



# *A Heart Broken Open*

Radical Faith In an Age of Fear

Ray Gaston

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*A Heart Broken Open* is the moving and insightful reflection by an Anglican Priest of his grassroots engagement with Islam through relationships built from inner-city parish ministry in Leeds to the streets of Kerbela in Iraq at a time of rising Islamophobia and the 'war on terror'.

The author offers a way of witnessing to Christ's peace whilst entering into the faith of 'the other' with humility and love, allowing the way of Islam and the practice of Muslims to touch, challenge and inspire his Christian faith and feed his hunger for God. In so doing he offers us inspiration in finding our own ways to walk with confidence in Christ's love amongst neighbours of many faiths and none.

The book includes responses from some of the author's partners in dialogue.

Ray Gaston was in parish ministry in inner city Leeds for 12 years. He is now Inter Faith Studies Tutor and Enabler with The Queens Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education and The Birmingham District of the Methodist Church. He lives with his family in Sparkhill, Birmingham.

*'This book is deeply personal and moving ... I recommend it as of real value at grassroots level where the real action lies. It counters Islamophobia on behalf of radical Christianity'*

**Frank Whaling**, emeritus Professor in Religious Studies, Edinburgh University

*'A tour de force of radical spirituality'*

**Revd Donald Reeves**, Director, Soul of Europe

*'Ray's story is a profound and uplifting one ... By acting as an agent of change and at the same time being open to change himself, Ray exemplifies a powerful alternative to the polarizing discourse which views difference as a threat'*

**Salma Yaqoob**, Chair, Birmingham Stop The War Coalition and Birmingham City Councillor.