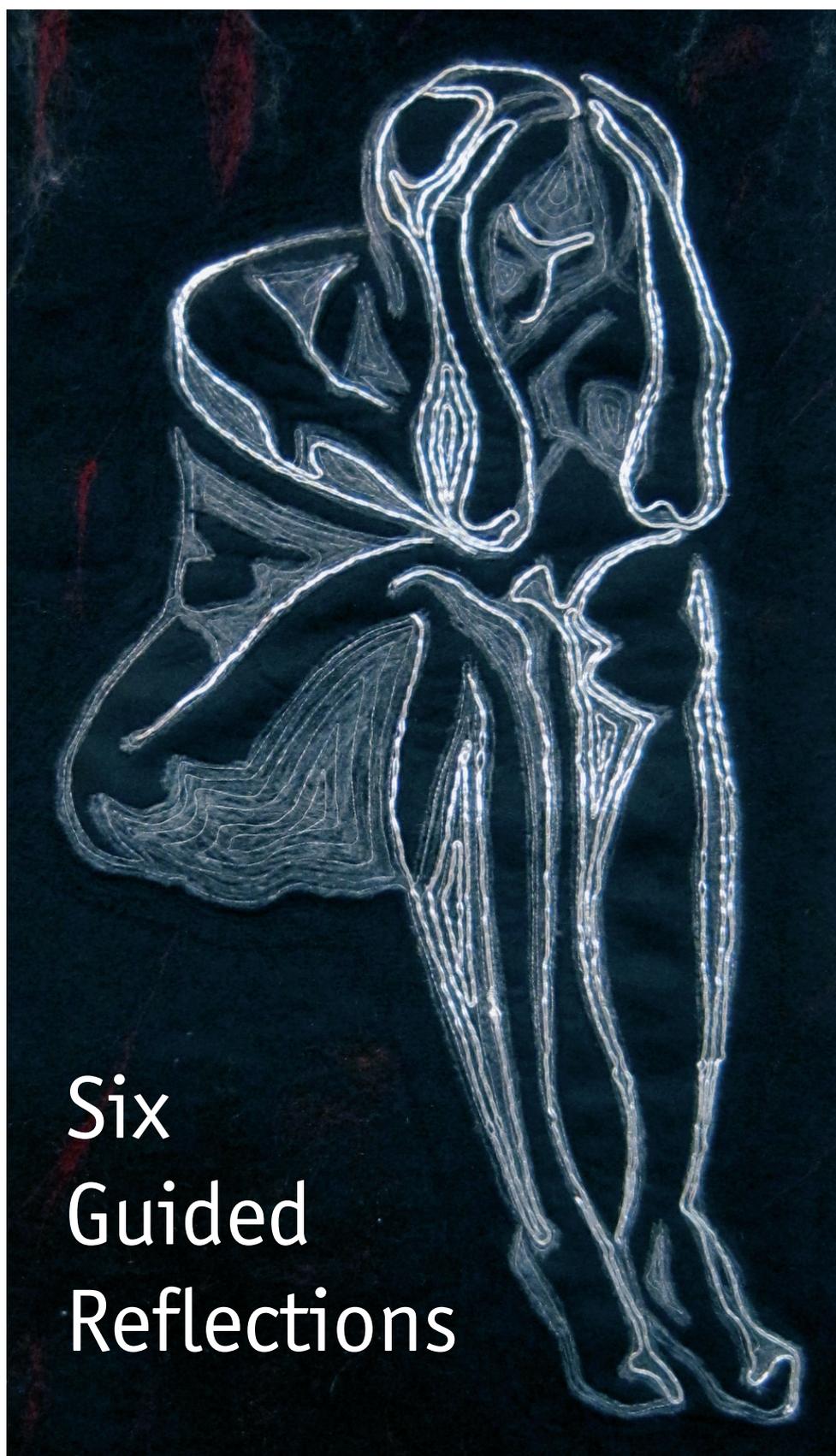


Magna Carta: Charter of Liberties

Supported by Wiltshire Council



Six
Guided
Reflections

Magna Carta: Charter of Liberties

Guided reflections

This is a series of six guided reflections based on the joint Salisbury Diocese and Salisbury Cathedral model for progression in spirituality. (For link see below.)

Each guided reflection is a 10 - 30 minute session which all follow the same pattern: a stimulus (encounter), question (reflection), response or action (transformation). Whilst broadly Christian in ethos, these guided reflections are designed to be inclusive of all faiths and none. Each one ties in with the six sessions in the full programme of study, but equally could be used as stand-alones.

Guided reflection 1 - To Die For

Guided reflection 2 - One for All

Guided reflection 3 - Road to Liberty

Guided reflection 4 - Guilty Until Proven Innocent?

Guided reflection 5 - Fighting for a Cause

Guided reflection 6 - Speaking out

This resource has been produced as part of the celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee visit by HM Queen Elizabeth II to Wiltshire, supported by Wiltshire Council.

Link to Salisbury Diocese and Cathedral spirituality progression grids:

<http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/resources-library/schools/spiritual-moral-social-cultural/Progression%20in%20Spirituality%20Exemplar%20Feb%202012.pdf>

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Guided reflection 1

To Die For

Encounter

Watch the youtube clip of the protestor who stood in front of the tanks in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China in 1989. This image went on to be one of the most iconic images ever captured on the world stage.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-nXT8lSnPQ>

Reflection

The tanks stopped before they reached the man, but the previous day several hundred civilians had been shot dead by the Chinese army during a military operation to crush a democratic protest. Tanks had moved through the capital's streets as the army randomly fired on unarmed protesters.

