**2020 04 02 Barbara Holden – in retirement I revisited these reflections.**

**Introduction –** I have been more interested and committed, in my working and retirement life, to doing things than writing about them. But somehow along the way these notes to friends and colleagues got saved. So here they are with the most recent first – giving a taste or a clue about my commitment to ‘living with diversity’ ‘in peace and justice.’

**2019 07 Transitions exhibition** - suggested questions from BH [1] Individual – what in the exhibition will you share with people you know and in particular with people who are different to you? [2] Christians - As a Christian congregation we look to the many Biblical references to refugees and strangers – what do you make of these? Exodus 22, 21: "Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt.” Proverbs 31, 9: “Open your mouth, judge righteously and defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.” Matthew 25, 35-36: “For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.” Hebrews 13, 2: “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.” [3] London - How does this exhibition relate to what you know about London as a world-city? [4] World - At world-level humans are threatened by diseases, climate change and war – and many people then migrate hoping to survive. Is the UK response compassionate enough?

**2018 07 “A statue commemorating the life of the suffragist, Millicent Fawcett -** has been unveiled opposite Parliament. She campaigned for women's right to vote during the early 20th Century and is seen as one of the most influential feminists of the past 100 years. The bronze casting, by the artist Gillian Wearing, is the first statue of a woman erected in Parliament Square.” On this date we have a photo by son Adam of Barbara with Philip and Judith next to 'the' statue. Barbara wrote on Facebook: “Parliament square with great great grandmother Sarah's badges (peace pledge held by Philip and lock of hair held by Judith). She was a suffragette from South Wales.” They went to the exhibition 'Voice and vote: women's place in parliament" see - www.parliament.uk/get-involved/vote-100/voice-and-vote/

**2018 03 International Women’s Day and making a difference -** Loughton Women’s Interfaith Group, which has been meeting since 2014, organized an event at Lughton Methodist Church. Some 43 women attended from the Bahai, Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh communities.’ / There were four speakers. One had become a religious artist who recently exhibited at Lopping Hall Gallery. Another started out with architecture and is currently working on photography whilst focusing on being a mother to two teenage girls. The third is a senior Local Authority Director using her knowledge and identity skills to better communicate in a multi-ethnic London borough. Finally our own LMC arts-coordinator shared her experiences in being with families in refugee-centres linked to the Syrian conflict. / Our Muslim co-founder [of LWIG] closed with an evocation of the women in the Bible and the Koran who made a difference in the worlds of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. / That evening I went on line and found a prayer by Clare Amos of Holy Trinity Church, Geneva is at the World Council of Churches as coordinator of interreligious dialogue and cooperation programme.

**2018 02 One hundred years since representation of the people act** - So how do I best remember the many women who acted and struggled for female suffrage? Remember my grandmother s action in her S Wales mining village; protest marches in Cardiff; taking on her church at a national level to reduce costs whilst the poverty of the Depression effected families; and finally being elected first female Chair of her Labour Party branch. Sadly she died before I was born.....but valley communities are very good at holding memories! Going forward it's about sharing this story with my 4 grandchildren [3 granddaughters and a grandson]. Keep up the story of empowerment, share skills and encourage!

**2018 01 I’m writing to tell you about a Workers Education Association [WEA] course here in Loughton** - The lecturer is Muhammed Manwar Ali. Its title is “Islam: the basic principles and practices.’ It will also cover diversity issues and aspects of world-wide Islam. It will take place at Loughton Bowling Club and is scheduled for Tuesday mornings between 10.00 and 12.00 – starting 9 January and running for eight sessions: cost £80. As is WEA practice the first session is a free taster session. The course has been well received in other parts of Essex and I do hope you will join me.

**2017 -2018 Jill Cook ‘Living with gods peoples, places and worlds beyond’ the British Museum exhibition catalogue introduction** - [1] “There is no known human society without beliefs in invisible spiritual powers” that is “transcendental worlds and beings.” [2] Human beings and the importance of conversations with self, each other and ‘other’ beings and worlds. [3] We think and we believe – through rituals. [1] One approach is through art-history, history and theology: art and music tend to be for the few [?] [2] In this book and exhibition JC is exploring “these practices of reaching the sublime and forming communities.” Many millions of people who mostly express their beliefs simply by talking to the unseen alone or the collectively, often whilst making offerings of light, fragrance, decoration, food and drink.” “Here it is the humbler items that reflect everyday devotions and commonalities in matters of prayer, sacrifices such as charity, fasting and pilgrimage, as well as dealing with the hopes and fears of daily life, the inevitability and grief surrounding death.” [4] Homo sapiens sapiens goes back 40-100,000 years [5] Adaptation was about survival but also about “psychological requirements for successful social behaviours.” So, conversations with ‘beings and worlds’ often through ceremonies and creativity.

