



Surrey Faith Links Newsletter

March 2018



'Doing good to others is not a duty, it is a joy, for it increases your own health and happiness.'
(Zoroaster)

Looks like the interfaith forums are busy planning events!

If you would like to get involved in organising an interfaith event or joining those that already exist, please get in touch. If you have organised something, we would love to hear about it, please send me your reports to share on the SFL newsletter. Watch out for further updates on our Facebook page.

Thank you

Kauser Akhtar
Faith Links Adviser
E: Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk

Inside this issue:

Anglican church- based Social Action	2
Faith and Cultural Training	2
Volunteer for Age Concern	3
Support for elderly parents	3
Faith & Beliefs News from 3FF	4
GDPR, what you need to know	4
Celebrating your work	5
Experience of Care Week	5
Funding Opportunities	6
Upcoming Events	7

Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith Forum AGM and Interfaith Lunch



On Wednesday 7th February, Epsom and Ewell Inter faith Forum (EEIFF) held their AGM and Interfaith lunch at All Saints Church, West Ewell

The Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, Councillor Liz Frost, also the current president of the EEIFF along with the previous Mayor and president, Councillor Chris Frost attended the AGM and interfaith lunch. Councillor Liz Frost spoke about the importance of interfaith engagement and an offer of her continued support for the forum.

John Padwick, Chair of the EEIFF thanked Cllr Liz and all those in attendance and the Borough Council for their support and gave a brief report of the

Main Faith Festivals in March 2018

- 1st—Purim (Jewish)
- 1st—Magha Puja (Buddhist)
- 2nd—Holi (Hindu)
- 2/3—Hola Mahalla (Sikh)
- 11-20—Fravardigan (Zoroastrian)
- 21st—Naw Ruz (Baha'i)
- 21st—Jamsheedi Noruz (Zoroastrian)
- 24th—Ava Mah Parab (Zoroastrian)
- 25th—Rama Navami (Hindu)
- 25th—Palm Sunday (Christian)
- 26th—Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)
- 29th—Mahavira Jayanti (Jain)
- 30th—Good Friday (Christian)
- 31-7 Apr—Passover (Jewish)
- 31—Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)

Forum's activities.

Lynne Scholefield, secretary of the EEIFF shared a short statement on interfaith and went through the programme planned for the coming year.

Barbara Cairns, Treasurer of the EEIFF went through the financial accounts and were approved at the AGM.

Local members of different faiths enjoyed a 'bring and share' lunch and engaged in various discussions.

For upcoming events organised by the EEIFF please refer to page 9 of this newsletter



Anglican church-based social action

Church Urban Fund and the Church of England have recently published the results of a survey, Church in Action 2017: A National Survey of Church Based Social Action.

It shows that Anglican churches are highly engaged in responding to social issues and building community across England.

"Informal help and active signposting to other organisations are important components of churches' social action. When these are included, most churches are involved in supporting people with mental health problems (83%), family breakdown (86%), and loneliness (94%)."

"In terms of the relationship between social engagement, discipleship and church growth, 64% of church leaders agreed that 'community engagement has helped draw new people into the church' and 80% agreed that 'community work helps church members to live out and grow in their Christian faith'"

For more of the key findings and the full report please visit:

https://www.wordonthestreets.net/Articles/515838/Anglican_church_based.aspx

Religious and Cultural training for Staff & Volunteers

Do you have staff that would benefit from some training or awareness of religious and Cultural practices and beliefs? Or perhaps you would like to know more about the Faith communities in Surrey?

If you are a group who meet informally and would like to hear from different faith perspectives, Surrey Faith Links is a one stop shop for all.

Please get in touch:

Kauser Akhtar, Faith Links Adviser

T: 01483 790334, E: Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk



**WANT TO DO SOMETHING REALLY WORTHWHILE?
WANT TO MAKE SOMEONE'S DAY?
WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

AGE Age
Concern Concern
Epsom Epsom
Ewell Ewell

Then come and drive for us at Age Concern

Be a Volunteer Driver for ACEE's Transport Schemes.

