



“Become as the waves of one ocean, the drops of one sea”

(Abdul Baha)

Plenty of resources, information and reports in this issue of the newsletter. Look out for the upcoming interfaith events from page 7 onwards—still virtual unfortunately but hoping they will come physical events as restrictions ease.

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Surrey Faith Links now hosted by Surrey Ethnic Minority Forum



Following discussions with Surrey County Council the Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum (SMEF) will now host the Surrey Faith Links Project.

SMEF is a race equalities organisation set up to advocate for the needs and aspirations of Surrey’s 17% ethnic minority population. Their mission is to be a voice for BAME communities, increasing confidence in their ability to shape their destinies by a shared understanding of their values, rights and responsibilities. To that end, they provide a neutral

space where people of diverse cultures, histories, ethnicities come together to find solutions to the common economic and social challenges they face living in Britain today.

“SMEF being a Race Equality charity with a membership of 48 BAME community groups belonging to different faiths has a natural affinity to working with the Faith sector. We are excited about this opportunity and are confident that the synergies that our joint working will create will be beneficial for all Surrey stakeholders. We look forward to delivering the strategic objectives of the 2030 Vision for Surrey where ‘no one is left behind’.” Suzanne Akram, Executive Director, SMEF).

SMEF have organised a zoom session about the programmes they are currently running, more information and zoom details on page 7 of this newsletter.

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Main Faith Festivals in May 2021

- 13/14: Eid ul Fitr (Muslim)
- 13: Ascension Day (Christian)
- 17/18: Shavuot (Jewish)
- 23: Anniversary of the Declaration of the Bab (Baha’i)
- 23: Zartosht No Diso (Zoroastrian)
- 23: Pentecost (Christian)
- 26: Buddha Day (Buddhist)
- 28: Anniversary of Ascension of Baha’u’llah (Baha’i)

For a description of the festivals please visit: [Religious Festivals](http://www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk/religious-festivals)

21 March Anti-Racism Live Report/ Highlights Film

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 March 2021 is now behind us and its fantastic success was due to the engagement and commitment of individuals and organisations all over the world.

On 21 March 2021, Peace One Day, in association with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, produced the Anti-Racism Live Global Digital Experience. Their goals were to raise awareness of the Anti-Racism Day, and to manifest dialogue and action across the world to #fightracism. The broadcast involved 9 hours of dynamic online content including panel discussions with thought leaders on anti-racism, special interviews, live moments from different continents, Words of Peace from some of the greatest actors and music from international artists.

If you missed the broadcast, look out for selected content that have been sign-posted through Social Media every day; and you can see everything as individual films on the Anti-Racism Live section of peaceoneday.org and watch the 21 March highlights [film here](#).

Peace One Day's mission is to expose people to the messages of peace, sustainability, diversity, inclusion, equality and justice. Awareness manifests action and action reduces violence, as we change our behaviour towards each other and our environment.

Please [click here](#) to read the Anti-Racism Day Report 2021



IFN Youth Inter Faith Engagement resource

The Interfaith Network (IFN()) has been carrying out a project which included gathering and signposting resources for youth inter faith activity, including in Further Education and Higher Education contexts. IFN's Inter Faith Development Officer, Mr Ashley Beck, has led on this with the support of Intern Carrie Gealy.

A new website section, which went live on 31 March, can be found at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/activity/youth-inter-faith-engagement>.

The IFN has also launched a new, free to download, resource for secondary schools to help them teach about inter faith encounter, dialogue and action in the UK, which can be found [here](#).

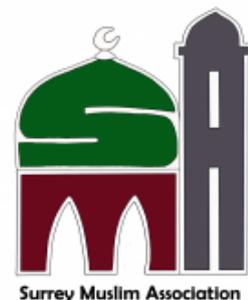


Ramadan resources and Guidance

The Surrey Muslim Association (SMA) have made available resources and guidance around Ramadan 2021 on their [website](#). This includes information for employers, NHS and Government Guidance, Ramadan timetables from Mosques in Surrey and much more.

For Ramadan Guidance and resources, please [click here](#)

For Ramadan prayer times and information, please [click here](#)



Faith Communities response on the death of the Duke of Edinburgh

Responses from Interfaith Forums on the death of HRH the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh can be read on the Interfaith Network UK website. To read them please [click here](#)

Community Survey for Surrey Fire and Rescue Service

Would you like the opportunity to influence your local Fire and Rescue Service, to ensure we are meeting your needs and those of your community? Surrey Fire and Rescue Service are seeking your help so that they can learn more about you, the people who make up the residents of Surrey.

