



“Let whosoever believes in God and in the Last Day either speak good or be silent. Let whosoever believes in God and in the Last Day honour his neighbour. Let whosoever believes in God and in the Last Day honour his guest.”

(Prophet Muhammad PBUH)

A really good guide below to understand the latest changes, the three tiers and how they impact places of worship.

Not long to go for Interfaith Week, please have a look at page 7 for all the virtual events planned for this year.

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Impact of new Covid-19 regulations on faith and belief communities



Following debate in Parliament, new regulations which established a national framework for local restrictions in England have come into force. This brings in three 'tiers' of COVID-19 response level and associated restrictions: Medium, High and Very High.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-new-local-covid-alert-levels>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know>

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has updated the [Guidance for the Safe Use of Places of Worship](#), and [Guidance for Small Marriages and Civil Partnerships](#) and its Faith, Integration and Communities COVID-19 Response Team (FICCRT) has also provided a brief summary of the

Main Faith Festivals in November 2020

- 1: Loy Kratong (Buddhist)
- 1: All Saints Day (Christian)
- 2: Anniversary of the crowning of Haile Selassie (Rastafarian)
- 8-15: Interfaith Week
- 14-18: Diwali (Hindu/Jain/Sikh)
- 24: Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh)
- 29: Advent Sunday (Christian)
- 30: Birthday of Guru Nanak

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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changes made and what people will want to consider for their places of worship. These are below. These are below.

The FICCRT says “Places of worship remain open for communal prayer at all Local Alert Levels - this is thanks to your continued efforts to ensure your spaces are as safe as possible and adherence to social distancing guidance is maintained. In coming months it is going to be even more important to continue with what you are doing to ensure we control the spread of the virus and keep your congregants safe.”

Medium Local Alert Level

This is the baseline level of restriction, and summarises the general “state of play” across England to tackle the spread of COVID-19.

- The “Rule of 6” applies to gatherings outside of household/support bubble groups.
- Places of Worship are able to open for public worship for as many people as they can safely accommodate adhering to social distancing guidelines, and people should not mix outside of their groups of 6. Face coverings must be worn by all in attendance unless they are not able to.
- Wedding ceremonies can take place with up to 15 attendees, this doesn’t include anyone working at the event. This is the case for all wedding ceremonies, including faith or belief ceremonies that are not legally binding. Face coverings must be worn by all in attendance except the bride and groom, unless they are not able to.
- Wedding receptions can also take place with up to 15 attendees, in the form of a sit-down meal.
- Funerals can take place with up to 30 attendees.
- Post funeral ceremonies, such as Stone Settings or Wakes, can take place with up to 15 attendees.

High and Very High Local Alert Levels

This establishes additional restrictions where rates of infection of COVID-19 are higher.

- For the purposes of Places of Worship and faith or belief groups, the restrictions outlined at both high and very high have the same effect.
- The “Rule of 6” no longer applies, and any mixing outside of households/support bubbles is not allowed.
- Places of Worship can remain open for public worship, for as many people as they can safely accommodate adhering to social distancing guidelines. People should not mix outside of their own households/support bubbles. Face coverings must be worn.
- All wedding ceremonies can continue to take place with up to 15 attendees. Face coverings must be worn by all except the bride and groom.
- In High COVID Local Alert Level Areas: Wedding receptions can take place with up to 15 attendees, in the form of a sit-down meal.
- Funerals can continue to take place with up to 30 attendees.
- Post-funeral ceremonies can continue to take place with up to 15 attendees.
- In Very High COVID Local Alert Level Areas only: Wedding receptions can no longer take place in any form.

The regulations also allow a local authority to impose tighter restrictions in their areas to limit the transmission of COVID-19. While a Local Authority will have the power to close any venue it considers to be an imminent threat to public health, including a Place of Worship, it will not otherwise be able to vary the rules that now apply to the use of a Place of Worship. However, it is recommended that individual venues continue to work closely with local authorities and consider whether further measures could be brought in to control the transmission of the virus.

