

my daughter attended here was about 20% Muslim. And I've also developed quite a good friendship with one of the rabbis and have even spoken in the synagogue there – so yes, I've a fair amount of conversation across those boundaries.

**PW:** We have a very fine inter-faith centre here in Kilburn, in Willesden, and I go there fairly frequently – I'm a member. And, apart from that, I live among people from other faiths. My next door neighbour's a Jew, I've got Hindus living just below me, I've got Muslim friends in the local political party. [*laughing*] At one point they suggested that for our branch I should be made the secretary for the ethnic minorities, because I was an ethnic minority!

**I30I** *What about multi-faith worship? Joel Edwards has already told us about his passion to work for justice, with leaders of other faith communities. Would he also worship with them?*

**JE:** I wouldn't take part in multi-faith worship, because I believe that there is a huge difference between standing shoulder-to-shoulder in what Schaeffer would call 'co-belligerence for the common good', and kind of a syncretistic worship where all things get blended together. It's probably not honest worship, because it is very likely to obscure the distinctives of all the worship traditions.

*Two other members of our team agree with Joel, and one disagrees. You might find it interesting to switch off the tape for a couple of minutes, and work out who you think is the odd one out.*

**JP:** I do have a difficulty about multi-faith worship. I like to be with people of other faiths, but I like to be with them on a basis that's honest and true, and with which we all feel comfortable. For example, I believe it's clear that the three Abrahamic faiths – Judaism, Christianity, Islam – are worshipping the same God, though we believe very different things about the way in which that God has made God's nature known to us. I can see that it's possible for a degree of common worship, but the form that suits me the best is common silence, in which we are all in the presence of the sacred reality that we call God.

**RW:** I'm not too happy about multi-faith worship. I'm never quite sure what the community is that's worshipping, and there are I think possibilities of gathering together, and each one saying a prayer out of their own tradition. And I don't think that's a waste of time. I'm happier really as a Christian sitting in on someone else's act of worship, with my own agenda – my own reservations – my own adjustments.

**PW:** The Sunday after September 11th we all gathered at the inter-faith centre – not for worship in that sense, because it was a vigil of silence, except that it was punctuated throughout the hour by people reading just verses from their scriptures – and it was most moving. I mean it wasn't called inter-faith worship, but I was certainly worshipping during it.

**I31I** *What about evangelising people of other faiths? Should Christians do this, or is it best to live and let live?*

**RW:** It's right for Christians to evangelise anybody, because Christians have a responsibility to tell everyone that there is good news from God through Jesus Christ. But evangelising in the sense of using every opportunity to make someone from another faith community feel inferior – well no! [*laughs*] Only on the basis of a great deal of honesty and patience and trust can you begin to say 'Well actually