

Faithful Lives

An Exhibition of Photographs by Queen's Park Camera Club

Depicting and celebrating the rich diversity of faiths in Glasgow in 2018

Glasgow is home to people from a rich variety of cultures. Through centuries of immigration and integration of communities the city has developed its unique identity. As the demographic of its population has evolved, so have its religious traditions. In a country which once identified almost wholly as Christian, now approximately two thirds of its population identify as Christian, in its various forms, while many others follow faiths either brought with them to the city from their countries of origin or adopted by them as a result of individual development and discovery.

This exhibition recognises and celebrates this rich diversity of cultural and of faith. The images do not, by and large, show or attempt to show the conduct of different religious services but instead illustrate the day-to-day lives and daily acts of the people who follow each faith in their own way. It is hoped that the viewer will see at least two things, firstly that there is a rich, wide and colourful range of traditions being followed in the city and, secondly, that no matter how different the appearance of these different traditions and belief systems, the simple daily and weekly acts followed or performed by those in each faith bear remarkable degrees of similarity.

So it can be seen that whether that faith is Christian, Sikh, Jewish or that of another community, people of faith engage in practical actions on a daily basis which might involve simple acts of devotion, the sharing and giving of food and beverage, caring for and supporting the elderly and infirm, spreading joy through song and music or sometimes providing fellowship to others through community action. These are the unassuming acts of faith which we celebrate in this exhibition. These sometimes simple yet significant acts show us that regardless of the differences in outward appearance, there is more that binds each faith group to each other than can separate it.

We are extremely grateful in presenting this exhibition to our hosts at Saint Mary's Episcopal Cathedral who have been very generous with their support for the project and in their provision of the perfect venue for it to be displayed. We are also extremely grateful to Interfaith Glasgow for their assistance and to each of the faith groups who took part in the project and who allowed access to photographers to capture images of their lives. The participating faith communities to whom we are indebted are the members of Saint Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Cranhill Parish Church, the Sikh community at the Glasgow Gurdwara, the Salvation Army, Hindu Mandir, Brahma Khumaris, Quakers, the Glasgow Unitarian Church, Giffnock Synagogue, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Glasgow and the Glasgow Muslim community.

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Queen's Park Camera Club was founded in 1945 and is the longest established photographic club in the city. It is a registered charity and presently has around 100 active members with a variety of photographic interests. The club operates entirely on an amateur basis and is funded through members' subscriptions.

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