

Sr. Elizabeth O'Donohoe (2018)



Sr. Elizabeth O'Donohoe is a member of the Catholic congregation of Sisters of the Holy Cross. After many years of teaching and serving as a university chaplain, she re-trained as a psychotherapist and that has been her work ever since. She is a very pastorally-minded person, and quickly establishes a sympathetic understanding with anyone she meets. Her personal interests in people, along with her compassion warmth and humour, have been influential gifts contributing to her rapport with those of other faiths.

In 1994 she became involved with Westminster Diocesan Interfaith Commission. They organise an annual Multi-Faith Pilgrimage for Peace which attracts about two hundred people for a day visiting places of worship in a particular neighbourhood of London. On route, members of each host community explain aspects of their faith, symbols and practice, and the visitors have the chance to ask any questions and share refreshments. For years Elizabeth has usually been the key person to organise this Pilgrimage.

She is a member of her parish justice and peace group and Pax Christi. On Remembrance Sunday each year Elizabeth invites Jewish and Muslim representatives to join the Catholic parish for a short interfaith service in the peace garden at St Mellitus. She takes part in public events such as the Ash Wednesday liturgy outside the Ministry of Defence. In the past two years Sr. Elizabeth has been working with other churches and faiths to welcome Syrian refugees being resettled in Islington. Together with an Anglican woman priest she has started a Christian-Muslim women's group for sharing belief and scriptures.

Sr. Elizabeth's Wilson/Hinkes Peace Award recognised how an extremely modest, common-sense sort of person can accomplish much in supporting peacemaking at a local level.