



“This is my country, that is your country; these are the conceptions of narrow souls - to the liberal minded the whole world is a family.”
— Virchand Raghavji Gandhi

Not long to go for [International Day of Peace](#) (21st September), Prayers for World Peace in October and then [Interfaith Week](#) in November. If you would like some support to organise an interfaith event with your organisation or group, please get in touch. Look out for organised events on page 7 onwards.

Thank you

Kauser Akhtar
 Faith Links Adviser
 E: Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk
 T: 01483 790334
 W: www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk

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International Day of Peace



The International Day of Peace (“Peace Day”) is observed around the world each year on 21st September. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution 36/37, the General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to “commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.” For the text of the U.N. Resolution, [CLICK HERE](#)

Furthering the Day’s mission, the General Assembly augmented the original resolution in 2001, fixing the date on 21st September. For the text of this second unanimous UN resolution, [CLICK HERE](#).

Main Faith Festivals in September 2018

- 1st: Installation of Guru Granth Sahib in Harmandir Sahib (Sikh)
- 2nd: Krishna Jayanti (Hindu)
- 4th: Fravardin Mah Parab (Zoroastrian)
- 6th - 13th: Paryushan (Jain)
- 10th: Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
- 12th: Islamic New Year
- 13th: Samvatsari (Jain)
- 19th: Yom Kippur (Jewish)
- 21st: Ashura (Muslim)
- 24th - 1st Oct: Sukkoth (Jewish)

Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.

You are invited to engage in this global day in whatever way is meaningful for you/your organisation. Go to the [GET INVOLVED](#) section for a variety of Peace Day activity ideas. Get inspired and create your own activities!

The 2018 U.N. Peace Day Theme:

“The Right to Peace – The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70.”

The [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10th December 1948 as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.

The Universal Declaration – the most translated document in the world, available in more than 500 languages – is as relevant today as it was on the day that it was adopted.

Learn more [HERE](#) and use the hashtag “standup4humanrights.”

“It is time all nations and all people live up to the words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognises the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human race. This year marks the 70th anniversary of that landmark document.” Secretary-General António Guterres

Read the UN Secretary-General’s 2018 100-Day Countdown message [HERE](#)



The NHS has just celebrated its 70th birthday, and the Government has recently promised it more money. Reflecting on the past 70 years, and needing to show the Government how it intends to spend its funding, the NHS is now working on a Long Term Plan. This will set out what its ambitions are for the next decade, and what its plans are to achieve those ambitions over the next five years.

So, as it puts this Long Term Plan together, it wants to hear from anyone who relies on the NHS, or works in it or alongside it – in short, all of us. Those working on the plan want to hear our ideas, experiences and insights.

The NHS has some overarching questions it wants us to answer:

1. What are the core values that should underpin a long term plan for the NHS?
2. What examples of good services or ways of working that are already taking place locally should be spread across the country?
3. What do you think are the barriers to improving care and health outcomes for NHS patients?

We want to hear from you. FaithAction will feed your responses to the NHS and they will help to shape the Long Term Plan.

[Click here for more information and give your say](#)



Get Online Week 15-21 October

There'll be another chance to learn new internet and computing skills during this year's Get Online Week 15 – 21 October.

If you know someone who'd benefit from being online then please encourage them to attend one of the free local taster sessions taking place across Surrey. There are so many things they could try online to make life easier – renew library books, order groceries, apply for or renew a Blue Badge, or even book a GP appointment.

Some Surrey libraries will be offering sessions along with other community organisations. If you or someone you know would be interested, pick up a leaflet with all the details at your local library from September.

Or download the information on their behalf from the [Surrey Information Point website](#).



End Hunger UK – Petition

End Hunger UK is built on a vision of a society where everyone has access to good food, and no one has to go to bed hungry.

We call on the Government to fix Universal Credit to prevent more people going hungry.

