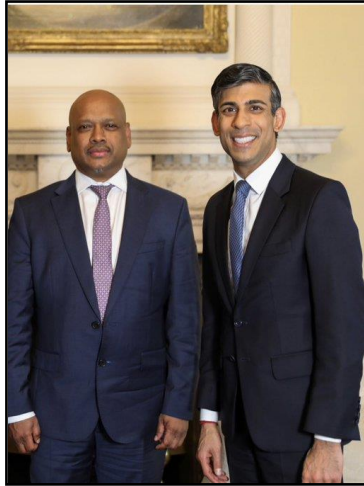


Enoch Kanagaraj meets the Prime Minister in thanks for his work as a Community Champion with One Vision

Church member Enoch Kanagaraj, has been recognised for the contribution he has made to his church's local community in Watford by being awarded the title of 'Community Champion' for his work with One Vision. On Thursday, 23rd March he travelled to London with local MP Dean Russell, Minister for Housing and the Homeless, to meet the country's Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak who thanked him for his contribution to society.



Each of the 650 Members of Parliament (MP's) was asked to nominate somebody who has helped to make a difference to his/her constituency. In Enoch's case Watford's MP, Dean Russell, is a trustee of the charity, One Vision, which Enoch founded to tackle the needs of the town's community. Later he wrote, 'On behalf of the people of Watford I would like to thank Enoch for all of the fantastic work that he does through One Vision and its various initiatives. I don't think there is a day when he is not doing something to help those around him.'



Just how did it all come about? Enoch himself wonders. It all started with knocking on doors in the area surrounding the church when he was part of the Church Community Services team. However, he says, 'As the CCS developed we recognised that the community needs were much greater than we could meet by ourselves. We began to connect and meet with other community organisations, charities and national government leaders, to explore how we could co-operate.' So in 2018 he was decided to form a charity called 'One Vision', with the motto 'Bringing People Together' those with different cultural backgrounds ... to address the needs of the Watford

community'.

Soon afterwards the pandemic struck, the country went into lockdown and One Vision swung into action providing hot meals (here the local Gurdwara played an important part) and distributing them along with food parcels to schools, isolated people and those in need with the Cedar/Sycamore Room becoming a distribution centre and the entire ground floor becoming a hive of activity. 'My idea is to work with everybody, post Covid mental health ... work with statutory bodies (e.g. the police), asking "How can we support and integrate with the community?"' Enoch says. 'A different way of doing things.'

Since then many local initiatives have been set up including a partnership with the local health authority to help with loneliness and mental health issues, a Youth Council has been established for the town's youth to share their views with the Mayor - to name just two examples.



So last week Enoch found himself amongst a group of six Community Champions and their MP's attending a reception in Downing Street and meeting the British Prime Minister. He says that Mr. Sunak was aware of the good work One Vision has been doing and thanked him for his efforts to help the local community. He shared with him, as he does with everybody, that he was an Adventist. He says that this always surprises people who assume that anyone born and raised in India is a Hindu. (Enoch has lived in this country for 35 years.) This was a contrast with the Prime Minister who though born in this country was raised as a Hindu!



Of his award Enoch says, 'I am humbled and honoured to be nominated as a Community Champion. I am proud of representing the people of Watford.'

Summing up the events behind it and the fact that his charity is going 'from strength to strength' he finds it all 'beyond my cognitive imagination..... unexpected.' He has never been afraid to share his faith and that he is an

Adventist and attributes his success to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

And to think it all started with knocking on doors!

Photos supplied by Enoch Kanagaraj show him outside the most famous front door in the country – one where he didn't have to knock to gain entry, along with the PM – and inside with the MP Dean Russell and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.