Do you like driving and talking to new people and have some spare time on your hands? Regular volunteer drivers are needed to drive for our Medical Transport Scheme, Sunday Teas and occasional drives for outings and parties or to take someone to visit a spouse or friend in hospital.

A mileage fee of 45p per mile is paid to cover your expenses

For more information or just a chat ring Liz Hope on 01372 732458.
Email: liz.hope@ageconcernepsom.org.uk

"It is so much nicer to have a driver you know who waits for you than a taxi which just dumps you!"



Is someone you know struggling? See if they are eligible for extra support.

Does your mum or dad seem to be struggling at home? It could be time to find out if they can get the extra help they need. Or perhaps you're looking after someone full-time and it's beginning to have a major impact on all areas of your life – health, relationships or work? Visit the [Surrey County Council website](#) to see if you are eligible for extra support.

It's quick and easy to find support online

There are two online checklists - one to assess the needs of an adult who is struggling, and a carer's checklist if you are looking after an adult. These will take only ten minutes to complete. They can be completed for yourself or on behalf of someone else.

There is also an online financial assessment to check if there is likely to be a charge for social care support. This takes twenty minutes to complete and you'll need a recent bank statement to hand. You'll have the option of either keeping the details and results to yourself for information only – or registering fully and sharing with Surrey County Council Adult Social Care.



Faith and Belief News from Three Faiths Forum

- [Holocaust Memorial Day - remembering those who were lost](#)
- [When Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday coincide](#)
- [The World's most and least religious countries](#)
- [Two of 3FF's linking Schools sing together in 'show of love'](#)
- [Veganism and Muslim beliefs](#)
- [Lack of good religious education leaves pupils 'at risk'](#)
- [Religious affiliation declines in Switzerland](#)
- [Interfaith demonstrators form human chain around Muslims in prayer](#)

GDPR, what you need to know

What is GDPR?

The GDPR is Europe's new framework for data protection laws. It replaces the [previous 1995 data protection directive](#) , which current UK law is based upon.

The new regulation starts on **25 May 2018**. It will be enforced by the [Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\)](#) .

The Government has confirmed that the UK's decision to leave the European Union will not alter this.

What do I have to do now?

Many of the GDPR's main concepts and principles are much the same as those in the current Data Protection Act (DPA). If you are complying properly with the current law then most of your approach to compliance will remain valid under the GDPR and can be the starting point to build from. However, there are new elements and significant enhancements, so you will have to do some things for the first time and some things differently.

[Twelve steps to take now](#) - on the ICO website

[Getting ready for the GDPR checklist](#) - on the ICO website

What happens if I don't?

One of the biggest, and most talked about, elements of the GDPR is the power for regulators to fine businesses that don't comply with it. These monetary penalties will be decided upon by the ICO. However, the GDPR law is not about fines. It's about putting the consumer and citizen first.

[GDPR - sorting the fact from the fiction](#) by Elizabeth Denham, Information Commissioner

For more information:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr>

Celebrating your work

The NHS is 70 years old this year. At FaithAction, we are celebrating the valuable contribution that volunteers and faith communities play in supporting the NHS and improving health and wellbeing in their communities.

That's why we have launched the FaithAction Health Award – to shine a light on the best work undertaken by faith groups in their work to improve health and care. Whether you work in partnership with the NHS, or your work promotes wellbeing more generally – the kind of 'wrap around' support that helps keep people healthy. For more information:

www.faithaction.net/go/award/



Experience of Care Week: 23-27 April 2018

Experience of Care Week 2018 is an international initiative running from 23 to 27 April to celebrate the work that's happening across health and social care to keep improving experiences of care for patients, families/carers and staff.

Throughout the week, NHS England will be taking part in social media conversations on experience of care, running webinars and taking part in events around the country.

Voluntary sector organisations, alongside NHS providers and commissioners, are being encouraged to get involved in this milestone year of the NHS's 70th birthday. Last year, many NHS trusts and voluntary organisations got involved, achieving a social media reach of more than 67 million people.

