



Peggy Morgan



For me Shap is coterminous with the developments in religious studies and religious education in the 1960s, particularly from the Lancaster base. I was already in Lancaster lecturing at St Martins when the University Department began and often talked with Ninian about the needs in schools and colleges for more inspiration and support in these areas. I was not in the first cohort of Shap members as I had small children (born in 1968 and 1970) and by the time I was invited to membership I was in Oxford lecturing at Westminster College.

I have always enjoyed the meetings and finding out what colleagues are doing in their various spheres. I always found the conferences, at some of which I was able to make a contribution, very stimulating. Mary Hayward's input into the York Shap events with subsequent publications were particularly memorable. Out of Shap friendships and my work on Buddhism emerged the invitation from Owen to contribute to *Six Religions in The Twentieth Century* and expand it into the Twenty First Century. With Clive Lawton I edited and wrote parts of *Ethical Issues in Six Religious Traditions* with Eleanor Nesbitt and then with Alan Brown's help with the second edition.

One highlight for me when I was chair in 1998 was presenting the first annual award to Kim Knott for her *Hinduism: A Very Short Introduction*. The award was made in honour of Rabbi Hugo Gryn, who was much missed for his humour and wisdom, and in the presence of his widow Jacqueline. There is a photo of the event which is in the archive. It was pointed out that since Hugo had once served a congregation in India the link was particularly apt. Other such events have been memorable with enjoyable visits and presentations from award winners. It has been a joy serving on the Award Committee.

The calendar continues and I have loved having copies to distribute to members of professions who have much needed it. These have included various bishops and other clergy; those in the medical professions; and those in hospitality. Ninian always said that hoteliers and their staff all needed religious studies degrees and an organisation like Shap!

Peggy Morgan