



'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.'
(Luke 6:27)

Some key dates are coming up to get involved in interfaith including: the Great Get Together, International Day of Peace and Interfaith Week. If you would like some support in organising something or work with your local interfaith forum, please get in touch.

A great resource on page 5 on sending greetings at different faith festivals!
 Plenty of events to attend and/or get involved with.

Thank you

Kauser Akhtar
 Faith Links Adviser
 E: Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk

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Why Are People Living in Poverty in Britain Today?

The Woking Debates held this debate on 17th March at Christ Church where 35 people heard three excellent speakers.



The Chair, Des Coles opened the debate giving the UN definitions of poverty and some statistics. In 2015 4.5 million people were in poverty in the UK and more than 1 in 4 children. There are more than thirty times as many food banks as in 1989.

Lorraine Buchanan, the chief executive of Woking Citizens Advice spoke first. She said Maybury and Sheerwater wards in

Woking are two of the most deprived wards in Surrey. A significant life change such as losing your job, developing mental illness or losing your partner can plunge people into poverty. It can happen to us all.

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Main Faith Festivals in April 2018

- 1st—Easter Sunday (Christian)
- 8th—Hanamatsuri (Buddhist)
- 13th—Songkran (Buddhist)
- 14th—Isra wal Mi'raj (Islam)
- 14th—Vaisakhi (Buddhist)
- 21st Apr—2nd May—Ridvan (Baha'i)
- 22nd—Adar Mah Parab (Zoroastrian)

Will Forster, leader of the Liberal Democrats on Woking Council spoke next. He was brought up by a mother on benefits but there are not many people with similar backgrounds who are key decision makers. Politics needs to be more representative. Will said, we need better paid more skilled jobs so there is no need for Tax Credits. One in five children have food insecurity in our country, nearly the highest in the developed world. The U.K. is particularly unequal as a society and Surrey's richness hides the poverty here. Pensions have risen since 2010 but child benefit has not. Last week there was a change in the provision of free school meals raising the threshold in the whole of the U.K. except in Northern Ireland. If you are a care leaver you have less than a 10% chance of going to university. From established homes you have a 60% chance. We need to start asking uncomfortable questions.



Sarah Goddard is from Christians Against Poverty and employed by Christ Church as a debt adviser. Her team will go and visit people in their homes and help them apply for benefits. Their central office in Bradford will negotiate with their creditors. People deeply in debt often have other issues. With other churches they run a job club and Fresh Start an eight week course for people with addictions. She quoted the case of one person they help who is in her 50s and

living on the single allowance of £73.10. After bills this leaves her £29 a week food, toiletries and presents. She needs to go into the library to do her benefit applications online but could not afford the bus fare so they help her with that. She has learning problems and received two letters about meetings. She thought she only needed to go to the second of the meetings and went there but was sanctioned for four weeks for not attending the first. This sent her finances into meltdown. Being part of a caring supportive community makes a huge difference for people on benefits.

The meeting was opened up to those present; The point was made that most of the benefit bill goes on the old age pension. Yet this is not enough to support live in carers.

Lorraine spoke about how CAB is open to all. People are embarrassed to be in poverty and some come in with bags of unopened letters. Often their family is the last to know their situation. The CAB used to have an emergency fund supported by funding from the Mayors charity but recent mayors have chosen different charities and funds have dwindled. Byfleet has its own charity and the CAB sees few people from there and the Lions have a fund to help with heating.

Societies that are more equal are happier. Poverty needs to become a priority. If we tell our politicians this is a major priority then they will listen. It is up to us.

More information on upcoming debates on page 7 of this newsletter.

Religious and Cultural training for Staff & Volunteers

Do you have staff that would benefit from some training or awareness of religious and Cultural practices and beliefs? Or perhaps you would like to know more about the Faith communities in Surrey?

If you are a group who meet informally and would like to hear from different faith perspectives, Surrey Faith Links is a one stop shop for all.

Please get in touch:

Kauser Akhtar, Faith Links Adviser

T: 01483 790334, E: Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk



World Congress of Faiths Essay Award

Submissions are now open for the World Congress of Faiths Essay Award 2018. Undergraduate and postgraduate students at UK universities are invited to submit a maximum of 3,000 words on the question 'Can inter faith dialogue achieve any lasting value for society?' by 28 August. The winner will receive £300 and have their essay published in Interreligious Insight. All entrants will receive free membership to World Congress of Faiths for a year.

For further details, visit <http://www.worldfaiths.org/2018-essay-award/>.



The second Great Get Together, in honour of Jo Cox, is being held on 22 - 24 June, the weekend Jo would have celebrated her 44th birthday.

Just like last year, it's a chance to gather with friends, neighbours and the wider community for food, friendship and fun – whether it's a BBQ, street party, dog walk or football game.

In Yorkshire there are already plans to throw parties with different streets that don't already know each other, open up mosques to local communities to share evening meals, and even hold a fun run.

The Great Get Together team has everything you need to get cracking, including posters, invitations, leaflets and more.

If you're not sure you want to organise something, you can still join in with events near you – [sign up](#) to stay updated with everything that's going on between now and June.

If you would like some support/ideas for Surrey please contact Kauser Akhtar, Faith Links Adviser
E: Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk | T: 01483 790 334

Find out more at <https://www.greatgettogether.org/>

Safeguarding children, it's everyone's business

In a recent [article](#), published on safeguarding and in light of the recent Oxfam and Haiti scandal, Karl Wilding stated that "Abuses of power...may not happen in our name, even if they happen on our watch."

How, then, do faith institutions protect children from abuse of power? What measures should be taken when cases of abuse do take place? And, how do you draw a balance between custom faith traditions and safeguarding laws to protect against behavioural misconduct before it occurs?

The recent revelations concerning behavioural misconduct in the charity sector has shone a light on the importance of ensuring that all organisations that work, or come into contact, with children are regularly updating safeguarding procedures.

For more information:

<https://www.sfitogether.org/2018/03/15/safeguarding-children-its-everyones-business/>



Hate crime and extremism

Across the last month there have been a number of disturbing incidents and the level of reported hate incidents, more generally, continues to be high.

Bishop Richard Atkinson and Jatinder Singh Birdi, Co-Chairs, Inter Faith Network for the UK The Punish a Muslim letters have been strongly condemned and police forces have been taking action to reassure communities in their areas. In some areas counter action is taking place, such as a solidarity gathering being organised by the North Kirklees Inter-Faith Council on Saturday 30 March outside Dewsbury Town Hall www.examiner.co.uk/news/people-faiths-stage-show-solidarity-14461731

Hindu and Sikh communities and some Christian groups have expressed concern about attacks on members of their communities and their premises – in some cases due to mistaken identity. Conversation is ongoing between them and the Government about availability of relevant data.

The NSPCC noted on 20 March that: ‘Recent figures from UK police forces show 5,349 hate crimes were recorded against under-18s with a racial, religious or faith-based element, a 14% increase in 1 year’ and has launched a new programme in response.

www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/childline-discrimination-understand-me/.

There has also been growing concern about the rise of extreme voices on the far right.

Recently release figures to March 2017 show that while the majority of referrals to Prevent, continue to relate to Islamist extremism, the number of people referred to a UK government counter-extremism programme because of concerns about right wing extremism has risen by more than a quarter, official figures show. 968 such individuals were referred to Prevent, an increase of 28% from the previous year. The proportion of referrals for right wing extremism rose in the year to 16% of all referrals, up from 10% in the previous period.

www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/mar/27/far-right-referrals-prevent-programme-up-by-more-than-a-quarter-counter-extremism.

Looking after One Another: The Safety and Security of our Faith Communities

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/looking-after-one-another-the-safety-and-security-of-our-faith-communities-2017>.

Young people and inter faith engagement

Interfaith Network (IFN) is continuing its programme of work on youth inter faith engagement, entitled ‘Connect: the inter faith engagement of young people’. This will lead to publication of a new edition of IFN’s youth inter faith action guide Connect: Different Faiths, Shared Values <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/connect> and also feed into a special youth-focused National Meeting of IFN in July. The programme is being carried out with the help of an Advisory Group, co-facilitated by IFN Trustee Padideh Sabeti and youth co-facilitator, Jaskiran Kaur Mehmi.

IFN has been consulting in a number of ways. Key to the programme is hearing the views of young people. IFN has therefore held focus group sessions in Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds and London for young people aged 16-25 across February and March. For further information about the project, please contact Ashley Beck at the IFN office (Ashley.beck@interfaith.org.uk).

Inter Faith Week 2018

Inter Faith Week 2018 will take place from 11 – 18 November. It will be the 10th Inter Faith Week.

Inter Faith Week begins on Remembrance Sunday each year and runs until the following Sunday. The Week begins on Remembrance Sunday and many people of different faiths and beliefs will be marking that in some way. The additional Sunday provides the opportunity for other weekend events to take place.



Civic remembrance activities are often held on a multi faith basis, recognising the contributions made by people of all faiths and beliefs during armed conflicts – whether through military service or work for peace. This year, Remembrance Sunday will also be Armistice Day, and the centenary of the end of World War One.

Inter Faith Week is a week about respect, understanding, relationship building and genuine discussion about issues - about 'living well together'. It is a tremendous opportunity to reach out, learn, make new connections and develop friendships and working partnerships which help make for greater neighbourliness and more integrated and cohesive communities. It is also a great platform for all who want to increase religious literacy and understanding of diversity.

Last year for the first time, IFN made available Inter Faith Week branded pin badges to buy via the Inter Faith Week website. These proved to be very popular, and it is planned to do this again in 2018. If there are other items which you think would be particularly helpful in spreading the word and raising awareness about the Week, please let the IFN office know and we will explore these.

Religious festivals and calendars

The pattern of religious festivals in different faith communities changes throughout the year. A number have recently taken place such as Naw Ruz (Baha'i) and NoRuz (Zoroastrian), and Rama Navami (Hindu). Others are taking place now or shortly, including Mahavira Jayanti (Jain); Good Friday and Easter (Christian) and Pesach/Passover (Jewish).

The Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education, produces a calendar of religious festivals, which is available in electronic format, and also a wallchart which can be purchased in hard copy.

<http://www.shapworkingparty.org.uk/calendar.html>

Interfaith Network UK (IFN UK) have an online calendar of faith festivals:

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/religious-festivals>

IFN UK have also produced guidance on sending greetings for different faiths festivals:

www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/faith-festivals-guidance-on-sending-greetings

Responsibilities of the Faith Institution Safeguarding Officer

Trustees have a legal duty to protect the welfare of children and protect them from harm and expected to find out what the relevant law is, how it applies and to comply with it where appropriate. Strengthening Faith Institutions' (SFI) safeguarding policy is designed to help faith groups implement safeguarding policies and procedures in place.

<https://www.sfitogether.org/2017/08/27/safeguarding-children-policy-template-for-faith-groups/>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Co-operative: Local Community Fund

The Co-op Local Community Fund is giving money to local causes, helping to bring people together and make a difference.

To apply to be a Co-op cause you must have a project or event in mind that:

- takes place in the UK or Isle of Man;
- doesn't have religious or political aims (although you can still apply if you're a religious organisation);
- meets the Co-op's values;
- takes place or will still be running after October 2019;
- benefits your local community.

Preference will be given to projects run by small, local organisations that make a real difference to people in their community. You can't apply if your organisation is run for private profit.

For further information, visit www.coop.co.uk

Garfield Weston Foundation Celebrates 60th Anniversary with One-Off Charitable Fund

The Garfield Weston Foundation has reached its sixtieth year of grant giving in the UK and has chosen to celebrate with a new one-off fund that offers grants of between £30,000 and £150,000 to registered charities, CIOs, places of worship and state schools.

