



The Bolton Faith Trail

Bolton Evening News



Diocese of Manchester

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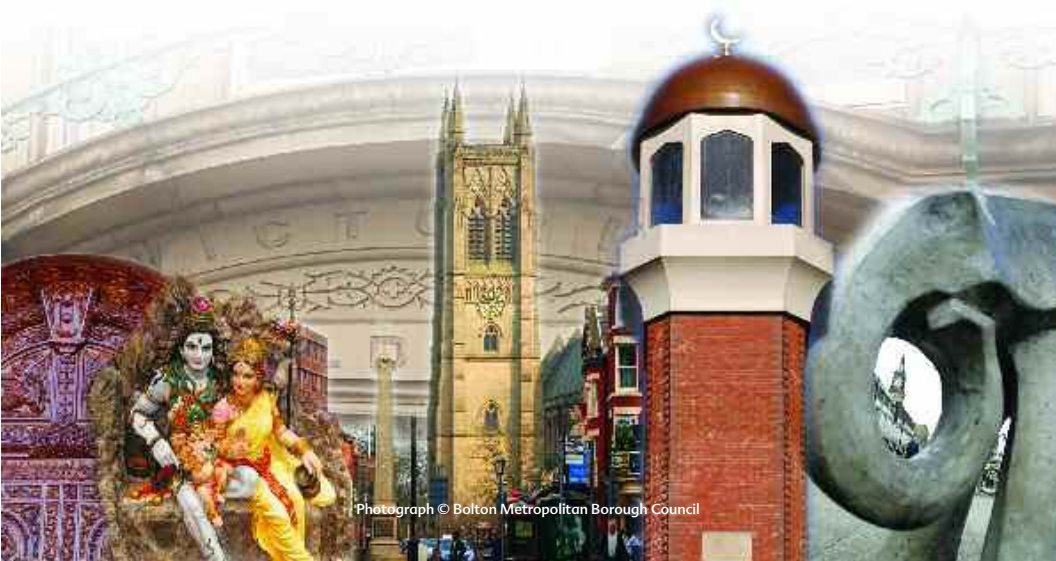
An Invitation . . .

This Faith Trail booklet provides a walk or ride around central Bolton to see sixteen significant places of worship from the three major faiths here - Christian, Muslim and Hindu. There are of course many more places of worship and many more religious or spiritual groups in the town.

This has always been so. In the 19th Century Bolton was known as the Geneva of the North because so many different Christian groups set up in this tolerant town. In the 1950's and 60's many people came from the Gujarat area of India to work in the cotton mills. Others came from Kenya and now from all over the world. We are a multicultural and multi-faith town, which also hosts a number of refugee communities.

The Faith Trail is designed to introduce you to the basic history, beliefs and locations of the three main faith groups. There are ancient buildings, very modern buildings and adapted buildings which provide vibrant places of worship and community life.

. . . We hope that you will enjoy reading the booklet and following the trail.



Photograph © Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council



Bolton Interfaith Council

Representatives from the three major faiths in Bolton attend regular meetings of the Bolton Interfaith Council to discuss matters of joint concern and promote the work of the Interfaith Council.

The Interfaith Council arranges visits to places of worship, organises special events and invites speakers to address open meetings so that community groups, schools and members of the public can learn more about the faiths in Bolton.

The Interfaith Council is also represented on the Bolton Racial Harmony Forum and is a member of the Bolton Vision for the Future Partnership.

Three Major World Faiths

These three major world faiths make up the vast majority of faith groups in Bolton.

They all have one thing in common, namely that there is one God or fundamental Principle who transcends human comprehension.

What we now offer is a thumbnail sketch of each religion, although it needs to be borne in mind that they are all far more complex than these summaries indicate.

