



“Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

(Bible, 1 John 4:8)

Some brilliant reports of events and a visit to the West London Synagogue—look out for details of the Open Day at the Synagogue in October, page 7 onwards for upcoming events.

If you would like to get involved somewhere in Surrey, please do get in touch.

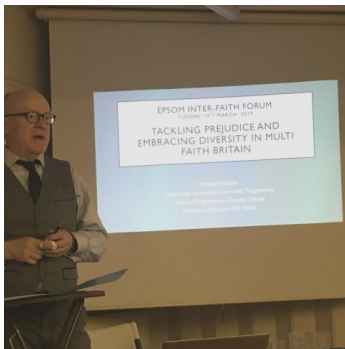
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Tackling Prejudice and Embracing Diversity in Multi-faith Britain

On the 19th of March, Michael Wakelin, spoke to attendees of the event about the relevant and pressing issue of embracing diversity and tackling prejudice in our current society.



Michael Wakelin has a number of accolades under his belt – he is responsible for Pause for Thought on BBC Radio 2 and Something Understood on BBC Radio 4 whilst also being the media and interfaith consultant for Coexist House for the University of Cambridge. Michael was previously the head of religious broadcasting at the BBC (radio and TV). He

spoke to the Forum about how religion and religiousness are steadily on the decline in the UK and how this has impacted his work in the media where religion is often mocked.

He detailed a number of “weapons” that we should employ in order to tackle prejudice. These weapons are more like tools of the toolkit in order to deepen

Main Faith Festivals in April 2019

- 3rd: Isra wal Mi'raj (Islam)
- 8th: Hanamatsuri (Buddhist)
- 13th: Songkran (Buddhist)
- 14th: Rama Navami (Hindu)
- 14th: Palm Sunday (Christian)
- 14-20: Holy Week (Christian)
- 17th: Mahavira Jayanti (Jain)
- 18th: Maundy Thursday (Christian)
- 19th: Good Friday (Christian)
- 19th: Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)
- 20-27: Passover (Jewish)
- 20th: Laylat-ul-Bara'ah (Islam)
- 21st: Easter Day (Christian)
- 21-2 May: Ridvan (Baha'i)
- 22nd: Adar Mah Parab

our understanding of others to create a more cohesive society. The weapons are as follows: religious literacy (understanding religion(s) properly and what they entail); relationships (with others across all levels of society – faith leaders coming together/interfaith initiatives); the media (members of faith to be more media savvy); and theology (religious leaders ensuring their voices are heard more, especially where there are news reports targeted at certain religions).

After his speech, Michael encouraged those present to have a discussion about the terrorist attack in New Zealand which led to a wider understanding of the issues which surround the attack. Following the discussion, Michael concluded with the quote:

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good people do nothing”

This event was organised by the Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith Forum and held at Christ Church in Epsom.

Reflections on how to support communities facing acts of hate and terrorism

When you consider community, what does it make you think of? What picture does it conjure up? Something warm, cooperative and welcoming perhaps? According to the Cambridge English Dictionary ‘community’ is: ‘the people living in one particular area or people who are considered as a unit because of their common interests, social group, or nationality’. In short, it boils down to a shared identity. This can indeed be a very positive experience, manifesting itself around a particular set of beliefs you may share, around an area you may live in or even an interest you may have in common.

In the almost-terror incident at Parsons Green station on 15th September 2017, you may recall how a restaurant owner, Teo Catino, was handing out free pizzas to the emergency services who had been working at the scene. Following the bomb blast in Manchester Arena in May 2017, many acts of kindness abounded. A homeless man, Chris Parker, helped to carry a girl who had lost her legs to safety. While a taxi firm run by Sam Arshad, was offering free lifts home to people caught up in the blast. Who could forget the outpouring of support in terms of clothes, donations and food following the Grenfell fire in June 2017? Chris Ship, from ITV News, summed up the sight quite justly when he wrote:

The people in the estates nearby and the people who came from the other side of the capital were all motivated by a desire to help.

[Click here to read full blog](#)

“I suggest we get out there and engage positively with the different people around us – make the world a better place before it is made worse by those with a different agenda.” Nabeela Shah

Surrey Heath Peace Vigil for the people of New Zealand

On a sunny Saturday afternoon, March 30th, a small group of people gathered outside the Atrium, Camberley to remember the forty nine ordinary people (the youngest just three years old) murdered at prayer in the Al Noor mosque and the Linwood Islamic Learning Centre in Christchurch, New Zealand.

After a brief welcome on behalf of Surrey Heath Faith Forum, Revd Stuart Thomas read a Statement of Peace expressing our solidarity with all who have been affected, directly or indirectly, by these atrocities.