Officials note that the Department has worked across-Whitehall to ensure that all weddings are treated equally whether or not they are legally binding. Those who officiate or undertake faith or belief ceremonies without legal recognition are still strongly encouraged to register their marriage as soon as possible before or after the faith or belief ceremony.

SPREAD THE WORD NOT THE VIRUS

Maps and signposting to Alert/Tiers can be found here on the Surrey County Council COVID website

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

Surrey News for updates <https://news.surreycc.gov.uk/author/surreynews/>

Surrey Matters online magazine article explaining the new alert levels and what they mean for everyone:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/surrey-matters/wellbeing/covid-alert-levels>

You can follow us on our social media channels:

Surrey County Council Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Surrey-County-Council-126261804063269>

Surrey Matters [Twitter](#) and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/surreymatters/>



Launch of new Skills for Dialogue lesson plans

The Faith & Belief Forum have launched an extensive range of online resources perfect for KS3 RE and PSHE teachers. Detailed lesson plans with accompanying films, presentations and worksheets aimed at years 7, 8 and 9, to enable us to share our expertise and methodologies with education professionals in a scalable and sustainable way.

For more information and to access the lesson plans, please visit:

<https://faithbeliefforum.org/resources/school-ks3-lesson-plans/>



Black History Month

Many events have taken place in October to celebrate Black History Month but these events and conversations do not need to be restricted to October. Race equality is an ongoing concern and one which we can all contribute to positively. For more information please visit: <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>

Please also read about the event: 'What are religions doing about race inequality?' on page 7 of this newsletter.

App it to zap it: download the NHS COVID-19 app

The new NHS app allows you to report symptoms, check-in to venues by scanning a QR code, provides a symptom checker and can alert individuals that may have coronavirus, book a test and a self-isolation count-down. The app will help the NHS respond more quickly to stop COVID spreading further and save lives. View a [YouTube video](#) introducing the app.

Download the app from [Google Play](#) or the [Apple App](#) Store. If you are a professional or information provider, please help promote it with local residents.

Fake news | Spot it, don't spread it

Big Leaf Foundation has created a short film about the dangers of fake news stories, which have been particularly prevalent during the coronavirus pandemic. Young people are at increased risk of being deliberately targeted by malicious disinformation. This film aims to help everyone identify - and avoid spreading - fake news.

They have been recorded separately in Arabic, Kurmanji, Sorani, Farsi, Hausa, Amharic, Tigrinya, Albanian and Vietnamese thanks to the generosity of BBC World Service journalists and members of our own displaced community.

For more information and to see the films visit: <https://www.bigleafoundation.org.uk/fake-news-film.html>

Venues required for maternity services

Maternity services in Surrey are currently looking for venues in the community to provide care closer to home for pregnant women. We are currently look for sites with multiple rooms; each room should be 12sqm with a sink and space for a consulting bed. Ideally there is parking for staff and women, disabled access and if possible 7 day access.

The use of larger rooms for bigger sessions e.g. antenatal classes is ideal but not essential.

We are looking for a lease/rental agreement to secure the use of this space to ensure continuity for the women receiving care. We are currently looking for space in these areas:

Reigate/Redhill, Caterham, Crawley, Haslemere, Walton, Weybridge, Sheerwater, Woking, Epsom and Ewell
Leatherhead, Banstead

Please contact Emma Jackson emma.jackson52@nhs.net 07766133743 if your space meets these requirements.

Inter Faith Week 2020

National Inter Faith Week runs from Sunday 8 – Sunday 15 November this year.

At this time of COVID-19, the Week is a great way to sustain and build connections and to highlight and celebrate work to promote respect, understanding and cooperation and celebrate diversity, inclusion and common values.

The Inter Faith Week website, www.interfaithweek.org, contains many ideas for online activities:

<https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/online-activity-ideas>

Please read page 7 of this newsletter for virtual events organised by local interfaith forums for this years Interfaith Week.



Modern Slavery During the Covid19 Pandemic



During this period, the UK experienced various stages of lockdown which undoubtedly created a unique environment that none of us has seen in our lifetimes. Despite the lockdown, many vulnerable individuals were still being held in exploitative situations and this report seeks to provide an understanding of the impact of the pandemic on those contacting the Helpline for advice and support.