We all rely on the welfare safety net being there for us in times of financial stress or hardship. But Universal Credit is currently failing in that task. In areas where it has been rolled out,

foodbanks and other food aid providers report a surge in the numbers of people pushed into greater debt, destitution and hunger as a result of delays, errors, a lack of flexibility, and inadequate support.

As a matter of urgency, End Hunger UK is calling on the Government to:

- Take action to improve the flexibility and support for people on Universal Credit.
- Make improvements to Universal Credit, to ensure it does not leave more people at risk of debt and destitution.
- Make a long-term commitment to ensure Universal Credit provides people with enough income to afford good food on a regular basis.

Our petition is designed to send a powerful message to the Prime Minister. We will deliver the petition to 10 Downing Street in the lead-up to the Autumn Budget in mid-November. By then, we hope that many of the, literally, thousands of people who each week use, volunteer or donate to food banks and other food projects across the UK will have signed the petition.

In particular, we hope that during End Hunger Week, from 13 to 21 October, every church and foodbank in the UK will be asking people to sign the petition.

End Hunger Week: 13–20 October 2018

Plan ahead now for End Hunger Week – organise a really big push for local groups to promote the petition to members, users and volunteers. Write now (or at the start of September) to as many local groups as you can, sending them copies of the petition and inviting them to collect signatures during End Hunger Week.

Why not organise a public petition signing on your local high street (or similar), and invite prominent local figures (local councillors, clergy, MP, etc) to sign a giant version of the petition?

If you want help with this, please [contact us](#).

[For more information and the to read the report, please click here](#)



Ganesh Chaturthi Mahotsav

The Surrey Hindu Cultural Association (SHCA) organised their annual Ganesh Chaturthi Mahotsav event from Friday 14th—Sunday 16th September at St Mary's Community Centre, West Byfleet.



The Hindu festival is held on the birthday of the lord Ganesha and involves many rituals, worship and celebration.

The SHCA held a painting competition for children and adults on the theme of Ganesh Mahotsav; there was an art exhibition for children and adults to display their sketches, paintings, modern art or any other visual art form with the theme - Ganesh Mahotsav



There were food stalls and a modern art workshop. Wo'Kids Got Talent: A spectacular talent evening of performing arts by children and young adults.

The Mayor of Woking Cllr Will Forster was the Guest of Honour.

For more information about the SHCA please visit:

www.shca.net

Faith and Cultural Awareness training for Staff & Volunteers

It has become evident in today's increasingly multicultural society that constructing and developing relations between people of all faiths and none is important for work life as well as social cohesion.

Employers should have a basic level of knowledge of different faiths to get a better understanding of staff/customer needs and requirements.

It is also good for staff to have some level of knowledge and awareness of faiths and cultures for a better experience with the people they work with.

The training delivered by Surrey Faith Links aims to equip individuals with the basic knowledge of different faiths beliefs and practices as well as cultural customs and traditions, which may have an impact on their work and help them have a better understanding.

The people delivering the training are volunteers who practice their faith.

Please get in touch: Kauser Akhtar, Faith Links Adviser

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



Faith & Belief News

- [As Jewish and Muslim friends, we have worked out what we have in common and how we can set a positive example](#)
- [Jews and Sikhs unite to provide for asylum seekers](#)
- [Annual Interfaith picnic unites communities in Heaton Park](#)
- [Inter-faith cricket match unites Havering's myriad congregations](#)
- [Hastings & District Interfaith Forum celebrate interfaith diversity](#)



A report – “Faith, Hope and Clarity” commissioned by ‘Faith Matters’

Muslim communities can help keep us all safe by re-integrating convicted Islamist terrorists says Ian Acheson (former prison governor and reviewer of Islamist Extremism in Prisons) in his recent report “Faith, Hope and Clarity”.

His argument is a partnership of community and statutory authorities is the best approach to reintegrating terrorist offenders and keeping us safe in the long term. Ian makes the case that through a community re-integration programme called the ‘Sunnah’ concept, this can be achieved. This concept empowers a core of carefully selected community based supporters who provide a ‘virtuous circle’ around the offender.

