

**The woven panel shows the texture of relationships and interactions at the Faith Cafés. Our conversations made a fabric full of colourfulness and diversity.**

The warp strings represent the four major themes which formed a framework for our table conversations:

- Suffering and resilience
- Responsibility
- Equality
- Relationships

The weft is made up of fragments selected from three areas of feedback:

- what **seed** people took away from the café event
- what **fruit** might grow from that seed
- what people said about whether or not faith should be considered in the context of the Government's ideas for the Big Society.

As I reflect on the sound bites I see some movement:

- Words on **white** paper feel like starting positions
- Words on **blue** paper seem to represent turning points; to contain openness to change that has the potential to free people up
- Words on **cream** paper speak to me of the insight, hope and resolve that some people reached

Threaded through the fabric is a **gold thread** reminiscent of the 'golden rule' expressed in the teaching of all religions:

- *Lay not on any soul a load which ye would not wish to be laid upon you, and desire not for any one the things ye would not desire for yourselves.* Baha'i faith
- *Just as a mother would protect her only child with her life, even so let one cultivate a boundless love towards all beings.* Buddhism
- *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.* Christianity
- *This is the sum of duty: do naught to others which if done to thee would cause thee pain.* Hinduism
- *No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself.* Islam
- *I forgive all beings, may all beings forgive me, I have friendship towards all, malice towards none.* Jainism
- *What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow man.* Judaism
- *No one is my enemy, and no one is a stranger. I get along with everyone.* Sikhism
- *That nature only is good when it shall not do unto another whatever is not good for its own self.* Zoroastrianism