Unseen have produced a report, which provides an overview of the nature and scale of contacts to the Modern Slavery Helpline for the six-month period between 23 March 2020 and 23 September 2020.

https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/238767/Modern-Slavery-and-Exploitation-Helpline-Report-2020-compressed-1.pdf



The door to your local community area.

Community Point is an information hub in the centre of Guildford where you can find out about a number of community activities, services and volunteering opportunities in the Guildford and Waverley

If you're not sure where to start or where to look, please contact Community Point and they will help provide the information you need.

Ring 01483 565456 or email communitypoint@vasws.org.uk

Their premises at 39 Castle Street in Guildford (just opposite Guildford Castle) are open for appointments or drop ins from 10.30am – 12.30pm on Monday and Thursday. Follow on Twitter @VASWS or Facebook @volaction or visit communitypoint.org.uk

Social Value Marketplace

Have you registered your organisation on Surrey County Council's [Social Value Market Place](#)? This platform is designed to help connect businesses to the voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS), encouraging and driving up the use of businesses' corporate social responsibility (CSR) and matching and connecting their CSR offers with requests from the voluntary sector.

Virtual Volunteering

Are you a local School, Charity or Community Group that is in need of a Professional Virtual Volunteer?

CMPP are here to help, support and source your virtual volunteer needs. This might be advice needed on IT, marketing advice, social media advice, help answering calls, virtual bingo callers, interview skills or even help setting yourselves up in the virtual world.

As well as hands on projects we also have a very large amount of corporate volunteers working from home that would love to help you remotely.

Follow the link below and complete the form and we will help source professional volunteers and support you.

<https://cmpp.org.uk/contact/communityactionday>

Lets continue to come together as a community and help each other.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CAF Resilience Fund

The CAF Resilience Fund is a major new fund distributing more of the £750M originally promised by the government. Grants are from £10k - £100k and must be spent by 31st March



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

SPORT ENGLAND Launch RETURN TO PLAY OPEN FUND

Sport England have announced the opening of a £16.5m Return to Play Fund.

There are three parts to this new fund - Small Grants, Community Asset and Active Together crowdfunding - with all three focusing on a safe return to play and narrowing the inequalities gap in sport and physical activity. The fund is to support the Return to Play during the Autumn and Winter. This is a rolling fund with no specific deadline. Groups that received Emergency Funding or Tackling Inequalities

Funding previously from Sport England can still apply. It will include Lottery and Exchequer funding to accommodate religious groups. The fund will be competitive, with priority given to organisations working in areas classed as 1-3 from the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) (enter your delivery postcode [here](#) to find out what decile you're in) and those working with key beneficiary groups such as BAME and Disability.

For more information please visit: <https://www.sportengland.org/news/return-play-fund-launched>



Community Foundation for Surrey Donor Funds

Funding to support groups addressing the Community Foundation Priority areas:

- Health & Wellbeing – Advance people's physical and mental health, wellbeing and safety
- Education & Skills – Improve life skills, education, employability and enterprise
- Disadvantage & Exclusion – Promote reduction of isolation and disadvantage and access to local services
- Stronger Communities – Maximise ability to strengthen community cohesion and build social capacity

CFS are currently accepting applications on a rolling basis with the next awards made in January 2021.

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

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/>

INTERFAITH WEEK 2020 EVENTS

Religions during Covid-19: Spiritual and Practical

Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum are holding an online event during Interfaith Week to hear from different faith perspectives on how they have coped during this time both practically and spiritually.

Date and Time: Tuesday 10th November, 7.30 pm on zoom

Speakers:

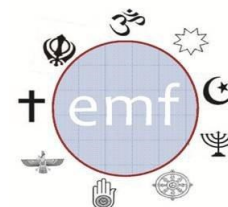
Saidhanya Raviendrakumar, from the Sri Raja Rajeswari Amman Temple (Hindu)

John Molloy, from the Shinnyo En Buddhist Temple (Buddhist)

Rev Jonny Blair from St Mary's and St John's Church, Walton (Christian)

Rabbi Kath Vardi, from the North West Surrey Synagogue (Jewish)

Mohammad Habib, from the Shah Jahan Mosque (Muslim)



Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvf-uspjgsGtQ55ro5pWAVJg2Hat64qqhF>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

What are religions doing about race inequality?