The aims of the week are to:

- Raise the profile of improving Patient Experience, Staff Experience, Carers Experiences and Experience of Care for All
- Promote an inclusive and collaborative approach to improving experiences of care
- Support improvement in experiences of care in provider and commissioning organisations
- Support Patient Experience and Staff Experience Leads to highlight and influence improvements in experiences of care with a range of stakeholders
- Drive interest in experiences of care at a national level using social media and other communication approaches
- Recognise 'grass roots' staff for their tremendous contributions to improving experiences of care and build on this energy for ongoing improvements.

The hashtag #ExpofCare is being used to capture tweets and key messages about what people are doing, and anyone can join in.

Find out more on the [We Communities website](#)



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Building a Stronger Britain Together programme

The Home Office programme Building a Stronger Britain Together is continuing to offer in-kind support such as social media training, technical assistance to help a group improve their website, or capacity building work to help a group protect more vulnerable individuals. It is open to bodies in England and Wales.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/building-a-stronger-britain-together>.

Garfield Weston Foundation Celebrates 60th Anniversary with One-Off Charitable Fund

The Garfield Weston Foundation has reached its sixtieth year of grant giving in the UK and has chosen to celebrate with a new one-off fund that offers grants of between £30,000 and £150,000 to registered charities, CIOs, places of worship and state schools.

The Fund is exclusively aimed at supporting capital costs. Groups in need of revenue funding should apply to the Foundation's main grants programme. Funding is available for:

- New community facilities.
- Improvement of community facilities.
- Items that require a sizeable investment e.g. purchase of minibus.
- Improvements to outdoor spaces and facilities for sport and exercise or community use.
- New buildings or extensions to an existing building for community use e.g. new kitchen, meeting room or storage facility.
- Improvements to, or renovation or refurbishment of, an existing building such as installing a toilet and servery in a rural church for community use.
- New fixed playground equipment, climbing walls or multiuse games area in a public playing field.
- Purchase of large or expensive items if it is crucial to supporting local people e.g. minibus for elderly day care, equipment for a training room, community café fit out.
- Purchase of land or property with a minimum of a 25 year lease with a clear community benefit.

Total project costs must be above £30,000.

The deadline for applications is 30 June 2018.

Further information can be found here: <https://anniversary.garfieldweston.org/weston-anniversary-fund/>

Funding websites

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations offers advice on fundraising and grants on its Knowhow Non profit site at <https://knowhownonprofit.org/funding>.

Funding Central - <http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/default.aspx> - is a free website for charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises in England that provides access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities, together with tools and resources for supporting organisations to develop sustainable income strategies appropriate to their needs. Similar websites for funding in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found at Funding Scotland - <http://www.fundingscotland.com/> - Wales Council for Voluntary Action - <http://www.wcva.org.uk/funding/search> - and Grant Tracker for Northern Ireland - <https://www.grant-tracker.org/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Woking Debates 2018

Woking Action for Peace, LA21, Friends of the Earth, Quakers, Churches Together, Woking People of Faith and Surrey Faith Links work in partnership to bring you some thought provoking and topical debates.

- Why are people living in poverty in 21st century Britain? Saturday 17th March
- What is the future of work? Saturday 14th April
- There will also be another debate on Saturday 19th May, details to be confirmed

As usual, there will be ample opportunity for local residents to share their views and concerns

The debates are held at Christ Church, Jubilee Square, Woking GU21 6YG

11.00 am till 12.30 pm (refreshments from 10.30 am)

For more information please contact Keith Scott: keithsc_2000@yahoo.com

Woking People of Faith Events 2018

Second Pilgrimage of Understanding

Date:- Changed due to adverse weather, new date to be set.

Register: 09.45 at Christchurch, Jubilee Square Woking.

Route:- Christ church to Al Asr Centre to St. Mary's Horsell ending at Trinity Methodist Church

Refreshments: tea/coffee en route

Lunch: 13.20 Curry meal at Trinity Methodist Church, Brewery Road

Finish 14.20

Environmental Working Party

24th March 2018, 2 pm till 4 pm, Bedser Trail Car Park, Monument Road

Make friends while working together to pull up pine tree saplings to save the common for our wild life

Visit will end with a trip to the Peace Garden. For more information email John West:

john.west63@ntlworld.com

Ypres to Brookwood: Sunday 6th May, Last post ceremony and a guided walk around the cemetery. More information to come.

