

Tribute to Barry Dodd - notes for Imam Abid Salik

- Dear Brothers & Sisters
- I begin by saying 'As salamu alaikum' – a message of Peace
- I first met Barry in 2016 at the Minster FM awards ceremony after York Mosque won team of the year award for our part in filling over 200 tonnes of sand bags during the boxing day floods.
- He first visited us as we were about to complete Phase 1 of our new Mosque, York's first purpose built mosque and was impressed how we were able to raise over £1.2M using a range of fundraising activities.
- Since then Barry would visit us on formal and informal events and we would sometimes spend hours sitting on the floor over a cup of tea and biscuits with Brothers and Sisters from the Mosque. We would talk his career, the contributions of the mosque and its congregation, about our families and hobbies, about tolerance and ways to build peace during troubled times
- We knew from this first meeting, that Barry was of a rare breed of leader whose inner warmth and sincerity made all those he came into contact with feel special, that he genuinely cared for what they were experiencing and would offer kind words, a warm handshake and that he was someone who always kept his promises
- He was keen to support and showcase the many activities of the Mosque which enhance and enrich the city of York and made sure we were part of the itinerary during a recent visit by the Duke of Kent. He was delighted when the Duke had sent him a hand written thank you note and commented how much he had enjoyed his time
- We were also invited to the Royal Garden Party which took place a few days after his tragic accident.
- During one of the open days that he and Frances visited, he met one of the Syrian Refugees who was going through a difficult time and spent a long time discussing his home and family – something still appreciated to this day by the Brother.
- Barry and Frances made many friends in the mosque, young and old. He had a remarkable ability to remember names of people he met as well as pick up on conversations which took place months ago
- He visited the mosque 2 days before his tragic death and when we heard the news we were in a state of shock and disbelief – it was like losing a family member
- His sudden and tragic death leaves a massive hole in our lives and we will continue to remember his warmth and generosity
- We extend our deepest sympathies to Frances and her family and look forward to continue to build the friendship with Frances and hope you will continue to visit us for many years to come
- Barry showed us the importance of fostering relationships with the wider community, and so with this in mind, we extend a warm welcome to all that are here to visit us at York Mosque, at any time convenient to you and continue to break down the prejudices and barriers that others are keen to build
- Wishing you Peace and continued Understanding