The names of the victims were then read out. After a minute’s silence a



short reading or prayer was then offered by representatives of four faith traditions: Imam Abdul Malik (Islam), Revd Stuart Thomas (Christianity), Ray Wicksman (Judaism) and Meeta Joshi (Hinduism).

For further information about Surrey Heath Faith Forum see www.facebook.com/SurreyHeathFF or contact Ray Wicksman: 07557 524004

Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum Members visit the West London Synagogue

It was a great pleasure and privilege to visit the West London Synagogue last Thursday 19th February 2019 with the Elmbridge Multifaitth Forum. We were warmly welcomed by Rabbi Helen Freeman. She gave us a brief introduction to the West London Synagogue of British Jews, formed in 1840 by the Sephardi Jews. The current grade II listed building, dating from 1870, is located near Marble Arch in London. Its premises, which extend into Seymour Place, also contain offices, a library and various community facilities.

The current Sanctuary dates back to 1870 and is built in the Neo-Byzantine architectural style by Davis & Emmanuel.

When I entered the Sanctuary, my first impression was that I had entered a very sacred space, not dissimilar to a Cathedral. The beautifully coloured stained glass windows, on both levels, allowed the sun to warm and light the space. The superb domed ceiling with its Star of David stained glass window was absolutely stunning and a great centrepiece when you looked upwards.



Rabbi Helen showed us the ancient Torah which is housed in the Bimah. It was very comforting to listen to her reading from it and recognizing its significance, its sacred connection to the past. The bimah and ark were built in 1869–70 by Davis & Emmanuel.

A choir and organ, located behind a screen to the rear of the bimah, accompany the congregation in all musical parts of the service except for the aleinu and the kaddish. The organ was renovated in 2007. Men and women sit together during services, and also play equal parts in leading them. Male worshippers are required to wear a kippah, females can wear one if they wish to do so.

Rabbi Helen mentioned that they were a Reform Synagogue. Their aim is to be inter-generational and inclusive and a centre for Jewish Life. She outlined some of the services they provide including various Shabbat and festival services, formal and informal, family services, tots' services and many social activities.

It was very clear that the Synagogue were also deeply committed to social action. They run a drop-in for asylum seekers once a month. A banner, prominently positioned in the main entrance read: Refugees Welcome 'share your food with the hungry and provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, clothe them and do not turn away from your own flesh and blood'. Isaiah 58

They also provide a night shelter for homeless people once a week. They are constantly exploring more ways to work with others in the local community to provide help to the most needy. I was particularly heartened to hear about the Interfaith work they undertake with local churches and other community organisations including a local mosque. The Tripod series of Education brings Muslim and Jewish children together to learn and go on holiday together to build bridges. These community activities bring them great joy especially when working together on particular projects.

Rabbi Helen mentioned that they are constantly considering the question: "How to be Jewish and Modern?" "Up until 1960, women were made to sit in the balcony, now the three most senior Rabbis are women. Women can do anything men can do."

“On the last census there were 280,000 Jews in the UK, 2,235 in our congregation.”

“Our goal is to provide an exciting and spiritually nourishing Jewish life for everyone of all ages, from religious services to social action, from community activities to study and learning, from religion school to youth clubs and everything else besides. Our aim is to include as many people as we can, young and old alike, in our volunteering within and beyond the community. At West London Synagogue, there really is something for everyone and we want to inspire, welcome and serve all those who enter our doors.”

I for one felt very welcome and left feeling highly inspired and humbled by the work that is being undertaken. Thank you Rabbi Helen for a wonderful visit. We will definitely be back!

Interfaith Network UK E-Bulletin for April

- ⇒ Some of the things covered include:
- ⇒ Exit from the European Union
- ⇒ UK faith and inter faith responses to the Christchurch terrorist attack
- ⇒ The Government's Integrated Communities Action Plan
- ⇒ Funding for security of places of worship
- ⇒ Multi faith responses to refugees
- ⇒ Youth and environment inter faith projects
- ⇒ Recent IFN meetings and publications
- ⇒ Resources and training opportunities
- ⇒ Calls for information
- ⇒ Inter faith related jobs and volunteering opportunities
- ⇒ Funding sources
- ⇒ Special days and weeks
- ⇒ Some forthcoming inter faith events across the UK



To read the e-bulletin: www.interfaith.org.uk/e-bulletin

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.

For more information or to organize a training session please contact:

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Assistant Chaplain Vacancy

A Full Time Assistant Chaplain is required at Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to continue development of embedded clinical engagement and education as part of targeted projects.