Football tournament: Saturday 30th June at Winston Churchill School.



Woking People of Faith

For more information please contact Marian Nash: secretary@wpof.org.uk, www.wpof.org.uk

Recruitment of Volunteers Workshop

Wednesday 28th March 2018 | 9.30 am to 1.00 pm | High Cross Church, Knoll Road, Camberley, GU15 3SY

This workshop is aimed at voluntary organisations who want to improve their recruitment procedures. Areas covered during the workshop are:

The changing face of volunteering, Evaluating and planning the recruitment process, Advertising and promoting your vacancy, Selection and training

There is no charge for this workshop however places are limited so booking is essential.

To book your place please contact Alison Morey: alison@voluntarysupport.org.uk or call 01784 465536.

“The Happiness Course” Can we teach people how to be happy?

Sunday March 18th. 7 for 7.30pm

David Warden is chair of Dorset Humanists and an Honorary Member of Humanists UK. Together with colleagues he developed and ran a six-session course aiming to help people lead happier lives. He will talk about the course including his assessment of its effectiveness. Please come along and help us decide whether to run this course in Farnham.



“The role of the National Secular Society in the UK and internationally”

Sunday February 18th 7 for 7.30pm

Talk by Keith Porteus Wood after brief AGM. Keith was Executive Director of the National Secular Society from 1996 to 2017 and is now President of the NSS.

Both as a representative of the NSS and the International Humanist and Ethical Union, Keith has criticised the activities of the Holy See within the UN and accused the Vatican of not fulfilling its political obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 2007 he received the IHEU’s Distinguished Service to Humanism Award for his work

Daniel Hall, Long Garden Walk, Farnham, GU9 7HX

Tea & coffee included. Other drinks available from the Hop Blossom Pub close by. Donation £2 to help costs

Hosted by **farnhamHUMANISTS**

Enquiries: 01252 723044 www.farnham.humanist.org.uk

Hearts and Minds: the Untold Story of the Great Pilgrimage and How Women Won the Vote

Saturday 24 March, 11am - 12.30pm.

Talk with Jane Robinson.

Drawn from diaries, letters and unpublished accounts, Hearts and Minds is the remarkable story of the Great Pilgrimage, a six-week protest march involving thousands of women which helped turn the tide in the long campaign for Votes for Women. As we celebrate the centenary of the vote with our March of the Women suffrage project, Jane Robinson sets the story of the march - which passed through Surrey - against the colourful background of the whole campaign.

This event has been generously supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Tickets are free but must be booked in advance.

Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6ND.

Please book a place online, in person at Surrey History Centre or any Surrey Library or phone 01483 518737.

Jane will be selling and signing copies of Hearts and Minds on the day, price £20.00. Please bring the exact money or cheque.

Surrey Local History Committee Annual Symposium - The Changing Roles of Women

Saturday 21 April, 9.30am - 4pm

Tickets: £12.

Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6ND

More information: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritage-culture-and-recreation/archives-and-history/surrey-history-centre/heritage-events>

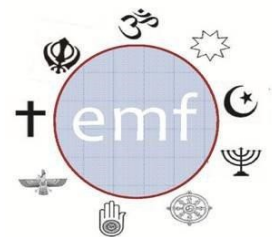
Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith Forum Programme 2018

- | | |
|------------|---|
| April 10th | 7.30-9.30 Visit to Epsom Methodist Church |
| May 3rd | 7.00 for 7.30 'Faith and Community Relations – exploring our local responsibilities'
Speakers: Jon Warnke, the Faith Emergency Response Coordinator, Diocese of Guildford and Hannah Paisley, the Epsom and Ewell Prevent Officer. Venue TBC |
| June 3rd | 1.0-1.00 Hindu Chariot Festival, Stoneleigh |
| June 9th | Iftar at the Islamic Centre, Epsom sharing the breaking of the Ramadan fast |
| July 19th | Visit to Coptic Cathedral, Stevenage |