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

Speakers include:

Donovan Blair—personal experiences

Rabbi Danny Rich—Jewish

Muneera Pilgrim —Muslim

Rev Paul Davies—Christian

Mandisa Taylor—Baha'i

Shashank Sharma—Hindu



Woking People of Faith

To join on zoom please email: administrator@wpof.org.uk

Mental Health and Wellbeing in Challenging Times

Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum invite you to join this virtual interfaith service. A devotional act followed by a short talk/reading.

Contributors to the service:

Wayne Hawkins (Christian)

Mandisa Taylor (Baha'i)

Kawther Hashmi (Muslim)

Joanna Hahessy (Jewish)

Meeta Joshi (Hindu)

Sunday 15th November at 3.00 pm

To Join on zoom please email:

gg_interfaith_friends@aol.com



GGIFF

Woking Debates on Zoom

Should we all become vegan? Saturday 11th November, 11.00 am—12.30 pm

Would it be better for our health and the health of the planet if we gave up eating and using animal products completely?

Bridget Biddell, of Hampton Estate Farms,

Monique Parker, a nutritional therapist, WWF

Environmental Manager Lauren Wiseman, and

William Sorflaten a campaigner for Viva, will open the discussion.

There will also be ample opportunity for everyone who attends to share their views and concerns about this important topic.

For joining details, please contact Keith Scott: keithsc_2000@yahoo.com or 01483 824980

For more information please visit: www.wokingdebates.com and/or follow on Facebook

South Asian Carers of People living with Dementia Engagement events - via ZOOM

You are warmly invited to join a series of three (one hour) online forums, organised by the Surrey Carers & Providers Network, aimed at further developing our knowledge and support for carers from the South Asian community affected by dementia.

We are delighted that the sessions will be presented and facilitated by Mohammed Akhlak Rauf MBE, Founder & Director of Meri Yaadain CiC.

To register for the event please contact Hasu Ramji, Event Co-ordinator,
Email: ramjihat@gmail.com | Tel: 01883 626264

The dates are:

- 18th November – Scene setting
- 14th December – Carer experience
- 18th January – Meeting cultural needs



Surrey Heartlands
HEALTH AND CARE PARTNERSHIP

All events will take place between 11-12pm

Free Domestic abuse awareness and practice training:

<https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/domestic-abuse/professionals/awareness-training>

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>

Building a Better Future: A Zero Carbon Hub for Guildford

An opportunity to find out more and discuss plans for a Zero Carbon Hub in Guildford. An online event with presentations and discussion.

Wed, November 4, 2020 | 7:00 PM – 8:15 PM GMT

For more information or to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/building-a-better-future-a-zero-carbon-hub-for-guildford-tickets-125175395979>

Virtual adult introductory mental health first aid courses

Free half day introductory basic [mental health awareness courses](#) are being offered by Surrey County Council's Public Health Team, and delivered via Zoom.

The introductory course is aimed at people working in COVID-19 call centres, frontline volunteers and people who have been redeployed to COVID-19 who have no previous experience of mental health training.

Bookings through Eventbrite:

[6 November](#)

[9 November](#)

[16 November](#)

[9 December](#)

Any questions about the training being offered please email: publichealthtraining@surreycc.gov.uk

Celebrate National Libraries Week with extended library opening hours

From 5 October as part of National Libraries Week 17 of [Surrey's libraries](#) will be extending their opening hours each day and encouraging libraries to celebrate books and reading, showcase their reading offer and the contribution they make towards building a Nation of Readers.

Following the lockdown 49 of [Surrey's libraries](#) are now open to allow customers to browse, borrow, return items, use computers and collect requests (reservations).

Current open Surrey County Council consultations

Find all open [consultations](#) on Surrey Says.

Live Streaming of Religious Services:

A Church Near you: 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/>

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

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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