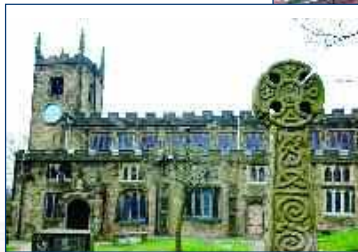


Christians come to Bolton

We are not sure when Christians first came to Bolton but there are Saxon crosses and evidence of Saxon churches in the town. The most ancient building was probably on the site of the present Bolton Parish Church where a Saxon building was replaced by a medieval building which was itself replaced by a Victorian building. The present Deane Church is also on an ancient site. During the English Civil War Bolton was on the Commonwealth side and was heavily besieged by the Earl of Derby fighting for the Crown. From that date there has always been a strong Puritan and Non-Conformist presence in the town with the Unitarians, now in Bank Street, being one of the first.

Over the years many other churches were built both by independent groups and also by the major denominations.

The Victorian period in particular was a boom time for church building and immigration particularly from Ireland. In Bolton town centre alone there were over forty churches in the hey day of the 1920's and 30's. This number is now dwindling as more and more people have moved out of the town centre. Thankfully old rivalries have now given way to a lively ecumenical co-operation between the churches which has spawned many imaginative projects and interfaith initiatives.



2



Muslims come to Bolton

In the late 1950's Muslims began to arrive in Bolton. Many originated in India and came via Pakistan or other neighbouring countries. They resided in lodging houses in large numbers through the 1960's but gradually they called their families over and settled in family houses mainly in the Deane and Derby areas.

From there they spread out to other areas of the town, for example to the Blackburn Road area. In 1962 a committee was formed to serve the educational and social needs of the community and so the Islamic Cultural Centre was founded where the New Zakaria Mosque now stands. This Mosque was the first in Bolton and now, in its new building, it can accommodate up to five thousand people.

Muslim children went to state and church schools for their mainstream education but Islamic classes were set up for them beginning in a house in Rothwell Street. There is now a Muslim Girls' School in the town as well as after-school Mosque classes.

The rapidly growing Muslim communities are an integral part of Bolton society. Added to the original groups are now people from the Middle East, Eastern and Northern Europe and East Africa. Muslims are the biggest ethnic minority in Bolton and are successful in business, sporting and other aspects of town life. In May 2000 the first Muslim councillor was elected and by 2004 this had risen to seven. Imams and representatives are also active in Bolton Interfaith Council and work in co-operation with other community groups to enhance the multicultural life which Boltonians now enjoy. Muslims in Bolton are united in the Bolton Council of Mosques.

Adapted from original text by M. Raschid.



3



Hindus come to Bolton

The first Hindu to settle in Bolton came from India in the early 1960's. His family joined him much later. At that time, there was high demand for unskilled work in the thriving textile mills.

Soon other Hindus from textile mills in India followed suit. They usually stayed together under one roof, finding security amongst themselves as most of them could not speak English. After Kenya became independent in 1963 and Uganda expelled its Asian citizens in the early 70's, some East African Hindus migrated to Bolton because they had friends and relatives already settled here and who were able to find jobs and accommodation for them.

For the early settlers life had few comforts. Most of them had incurred large debts in coming over. They worked long hours with meagre pay and lived frugally in cramped and unhealthy conditions. Their misery was compounded by the harsh, cold winters of that era.

The mid-70's saw the onset of Diwali and Navratri celebrations, which are the main Hindu festivals. This led to the Hindu community acquiring their own premises on Chorley Old Road (the former St. Barnabas' Church) which was gradually converted to a Hindu temple and community centre.

The 2001 census shows that more than 5,200 Hindus live in Bolton. Most originated from the Gujarat state in India and speak Gujarati. Today, there are more than twenty Hindu faith organisations in Bolton and some six temples and community centres. Hindus in Bolton are united in the Bolton Hindu Forum.