**2016 Living with difference, strangeness and foreignness** - Tony and I have spoken and written of ‘living with difference’ for many years: it was self-evident in east London from the moment we arrived in 1976. / Given world events and the turmoil about our place in Europe it might seem slight to say I got into writing this whilst reading an English translation of a Greek novel I’d picked up on the library sale-shelf. But I did. / We are humans in a world comprised of different people: some 7500 million of them. Living alongside people who are different is something we’ve been doing from long before the UK became a State. Expecting everyone to be like us has a very bad history! Hoping to exclude those who are not like us has an even worse history that led to separatism, apartheid and the Holocaust. I think there are legitimate questions about migration but as a Christian I think we have to oppose racism in all its persistent forms. / So let me ask: what are we doing and what are we doing to ourselves when we resist living with people who are different to us? We need to: accept one another with respect, empathy and compassion; resist those who seek change by coercion or violence; absorb the difference into our own self-identity: and work at our own self-development and spirituality. / The urgency of this is in our own communities, families and selves. For years I’ve revisited this quote: “The foreigner allows you to be yourself by making a foreigner of you.” / The goal of the Christian life is, to use Jesus’ words, ‘to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves.’ / In the relatively new language of psychology the goal of ‘being yourself’ – as a mature, self-regulated, responsible person – is a lifelong and difficult task. / So, Carl Jung – “The individuation process is sometimes described as a psychological journey; it can be a tortuous and slippery path, and can at times simply lead round in circles; experience has shown, however, that a truer description would be that of a spiral. In this journey the traveller must first meet with his (or her) shadow, and learn to live with this formidable and often terrifying aspect of himself. There is no wholeness without a recognition of the opposites. He will meet, too, with the archetypes of the collective unconscious, and face the danger of succumbing to their peculiar fascination. If he is fortunate he will in the end find ‘the treasure hard to attain,’ the diamond body, the Golden Flower, the lapis, or whatever name and guise have been chosen to designate the archetype of wholeness, the self. One cannot be certain that the goal will be reached, there are too many hazards by the way.”

**2016 12 The Inspire Conference** - lived up to its title gathering Christian and Muslim scholarship from France and the UK - As usual the informal exchange was enlivening. But it was the presentations that focussed the mind. In particular the development of ‘I C Thinking’ techniques to reduce extremism really connected with our current concerns about the future of UK identity. It looks at ‘how’ not ‘what’ we think. I also came away with follow-up actions involving individuals and local programmes. This event was run by St Mary’s University’s InSpiRe Centre for “promoting a spirituality that reconciles.” Do look out for future events and reports at www.stmarys.ac.uk and www.ICTCambridge.org

**2016 10 As Methodists we belong to the London District and the Forest Circuit -** The District invites you to an event titled ‘Faiths under threat – an interfaith conversation about public attitudes towards faith communities in London.’ In Methodist Church terms we are part of London so why don’t you go along to Wesley’s Chapel City Road on 21 November from 6.30 for refreshments or from 7-8.30 for the conversation. Moderated by our own chairperson Rev Michaela Youngson.

**2016 08 To Barbara Glasson Bradford** - I am a founder member of a women’s Abrahamic interfaith group here in Loughton. We’re on the very eastern edge of the Methodist London District so it’s a suburban population. We recently held some open events to spread the word. The three of us who belong to the same Methodist congregation are planning to use your materials from ‘Eating Curry for Heaven’s sake’ at our weekly Women’s Group. It will be the first time the issues and opportunities of dialogue have been raised in this group. Do you know of any other suburban churches who have used your excellent materials? If so we would like to make contact, kind regards Barbara

**2015 11 Quiet day** - “The morning was well-rounded and generous enabling us to join over coffee, lunch, prayers, silence and a narrative about Celtic spirituality. For me it added to my valuing of the monthly meditation service at LMC. At times like this, with so many terrible things happening in our world, such events sustain and equip us.”