This is an exciting opportunity to work within the wider remit of the Chaplaincy, Pastoral & Spiritual Support Services. This role ensures the Multi-Faith Team has capacity to deliver more focussed support for those living with and beyond Cancer and for those facing life-limiting conditions or end of life

Job Reference: 396-1423-CC-OJA-B

Employer: Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Department: Chaplaincy, Pastoral & Spiritual Support Services

Location: Chaplaincy, Pastoral & Spiritual Support Services, Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Kingston Upon Thames

Salary: £34,961 to £42,010 pa Inclusive of HCAS

For more information or to apply, please visit: https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/?vac_ref=915517546

Closing date: 14/04/2019

Surrey Police are recruiting!

A major recruitment drive to recruit Police Constables (PCs) and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) is on its way.

Starting Monday, 8 April, Surrey police will be recruiting for: **PCSOs until Sunday, 21 April**, and PCs until **Sunday, 28 April**.

The new recruits will strengthen the Force, as well become some of the first in the country to undertake the new learning and development programmes that ensure a policing qualification at the end of each programme. Recognising that police officers apply transferrable skills and problem solving skills to a range of complex situations, new topics introduced will match the complexity of modern policing such as: digital policing, disclosure, problem solving, safeguarding and identifying vulnerability and risk.

By offering these new programmes, it is hoped policing remains an attractive and competitive career choice, and that it attract a diverse range of people, and appeal to those who may not have considered policing to be a viable choice for them in the past.

Recruits in to the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA) can expect to join the force in the same way that they do currently, but their training will result in a Degree in Professional Policing Practice and take three years to complete with both on and off-the-job learning.

Recruits in to the PCSO Apprenticeship will undertake assessments to ensure they have the knowledge and practical skills for the PCSO role. They can expect to qualify with a Level 4 Diploma in Community Policing Practice at the end of the programme.

The attainment of a recognised qualification will be equally as valuable in the future to those who stay within policing, and as to those who move on to different ventures.

For more details visit: Surrey.police.uk/careers



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POLICE**
*With you, making
Surrey safer*

www.surrey.police.uk

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Funding through your County Councillors

Do you have a project that could benefit people in your neighbourhood? You can apply for up to £5000 worth of funding through the Members' Community Allocation



SURREY

[Find out more on how to apply here](#)

Surrey Educational Trust funding

The Surrey Educational Trust has supported innovative and ambitious ideas that help children, young people and other learners in Surrey. It has helped schools, organisations and educational projects to use bright ideas and new ways of doing things in their work.

The trust focuses on:

- Increasing children's, young people's and families' resilience, wellbeing and personal growth.
- Reducing the gap in education, health and wellbeing outcomes for children experiencing social and economic deprivation compared with their peers.
- Enabling children with complex individual needs to have the best life chances.
- Promoting participation in and enjoyment of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.
- Raising children's and young people's aspirations, extending the opportunity to all.

[Click here to find out more](#)



**Heathrow
Community
Fund**

Communities Together

Are you working to boost the community spirit in your neighbourhood? Do you have ideas for creating a community garden, starting an arts festival, tackling loneliness amongst old people, boosting health and fitness or cleaning up the streets where you live? If so, you could qualify for a grant from our Communities Together programme. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.heathrowcommunityfund.com/need-funding./for-community-projects>

ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund has four broad funding themes now and in future years.

- removing barriers to family life;
- extra support after service for those that need help;
- measures to integrate military and civilian communities and allow the armed forces community to participate as citizens;
- non-core healthcare services for veterans

For more information please visit: <http://www.covenantfund.org.uk/about/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum Events 2019

Monday 29th April: Life as a Refugee 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start at North West Surrey Synagogue, Horvath Close, Oatlands Dr, Weybridge KT13 9QZ.

Diane Peters, Refugee Coordinator for the Diocese of Guildford

Kayte Cable, The Big Leaf Foundation

Jewish and Bosnian refugee speakers and Steve Wells from Elmbridge CAN.

Tuesday 25th June: AGM and Conference: Connecting with God—different faith perspectives

7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start at St John's Church, 1 The Furrows, Walton-on Thames, Surrey, KT12 3JQ

Bring and Share finger food event (Vegetarian only).

