



# Spirit Level

The making of a DVD

[www.multifaithchaplaincy.com](http://www.multifaithchaplaincy.com)

## SPIRIT LEVEL: THE MAKING OF A DVD

The Further Education (FE) sector in the UK is substantial. The vast majority of 16-19 year old students study in FE colleges – many more than in our schools – and it is estimated that one in eight undergraduates are now studying in further education. Despite its size, the sector has no statutory student entitlement to spiritual or religious support, unlike schools and universities.

This has not, however, deterred those who believe that this kind of support is essential for the health and well-being of all those who work or study in the FE environment. The rapid growth in FE multi-faith chaplaincy provision since 2006/7 has resulted in the development of responsive and inclusive (all faiths and none) student and staff chaplaincy services in the majority of FE colleges.

The idea of producing a film, that would take an independent approach to the work of college multi-faith chaplaincies, came out of conversations at the FE Chaplains' Summer Conference at York St John University during the summer of 2009. It was felt that the two terms 'FE' and 'Chaplaincy' are poorly understood by many people and that the formula 'FE Multi-faith Chaplaincy' may be largely incomprehensible. A committee, or working party, was formed and the project developed by chaplains, those working in further education in the South West of England, and by experienced professionals within the field of AV production.

The result is *Spirit Level*.



issues'.

*Spirit Level* seeks to inform faith communities, college principals, learner services teams, together with college staff delivering Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) and enrichment programmes, of the innovative opportunities for engaging with college students as they explore life's 'big

## The Committee

The Committee, which was formed in 2009 to progress the project, specifically included those with the skills and commitment that were needed to develop a film where there were limited resources, and to see it through all subsequent challenges to completion.



### **Project Chairman**

#### **Paul Smith**

*Multi-faith Chaplain Co-ordinator – SGS College*

Paul has worked within the Further Education sector for many years, initially as Lecturer in Chemistry at Filton College (now SGS College) Bristol, before being appointed Multi-faith Chaplain Co-ordinator at the college in 2007. He is an Anglican layman and currently serves on the Bristol Diocese Board of Education and as a trustee of the St. Matthias Foundation.



### **Project Secretary**

#### **Colin McArthur**

*Further Education Adviser – Bristol Diocese*

Since 2005, Colin has worked as a freelance educational consultant. Currently, he serves as FE Adviser to Bristol Diocese and as Coordinator of *Aimhigher* in South Gloucestershire.

Prior to this, he was Head of Filton High School and Deputy Head at St Mary Redcliffe and Temple CEVA Comprehensive School, Bristol. Colin is an experienced trainer-facilitator and a founder member of the South Gloucestershire Leadership Academy.



**Producer**

**Alan Shellard**

*Artisan Productions*

Alan has worked in the audiovisual industry for 25 years – the last 22 years as an independent Producer/Director of video and

AV productions. This has included directing projects all across Europe and the USA. He has also worked as a Director in Japan, Russia and the Caribbean for companies ranging from BP, Caterpillar, Excel, Booker and John Deere to many smaller, lesser-known names. In the public sector, he has produced videos and events for The LSC, The Department of Health, the University of the West of England, Bristol, and for many Colleges and charities. Alan is an accomplished radio broadcaster, voice over artist and presenter.



**Project Developer & Writer**

**Miles Elwell**

*ME Associates*

Miles has had a long and varied career in the communications industry, producing all manner of corporate literature as well as being heavily involved in video and DVD production. From writing drama and documentary scripts for the corporate sector, and articles for trade and mainstream magazines, he has diversified into distance learning tutoring, and the writing of educational and training material for a number of sectors including PSHE and diversity.



**Project Developer**

**Derek Ormston**

*Chaplaincy Team Leader, New College, Swindon*

Ordained Deacon in Lichfield Cathedral in 1967, Derek's connection with Further Education goes all the way back to student days at Carlisle Technical College. On moving to Swindon in 1983 as Swindon Archdeaconry Youth Officer, Derek was asked to develop a Chaplaincy in New College, which

opened in 1984. He said to the then Principal "I'll give it a year and see how things go!" – 25 years on, he is still there as Chaplaincy Team Leader and enjoying every minute of it. He is an Anglican priest with two rural parishes in North Wiltshire.