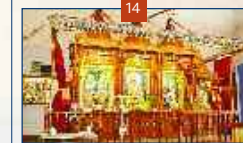


4

The Buildings

- 1. St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church**
One of the two Roman Catholic churches provided in the town centre particularly to serve the Irish, it and the adjoining presbytery were built in 1861.
- 2. Quaker Meeting House**
Built in 1970, in a modern style for flexible use, it replaced an earlier building demolished for road construction.
- 3. Bolton Parish Church**
When Bolton grew dramatically in the 19th century, the medieval parish church was no longer adequate, and this church, impressive both outside and inside, replaced it in 1871.
- 4. Bank Street Unitarian Chapel**
For a long time the home of Bolton's most powerful non-conformist congregation, the present building dates from 1856 but contains some remnants of its 1696 predecessor.
- 5. Victoria Hall Methodist Mission**
Particularly to meet the needs of Bolton's poor and those who did not attend a church, it opened in 1900 and contains Bolton's largest hall.
- 6. St. Andrew's and St. George's United Reformed Church**
The building dates from 1862 but the interior of the main worship area was recently reordered to create an attractive meeting place.
- 7. Salvation Army Citadel**
This is an unusual conversion of a secular building - a political club - to a place of worship.
- 8. Veda Mandir (Vishwa Hindu Parishad)**
This is the oldest and non-sectarian Hindu temple in Bolton.

- 9. Noor ul Islam Mosque**
The first purpose built Mosque to be erected in Bolton.
- 10. Tayyiahah Mosque**
Formerly a school building, it was converted for use as a Mosque by the community around Astley Bridge.
- 11. St. Thomas' Church**
To serve the densely-packed housing of Halliwell, it was built in 1875 in tall and dramatic brick simplicity.
- 12. Smithills Hall Chapel**
The house dates from the 14th to the 19th centuries and the chapel is 16th century but restored in 1858 by the Ainsworth family, whose monuments it contains.
- 13. Deane Parish Church**
Standing in a large churchyard, this is a fine late-medieval building restored in the 19th century and still looking like the village church it once was.
- 14. Shree Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple**
Dedicated to the teachings of Lord Swaminarayan.
- 15. Zakaria Mosque**
Built on Peace Street, it is Bolton's largest Mosque.
- 16. Shree Swaminarayan Sidhant Sajivan Mandal**
Dedicated to the teachings of Lord Swaminarayan and filled with Indian craftsmanship.



5

Maps ...



DRIVE or WALK outside Town Centre

BOLTON FAITH TRAIL

Key



- 1 St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church.
- 2 Quaker Meeting House.
- 3 Bolton Parish Church.
- 4 Bank Street Unitarian Chapel.
- 5 Victoria Hall Methodist Mission.
- 6 St. Andrew's and St. George's United Reformed Church.
- 7 Salvation Army Citadel.
- 8 Veda Mandir (Vishwa Hindu Parishad).
- 9 Noor ul Islam Mosque.
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- 11 St. Thomas' Church.
- 12 Smithills Hall Chapel.
- 13 Deane Parish Church.
- 14 Shree Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple.
- 15 Zakaria Mosque.
- 16 Shree Swaminarayan Sidhant Sajivan Mandal.

Faith Trail Walk

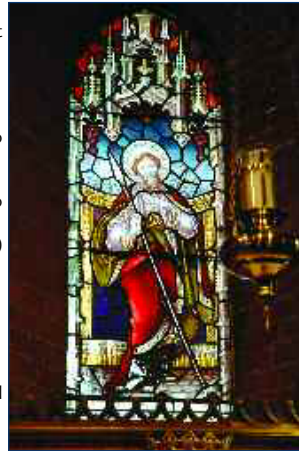
The town centre walk is approximately 1½ miles in length. The drive round the places of worship outside the town centre is about 10 miles long, but the walking route is about 8½ miles. However, because the places of worship outside the town centre could be said to be in two clusters, it would be possible to walk from the town centre to point 12, a distance of about 3 miles, and then return to the town centre by bus, and then to travel by bus from the town centre to Deane Road near to point 13 and complete the walk back into town, a distance of about 2½ miles.

