



**"Commit your way to the Lord. Trust in Him, and He will act."**

**(Psalm, 37:5)**

Trust in God is what get's people of faith through difficult times. His help may come in different forms; one of which is through the support and service of other people, which is apparent in this newsletter through the amazing work of people of faith and/or no faith.

Please note, I have changed my name by Deed Poll, so if you receive any correspondence from Kawther Hashmi, it is not a fraud or an imposter, just me with a new name and email address! 😊

Kawther Hashmi

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#### Is the UK Being Fair to Immigrants?

The Woking Debates team held this debate where 39 people joined on zoom.

Councillor Ayesha Azad, deputy leader of Woking Borough Council, began the debate. She was a child immigrant coming here with her family. Her father was amazed by the generosity of the British people and she has found our society to be open, tolerant and dynamic. We have a fair immigration system in place here and we have sufficient resources to cope with the migration we have. The Ugandan Indians and the offer to Hong Kong residents are examples of our fairness. In Woking there are 49 Syrian refugee families. Surrey County Council has taken in many unaccompanied minors.

Donovan Blair was born here but his father and mother came from Jamaica. In Jamaica they were a carpenter and teacher respectively. At school they received a British education which included little about their home island. They felt it was

#### Main Faith Festivals in September 2020

- 1: Installation of Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh)
- 3: Fravardin Mah Parab (Zoroastrian)
- 19-20: Rosh Hashannah (Jewish)
- 28: Yom Kippur (Jewish)

For a description of the festivals please visit: [Religious Festivals](#)

Any views and comments expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Diocese of Guildford or the Communities Engagement Team (CET).

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their duty to come to Britain to help rebuild it after WW2 and when they arrived they found they knew more about Britain than many British people. Finding work was no problem but finding accommodation was really difficult as many rooms advertised No Blacks, No Irish, No Dogs. Donovan's father who came here first had to live in an underground station for the first two months. It was a time of race riots and killings in Notting Hill. He found work in construction. Donovan's parents instilled their values into him but he has never felt truly accepted. The Government has created a hostile environment and sanitised history. History is written by the conqueror and by the people that do the harm. Imagine being in a West African city insulted just for being white. Attitudes are improving. These are complex issues.

Kayte Cable set up a small charity in Woking and Guildford working with unaccompanied and trafficked children. Often they are escaping civil war. Their journeys here have been long and difficult. Aged between 18-25 they can be living in foster care, hostels or supported care. Children often have to wait to the next educational year to receive formal education. They might not be literate in English but they need English GCSE to progress. The charity tries to combat their social isolation as it is difficult for them to build networks. They live in fear of the police, religious groups and the Home Office. Under the 1951 Refugee Convention they cannot be sent back to an unsafe country but what is safe? The system is slow to process refugees and meanwhile they are not allowed to work. They lack hope and many suffer from mental health issues. If their processing is delayed until they are 18 they will be treated as an adult when it is harder to be accepted by the system. Home Office interviews are often hostile. Interpreters are often not very good. They can face unlimited detention. They should be allowed to work and contribute to society. Lack of money leaves them more vulnerable to criminals.

Waleed Hassan, an immigration solicitor said he smiled when he saw the title of the debate as the country is so obviously unfair to some immigrants. The rules are discriminatory and they should be fair to everyone. He has represented an African national who has been refused entry three times while a Canadian does not even need a visa to come here. The Home Office has a culture of disbelief towards refugees. They do not believe a person who is a homosexual facing persecution or a person who has changed their religion. A husband has to earn £18,600 to bring their partner over.

Waleed believes that politicians are using immigrants as scapegoats. Grenfell and Windrush show this clearly. Education is crucial. The Life in the UK test has many historical questions that most British citizens would struggle to answer.

Settled status was created to clear the backlog of cases. This needs to be an automatic process without the need to prove that a person has lived here as often they have not the documentation to prove it. The Government issues a link to prove a person has the right to remain in this country but many people do not recognise this. Employers will be fined £20,000 for each case and landlords can be fined £3000. Ayesha told us this is the same way that other EU countries operate.

Ann-Marie Barker asked what was the most significant policy change the Government could make that could improve this situation. Ayesha went for changing the system so asylum seekers are able to work. Waleed for changing the points based immigration system so it is the same for all nationalities, Donovan thought we need a cohesive solution that is defensible and non political.

Our MP, Jonathan Lord, was present and assured us he would take the views expressed on board.

### Faith Covid Response

FaithAction have been working very hard during the last three months to reach faith communities up and down the country and feed their ideas, needs, and opinions back to government as the situation changes; as restrictions have been lifted, as different religious festivals come and go, and as local lockdowns are being imposed in different parts of the country.