The survey is in no way compulsory, but we would really appreciate it if you could give your views. To take part in the survey you do not have to provide your name, however it would help if you would provide your postcode.

If you are aware of any friends, colleagues or family members who may wish to contribute but who may struggle to access the online survey, please email:

sfrs.people@surreycc.gov.uk for an alternative format.

To access the survey, please [click here](#)



HOME TESTING COVID KIT (CORONAVIRUS RAPID LATERAL FLOW TESTS)

Anyone can now order a home testing Covid kit online at www.gov.uk/covid-19.



You can also pick them up from your community pharmacies or by calling the free phone number 119.

The kits are free and are highly recommended before going to your office or shopping or even for a haircut. You would get your test result in 15 minutes. It will also keep you and the community safe. The instructions on the kit are very easy to follow

Easing of COVID-19 restrictions

Restrictions are easing across the UK. In all four nations places of worship remain able to open.

Since 12 April in England more businesses and venues have been able to open.

For further details please [click here](#).

COVID-19 advice in different languages

Big Leaf Foundation have produced recent COVID tier rules in languages representative of displaced communities. They are available to download at: <https://www.bigleafoundation.org.uk/covid-19-advice.html>

They have also produced videos about fake news in different languages which can [be found here](#)

COVID-19 and safe use of places of worship

Faith Festivals

A number of key faith festivals and times of observance are marked by Christians, Hindus, Jains, Jews, Muslims and Sikhs in this month. There has been renewed focus on safe celebration of festivals, with the UK Government updating its [guidance on this for places of worship in England](#). This year, again, the festivals will be celebrated in a very different way from usual. There will be distanced in person services combined with virtual ones, and events happening place mainly online.

On 22 February the Prime Minister announced the '[COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021](#)' which set out a roadmap for exiting the current lockdown for England. It contains a number of provisional dates for easing of restrictions. Places of Worship have been able to remain open for communal worship through the most recent restrictions.

[Guidance for Places of Worship](#) was updated on 26 March. This enabled singing by officiants to take place in cathedrals from 28 March and singing outside places of worship from that date, one day before the easing of general restrictions.

Report on COVID-19 disparities

On 26 February, Minister for Equalities, Kemi Badenoch MP, published the [second quarterly report](#) to the Prime Minister and Health Secretary on progress to understand and tackle COVID-19 disparities experienced by individuals from an ethnic minority background.

The Minister's first report on COVID-19 disparities was published in October. This concluded that a range of socioeconomic and geographical factors coupled with pre-existing health conditions were contributing to the higher infection and mortality rates for ethnic minority groups, with a part of the excess risk remaining unexplained for some groups. This second report looks at those causes in more detail and sets out some of the work undertaken to fill the gaps in understanding and to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 infection. It sets out the progress made under the terms of reference and in implementing the recommendations from the first report.

Financial impact of COVID-19

The pandemic has affected significantly the resources of faith groups and faith-based charities. In February a group of charities launched an open letter from their CEOs to ask the Prime Minister to consider a special package of support. The open letter, which can be signed by any voluntary organisation, can be found at <https://nmn.org.uk/rightnow-campaign-open-letter/>.

SMEF Youth Project – assessing needs of 12 to 25 year old's

The Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum (SMEF) members have long asked to develop work to meet the needs of young people. SMEF are currently doing research to identify these in order to write a good application for funds. It is a short survey and it takes **two minutes to respond**, by Friday 30 April. [Here is the link to the form.](#)

Connected Communities: Churches Responding to Prejudice Against Jews and Judaism

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and the Council of Christians and Jews have produced a resource, Connected Communities: Churches Responding to Prejudice Against Jews and Judaism, for Christians to learn more about Jewish-Christian dialogue, antisemitism, and anti-Judaism. The intent is “to grow appreciation for the connections that have linked Christians and Jews for the last two thousand years, to equip local churches to engage in Jewish-Christian dialogue, and to cultivate esteem for Judaism in Irish and British churches.” The resource can be downloaded at <https://ctbi.org.uk/responding-to-prejudice-against-jews/>.