They can:

- challenge Islamist ideology,
- ensure behaviour is appropriate,
- monitor risk,
- and provide practical help.

For more information and to read the full report visit www.faith-matters.org

Statement from the Inter Faith Network for the UK Co-Chairs and Faith Communities Forum Moderators

Political parties - modelling respectful engagement

As the party conference season approaches, we call on all political parties to model and encourage through their words and actions an open, fair and respectful engagement with people of different faiths and beliefs.

The last few months have seen concerns expressed in relation to the processes of political parties about Antisemitism and Islamophobia and perceived slow or limited response to handling allegations about this.

This comes in the context of concerns within wider society about extremism and hate incidents which have affected, among others, a number of faith communities.

Freedom of speech and the parameters of UK law permit a wide spectrum of views to be voiced. At the same time, principles of respect and tolerance are vital, as is finding ways to deal well with disagreement.

We commend the principles in the Inter Faith Network’s guidelines Building Good Relations with People of Different Faiths and Beliefs.

Religious literacy is also vital, in relation to all faiths. We hope that it will be the case that the coming months will see informed and helpful engagement reflecting the best of all the parties’ visions of an integrated and harmonious society.

From 11-18 November, national Inter Faith Week will be marked. We hope that all parties will find ways to mark Inter Faith Week, highlighting their commitment to engaging well with those of all faiths and beliefs and to serving well the needs of all faiths and none at national, regional and local levels.

The Inter Faith Network Co-Chairs and Faith Communities Forum Moderators

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Women's Mental Health Peer Support Grants Programme

A new fund invites applications from not-for-profit organisations for community-based, mental-health peer support activities that will benefit women experiencing multiple disadvantage in England and Wales

Work will be supported for a maximum of one year, and the funders expect to make between 80 and 90 awards ranging from £5,000 to £50,000 through the following two funding strands:

Women's peer support hubs to support five women's organisations in creating 'hubs', four in England and one in Wales, to improve the capacity of individuals and community-based organisations to lead effective peer-support activity delivered for and by women.

Peer support delivery initiatives based in the community, which will be facilitated by applying organisations and led by and for women with experience of multiple disadvantage.

The deadline for applications is 15 October 2018 (5pm).

[For more information on how to apply click here](#)

Funding for Caring for Older Carers in the UK

Bupa UK Foundation is accepting applications to its 2018 programme.

The theme of the 2018 funding programme is 'Caring for our Carers'. This theme was selected in recognition of the fact that 'carers make a vital, hidden contribution to the health and wellbeing of the nation, yet they can often feel socially isolated, lacking support and a sense of community' and 'many carers report that caring has taken a toll on their own health'.

Not-for-profit organisations whose work in the UK focuses on supporting and improving the health and wellbeing of older carers can apply for grants of up to £20,000.

For more information: <https://www.bupaukfoundation.org/>

NHS England community grants

Has your community or voluntary group been working to involve patients and the public in improving health care services?

NHS England will be awarding a number of small grant awards to organisations who can tell the story of their patient and citizen involvement and engagement work in a creative and interesting way.

NHS England will be awarding grants of up to £2,500 to a number of projects that showcase good practice around patient and citizen involvement in healthcare

The closing date to apply for funding is 12 noon on 28 September 2018.

To find out more, or make an application please visit:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/participation/success/community-grants-2018/>

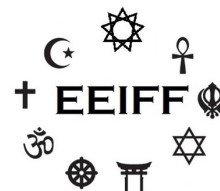
UPCOMING EVENTS

Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith Forum Autumn Events

Visit to Wimbledon Synagogue: Wednesday 26th September, 7.15 pm

Mike Freeman, who has just joined the Board of Deputies of British Jews, will give us a tour of the synagogue, explain about Succot and the various roles of the synagogue in Jewish life. A lot happens there including a project for the homeless, and a variety of educational opportunities. There will be plenty of time for questions, and some light refreshments.