After eight weeks of numerous focus groups, surgery calls, one-on-one phone calls, and joining various interfaith roundtables and webinars, FaithAction have put together a quick 3-point summary of some of the main points of interest from each faith community recently.

To read these please visit: <https://www.faithaction.net/blog/2020/08/20/faith-covid-project-update/>



### Weekly Coronavirus Intelligence Reports for Surrey now available

Surrey County Council is producing weekly intelligence reports that provide up to date coronavirus data for Surrey. They include details of any outbreaks, increases in cases and our current R number. It also provides a breakdown by district and borough council area and a comparison to our neighbouring local authorities in the South East.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/coronavirus/testing/figures-and-statistics>

For the latest news update on COVID-19 cases in Surrey please visit Surrey News:

<https://news.surreycc.gov.uk/2020/08/18/an-update-on-covid-19-cases-in-surrey/>

### Interfaith Buddies

The scheme involves two people of different faiths or of a faith and of a non-religious belief:

- keeping in touch on a weekly basis during September and October.
- choosing or developing questions on which to share their thoughts and experiences; and
- during Inter Faith Week, sharing online or at a socially distanced event, in an agreed way, some reflections on what they have gained from this.

If you would like to be a buddy or would like more information, please get in touch:

[Kawther.Hashmi@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:Kawther.Hashmi@cofeguildford.org.uk) or M: 07878 444855

### How can we improve Surrey's Local Offer website?

All local authorities must have a Local Offer website that provides information and the details of services available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families. If you have used Surrey's Local Offer website, you may like to complete a consultation that asks for views and experiences of doing so: [www.surreysays.co.uk/csf/localoffer](http://www.surreysays.co.uk/csf/localoffer)

### **How could Surrey be a better place for autistic people?**

Education, Care and Health services in Surrey are carrying out a public consultation, so that you can tell them the best way to support autistic people of all ages and their families. Your feedback will shape what goes into their all age autism strategy. The strategy will help to determine what services they offer to meet the needs of autistic people and change the ways our community welcome and include those with autism.

For more details and to complete the survey visit: [www.surreysays.co.uk/csf/autismstrategy](http://www.surreysays.co.uk/csf/autismstrategy)

### **Sunnybank Allotment Project**

The Sunnybank Trust are looking for volunteers for an exciting new project, an Epsom based charity that works with adults with Learning Disabilities.

They have been given an allotment locally, so that members can learn how to plant and grow vegetables, fruits and plants.

They are really keen to find volunteers that have an interest in this area, whether it is to help plan, getting involved with the preparation of the area, or helping members to plant and learn about the different types of vegetables and fruits.

If this interests you, please email [info@sunnybanktrust.org](mailto:info@sunnybanktrust.org).

The latest issue of the **Inter Faith Network for the UK's e-bulletin** is available online:

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/ifn-e-bulletin>

Among the topics covered:

- Inspiring faith responses to impact of coronavirus
- Latest Government guidance on COVID-19, places of worship, weddings and funerals
- Faith groups and Black Lives Matter
- New Windrush Cross-Government Working Group
- Hate crime and extremism
- VJ Day 75th anniversary commemorations
- Inter Faith Week 8-15 November 2020
- Inter faith projects and developments from inter faith quilts to climate justice podcasts

### **Tech How To Guides**

Surrey Coalition of Disabled People has developed Tech How To guides along with app reviews that can be downloaded from their website.

The guides include help on joining a video conference (this is also available as an easy read version) help for android and Apple users, and guides to help you with smart home devices, as well as app reviews.

For more information and to download the guides, here is the link to the website -

<https://surreycoalition.org.uk/tech-how-to-guides/#apps>



Do you speak English as a second language? Maybe struggle helping your child with their homework? We offer FREE online courses for parents, grandparents and carers who live in Surrey.

On our website you will find EAL (if English is your second language) and Maths and very soon there will be storytelling with craft workshops, phonics, understanding children's behaviour and wellbeing courses available.

EAL and Maths workshops commence 9th September, so be quick and enrol now by clicking on the website link below:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/adult-learning/course-directory/family-learning>

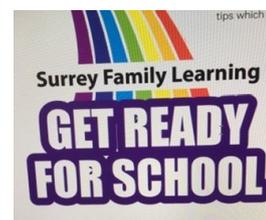
If you have any problems with enrolment, please email [family.learning@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:family.learning@surreycc.gov.uk) or telephone Cheryl Brown on 01932 794539

### Get Ready for School Booklet

A practical guide for parents, carers and grandparents of children starting school in September

We know that the start of school can be a worrying time for parents and, this year especially, there may be increased anxiety around this. With this in mind Family Learning have produced a guide to help you prepare your child for school. Get Ready for School will give hints and tips on how to:

- Help to develop your child's confidence and self-belief
- Support your child in being independent
- Develop your child's interpersonal and cognitive skills
- Introduce them to literacy and numeracy skills
- Help their first day to be successful and settle into school life
- Give support with home learning
- Use Family Learning to help you help your child



Sight for Surrey is a charity offering a lifetime of support for people who are blind or partially sighted, Deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing. We are here for you and your family providing specialist, hands-on, practical support tailored to your needs. Currently most of our services are virtual due to the COVID-19 health crisis but our mission is still to support you to overcome your day-to-day challenges, achieve your potential and lead an independent life.

