

The Shap working party on World Religions in Education



Ursula King



1. How did I come to join the Working Party? When I returned from living and studying in India in late 1970, I went to see Prof. Geoffrey Parrinder who I had met in 1969 at a Sikh conference in Patiala, and he became my doctoral supervisor at King's college, London. He knew all about Shap and suggested I should come along with him to a Shap meeting at Shap and he gave me a lift there. That must have been in 1971 when I had also found a (first temporary) teaching post at the University of Leeds (permanent from 1972 onwards). I joined Shap then in 1971, I think or shortly after, and have been a member ever since, attended many of its conferences and meetings (and organised quite a few day meetings for teachers at the University of Leeds where I taught until 1989 and was much more actively involved than later when I had to run a dept at the University of Bristol)

2. What are my richest memories of being a Shap Member? Several of the meetings at Leeds and at York, where we had many teachers who were able to come to study days we had organised. I also attended many events organised by Shap in those years and extended the range of colleagues and collaborators in various ventures, especially day conferences and publishing, and later many meetings in London.

3. What have been my major contributions to the work of Shap? Working with teachers and colleagues, supervising MAs and postgraduate courses and dissertations undertaken by teachers from different institutions, writing for the Shap Journal and other publications, taking part in meetings and seminars and annual meetings. I have written on women, on ecology, on interfaith dialogue and on Indian topics, but I do not have the journals to hand since I packed them away some years ago. I am sorry about this. Perhaps one of the last things I wrote for Shap was on the visit to Shap and the discovery of the ancient church and other matters.

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