For more information or to confirm attendance please email Lynne Schofield: lynneschofield@gmail.com

Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum 2018 Events

- "Do women have a role in leading religion?",
1st May 2018, 7 for 7.30pm,
St. Mary's Hall, Stoke d'Abernon, KT11 3PX
Speakers: Bishop Jo Wells (Christian), Rabbi Kath Vardi (Jewish) and Julie Siddiqui (Muslim)
- AGM – theme "Spirituality & Wellbeing" 26th June 2018, 7 for 7.30pm, Venue TBA



For more information please contact Jackie Foster: jackie@fosterja.co.uk

Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum Events 2018

Interfaith Pilgrimage

Thursday 19th July 2018

The pilgrimage will take place in Godalming between different places of worship. Details to be finalised, more information in the next newsletter.

Interfaith Service

The Annual GGIFF Interfaith Service to mark Interfaith Week, Sunday 18th November, St Nicholas Church, Guildford.

For further information please contact: Carolyn Neogi - 01483 415773 or Bernard Jones - 01483 424257

A limited number of community organisations are now being accepted onto the innovative Creative English programme organised by [FaithAction](http://FaithAction.org).

Attendance at one of these events will give you the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to £5,000 if you meet the requirements.

You will find out why Creative English is such a laugh, meet the team behind it and find out how your organisation can benefit. If you haven't delivered Creative English before, you will need to attend an event to apply for funding. We are hosting just four events across the country.

More information: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/creative-english-discovery-day-london-tickets-43093165819?>

Guildford & Woking Humanists open meetings

Tuesday 13th March

Title: **The Psychology of the Paranormal**

Speaker: Professor Chris French

In all societies a substantial proportion of the population has reported paranormal experiences, from ghosts and alien abductions to dowsing and psychic phenomena. In his illustrated and entertaining talk Chris will examine possible explanations for such experiences. He is a professor of psychology at Goldsmiths, University of London and has written several books, published over 130 articles and frequently appears on radio, TV and in the press, casting a sceptical eye over pseudoscience and claims of the paranormal.

Where: The Guildford Institute in Ward Street, Guildford, GU1 4LH.

Tea/coffee and biscuits break at about 8.30.

Tuesday 10th April

Title: **Assisted Dying: Does the law need to change?**

Speaker: Lesley Close

There is no charge, but a small donation is requested of £2 or £3 (but not from students) to cover the speaker's expenses and hire of the hall. If anyone would like further information, please telephone Mike Adams (01483 233324) or David Simmonds (01483 800397),
E: david.simmonds40@gmail.com



Charity Walk for Peace (CWFP) 2018

Sunday 29th April 2018

Do you want to raise money for your voluntary group or charity? The Mayor of Runnymede, Councillor Ifti Chaudrhi in conjunction with the Runnymede Borough Council have organised a great way for you to do it!



Take part in a sponsored charity walk through 5 miles of Windsor Great Park on Sunday 29th April 2018 and Charity Walk For Peace will match-fund any money raised via sponsorship. Each organisation will need 10 sponsored walkers in order to qualify for the matched funding up to a limit of £2,000 per charity (application for matched-funding required, terms and conditions apply).

This a great opportunity to raise money for your small charity or community not-for-profit organisation but places are limited so get in touch soon if you'd like to participate. Contact Voluntary Support North Surrey on 01932 571122. If you're interested in finding out more about this event please attend the reception dinner which is to be held on Saturday 17th February at Bishopsgate School, Englefield Green.

There is no cost for the dinner but places are limited and attendance is by REGISTRATION ONLY.

To join the walk, register on the Charity Walk for Peace website <https://charitywalkforpeace.org/>



Surrey Faith Links c/o CET, Diocese of Guildford

Church House Guildford, 20 Alan Turing Road, Guildford, GU2 7YF

T: 01483 790334, E: Kausar.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk, W: www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk