



**"Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth
 Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust
 Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace
 Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe"**

(The International Prayer for Peace)

The week of prayer for work places takes place from 17th October, more information about it on page 7.

Not long to go for Interfaith Week in November, plenty of events planned in Surrey to attend and get involved with.

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Peace Day Awards Ceremony

Woking people of Faith in partnership with Surrey Faith Links have been organising a competition for primary schools in Woking since 2013 to mark and celebrate International Day of Peace.



Poster by Rosalie D, Yr 3, St Dunstan's Primary School

This years theme was: 'What is causing climate change and what can people of faith do to help solve it?' Children were invited to either draw a poster or write a poem on the theme. The day is usually celebrated at Woking Town centre with songs, henna, face painting and the winning entries are put on display.

This year it was held on zoom in partnership with RHS Wisley Gardens; the Mayor of Woking Councillor Liam Lyons and High Sheriff of Surrey, Dr Julie Llewelyn announced the prize winners.

Simon gave an introduction to Woking People of Faith, Kawther spoke about the International day of Peace, followed by a question poll put together by RHS Wisley, a short presentation and talk by Claire Davitt from RHS Wisley on the

Main Faith Festivals in October 2021

- 1: Mihr Jashan (Zoroastrian)
- 2: Gandhi Jayanti (Hindu)
- 6: Birth of the Bab (Baha'i)
- 6-14: Navarati (Hindu)
- 11-15: Durga Puja (Hindu)
- 14-15: Dassehra (Hindu)
- 7: Birth of the Baha' u'llah (Baha'i)
- 19: Anapanasati Day (Buddhist)
- 19: Mawlid un Nabi (Muslim)
- 20: Pavarna Day (Buddhist)
- 20: Conferring of the Guruship on Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh)

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

environment, plants and well-being, followed by the announcement of the winners. The winning entries will be on display at RHS Wisley on 16th and 17th October. A recording of the zoom event is [available here](#)

My Hinduism: “A guide to differences amongst Hindus”

Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum organised a zoom event to explore and understand the differences between Hindus on the International Day of Peace (21st September).

Radha Mohan spoke first, he follows the ISKCON Hare Krishna movement and is Communications Officer at Bhaktivedanta Manor near Watford. He is the co-author of a number of books about the movement, and also runs a Vedic Science Channel on Youtube.

The Hare Krishna movement was founded by A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada in 1966; its core beliefs are based on Hindu scriptures, particularly the Bhagavad Gita and the Bhagavata Purana, and the Gaudiya Vaishnava tradition. Due to the nature of the movement as a reformed movement, the beliefs differed from the following two speakers where an emphasis was placed on Lord Krishna and his divine teachings in the Bhagavad Gita.



Serena Jones was born into a Sri Lankan and Welsh family. Serena talked about how her parents took her to the Sri Sathya Sai Centre for bhajans (devotional singing) and education classes from the age of 4 and has been through SSE up until the age of 18 years old and now teaches the Young Adults in the centre as part of the LOTUSS (Life's opportunity to understand self and spirituality) Programme.

Serena spoke about Sathya Sai Baba, the founder of the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation who is considered to be an incarnation of the divine. She said, his birth was miraculous conception and he was kind and compassionate towards the poor and downtrodden from a very young age. The Sri Sathya Sai Organisation encourages the development of human values of love, truth, peace, right conduct and non-violence. The Sri Sathya Sai movement encompasses all religions involving devotional singing of Christian, Jewish, Jain and Islamic songs. Members practice various forms of devotion such as devotional singing known as bhajans to lift the vibrations of the devotees. The emphasis of this movement lies with the realisation that I am God and understanding that God is within you.



Saidhanya Raviendrakumar spoke last, she said she has been involved with the Sri Raja Rajeswary Amman Temple in Stoneleigh since birth as her family is one of the founding trustees of the Temple. Saidhanya is the Youth and Education coordinator and organises workshops for school children and runs the Youth Group at the Temple who volunteer at festivals and charitable events throughout the year.

Saidhanya said the way she practices her religion was more traditional; the branch of Hinduism she follows is called Saivism, which is believed to come directly from the Vedas (one of the Holy Scriptures) and the emphasis is on the Lord Shiva (The Destroyer). Worship is heavily focused around visiting temples and participating in special pooja services to seek the blessings of the Divine. Saivite temples in the UK strictly follow the ancient Agamas and Puranas which are thousands of years old. There is no single founder of Saivism as it is believed to have originated from the word of God, however there are many famous saints and sages who have written Puranic stories and devotional hymns which aid Saivite devotees in their worship.

The event concluded with a lively Q&A session; a recording is [available here](#)

Interfaith Cricket Match

Woking People of Faith organised a interfaith cricket match at Woking Park on Sunday 26th September.

It was a great turn out, the weather was beautiful, people from different faiths played together and built relationships through cricket.

Both teams were very competitive but the Shah Jahan Mosque team won the match in the end. The Head Imam of Shah Jahan Mosque played in the opponent's team to give them support and create understanding. Guests and spectators included:

Former High Sheriff Shahid Azeem, County Councillor

Riasat Khan, Councillor Muhmmad Ali, Chief Cricket League Woking, Abdul Wahid and Woking 11 Cricket Captain Zahid Kamran.



We hope to continue organising the interfaith cricket match on an annual basis. To find out about future matches, please follow us on Facebook and/or visit: www.wpof.org.uk

Surrey Launches New Greener Transport Plan

Earlier this month, [Surrey County Council](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk) launched a three month consultation on [Surrey's new Transport Plan](#) which includes plans to reduce the 46% of carbon emissions currently generated by transport.

Proposals include increasing walking and cycling routes to encourage people out of their cars, providing more charging points and parking for electric vehicles, more bus services, charging for transport use and introducing car clubs, as well as improving internet connections for home-working and redesigning neighbourhoods that enable easier access to local services, lessening the need to travel by car. The consultation survey is available on [Commonplace](#) until 24 October 2021

Faith communities, climate change and the environment

Communities across the Country got together for the Great Big Green Week (GBGW) from 18-26 September, a WWF initiative billed as 'the largest event for climate & nature ever seen in the UK'.

In Surrey, community groups, organisations, and businesses showcased the work being done locally on food security, environmental protection, and mitigation and adaptation to the climate and ecological crisis.

Some of these events were all day carnival style events, workshops and interactive demonstrations, talks and seminars, and some actively encouraged people to get out into nature or highlight the alternatives to our current ways of life. 30 of these events took place in Guildford alone! Read more about them [here](#).

Do you know what your carbon impact is? Find out and also read about what Surrey County Council are doing about climate change here: Climate change - [Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

COP 26 Coalition

World leaders will meet in Glasgow in November at the global climate talks, COP26. COP26 Coalition are organising decentralised mass mobilisations across the world, bringing together movements to build power for system change – from indigenous struggles to trade unions, from racial justice groups to youth strikers.

Read their [call to action](#) and [find a local hub or action](#).

Inter Faith Week 2020: Connection, learning and cooperation at the time of COVID

A [report](#) on a remarkable and inspiring week

The report draws on a mixture of sources: social media coverage of the Week; information submitted to the Inter Faith Week website; further details researched online across the period following the Week, including reports by some organisations which held activities; and a detailed survey sent to activity holders.

Quite a number of reports were put out later than usual due to pandemic pressures, but we have tried to capture information from these also.

The report includes two special sections: one on the backdrop of the pandemic and how this shaped activities and participation; and one on how online and digital opportunities for engagement helped people to connect and interact. It then looks at patterns of participation and activity, sharing examples of the wide range of events held by bodies both large and small. At the end is a summary of key content.



To download a copy of the report on Inter Faith Week 2020, please [click here](#)

Prisons Week

For more than forty years Prisons Week has prepared prayer literature to enable the Christian community, through individuals and churches, to pray for the needs of all those affected by prisons: prisoners and their families, victims of crime and their communities, those working in the criminal justice system and the many people who are involved in caring for those affected by crime on the inside and outside of our prisons.

Prisons Week raises awareness and generates prayer. It motivates volunteers to step forward and give their time and gifts, in prisons and in their own communities. It provides an annual focus and reason for Christians to work together, building capacity and motivation to make a difference for people who are out of sight and often out of mind.

Prisons Sunday – the second Sunday in October – marks the beginning of the week of prayer each year, running through until the following Saturday.

For more information please visit: www.prisonsworld.org



Nuclear Treaty Ban

The Ursuline Sisters UK have created this campaign to urge the UK Government to rethink their stance on nuclear weapons and sign the treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted on 7 July 2017 and has been ratified by its 50th State Party therefore it entered into force on 22 January 2021. However, none of the nine nuclear weapon states have signed or ratified the treaty, including the UK.



For more information [please click here](#)

The Surrey Experience: One Place One Story

The symposium introduced the Surrey Story – a shared narrative, that distils the essence of what makes Surrey an attractive and valuable destination, locally, nationally and internationally. The symposium was attended by key stakeholders, representing a wide range of businesses/organisations, with an interest and active involvement in creating and delivering the Surrey experience on Friday 24th September at Sandown Park Racecourse.

Surrey is often perceived to be 'leafy, affluent and white'; Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum attended to make sure the voice of ethnic minority communities was part of the 'Surrey Story'.

Keynote speakers included John Till from Thinking Place who spoke about 'The Surrey Story: Creating a One Place One Story for Surrey'. He said Surrey needs to shift the emphasis of place to stakeholders and not the County Council. It should be a story of place seen through the eyes of the stakeholders. He concluded by saying 'ask not what Surrey can do for you, ask what can I do for Surrey.'

Prof Caroline Scarles from the School of Hospitality & Tourism Management, University of Surrey spoke about 'Re-shaping the Future of Tourism: Getting It Right Together'. Prof. Caroline said we need to open up to conscious travel, be aware of what is on our doorsteps and make use of it; she said we need to make positive experiences of the County. She also spoke about taking experiences to people by making use of technology, which has been seen over the pandemic where zoos put webcams on to show animals and online galleries.

There were breakout discussion groups to discuss key priorities for the Surrey experience together with a range of Surrey businesses, Local Government leaders, politicians, academics, charities and community groups.

StreetSafe pilot service launched

StreetSafe is a new digital pilot service which allows anyone to [anonymously log](#) areas of concern about public places where they have felt or feel unsafe, because of environmental issues, e.g. street lighting, abandoned buildings or vandalism and/or because of some behaviours, e.g. being followed or verbally abused.

The pilot is primarily aimed at tackling violence against women and girls and is available for three months from 2 September 2021.

New Governance App now available

The [Governance App](#) is a new free and easy way for trustees to review and improve governance from the Directory of Social Change (DSC).

The App could be useful for trustees reviewing their governance, but not knowing where to start, if they can't afford the time or expense of a consultant or facilitator, or if they want an easy way to involve the whole board in the process. For more information email: jblazquez@dsc.org.uk

Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum

Find out the latest from Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum [here](#)

If you would like to receive the newsletter, please [click here](#)



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Funding to help faith groups support communities

Earlier this month, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced a new £1 million fund to help faith groups support communities.

Faith groups will be able to apply for a share of the £1 million Faith New Deal Pilot Fund for projects providing innovative solutions to issues such as food poverty and poor mental health. Projects combating loneliness and isolation, providing debt advice and helping those who were unemployed during the COVID-19 outbreak get back to work are set to benefit from the new pilot.

The deadline for the application window of this scheme has been extended until 14 October.

Councils are encouraged to promote the Faith New Deal Pilot Fund on social media channels, with wider partners and local voluntary sector partners.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-1-million-fund-to-help-faith-groups-support-communities>

Funder Plus – Helping your Projects

The Community Foundation for Surrey can provide funding for your organization and under the name of Funder Plus they can provide a highly skilled and experienced volunteer to support you with advice and guidance in a range of critical business areas on a short-term project.

They will work to understand the issues that need to be addressed and then provide practical steps, solutions and guidance to help you achieve the desired outcome.

[Find out more here](#)

Funding Workshop

11th Infantry and South East Headquarters would like to invite you to an inform funding overview session, 6 October 2021 10.30-11.30 with presentations on the:

The National Lottery Heritage Fund <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/>

The Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund <https://covenantfund.org.uk/>

Join and learn more about these two funding streams, by booking a ticket via:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/163334906101>

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 please visit: <http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE

The week of Prayer for World Peace takes place from the second to third Sunday in October each year.

The Week of Prayer for World Peace Annual Gathering will again this year only be online. It will be held on Sunday 10 October 2021 at 3:30 PM London time.

To take part please use the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84564579233?pwd=aHhIUUhONEVacFBpeGkyandLK1pldz09>

Meeting ID: 845 6457 9233ar, local gatherings are held – some now online –

Please join in and together let's send out prayers, meditations and heartfelt wishes for peace.

Gatherings are held worldwide to celebrate the week and a leaflet of interfaith prayers and reflections is available each year. Do join us in whichever way feels right for you.'

Every year more people are joining in worldwide, including communities and schools in New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Germany, Canary Islands, Australia, Italy and many more.

For more information please visit: www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk



Amnesty Event at Guildford Book Festival

“We’re Here Because You Were There: Immigration and the End of Empire” by Dr Ian Sanjay Patel

What are the origins of Britain’s hostile environment for immigrants?

Ian Sanjay Patel has used new archive material from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to show how Commonwealth citizens were hampered by racist laws and structures that hindered non-white citizens of the Caribbean, Asia and Africa from entering Britain. The Windrush affair and the expulsion of Asians from East Africa, among other events, show how successive governments have falsely claimed that Britain has a good immigration record.

Tuesday 5th October at 7.30 pm | St.Nicolas Community Centre, Bury Street, GU2 4AW, Guildford

Tickets £10.00 from the Tourist Information Centre, High Street (01483 444334) or Yvonne Arnaud box office www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk or on-line: <http://www.guildfordbookfestival.co.uk/ian-sanjay-patel>

The book will be available for purchase and signing.

Epsom Mental Health and Wellbeing Festival returns 9-16 October

Epsom Mental Health and Wellbeing Festival returns with a theme of “We are all in this together”. All the events and sessions are free and open to everyone wherever they live. Most of the events and sessions will be available online for people who cannot attend in person. The Zoom address for the festival will be available from Saturday 9 October 2021.

The [PDF brochure for the festival listing all the events and sessions](#) is available to download now.

“I was in prison and you came to me.” Mtt 25.35-36

Arundel & Brighton, Clifton and Plymouth Dioceses invite you to explore **the challenges facing prisoners and their families this Prisons' Week**, examining how we can get involved in our parishes.

Prisoners and their families are often some of the most socially excluded people in our society. This event will offer an opportunity to direct our thoughts and prayers to prisoners and their families and to reflect on how we as individuals, as a Church and as a community are serving those affected by imprisonment.

Speakers include:

Canon Paul Douthwaite, National Catholic Chaplain for Prisons at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Andy Keen-Downs, Chief Executive, Prison Advice and Care Trust

This online event will take place 12 October 5pm - 6.15 pm. [Click here to register](#) your attendance. You can find out more about [Prisons Week here](#).

FAITHS 4 CLIMATE JUSTICE

A Global Multi-Religious Action: 17-18 October 2021

Two weeks before global climate negotiations, people of diverse religions will rise to send a message: destroying the planet is against our religions. [More information](#) and Join us, find out about events [here](#):

Guildford & Godalming Interfaith Forum Events

Annual Interfaith Week multi-faith event on the theme: “Humanity’s Awakening – rebuilding our World” at St. Nicolas Community Centre, Bury Street, Guildford. Sunday 21st November at 3.00p.m.