TOWN CENTRE WALK

With your back to the Town Hall steps, turn right along Newport Street to the end of the pedestrian precinct and turn left along Great Moor Street. On the right is St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church (1). Continue to the end of Great Moor Street and turn left along Bradshawgate and right into Silverwell Street. Ahead is the Quaker

Meeting House (2). Turn left in front of it and on your right is Bolton Parish Church (3). At its main gates turn left along Churchgate to the Market Cross and there turn right down Bank Street to Bank Street Unitarian Chapel (4) on the left.

Return to the Market Cross and turn right along Deansgate as far as Knowsley Street and there turn right. On the left hand side is the Victoria Hall Methodist Mission (5) and on the left hand corner at the top of the street is St. Andrew's and St. George's United Reformed Church (6). There turn left along St. George's Road to the Salvation Army Citadel (7) on the right. Continue to the major junction of roads and, if you wish to return to the town centre, turn left along Marsden Road and, at its end, left again along Deansgate.



8

DRIVE OR WALK OUTSIDE THE TOWN CENTRE

From the junction of St. George's Road and Marsden Road, go up the continuation of St. George's Road (A673) to the traffic lights at its junction with the B6226 and the entrance to the Veda Mandir (Vishwa Hindu Parishad) (8) is in Thomas Holden Street on the right. Return to the traffic lights and turn right along the B6226 (Chorley Old Road) for a short distance before turning right into Gaskell Street. Continue along Brownlow Way until you reach the main road of Halliwell Road and there turn right. Shortly before you reach the traffic lights at the end of Halliwell Road, turn left into Prospect Street and the Noor ul Islam Mosque (9) is on your right.

Continue ahead to Blackburn Road and turn left for a short distance before turning left again into Draycott Street. The Tayyibah Mosque (10) is on your right on the corner of Blackburn Road and Draycott Street. Draycott Street will return you to Halliwell Road, where you turn right and then, opposite the Lord Raglan public house, left into Eskrick Street to St. Thomas's Church (11). Return to Halliwell Road and turn left, across Moss Bank Way (the A58) and up Smithills Dean Road to the entrance to the grounds of Smithills Hall. Turn right and follow the signs for the car park and Smithills Hall, of which Smithills Hall Chapel (12) is a part.

Here the driving route and the walking route to Deane Parish Church (13) differ. To drive, return to the A58 (Moss Bank Way) and follow the A58 (which becomes Stapleton Avenue, Victoria Road and then Beaumont Road) across the B6226 and A673 until its junction with the A676 at Wigan Road. Turn left along Wigan Road until, opposite Hulton Lane, you turn left along Horsfield Street immediately before the Stag's Head public house. At the end of Horsfield Street, turn right into Junction Road and Deane Parish Church (13) is on the left.

To walk from Smithills Hall (12) to Deane Parish Church (13), return to the A58, cross Moss Bank Way and turn right up Harpers Lane footpath and continue up it, now a road, to the T-junction with Church Road. Here turn right and then first left into Captains Clough Road. At the next T-junction, turn right up Chorley Old Road and then left

into Devonshire Road. This takes you down to Chorley New Road, where you turn right. Then go down the exit drive from Overdale Crematorium on the left. Follow the drive round to the right, to a crossroads, and there turn left, over the bridge across the railway, and up the, often muddy, footpath up Deane Church Clough to Junction Road. Turn left and Deane Parish Church (13) is on the left.

All now continue along Junction Road to Wigan Road and then cross it to Deane Church Lane almost opposite. Go all the way up Deane Church Lane to the traffic lights and turn left along St. Helens Road (the A579). After a patch of trees on the right, you will see the distinctive dome of the Shree Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple (14) in Adelaide Street on the right. Return to the main road, now Derby Street, and turn right to the Zakaria Mosque (15) with its tall minaret on the left at Peace Street. Continue down Derby Street and take the next left, Cannon Street, to Deane Road, where the Shree Swaminarayan Sidhant Sajivan Mandal (16) is on the left hand corner. To return to the town centre, turn right along Deane Road.