**2015 02 ‘It began with Jews and Gentiles’ – report on the Churches Together in England Conference at Swanwick** - Close to God and close to people who are different to us / Our Minister Oseias writes: “There is a feeling of vulnerability and powerlessness” because of “terrorist events around the world” [February 2015 LMC Grapevine]. Some of these terrorist acts are done in the name of religion and though the issues are hugely complex that puts a particular pressure and responsibility on people of faith. Drawing closer to God [Oseias again] and drawing closer to people who are different to us is part of the same journey. It’s another way of expressing the great commandment to do with loving God, neighbour and self [Matthew 22:36-40]./ Working at interfaith actions / Many Christians have been working at getting to know; being in dialogue with; cooperating with people of faith for many years. In all my years I’ve felt my own Christian faith has grown and never been compromised. So my recent attendance at a national ecumenical Christian Conference for some 90 advisors and advocates on interfaith relations was a natural continuation of this process. As always at such meetings we shared and learned much. / So what can we do? / [1] Start where we are and build on existing knowledge and contacts - be prepared to change. / [2] Get to know and make friendships with people of faith – be respectful, be kind, be friendly as to neighbours! / [3] Make opportunities to explore faith issues in all their diversity: especially in your communities, work situations, in relation to children and young people in education and as citizens. / [4] Reflect on the New Testament and Biblical teaching on how God is God of all humans and especially for Jesus of those who are ‘outsiders’ [see for example the story of the Syro-Phoenecian Woman in Mark 7:25-30/Matthew 15:21-28]. As Dr Elizabeth Harris of Hope University Liverpool said in her keynote address: “there is no reading of the Bible that instructs us to live exclusively.” / [5] Find out more from well-established interfaith organizations and practioners such as the East London Three Faiths Forum which meets monthly in various locations and has a very friendly vibe. The Women’s Interfaith Network is more recently established and is based in Walthamforest. As usual there are many books, guides and courses. / [6] Support interfaith work within our Methodist structures at circuit and district levels in Forest and London and at national level through Methodist Church House and Churches Together in England. / [7] Challenge racism wherever and whenever it happens and support groups such as ‘Hope not Hate.’ / “Be brave, be bold, dig deeper.” / I think it is right to respond to the fear and the confusion that exists. It is also important to distinguish between people of other faiths [Muslims especially] and those whose faith is leading them to such wicked terrorism and killing. We won’t all agree how to do this. But I believe interfaith action deeply rewards our own pilgrimage. Let me end with words from the CTE conference: “Be brave, be bold, dig deeper.”

**2014 01 Letter to my friends’** - Do you stay up until midnight, sing Auld Lang Syne, and watch the growing number of firework displays that welcome in each New Year? Or do you go through the ritual of New Year resolutions? / I usually spend some time changing key data from my old diary to my new one. I still crave a solid paper-based one, usually the Tate Gallery version with its twelve-themed art reproductions. / For me part of the answer is in getting the right balance between action and reflection. / So my action and to-do list begins with attending the annual Methodist Covenant Service at our local church. For me this is a necessary though uneasy experience which asks serious questions about how I/we cope with the vagaries of life and living over against a profession of faith. “Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, exalted for you, or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing.” / I have one very strong practical action on my to-do list for 2014, which will see my 70th birthday in May. It will include coping with and recovering from a total knee replacement operation for my left knee. Yes, I know it’s a very common experience for ‘seventy somethings’ but it’s me and my knee and I don’t want to be a complete wuss! / When it comes to political matters and New Year Resolutions to with action I don’t choose ‘World Peace.’ That is much too much like ‘the winner of Miss World Competition. However I have an ongoing commitment to gather and reflect on a range of political information. I usually want to know what Al Jazeera is saying about a particular crisis. This year, like so many of you, I have watched the continuing reportage on the ‘Arab Spring’ and the terrible civil war in Syria. How do we act responsibly in the face of such political events? / My own commitment to action focuses this year, as many preceding ones, on ‘women and violence.’ Every conflict we see shows how women are caught up in a cycle of violence that includes a lack of personal power; poor education and economic opportunities;’ physical and mental abuse in known relationships; international networks of trafficking and modern slavery? This is a worldwide reality and that means we have to be vigilant even within our own context. / My reflective focus for 2014 is within the spiritual base I’ve developed over my years as a Christian Feminist an in interfaith dialogue. / As for Christian Feminism: the Jesus of the Gospels engages the women he meets in a way that is still remarkable and challenging. This means that women reading the Gospels ask those hard life-questions as fully authenticated women. / As for interfaith dialogue: In November 2013 I was invited to attend the inaugural lecture given by Professor Michael Barnes SJ – the newly established professor of Interreligious Dialogue at Heythrop College University of London. I’ve known Michael for some time ever since doing a short and very interactive course with him [Heythrop College ‘Inter-religious Relations’ course 2008/9]. This course helped me rework the understanding I had acquired of dialogue over many year’s practice. Michael’s lecture illustrated how human stages of living and their related spiritual pathways are understood in all the major World Faiths. This accumulated knowledge that he termed ‘Grey Wisdom’ can help us face human frailty, mortality and the reality of earlier dreams not being realised. Nothing lasts and yet God’s Spirit continues to fulfil life. The final, fourth stage, of this spiritual journey is the one where we consciously take responsibility for the ‘self:’ a process called ‘Moksha’ in Hinduism. This lecture was difficult and exhilarating to listen to and even harder to perceive the ways to apply it in the here and now. But it is reassuring that someone I admire and trust is doing this work of linking life-stages with health and spirituality from such a wide range of sources. / So I would like to wish you a Happy New Year for 2014 and hope you will find or continue living with a long-term balance between action and reflection. / Here are two of my favourite quotes that encourage me: / “Women are one half of society which gives birth to the other half, so it is as if they are the entire society [Ibn Al-Qayyin – thirteenth century Sunni jurist].” / “No peace among the nations without peace in the religions. No peace among the religions without dialogue between the religions. No dialogue between the religions without global ethical criteria. No survival of our globe without a global ethic [Hans Küng in Leslie Griffiths ‘Voices from the Desert’ 2002 referring to 1993 Parliament of World Religions that led to the Global Ethic Foundation].”