Saturday 12th October: Evening Gala/Cultural Celebration, 6.00 pm at St John's Church, 1 The Furrows, Walton-on Thames, Surrey, KT12 3JQ

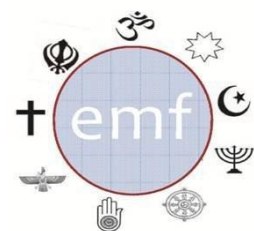
Saturday 19th October: West London Synagogue Open Day

EMF will organise a coach, £15 per person

For more information please email:

Secretary: Kausar.Akhtar@cofefeguildford.org.uk

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



Woking People of Faith Events 2019

Football Tournament: Saturday 15th June, 10am - 4pm, Winston Churchill School, Woking

Entry Fee £3 per person, £21 for a team. Lunch provided.

To enter or more information please contact Zafar Iqbal E: Zafar.Iqbal@woking.gov.uk

or John West E: john.west63@ntlworld.com

Refugee Week Event: Tuesday 18th June, 6pm – 8pm, HG Wells, Woking. More details to come.

Last Post Multi-Faith Service: Sunday 4th August, 2pm, Brookwood Cemetery, Dawney Hill, GU24 0JB

International Day of Peace: Saturday 21st September, 12 noon - 1pm,

Mercia Walk, Woking

This year's theme for the Peace Day Competition is the meeting between St Francis Assisi and Sultan Al Kamil; it is the 800th anniversary of the historical encounter.

More information E: administrator@wpof.org.uk

Or visit: www.wpof.org.uk



Woking People of Faith

I Speak Music - The Community Orchestra Launch Event

As part of part of the I Speak Music Community Orchestra relaunch, we warmly invite musicians, local organisations and front line support agencies to join us for tea, coffee and falafels and to find out more about the programme and how to get involved!

Wed, April 24, 2019, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

The Electric Theatre, Onslow Street, Guildford, GU1 4SZ

Free event, [registration via Eventbrite, please click here](#)

About The Orchestra

The 'I Speak Music Community Orchestra' is designed to celebrate diversity of Surrey's communities and is led by some of the UK's most experienced music facilitators.

The project welcomes people of any age (over 12years) and background, but is particularly interested in hearing from refugees, unaccompanied minors, BAME communities and those who sing or play non-western musical instruments. Professional musicians are welcome to join the group as are those with no previous musical experience.

Event Objectives:

- To update delegates on the latest I Speak Music plans and opportunities
- To increase knowledge of how music (and the arts) can support the personal and social needs of newly arrived communities by increasing emotional wellbeing and reducing stigma, labelling, social cohesion and social isolation
- To provide participants new contacts and partnership opportunities and practical ideas of how to better engage with the target group
- To continue dialogue about how arts and rights/social care organisations can better work together over time to meet the complex wider social needs of young people and foster their creative skills



Woking Debates 2019

11 May: Where do we come from? Where do we go? Travellers tales.

10.30 am Refreshments for 11.00 am start till 12.30 pm

Christ Church, Jubilee Square, Woking, GU21 6YG

Entrance is free, donations welcome.

The Woking Debates are organised by: Woking Action for Peace, Friends of the Earth, Surrey Faith Links, Woking LA21, Woking Quakers and Woking People of Faith.

For more information please contact: Keith Scott: 01483 824980 | keithsc_2000@yahoo.com

www.wokingdebates.com



Who are the Young Humanists?

Tuesday, 14th May at 7.30pm (Tea/coffee and biscuits break at about 8.40)

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

Speaker: Sean Turnbull

“We campaign for a world where policies are based on reason and evidence, tolerance and empathy”. Who are the young humanists and what are their campaigns? Sean will touch on issues such as faith schools, humanist marriages, bishops in the House of Lords, “no-platforming” of speakers on university campuses, etc.

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

For further information, please phone David Simmonds (01483 800397) or Mike Adams (01483 233324), or visit <http://guildfordwoking.humanist.org.uk>



East Surrey Poverty Truth Commission Launch

We would like to invite you to save the date for the launch of the new East Surrey Poverty Truth Commission.

Hear stories from local people in poverty Be inspired by their passion, determination and resilience Meet the Commissioners and find out about this new initiative to work together to find solutions to poverty in East Surrey.

4th June 2019 10.30-12.30 Light refreshments will be served at 12.30

Bourne Hall , Spring Street, Surrey KT17 1UF



Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum Events 2019

Interfaith Walk: Thursday 18th July , walk around the University of Surrey and hear from the Multi faith Chaplaincy Team.

Interfaith Service to mark Interfaith Week

Sunday 17th November, 3 pm—5pm,

St Nicholas Church, Bury St, Guildford GU2 4AW

For more information please contact: Bernard Jones (Secretary)
T: 01483 424257 E: bernard.jones10@btinternet.com

Or Carolyn Neogi: E: carolynneogi@aol.com | T: 01483 415773



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