There will be a short presentation including music, dance or song from each Faith.

Details from Carolyn Neogi : gg_interfaith_friends@aol.com tel. 01483 415773

New members are welcome at bi-monthly meetings

Details : bernard.jones10@btinternet.com. tel. 01483 424257



GGIFF

SMEF Reflection and Devotional Meetings

Since the beginning of the Pandemic SMEF's Bahá'í Trustee, Hayet Shahrezaey, has hosted weekly SMEF Reflection and Devotional meetings for all SMEF member groups, meeting every Wednesday at 11.00a.m. on Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82043959919?pwd=dE8zZE9OZUtoTXFocGtKbFFxTjQ1QT09>

Meeting ID: 820 4395 9919 | Passcode: 686479

For more information please contact: hayetaskri@hotmail.com

Discover the Soroptimist story during October 2021 at Surrey History Centre

This is a doubly important year for Soroptimists in Woking & District. Their members have supported charities and initiated local projects since 1976, so this is their sapphire anniversary. And Soroptimist International, founded in 1921, celebrates its centenary.

Soroptimist international is now a global voice for women as well as actively contributing, through its Clubs, to local causes. Discover the Soroptimist story during October 2021 at Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Rd, Woking GU21 6ND



The Changing Face of Nursing: Black Nurses in Surrey Hospitals

A talk for Black History Month by Dr Catherine Babikian

1 October, 5.30pm to 6.45pm

From its launch, the National Health Service relied on the labour of thousands of nurses, doctors, and health care workers from overseas. Surrey hospitals were no exception. For Black History Month, this talk draws on the Surrey History Centre's rich health care collections to explore the experiences of Black nurses in Surrey. The talk will begin with some framing context for how and why Black nurses from the Caribbean and Africa came to staff the NHS, before diving into the archives of Surrey hospitals such as West Park Hospital, Epsom, and Netherne Hospital, Coulsdon.

Dr Catherine Babikian is an historian interested in the relationship between migration and health care. Her PhD thesis examined the history of overseas nurses in the NHS and the impact of nurse migration on Britain and its former colonies.

Tickets £5. Please book a place online at <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents>. After payment has been received you will be emailed a unique link and password to attend the talk on Zoom.

Family Learning



Surrey Family Learning offer FREE online courses for parents, grandparents and carers who live in Surrey. New courses can be found here:

[Supporting Parents](#)

Anti Slavery Talk by 'Hope for Justice'

Saturday 23 October 2021. The talk will last for 45-50 minutes followed by at least 15 minutes discussion so it would be a different format.

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



Charity Golf Day – Age Concern Epsom & Ewell

On Tuesday 26th October 2021, Age Concern Epsom & Ewell are holding their very 1st Charity Golf Day at the prestigious Royal Automobile Club, Woodcote Park, Epsom. Woodcote Park is set within 350 acres of the Surrey Countryside and the site itself is steeped in local history dating back to the Domesday Book.

The charity golf day will start with bacon rolls and coffee, followed by a prompt shotgun start on the Old Course, one of the 18-hole downland golf courses, set within Woodcote Park. To conclude the day, they will also host a 3-course Silver Service evening meal and a fundraising raffle.

Why not make a day of it and invite guests to join you for the evening meal. Whilst you and your team play golf, your guests can make use of the Cedar's Leisure Facilities by pre-booking one or more of the treatments available (additional fees apply – information available upon request). Tickets are £660 per team of 4 players. Tickets are available to attend just the evening meal for £60pp (drinks not included).

Our aim is to provide a fantastic day of golf and to raise vital funds for Age Concern Epsom & Ewell. To register your interest in this event or to find out more please email charlotte.hornblow@ageconcernepsom.org.uk or call 01372 732 451

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

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.

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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