Guide to Working Together at the Local Level

The Faith and Belief Forum has launched a new resource, which is a [Guide to Working Together at the Local Level](#). The guide is to improve and to increase partnerships between local authorities and local faith or belief groups. It offers practical advice on how local authorities may better engage, celebrate and collaborate with local faith or belief groups; and how local faith or belief groups and other local groups may better contribute to local decision making and to more connected and cohesive local communities.



The Surrey Lieutenancy

The Surrey Lieutenancy would like to invite you to respond to a very short questionnaire in order to gain a better understanding of your charity and the kind of support you would like to receive. Your open and honest answers to the following questionnaire would be of great help in this. Ideally, you would be a volunteer or a paid worker for a Surrey-based charity.

The questionnaire can be found at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TBJVK29> and should only take you 5 minutes to complete, and we hope that the information you provide will help the Surrey Lieutenancy to better support and better connect with your organisation and the wider charity sector in Surrey in the future.

Loving Earth Project

The Loving Earth Project, run in partnership with Quaker Arts Network and Woodbrooke, is a community craft project to celebrate people, places, and things that are loved but which are threatened by growing environmental and climate breakdown. The Loving Earth Project aims to help a wide range of people engage with the challenges of living more sustainably, through arts and crafts, and encourages craft groups, faith groups, community groups, and any interested individuals to get involved. More information, including on free online workshops to get started, can be found at <https://lovingearth-project.uk>.

Modest Fashion in UK Women's Working Life

The report of the Modest Fashion in UK Women's Working Life project of the University of Arts London and Coventry University has now been published. This report discusses the findings of a study on how religiously-related modest fashion and associated behaviours impact on women's working lives – regardless of their own religious or secular background or beliefs. It also contains recommendations aimed at the fashion industry and employers. The report is [available here](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Surrey Crisis Fund

The [Surrey Crisis Fund](#) is a discretionary fund run by Surrey County Council. It offers financial help to Surrey residents who have nowhere else to turn in an emergency or following a disaster.

FCC Community Action Fund

The FCC Communities Foundation is offering grants between £2,000 and £100,000 for projects which involve the provision, maintenance or improvement of public amenities including community spaces in places of worship, which are registered charities. Projects must be based within 10 miles of an eligible FCC Environment waste facility. The next round closes on 21 June.

For more information, visit <https://fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk/funds/fcc-community-action-fund>.

COVID-19 funding

The Charities Aid Foundation has collated a list of organisations which are supporting charities and voluntary groups at this time. [Click here to read the list](#)

Launch of Restart Grants Scheme

At the beginning of April, the government launched the new £5 billion Restart Grants scheme to be administered by local authorities.

Businesses in England in the non-essential retail sector will be eligible for one-off grants of up to £6,000, while businesses in the hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym sectors, which are reopening later, will be eligible for one-off grants of up to £18,000. Full details [here](#)

Listed Places of Worship grant scheme

The Listed Places of Worship (LPW) Grant Scheme gives grants that cover the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings in use as places of worship. The scheme covers repairs to the fabric of the building, along with associated professional fees, plus repairs to turret clocks, pews, bells and pipe organs.

The Grant Scheme is run by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and administered by Topmark. For more information, visit <http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/>.

New Black and Ethnic Minority community-led foundation

Baobab Foundation will be “a new type of foundation, led by the communities it serves”, and aim to address the chronic underfunding of community organisations led by people of colour.

For more information please [click here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum Programmes

Join on zoom to hear about the many programmes run by Surrey Ethnic Minority Forum (SMEF), which are available to you and your organisations.

The zoom session will take place on 29th April at 6pm. Zoom details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82134215029?pwd=aTZudm5YcGJRc3lkOWpISGc0R1FiQT09>

Meeting ID: 821 3421 5029

Passcode: 774439



“My Sikhism: A guide to differences amongst Sikhs”

Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum invite you to this event to learn about the differences amongst Sikh.

Tuesday 18th May 2021 at 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start till 9.00 pm on Zoom

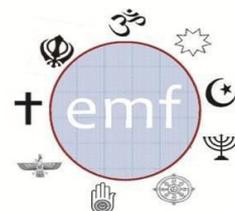
Speakers:

Mr. Nirmaljit Singh, Prison Chaplain

Baljeet Kaur

Mr Bahadur Singh, Chairman of the Police IAG & Chaplain at University of Surrey

For zoom details please email: KawtherH@smef.org.uk



Faith in Action: a conversation with Beryl Hunwicks, Mayor of Woking

Woking People of Faith have organised a conversation with Beryl Hunwicks, the Mayor of Woking, about her Christian faith and how it helps her in her role as Mayor as well as in every day life.