The synagogue is at 1, Queensmere Road, Wimbledon, SW19 5QD.



Gathering to pray for peace: Sunday 21st October, 3.00 pm at Clayhill Green, just off West Hill, in Epsom – the B280

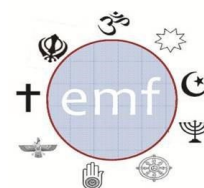
A simple order of service, with readings and prayers from different religious traditions, and it lasts about 30 minutes. Refreshments at Christ Church after the service (a few minutes' walk along West Hill, out of Epsom). There is some parking on the Green and a car park at Christ Church. Please come along, no registration required.

'Nine Lessons and Carols' Sunday 16th December at 6.00 p.m. at St Martin's Church, Epsom
There will be readings from the Old and New Testament, carols sung by the choir, and congregational carols. After the service, we are invited to stay for refreshments and conversation

For more information, please contact Lynne Schofield: lynnescholefield@gmail.com

ELMBRIDGE MULTI FAITH FORUM EVENTS

- ◆ Visit to West London Synagogue, Tuesday 6th November, 9.30 am (Coach leaves from Thames Ditton Centre, Mercer Close, Thames Ditton, KT7 OBS and returns at 4.00 pm). More information in the next newsletter
- ◆ 'Faith has no place in Modern Society', Hindu, Christian, Muslim and Humanist speakers share their views on the topic, Tuesday 13th November, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start at Sacred Heart Church, 25 Between Streets, Cobham KT11 1AA.
- ◆ Visit to Westminster Cathedral (date to be confirmed, either 12th or 19th March 2019)
- ◆ Refugees: Support and Welcome. Tuesday 30th April 2019, venue TBC.
- ◆ EMF AGM on Tuesday 25th June 2019



For more information please email, Margaret Hicks, Chair: margarethicks2@hotmail.co.uk or Secretary: Kausar.Akhtar@cofefeguildford.org.uk

For more information please visit: <https://www.elmbridgemultifaith.org.uk/>

Woking People of Faith Events 2018



Annual Peace Day event: Saturday 22nd September, 12.00 pm—1.00 pm, Mercia Walk. Woking.

School children who participated in the Peace Day competition will be awarded their prizes by the Mayor of Woking, there will be entertainment, henna, face painting, readings of peace from faith leaders and much more. This is a free public event for all.

Interfaith week event **“Who do you think we are?”**: Saturday 24th November, 2.00 pm—4.00 pm, Parkview Community Centre, Blackmore Crescent, Sheerwater, Woking GU21 5NZ.

For more information please contact Kerry Barry: administrator@wpof.org.uk
www.wpof.org.uk



Woking People of Faith

How do we find meaning, purpose and hope in changing times? "

Epsom Mental Health & Well Being Festival (formerly Epsom Mental Health Week) has been going for ten years and is organised by Love Me Love My Mind, a local registered charity. For several years now, an event in the programme has been an Inter Faith Panel Discussion, attracting 30 to 50 people.

This year's Inter Faith Panel Discussion will take place on 7th October, 3pm to 4.15pm at St. Barnabas Church, Temple Road, Epsom.



For more information: <http://www.lovemelovemymind.org.uk/epsom-mental-health-week/>

Volunteer training courses

Retaining and Motivating Volunteers

Thursday 25th October - 9.30 am until 1.00 pm

Voluntary Support North Surrey Runnymede office, 6, The Sainsbury Centre, Chertsey KT16 9AG

This workshop is aimed at voluntary organisations who want to establish good practices to help retain and motivate the volunteers that they have.

Volunteering and the Law

Thursday 15th November - 10 am until 1 pm

Camberley Library, Knoll Road, Camberley GU15 3SY

This workshop will provide an opportunity to learn about or refresh your knowledge on volunteering and the law.