**2013 11 Skills and VOTL [voice of the learner]** - We have been working on versions of the learner representation for some time. / It is common in most learning environments to provide students with an opportunity to voice their opinions on the quality of their learning experience. It is also common to encourage them to critique the service provided to them by the institution. This clearly fits with our overall vision and purpose. / There needs to be a formal link between the VOTL representatives and the Board of Trustees to enable mutual communication. / The Trustees and staff believe learners should make representation so that both can respond to their concerns and register their ideas and suggestions for improvements. / The Trustees need to set up a VOTL sub-committee patterned on our other sub-committees: this will be easier given the current time-unit of our programmes. / The VOTL sub-committee would no doubt work out its own agenda and methods of working once it was set up. / From my past experience of such a group its key purposes, functions and duties will include / Establishing and monitoring contact and feedback between the learners, their companies and the Board [internal / external questionnaires] / Monitoring the effectiveness of the learner representative structure and its outcomes / Monitoring the impact that the VOTL structure has on the learner’s performance / Ensuring learners understand / experience the values of the Company / Reporting on the learner feedback process / Meeting learner representatives on a regular basis / Ensuring that learner representatives meet directly with Trustees at a frequency to be agreed / Exploring the practicalities of Trustees attending events such as ‘Learner of the Month’ / Supporting and promoting a rogramme of enrichment activities / Making sure that the Skills for Growth environment and style provides learners with security and opportunities for wider public engagement,

**2013 09 Syria, war and international law** - We’ve attempted to set down some ideas and links and encouragement we’ve found and used - during the time when the UK Parliament was voting and G20 meeting about Syria and the Middle East. If it’s somewhat fragmented and incomplete then it is consistent with how we feel. We are clear though regarding two aims. [1] The UK and America and all others should work for political solutions and not get involved in the fighting. [2] The UN has to find new ways of being effective. As things move on in relation to chemical weapons and new initiatives to end the civil war – we’d argue both of these aims need to be addressed.

**2013 06 Elizabeth Moltmann-Wendel -** ‘The Women around Jesus – reflections on authentic personhood’ 1982 translated John Bowden [Barbara Holden RAB June 2013] – I have good memories of my involvement with the East London Christian Feminist Group in the 80’s. Much has changed but the need for equal rights for women and reducing violence against women persist. So when a friend lent me this study by Elizabeth Moltmann-Wendel I felt to be returning to some basic teaching – 1982! Given the problems of interpreting any cultural setting it isn’t surprising that the history of the Christian Church has put down many layers. And yet when you read the texts and examine these particular texts about the women around Jesus – you are struck by the sheer straightforwardness of the fact that he did value the women. Of course it is useful to read back into the cultural setting but it is also important to accept the full-force of his positive regard and respect.

**2013 02 One billion rising campaign -** I’m of the generation for whom the sixties and seventies were crucial in my formation as a woman. Feminism remains a viable and important movement and is a prism for looking at the world. Everything I’ve done through my personal and working life has convinced me that getting better relationships between men and women; working for equal rights for women; ending violence against women is all crucial.

**2013 02 High Leigh and Joy Barrow** - Thank you very much for the opportunity to attend the High Leigh Conference. I found it at one level very encouraging but was conscious that the MC presence and witness is very uncertain. I’m sure you will keep those of us who are interested informed of the outcome of the Review Group. I’m currently in contact with the East London Women’s Interfaith Network as well as the East London Three Faiths Forum and am still unsure how to proceed in the suburban town of Loughton where we live. I do think of you at this time of change and pressure and wish you well, Barbara [Holden]

**2012 Methodist Church interfaith** - From my 40 years experience of local interfaith dialogue I conclude that the clear differences of practice and belief challenge and illuminate our shared humanity. My answer to your questions are [1] surely the MC is committed to the full development of our society and obviously pluralism and the interfaith dimension are major aspects of that [2] lack of focus and lack of support to those of us who have been engaged for years and those for whom it is a new experience [3] whether in neighbours or colleagues or organizations I value difference, common humanity and a shared approach to faith itself in our secular society [4] if you mean via the Methodist Church structures – networking and information are obviously less costly than staff. I would add that we notice MC public affairs is done jointly with the Baptists and URC is there no church ecumenical partnership to be forged for interfaith relations? Barbara Holden

**2012 06 Westfield ‘inSpiration’** - Twelve of us from the LMC Girl’s Group visited the Westfield ‘inSpiration’ project in Stratford E15’s Westfield centre. Think Westfield, think shops. But also think a Christian project offering safe space and hospitality. Rev Julia Murphy [the Co-ordinating Chaplain] met us and explained how the project had been set up by some Stratford churches as part of the Westfield development. “At the heart of the shopping centre (situated on the third floor next to the Café Court) is a space for prayer, called a ‘rest and faith space’ and named ‘inSpiration.’ This is a project of the churches in Stratford which have formed a new organisation called ‘inSpire Stratford Ltd’.” The room is open daily with volunteers between 11.00 and 19.00 [more details on the website]. It is visited by staff, shoppers and tourists. At present the main users are Christians and Muslims but it is open to all. The aim is straightforward and important: to have a place within this large shopping mall with its transport hub and Olympic site where people can be quiet, say their personal and communal prayers, and even [by arrangement] meet – as we did – as a group. The room has high backed booths for personal prayer and washing facilities and prayer space for Muslims. There is no religious symbolism but Bibles and Korans are available. ‘inSpiration’ has a strong relationship with the local Mosque based on existing neighbourhood work called ‘Faithful Friends.’ Muslims use this space at their daily prayer-times with Friday mid-day prayers drawing the largest numbers. Julia explained that there is very warm appreciation from the Muslim community for this Christian hospitality and that there are many opportunities for personal contact. I lived and/ or worked in Newham from 1976-2006 and our Bryant Street Methodist Church is just over the road. So in spite of all the changes I have a sense of being at home! I do encourage you to go and have a look at what’s happening in Stratford and when you are at Westfield shopping do drop into the ‘inSpiration’ project and add your presence and your prayers. For information go to - http://uk.westfield.com/stratfordcity/services/inspiration and http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/pray-and-shop-at-westfield-stratford-city.html

**2012 01 Greetings for the New Year** - I hope 2012 brings you Peace, Justice and Understanding for which we all search at both local and wider world. / I’m writing to ask for any information you have regarding the future of the Forum. It’s more than a year since we last met and I know from Ann Haigh that she is no longer in a position to be our chairperson. Colin Rowell confirmed in an e-mail that he has now been directed to other work. I was advised that a meeting in late November would discuss the Forum but I have had no reply to my email to Cllr Lesley Wagland who is Leader of EFDC, Epping and chair of the EFD LSP Board. / I joined the Forum in March 2009 and think that it has a valuable role in building up good interfaith relationships, offering support to schools; and having a presence at public events such as the Epping Town Show. I also think that there are future opportunities around One World Week and/or the Interfaith Week. / This leaves me wondering how we might move this on! If you are interested in progressing this could let me know and maybe we could share some ideas and then make a more formal approach to the District Council. / Yours sincerely Barbara Holden

**2010 01 Reflection is for me a key skill and tool that I use for living** - I got into through my working life and through reading and learning about Paulo Freire. As you know Paulo Freire’s main theme was that we need education for liberation not for oppression or domestication. He writes, “To no longer be prey to its force, one must emerge from it and turn upon it. This can be done only by means of praxis: reflection and action upon the world in order to transform it ['Pedagogy of the Oppressed' Penguin 1970/72 page 27-28].