**Project Developer**

Peter Marsh

*Chaplaincy Team, City of Bristol FE College*

Coming from a military background serving as a vehicle mechanic repairing Chieftain tanks, Peter taught engineering and mathematics at the army's School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. On leaving the services, he joined Soundwell and, later, City of Bristol FE College. He now works closely with students requiring academic support and has a special interest in students coping with Dyslexia and Aspergers.



**Technical Advisor**

**Stephen Newby**

*Audio Visual Technician – Filton College*

With a degree in Film & Media Studies from the University of Wales, Lampeter, Steve had been working at Filton College since 2008 and was instrumental in helping to lay the foundations, both technical and otherwise, of the project. As a committee member, he contributed in many ways and his skills, advice and enthusiasm were much valued. However, in 2010, he was offered a post in Liverpool and sadly (for the committee) he had to take his leave.

## **Spirit Level**

The film sets out what FE chaplaincy is about and informs college managers so that they might grow in their confidence to support such work directly. It will also serve to inform members of faith communities, so that they may realise how they might become involved. Finally, it is our hope that you will simply find it thought provoking, illuminating and enjoyable.

If you would like to become involved in multi-faith chaplaincy in Further Education please contact Paul Smith at [paul.smith@multifaithchaplaincy.com](mailto:paul.smith@multifaithchaplaincy.com)

“Welcome to Chaplaincy”, a training programme for multi-faith chaplaincy in the further education sector, published jointly by >lsc and fbfe, may be downloaded at [www.fbfe.org.uk/documents](http://www.fbfe.org.uk/documents) .

## Acknowledgements

The project team wishes to thank:

The Chairman (The Ven Tim McClure, Archdeacon of Bristol) and Trustees of The Foundation of Saint Matthias, Bristol, [www.stmatthiastrust.org.uk](http://www.stmatthiastrust.org.uk) for the award of a project grant towards the costs incurred in the production of *Spirit Level*.

Colin McArthur, Further Education Advisor, Diocese of Bristol  
and Revd. Cate Edmonds, Diocesan Chaplaincy Adviser, Diocese of Exeter, for their generous financial help with the publishing, reproduction and distribution of the *Spirit Level* DVD.

Dr. John Wise, Chief Executive, National Council of Faiths and Beliefs in Further Education (fbfe) London, and Revd. Garry Neave, Church of England National Advisor in Further Education, for their help and advice during the making of *Spirit Level*.

The Principal, Staff, Students and Chaplaincy Team at:

City of Bristol College

Filton College\*

National Star College

New College, Swindon

Swindon College

Yeovil College

*\*from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012, part of South Gloucestershire and Stroud College*

The many individuals who contributed in so many ways to the making of the Spirit Level DVD, including:

Rizwan Ahmed	Project Manager, Bristol Muslim Cultural Society
Jonathan Davey	Wireless Films
Trevor Day	Chaplaincy Team, Swindon College
Helen Done	Enrichment Officer, Filton College
Sally Eaton	Learning Resources & Support, Filton College
John Holder	Chaplain, National Star College
Rosheen Hucker	Head of Learner Services, Filton College
Debra Legge	Consultant FE Advisor, Diocese of Gloucester
Andrew May	Public & Community Relations, Filton College
Steven Mazillius	Lecturer in Media Studies, Filton College
Sarah McConaughie	Consultant FE Advisor, Diocese of Bath & Wells
Ed Poole	Chaplaincy Team, New College Swindon
Sagar Midha	Volunteer Hindu Chaplain, Filton College
Kelly Rutter	Children & Young People, Diocese of Bristol
Denise Ryan	Executive Director, Learner Experience, Filton College
Javinder Singh	Volunteer Sikh Chaplain, Filton College
Adam Smith	Graphics Designer, Filton College
John Walker	Concorde Cluster Manager, Filton College
Jackie Waters-Dewhurst	Director of Education, Diocese of Bristol
Jarrett Wilson	Chaplaincy Advisor, Yeovil College