Task Sheet 9. Festivals

Suggested Task
Think about the main festivals which mark out the year in your religion, and the smaller ones that say something about you as a family or an individual.

As a tandem pair, discuss between you how you celebrate your festivals, what meanings lie behind them and to what extent you find them an important aspect of your faith commitment.

Aim
To understand the rhythms and cycles of your tandem partner’s calendar.
To reflect on the way in which you observe the festivals in your own calendar.

Objectives
On your own and with your partner define your objectives for this tandem exercise. What do you want to learn?

Consider asking yourself
Who takes the major roles in celebrating your festivals (eg clergy, particular family members)?
Do you feel yourself more as a participant or an observer in your festivals?
Can others beyond your faith community join in? To what extent?
Do they set you apart from others not of your faith? How?
What difficulties may you encounter in celebrating them?
How could your environment help you in maintaining your religious identity through the observation of festivals?

Consider asking your tandem partner
You may ask all or none of the suggestions above plus:
How does it affect your relationship to your religious community, if you do not, or do not fully, celebrate the festivals of your religion?
How does the fact that people of other religions do not understand or celebrate your festivals affect how your religious tradition views them?

Things to reflect on together
• What are our similarities? Why?
• Where do we differ? Why?