**2009 It is now two weeks since I returned from Iona** - I found the whole experience very affecting - All the practical matters went well; Bishop’s House hospitality was very good; and the rhythm of Eucharist and prayers at the House and the Abbey was all I hoped for. I did some significant firsts including climbing the cliffs and rock at Staffa and doing the 7+ miles to St Columba’s Bay. The weather was the usual Hebridean mix. Jan Such-Pickard’s presence on one day was very special as she walked us round the Abbey. I spent some part of each day in St Orhan’s Chapel and I do agree with you. I was nervous about being with the Loughton Methodist Church group but it all went very well. Time will tell what new relationships develop in addition to the good ones with our house-group. I hope life goes well for you as you prepare for the post in Burnley and that you have been able to follow up on some of my contacts, Barbara

**2006 One World Week @ Loughton Methodist Church Saturday afternoon and evening** – market place with various stalls, Jan Such-Pickard presentation and meal; other churches invited and some participation usually from people committed in their own church; attendance about 60 people; feedback form used. / 2007 Sunday evening and café worship - around the issue of community cohesion led by Chris Watts with input from Naya and Shazia; other churches invited; attendance about 40 people; follow up in New Year to give support to local councillors and church’s action re BNP; feedback form used./ 2008 Suggested theme ‘Growing together’ - Week and regular opening times; welcome area and Wesley’s to promote and sell trade and trade craft goods; churches were invited to send volunteers; obviously it was open to the public who usually use the welcome area so attendance is difficult to judge; how much tradecraft material was sold? / 2009 Suggested theme ‘Hungry for one world’ – do we want to take on aspects of the Ubuntu project [active togetherness] and if so how? / 2010 to OWW - Thanks for the recent newsletter. 1] As I am not able to be at the review-celebration event I wanted to update you on our work at Loughton Methodist Church. We’ve had small events for several years. But this year we combined OWW with our two-year Dalit Solidarity project. 2] Firstly we had a display in the church’s public cafe/ welcome area for six days. This was on the theme ‘peacing the world’ and it included a world map on to which people could attach a slip of paper as prayer requests for their area of concern. 3] The second event was at our main morning worship with some 200 people. It combined the One World Week theme and Dalit Solidarity. We are committed to a two year partnership with the Church of North India to raise money specifically for computers for Dalit young people. At the worship we had speakers from Southall who are leaders in this movement: they spoke, prayed and played drums! We also used the prayer requests as the basis for the intercessory prayers. A small group shared food after the service. Best wishes, Barbara Holden.

**2006 03 I lived and worked in Newham from 1976 to 2003 -** I was a Governor of a group of local primary schools; taught at a local secondary school; and then was manager in the Newham Adult Education and Youth Service for some 15 years [NewCeys]. I’ve been committed to community-politics, human rights, the women’s movement, interfaith dialogue and second-chance education all my adult life! At my retirement I wrote - Barbara Holden is recently retired after working for 30 years in the London Borough of Newham in the voluntary sector; secondary schools and as an area manager for the Borough’s Youth and Community Education Service. The job involved providing adult education programmes, community and youth work in two purpose-built centres, and she had a special interest in working with newly arrived communities and in developing youth work in schools and refugee communities. As manager she was in one of the most ethnically diverse neighbourhoods in the UK and that fitted well with commitment as a Christian woman to interfaith dialogue. For most of this time she was a member at Bryant Street Methodist Church and Centre and now at Loughton Methodist Church.

**1998 John Hickman ‘Teachers, Language and learning’ 1988 page 131 Head of English at Forest Gate Community School** - “As the school was in the middle of planning a Community Week in which all the local community agencies were involved, Barbara Holden, the Outreach Teacher, was asked to talk to the Committee about her work and what was involved for her in the moves to make Forest Gate a Community School. // This together with the Community Week itself in the following month, put the relation of the School to the people who live in Forest Gate firmly in our minds when we came to plan succeeding activities.”