The conversation will be on Zoom and will last about 45 minutes including time for questions. (There may be an optional time at the end to stay on and talk further). Wednesday 28th April at 7.30 pm on zoom.

Zoom details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83421971382...>

Meeting ID: 834 2197 1382 | Passcode: WPOF

Interfaith Football Tournament - Book your team NOW for the 2021 Football Tournament

On Saturday 22nd May 2021 At Winston Churchill School Sports Centre, Winston Churchill School, Hermitage Road, Woking GU21 8TL .

Six-a-side teams (plus one substitute) will play in group games as they work their way towards the quarter and semis before the final

Cost: £21 per team (£3 per player)

Who: Anyone 16yrs and over from Woking

When: 11.30am—5.30pm

To book a team or more information contact

John West: treasurer@wporf.org.uk



Woking People of Faith

Air Pollution: the hidden threat in Woking?

The last debate of the year for the Woking Debates will take place on 15th May at 11.00 am—12.30 pm on Zoom

For zoom 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



Refugee Week Event

Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum invite you to join them on zoom for an event for Refugee Week on Tuesday 15th June, 7.30 pm on zoom.

Neelam Devisher - Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum - Chair and Introduction

Ray Northcott - Refugees Welcome in Surrey, speaking about various initiatives in the County

Elisabeth Mpyisi - SMEF, "We do not walk alone : we move together in UBUNTO Community"

Louise Baumberg, Godalming Unitarian - speaking about her experience as a foster parent and unaccompanied youth supporter as well as the research for her Masters in Refugee Care

For more information please contact Bibhas & Carolyn Neogi:

E: gg_interfaith_friends@aol.com | T: 01483 415773



GGIFF

Spring Habits

Introducing our Spring Habits: a series of workshops exploring three of our 'Habits of a Reconciler' - curiosity, stewardship, and hope - to create transformational change within us and those around us as we prepare for community re-engagement post-pandemic.

For more information and to register please [click here](#)

Applications close Friday 30th April



Mental health, wellbeing and primary care; current concerns and contemporary responses

The Royal Society of Medicine have organised a three-part webinar series on 'Mental health, wellbeing and primary care; current concerns and contemporary responses'.

The first episode 'Improving clinicians mental health and wellbeing during COVID-19, what can we do?' will take place on Thursday 20 May 2021 from 12:30pm to 1:20pm

Professor Neil Greenberg (Professor of Defence Mental Health, King's College London, UK) and Dr Paquita de Zulueta, (GP and Clinical Lead for Mental Health, Imperial College, UK), will discuss cutting edge research on how the coronavirus pandemic has affected the wellbeing of healthcare staff, and how to support healthcare workers in times of local and national crisis.

For more information and to register please [click here](#)

Employability and Schools and Parenting course offer

WEA East Surrey works in partnership with East Surrey College. These courses (unless otherwise indicated) are for residents living in East Surrey districts (Epsom and Ewell, Mole Valley, Tandridge, Caterham, Reigate and Banstead).

To access the list of courses currently available please [click here](#)

To find other courses in your area please visit: <https://www.wea.org.uk/>

Latest job opportunities: <https://www.surreyca.org.uk/jobs/>

Surrey County Council's public health team offers the following training:

[COVID-19 related training](#)—Virtual Adult Introductory Mental Health First Aid Course

[Suicide prevention](#) to help improve understanding and confidence to intervene with people at risk of suicide.

[Wellbeing workshops](#) promote positive, emotional and mental wellbeing through six everyday actions

[Connect 5](#) – Ways to work with Mental Wellbeing in everyday practise. This course will enable people to have conversations about mental health and offer information on local service. Connect 5 is aimed at everyone.

[SafeTALK](#) - half-day alertness training that prepares anyone 15 or older, regardless of prior experience or training, to become suicide-alert.

[Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training \(ASIST\)](#) is a two-day interactive workshop in suicide first aid.

[Other training and useful resources](#) - including online training and training provided by other organisations.

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>

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/>

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- Volunteer opportunities
- technical and financial support for online engagement

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