Previous Year's Members Fees O/S	-		-	
Previous Year' Members Donations O/S	-		-	
Members Fees O/S	220.00		325.00	
Members Donations O/S	10.00		-	
This Year's Income Outstanding (Invoices)	678.67		3,450.02	
		1,701.17		4,198.92

2015/2016 expenditure completed in 2014/2015

No expenditure relating to 2015/2016 was entered into in 2014/2015

	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Purchases paid for in advance	-		-	
		-		-
Debtors and Prepayments		1,701.17		4,198.92

18 Income received in advance	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
No income was received in advance.				
Income Received in Advance (Sales)	-		-	
		-		-

19 Expenditure committed	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Previous years payments outstanding	29.18		-	
Payments Outstanding	327.95		4,696.78	
		357.13		4,696.78

20 Moneys given under the Gift Aid Scheme				
Donations (Gift Aid)	105.00		252.00	
Subscriptions - Associates (Gift Aid)	140.00		180.00	
Subscriptions - Members (Gift Aid)	600.00		805.00	
Previous year's money received	120.00		165.00	
Money o/s				
Total giving	965.00		1,402.00	
Income Tax refund claimable 2015-2016		241.25		350.50
TOTAL CLAIM		241.25		350.50

21 Movement of Funds	As at 1st April 2015	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	As at 31st March 2016
	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Restricted Funds					
Contingency Fund	10,000.00	-	-	-	10,000.00
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	2,345.37	7,172.64	4,568.10	-	4,949.91
Liquid Funds	12,345.37	7,172.64	4,568.10	-	14,949.91
Saleable Resources	12,857.24		(851.72)		12,005.52
Total assets at end of year					28,955.44