9

What Christians Believe

Christians believe that Jesus of Nazareth, who lived in Palestine two thousand years ago, was the Messiah (or Christ) whom the prophets of Judaism had spoken about in the Hebrew Scriptures. Christians also believe that Jesus was the incarnation of God unique in history. He taught that God is the creator and Father of all humankind who has made his love available to every human being.

His death on the cross is seen as an act of atonement for all the evils that are done in the world and his resurrection from the dead is seen as offering new life and hope to humankind.

For Christians, the Spirit of God is present in the world working for forgiveness, healing, peace and moral challenge. The Spirit calls believers together for worship and community in the world-wide church. Down the centuries this church has split into a number of denominations which are now being brought together again through the ecumenical movement. Christians worship in many different ways and in many different kinds of buildings.

They see service to their neighbour as being an essential part of their calling. Christians make up 33% of the world's population.

The major festivals are:-

- **Christmas**
(Celebrates the Birth of Jesus the Christ)
- **Ash Wednesday**
(The beginning of the Fasting Season of Lent)
- **Good Friday**
(The Death of Jesus by Crucifixion)
- **Easter Day**
(The raising of Jesus from the Dead)
- **The Ascension**
(The ascent of Jesus into Heaven)
- **Whit Sunday or Pentecost**
(The Coming of the Holy Spirit)
- **Trinity Sunday**
(The Celebration of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit).



10

What Muslims Believe

Muslims believe that the Prophet Mohammad, who lived fifteen hundred years ago in what is now Saudi Arabia, is the final prophet of God in a long line of prophets. God revealed to him his word in Arabic which is called the Holy Qur'an. The Holy Qur'an calls upon all humankind to submit to the will of Allah and to practise their faith through the Five Pillars of Islam which are:

Iman or Faith

No one is worthy of worship except God and Mohammad is his messenger.

Salah or Prayer

Obligatory prayers are to be said five times a day.

Zakah or Giving

All our possessions are purified (Zakah) by giving a proportion to those in need.

Sawm or Fasting

Fasting during the fasting month of Ramadan.

Hajj or Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage to Makkah once in a lifetime for those physically and financially able.

Muslims say their prayers in the direction of the holy city of Makkah. In the Mosque the Imam who leads the prayers also gives guidance first in Arabic and then in everyday language based on the Holy Qur'an and the Hadith (Sayings of the Prophet Muhammad). Muslims believe that all will be judged by God after death and only those who have been obedient will enter paradise. Muslims make up 22% of the world's population.

The main festivals are:

- **Al-Hijra** (Muslim New Year)
- **Maulid Al-Nabi** (Birthday of the Prophet Mohammad)
- **Lailat-ul-Bara'h** (Night of Forgiveness)
- **Ramadan** (The Month of Fasting)
- **Eid-UI-Fitr** (The end of Fasting)
- **Eid-UI-Adha** (The completion of the Hajj and the sacrifice of Ishmael by Abraham)



11

What Hindus Believe

Hinduism is the ancient religion of India. It is not a single unified religion and has no founder, single teacher, nor prophets. Hindus believe in a universal soul or god known as Brahman who is worshipped in many diverse forms. These forms include complementary attributes of male and female deities, in human as well as animal forms. Hindu sects may have their own divinities whom they worship but these are simply different ways of approaching god. Brahman is often represented in a threefold form: Brahma as the creator of the universe, Vishnu its preserver and Shiva its destroyer.

Hindus believe that the soul is immortal and on the death of the body it transmigrates to a new life on earth. Whether this life is better or worse than the previous one depends on the amount of good or evil done in the previous life. This is the law of Karma. A series of good lives will break this cycle, leading to the ultimate absorption of the soul into Brahman.

Bhagavad Gita is one of the many holy books of Hindus. It teaches that salvation comes through devotion and good deeds.

The temple or mandir is the spiritual and community centre for Hindus. Each family will have a small shrine in their own home for daily worship. The Hindu population globally is about 15%.

