The Globe Project

This was launched just a year ago at the CTN annual service and our eight-strong ecumenical group had little idea where it would take us. It has been an exciting adventure! The aim was to start conversations about global issues that would challenge the often negative attitudes prevalent in the media, especially in relation to refugee and migration issues. It has largely been a case of responding to invitations, and these have come from a variety of sources. Churches have invited us to café-style and traditional services, and midweek meetings. We’ve also taken it to inter-faith and other faith groups – a Muslim women’s group, workshops at a NIFF conference and an inter-faith gathering convened by Northampton’s Lord Lieutenant. There have been secular events too such as residents’ association groups. It has taken centre-stage at a village flower festival. We have become involved with Northampton Town of Sanctuary and the Globe has had a role in their public events, and on one occasion was taken to meet Borough Council leaders. It has been to conferences and gatherings of church leaders.

We initiated two events. The first was a 255th birthday garden party for William Carey hosted by the Quaker Meeting House. We celebrated diversity in different ways, and Carey came too! Well – his successor as Minister at Carey Baptist Church Moulton. His wife had made him a Carey costume enabling him to get into character. He also appeared at a Black History Month evening which we organised and which was hosted by the New Testament Church of God in College Street. ‘Carey’ stood behind the old pulpit from which he had preached long ago.

It was, of course, Carey’s world view and vision that inspired our Globe Project. His leather globe is long gone, but the reconstruction has survived much touching and turning. No writing on it; no borders. Conversations have evoked anxieties and negative ideas at times, but overwhelmingly it has revealed compassion and a desire to embrace a culture of help for those in need and a welcome for the stranger, whatever the cost. We’ve listened to many stories and seen something of the rich diversity in our community and within every group we’ve visited.

What of the future? We still have one event in the diary and will still respond to any invitations that we receive, but the Globe will find a permanent home in the Carey Cottage Museum at Moulton. It has already had a significant impact on The Carey Experience (www.thecareyexperience.co.uk), bringing more visitors, especially to Moulton, and reinforcing the challenge to consider how we can tune in to God’s vision for our world today.