Spaces are limited so please call 01784 465536 or email alison@voluntarysupport.org.uk to reserve your place.

'The March of the Women' Project Community Day

Sat 24th November 2018, 10am-4pm, at Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6ND

This exciting day celebrating Surrey's suffrage connections will include:

Talks

- Dr Elizabeth Crawford - Suffrage Art and Artists
- Kathy Atherton - The Money behind the Militant Movement: Emmeline and Fred Pethick Lawrence
- Tessa Boase - Mrs Lemon, the 'Dragon' of Redhill: saviour of the birds & anti-suffrage champion
- Carol Brown - Noeline Baker and the suffrage campaign in Guildford
- Surrey Heritage - 'The March of the Women' project discoveries

Drama

- LynchPin Theatre - providing Suffrage drama with an extract from their witty new play *When the Cat's Away*
- Surrey Heritage's 'The March of the Women' school's radio podcast

Plus Suffrage selfies, displays and author book sales (cash and cheques only please, no card payments).

Tea and coffee will be provided throughout the day but please make your own lunch arrangements.

Tickets are free but must be booked in advance.

Visit the website for the full programme and book tickets at:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/history-centre/events>

Title: **Artificial Intelligence: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly**

Tuesday 9th October, 7.30pm

Speaker: Professor Paul Krause

Professor Krause is Director of Research in the Department of Computer Science, University of Surrey. He graduated in Pure Mathematics and Experimental Physics at Exeter University in 1977. His talk will focus on the interface between computer systems and human society. He believes that computer systems and AI (Artificial Intelligence) can help our understanding of many of society's problems, but that the challenges are considerable.

Title: **"Talk yourself better: A confused person's guide to therapy, counselling and self help"**

Tuesday 13th November, 7.30pm

Speaker: Ariane Sherine.

Ariane is a comedy writer and journalist. After recovering from a major nervous breakdown in 2010 Ariane began work on her book "Talk Yourself Better", featuring interviews with Stephen Fry, Charlie Brooker, David Baddiel and many more, and is described as a "super accessible guide" (Derren Brown) and "Brilliant – makes a baffling world comprehensible" (Jeremy Vine). Come along and hear Ariane's story.

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

Tea/coffee and biscuits break at about 8.40

There is no charge for the talks, but a small donation is requested to cover expenses (but not from students).

If anyone would like further information, please telephone David Simmonds (01483 800397) or Mike Adams (01483 233324). We are also on Meetup, Facebook and Twitter



Surrey Heath Faith Forum Interfaith Week Event

Saturday 17th November
2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
West End Parish Council
The Pavilion, Benner Ln, West End, Woking GU24 9JP



School children have taken part in a 'Peace Competition: What does peace look like to you?'
Winners will be awarded their prizes by the Mayor of Surrey Heath, Councillor Dan Adams and
Surrey Heath Area Dean, Revd Jonathan Hillman
Entertainment: songs of peace from different faith groups
Faith leaders speak about peace

Henna | Face Painting | World Foods | Free Event | All Welcome

For more information please contact Jayne Boitoult
E: Jayne.Boitoult@surreyheath.gov.uk



www.interfaithweek.org

Interfaith Week Service

Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum invite you to their annual interfaith service:

"Bridges not Borders"

Sunday 18th November, 4.00 pm at St. Nicolas Church.

This year the service will be held in the Church itself rather than the Community Centre which is being refurbished, which affords the opportunity to look around this lovely old building.

Refreshments will be provided after the service.

No need to register, just turn up and bring friends.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Neogi: E: carolynneogi@aol.com | T: 01483 415773

An evening on Judaism

The Church of the Good Shepherd in Pyrford (Coldharbour Rd, Woking GU22 8SP) has kindly invited Philip Goldenberg (Deputy Chair of Woking People of Faith) to lead a discussion on Judaism at 6.30 pm on Sunday 11 November 2018. All welcome.

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



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