The main festivals in the order they appear in the Hindu calendar are:

- **Mahashivratri** Birthday of Lord Shiva
- **Holi** Festival of colour
- **Ramnavmi** Birthday of Lord Rama
- **Rakshabandan** Protection from evil
- **Janmashtmi** Birthday of Lord Krishna
- **Navratri** Trinity of God worship in female form
- **Diwali** Festival of lights and advent of Hindu New Year



Acknowledgments . . .

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Special thanks have to go to Mike Cresswell for giving his time and energy in compiling the Bolton Faith Trail.

If you wish to see inside any of these buildings, please contact the relevant number below.

Place of Worship	Telephone	Place of Worship	Telephone
ST. PATRICK'S R.C. CHURCH ST. PATRICK'S PRESBYTERY 1A GREAT MOOR STREET BOLTON	01204 525716	TAYYABAH MOSQUE 31A DRAVYOTT ST BOLTON BL1 8HD	01204 523097 07973261457
QUAKER MEETING HOUSE SILVERWELL STREET BOLTON BL1 1PP	01204 528616	ST. THOMAS' CHURCH ST. THOMAS' VICARAGE 101 CLOISTER STREET HALLIWELL BOLTON BL1 3HA	01204 842647
BOLTON PARISH CHURCH ST. PETERS VICARAGE CHURCHGATE BOLTON BL1 1PS	01204 533847	SMITHILLS HALL CHAPEL c/o BOLTON LEISURE SERVICES	01204 332377
BANK ST UNITARIAN CHAPEL BANK ST BOLTON BL1 2RU	01204 305978 01204 528633	DEANE PARISH CHURCH JUNCTION RD DEANE BOLTON BL3 4LU	01204 61819
BOLTON METHODIST MISSION VICTORIA HALL 37 KNOWSLEY ST BOLTON BL1 2AS	01204 522569	SHREE KUTCH SATSANG SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE 11 ADELAIDE ST BOLTON BL3 4LU	01204 386428
ST. ANDREW'S & ST. GEORGE'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH ST. GEORGES RD BOLTON BL1 2BS	01204 361960 01204 370194	ZAKARIA MOSQUE 20 PEACE ST BOLTON BL3 5LJ	07957213331
SALVATION ARMY CITADEL 102 ST. GEORGES RD BOLTON BL1 2B2	01204 365455	SHREE SWAMINARAYAN SIDHANT SAJJIVAN MANDAL 161 DEANE RD BOLTON	0161 280 3508
VEDA MANDIR (VISHVA HINDU PARISHAD) 1 THOMAS HOLDEN ST BOLTON BL1 2QC	01204 527492 07801762637	NOOR UL ISLAM MOSQUE PROSPECT ST BOLTON BL1 3QH	01204 535738

Please find below contact details in the Greater Manchester area for the other Nine Great Faiths as defined by the Interfaith Network for the UK.

Place of Worship	Telephone
BUDDHIST SOCIETY OF MANCHESTER c/o 3 GROSVENOR SQ. SALE MANCHESTER M33 1RW	0161 973 7588
JEWISH REP. COUNCIL OF GT. MANCHESTER JEWISH CULTURAL CENTRE BURY OLD ROAD MANCHESTER M8 6FY	0161 720 8721
SIKH CENTRAL GURDWARA 32 DERBY STREET MANCHESTER M8 5PY	0161 832 2241
NORTHWEST ZOROASTRIAN COMMUNITY 5 CRAIGWEIL AVENUE DIDSBURY MANCHESTER M20 6JQ	0161 445 7554
JAIN SAMAJ MANCHESTER JAIN COMMUNITY CENTRE 657/659 STOCKPORT ROAD LONCSIGHT MANCHESTER M12 4QE	
MANCHESTER BAHAI CENTRE 360 WILMSLOW ROAD FALLOWFIELD MANCHESTER M14 6AB	0161 224 6490



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Website: www.boltoncommunity.co.uk/interfaithcouncil • Telephone: 01204 522226