The injured were rushed to hospital on bicycle rickshaws by people shocked by the army's sudden and extreme response to the peaceful mass protest. Demonstrators, mainly students, had occupied the square for seven weeks, refusing to move until their demands for democratic reform were met.

How is it that human rights are something which people will go to such extremes for? Why do some people even sacrifice their own lives to promote human rights?

Transformation

Create a powerpoint of between five to ten images which sum up maybe why people go to such extremes to promote human rights. Add words/captions and music backing if appropriate.

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Guided reflection 2

One for all

(Use resource GR.2)

Encounter

Display the slide which shows a range of statements from different world faiths about the way we ought to treat others.

Reflection

What do you notice about all of these? Is this the way you treat others? Which do you think says it in the best way?

Transformation

Think about these statements and how you treat others. Decide on one thing you could change for the better in the way that you treat others, then go and do it.

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Guided reflection 3

Road to liberty

(Use resource GR.3)

Encounter

These are just three of many different Britons who have campaigned for a range of human rights over the last few centuries and arguably made a significant difference. Display slide GR.3 and read out biographies.

William Wilberforce

William Wilberforce was one of Britain's great social reformers. His religion deeply influenced his outlook on life and the way we should treat others. Following successful public campaigns in raising awareness of the conditions of slaves, William Wilberforce was encouraged to try and pass a bill in parliament.

In 1807, both the Lords and the Commons finally passed the Slave Trade Act. This only made illegal the trade in slaves. Many slaves in the British Empire were still not free. So in the remaining period of his life, William Wilberforce campaigned for the rights of slaves in Africa and other parts of the world. Just a few days before his death, Wilberforce heard the news that on 26 July 1833, the Slavery Abolition Act was passed, outlawing slavery in nearly all the British Empire.

Emmeline Pankhurst

Disillusioned by the existing women's political organisations, Emmeline Pankhurst founded in 1889 the Women's Franchise League, which fought to allow married women to vote in local elections. In 1903 she founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). The main aim of this more militant organization was to recruit working class women into the struggle for the vote. These women who campaigned were named 'suffragettes'.

Pankhurst's tactics for drawing attention to the movement led to her being imprisoned 13 times between 1908 and 1914. Hated by outsiders, Emmeline's actions did create controversy and arguments. But her actions did pay off as in 1918, women over 30 were permitted to receive the vote and from 1928 onwards, all women were entitled to equal voting rights with men.

Bob Geldof

Bob Geldof was the lead singer of the Boomtown Rats a punk rock band. In 1984, Ethiopia and other African countries experienced a severe famine which led to many thousands of people starving to death. With Midge Ure he released the single - "Do they Know its Christmas" selling a record 3 million copies. In 1985, he was one of the main organisers behind the Live Aid Concert raising money and awareness for Africa. He became involved in work for non-governmental organisations and became one of the leading spokespersons on Third World debt and relief.

In 2005, he organised Live 8, coinciding with the Make Poverty History campaign, encouraging world leaders to write off third world debt. He remains a powerful figurehead for getting the west to pay more attention to the problems and challenges of poverty.

Reflection

Who do you think has made the most difference? Why?

Transformation

Take a vote and see who tops the straw poll. Share some of the reasons.

Guided reflection 4

Guilty Until Proven Innocent?

Encounter

Display an image/ range of images of people charged in high-profile criminal cases before their trial and verdict.

Reflection

Guilty or not guilty, a fair trial must entirely remove the element of prejudice. Looking at these people and hearing what they are alleged to have done and the way they look/ dress / speak etc. - have we already made our minds up? Is that good/right/fair?

Transformation

Look up the word 'prejudice' in a thesaurus and list words which are similar in meaning. Write a second list alongside of words that mean the direct opposite. Prepare listings for display.

Guided reflection 5

Fighting for a cause

(Use resource GR.5)

Encounter

I... swear by Almighty God that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Her Heirs and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, and of the generals and officers set over me. So help me God

Reflection

Soldiers swear an oath of allegiance to the Queen when they join the army. It is not only the Queen as a person however, but all that she represents which is something soldiers feel is worth fighting for. Each regiment has their own highly esteemed 'Colour' which, although they are no longer carried in battle, remain a symbol of the regiments' duty and loyalty to the Crown. They embody what the regiments are fighting for.

What do you think is worth fighting for?

Transformation

Design your own 'Colour' using in your design things that you believe are worth fighting for.

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Guided reflection 6

Speaking out

(Use resource GR.6)

Encounter

Poem: First They Came

First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me.

Pastor Martin Niemoller

Reflection

Niemöller was a German priest and the leader of a group of clergymen against Hitler. He was arrested in 1937 and sent to a concentration camp. Niemöller was released in 1945 by the Allies. His poem is often used for describing the danger of not making a stand and speaking out.

Think about what this poem tells us about treating everyone as equals. Think about our roles as individuals in making a stand and speaking out when someone is being treated wrongly.

Who would speak out for you?

Transformation

Write your own version following the same format:

First they came for the.....
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a