Please contact us to discuss ways we can support you:

Voice Line: 01372 377701 | SMS: 07860 026 269 | Email: [info@sightforsurrey.org.uk](mailto:info@sightforsurrey.org.uk)

Skype: sensory.services | Fax: 01372 360 767 | [www.sightforsurrey.org.uk](http://www.sightforsurrey.org.uk)

Video Relay Service VRS [www.sensoryservices.org.uk](http://www.sensoryservices.org.uk)



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **Magic Little Grants 2020**

The Magic Little Grants 2020 programme launched earlier this year. Together with Postcode Community Trust, a grant giving charity funded by players of People's Postcode Lottery, Local giving is offering charitable organisations the opportunity to apply for grants of £500.

The fund will be awarding over 900 grants to community projects across Great Britain. Successful projects will support and inspire people to participate in sports or exercise with the primary aim of improving the physical health of participants.

For more information: <https://localgiving.org/magic-little-grants/>

### **VCSE health and wellbeing fund applications 2020 to 2021**

Voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations can apply for funding to run projects focused on starting well in life.

Projects must:

- have run for at least 3 years
- develop or expand services for children from preconception to 2-and-a-half years old, so they receive the best possible start in life
- be focused on improving health outcomes in black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities or areas of high deprivation (including urban, rural and coastal areas)

The deadline for applications is midday on Friday 30 October 2020

For more information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vcse-health-and-wellbeing-fund-applications-2020-to-2021>

### **BAME Infrastructure Fund**

The UK Community Foundation has made a new infrastructure fund available for organisations that can help even more BAME-led organisations to apply for NET grants through their local Community Foundations. An initial £250,000 has been allocated for this purpose, with more funds anticipated on a rolling basis.

UKCF is seeking applications from BAME-led infrastructure organisations to access the new fund. Grants between £5,000 – £20,000 over a maximum of three months are available

For more information: <https://www.ukcommunityfoundations.org/news-article/bame-infra-fund>

### **Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund**

To help VCS organisations based in England continue to provide mental health services – or provide additional support – organisations can apply for a Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund (CMHRF) grant.

Thanks to £5m support from government (the Department of Health and Social Care), grants of £20,000 or £50,000 are available for projects lasting up to 12 months.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.faithaction.net/news/2020/04/23/coronavirus-mental-health-response-fund/>

### **Environmental Working Party**

Working People of Faith are hoping to run an Environmental Working Party on Horsell Common on Saturday the 26th September from 10am until 12 noon.

We will be following Covid-19 procedures and even though we will be outside, everyone will be expected to stay 2 metres apart. People should bring their own refreshments, masks, gloves and boots. The tools will be sanitised beforehand but sanitiser and bottles of water will be provided so that you can sanitise your hands and then wash them in the water, which will be shop bought and therefore clean and sterile.

To begin with, people will be asked to wear masks when we are just gathering and then take them off whilst we are working.

As usual, we will only be told which area we will be working in nearer the time. But even with these precautions in place, it will be a good event as always.

So if you are interested in coming along to help save the heather on Horsell Common and all that means for bio-diversity, please email: [administrator@wpof.org.uk](mailto:administrator@wpof.org.uk)

### **Healthy Surrey Virtual Wellbeing Hub**

Focus on your wellbeing with the Surrey Virtual Wellbeing Hub. Join a coffee morning from your kitchen, or a Zumba class from your living room!

Here's the link for you to find a session - <https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/mental-wellbeing/adults/virtual>

### **Surrey Coalition of Disabled People**

**Surrey virtual café** - Join us every Monday for a good catch-up! 11.00 am – 12.00 noon

Who can join? Anyone over 18 can join for free, you just come along when you want to for some light-hearted discussion over a cup of tea or coffee.

**Surrey virtual walk & talk** - Join us for our virtual walk and talk. Every weekday 2.30 pm – 3.00 pm

#### **How do I join?**

Join by Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/3106670662> | Join by Skype for Business: <https://zoom.us/skype/3106670662>

Join by phone: 0800 358 2817 United Kingdom Toll-free | Meeting ID: 310 667 0662

Join by SMS text: 07780 933 053

### **Live Streaming of Religious Services:**

A Church Near you: [https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/?tags=Live\\_stream](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/?tags=Live_stream)

Diocese of Arundel and Brighton: <https://www.dabnet.org/>

Surrey Muslim Association: <http://www.surreymuslims.org/Resources/>

Join Wat Phra Dhammakaya Buddhist Temple in daily meditation: <https://www.facebook.com/>

[DMCtvLondon/](#)

### New Surrey Museums & Galleries website

Enjoy a bright and colourful exploration of Surrey's many museums, galleries and heritage sites all in one place. Get a glimpse of the collections they hold, and a flavour of the types of activities and programmes they offer. Each of the museums has its own page where you can get an idea of what to expect on a visit when they reopen to the public. There is also plenty of useful and fascinating information about what a museum is and does, links for families, schools and communities, and highlights of latest museum news.

The website has been developed by the Surrey Museums Partnership, a unique organisation working on behalf of all Surrey museums for 25 years, funded jointly by Surrey's district, borough and County councils. You can find out how we work together in a true partnership to support Surrey museum services for you. Have fun!

[www.surreymuseums.org.uk](http://www.surreymuseums.org.uk)

### Drive In Cinema

Age Concern Epsom and Ewell are holding their very 1st Drive in Cinema!

Hook Road Arena, Epsom on Saturday 19th September 2020  
Gates open at 6pm with the film starting at 7:30pm



Grease is the word...

Showing film favourite Grease, you can sit back and relax in the comfort of your car watching Danny, Sandy, The Pink Ladies and The T Birds reminiscing over their summer.

Refreshments

You can also enjoy either a classic, retro or gourmet food bag available to pre-order when booking tickets.

For more information or to book tickets: <https://ageconcernepsom.org.uk/drive-in-cinema/>

### Woking Debates on Zoom

**Has Covid-19 made the return of austerity inevitable?** Saturday 5th September

Speakers: Jonny Cope (Woking Conservative Association), Paul Couchman (Socialist Party) and Sharon Galliford (Green Party)

**Is it time to reverse privatisation?** Saturday 3rd October

**Should we all become vegan?** Saturday 11th November

Debates time: 11.00 am—12.30 pm

For joining details, please contact Keith Scott: [keithsc\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:keithsc_2000@yahoo.com) or 01483 824980

For more information please visit: [www.wokingdebates.com](http://www.wokingdebates.com) and/or follow on Facebook



This year, to mark The United Nations International Day of Peace (21st September), Peace One Day will be broadcasting live from their London Office: the Peace One Day Live Global Digital Experience on the UN International Day of Peace, with special guests from around the world .

This ground-breaking virtual event will be broadcast to every continent, connecting leading international speakers, actors, musicians and live moments of peace and reconciliation from around the world. This online digital experience will raise awareness of Peace Day, and ultimately spread the message of peace and non-violence throughout the world.

For more information or to register please visit: <https://www.peaceoneday.org/Main/PeaceDayLive>

### Free Online Learning

How to teach online, free course: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/teach-online>

National Emergency Library: <https://archive.org/details/nationalemergencylibrary>

Free online courses from top Universities: <https://www.classcentral.com/>

Free learning from the Open University: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>

Harvard University currently have 64 courses free online: <https://online-learning.harvard.edu/catalog>

Please click on 'price' and then 'free' to find all free courses.

### What are religions doing about race inequality?

Woking People of Faith are holding this event on zoom on Thursday 12th November at 7.00 pm—8.30 pm.

Speakers include:

Donovan Blair—personal experiences

Rabbi Danny Rich—Jewish perspective

Julie Siddiqui—Muslim perspective

Rev Paul Davies—Christian perspective

Mandisa Taylor (Baha'i perspective

Hindu speaker TBA

More information to come in the next newsletter.



Woking People of Faith

### Useful Information and Contact Information

Information on Coronavirus in different languages:

<https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/news/coronavirus-information/>

Big Leaf Foundation has made translations of the NHS guidance on COVID-19 available for download directly from: <https://www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/covid-19-advice.html>

(These are languages specifically common to the refugee community)

# HELPLINE FOR FAITH INSTITUTIONS 0333 772 1989

EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK, 1PM-7PM



Call our team of expert consultants for up-to-date support during this critical time.

**CALL US ON  
0333 772 1989 OR SEND  
US AN EMAIL AT  
INFO@SFITOGETHER.ORG**

[www.sfitogether.org](http://www.sfitogether.org)

**SFI** | Strengthening  
Faith Institutions

## WE CAN HELP WITH:

- Local and National Government economic support schemes
- Charity Registration
- Gift Aid
- Legal matters
- counseling support
- Safeguarding children online
- Health and well-being
- Volunteer opportunities
- technical and financial support for online engagement

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TRANSFORMING LIVES  
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