The Fund is exclusively aimed at supporting capital costs. Groups in need of revenue funding should apply to the Foundation's main grants programme. Funding is available for:

- New community facilities.
- Improvement of community facilities.
- Items that require a sizeable investment e.g. purchase of minibus.
- Improvements to outdoor spaces and facilities for sport and exercise or community use.
- New buildings or extensions to an existing building for community use e.g. new kitchen, meeting room or storage facility.
- Improvements to, or renovation or refurbishment of, an existing building such as installing a toilet and servery in a rural church for community use.
- New fixed playground equipment, climbing walls or multiuse games area in a public playing field.
- Purchase of large or expensive items if it is crucial to supporting local people e.g. minibus for elderly day care, equipment for a training room, community café fit out.
- Purchase of land or property with a minimum of a 25 year lease with a clear community benefit.

Total project costs must be above £30,000.

The deadline for applications is 30 June 2018.

Further information can be found here: <https://anniversary.garfieldweston.org/weston-anniversary-fund/>

Funding websites

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations offers advice on fundraising and grants on its Know how Non profit site at <https://knowhownonprofit.org/funding>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Woking Debates 2018

Woking Action for Peace, LA21, Friends of the Earth, Quakers, Churches Together, Woking People of Faith and Surrey Faith Links work in partnership to bring you some thought provoking and topical debates.

- **What is the future of work? Saturday 14th April**

Speakers are members of Woking Youth Council and Paul Couchman, deputy branch secretary of Surrey UNISON.

- **Local Elections Hustings, Saturday 28th April**

- **Israel and Palestine: Now and the Future, Saturday 19th May**

As usual, there will be ample opportunity for local residents to share their views and concerns

The debates are held at Christ Church, Jubilee Square, Woking GU21 6YG

11.00 am till 12.30 pm (refreshments from 10.30 am)

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

Guildford & Woking Humanists open meetings

Tuesday 10th April

Title: Assisted Dying: Does the law need to change?

Speaker: Lesley Close

We have autonomy in almost every aspect of our lives today, except when it comes to the manner of our dying. It is the state which decides for us. Should we keep intensely suffering people alive against their will, and is the law too out of step with what happens in practice, and with public opinion? Or does it at least prevent the vulnerable from feeling pressure to end their lives? Lesley Close will tell the story of her brother's journey to Dignitas, and explain why she thinks the law should be changed. Constructive debate is always welcome, so come along and put your view.

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

Tea/coffee and biscuits break at about 8.30.

There is no charge, but a small donation is requested of £2 or £3 (but not from students) to cover the speaker's expenses and hire of the hall. If anyone would like further information, please telephone Mike Adams (01483 233324) or David Simmonds (01483 800397),
E: david.simmonds40@gmail.com



Modern Day Slavery & Human Trafficking

The Clewer Initiative is a 3 year project to enable Church of England dioceses and wider Church networks to develop strategies to detect modern slavery in our community. It seeks to bring recognition and support by raising awareness of all aspects of modern slavery and helping to mobilise the local community.

Will you help to raise awareness, to help those enslaved, trafficked?

A free talk is available to your community.

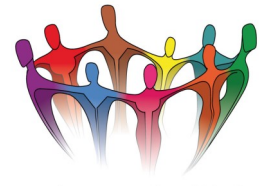
For more details please contact: Suzette.Jones@cofeguildford.org.uk

W: www.theclewerinitiative.org | **Modern Slavery Helpline: 0800 0121 700**



THE CLEWER
INITIATIVE

Woking People of Faith Events 2018



Woking People of Faith

Second Pilgrimage of Understanding

Date:- Saturday 28th April

Register: 09.45 at Christchurch, Jubilee Square Woking.

Route:- Christ church to Al Asr Centre to St. Mary's Horsell ending at Trinity Methodist Church

Refreshments: tea/coffee en route

Lunch: 13.20 Curry meal at Trinity Methodist Church, Brewery Road

Finish 14.20

Ypres to Brookwood: Sunday 6th May, Last post ceremony and a guided walk around the cemetery. More information to come.

Football tournament: Saturday 30th June at Winston Churchill School.

For more information please contact Marian Nash: secretary@wpof.org.uk, www.wpof.org.uk

Surrey Local History Committee Annual Symposium - The Changing Roles of Women

Saturday 21 April, 9.30am - 4pm

Tickets: £12.

Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6ND

More information: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritage-culture-and-recreation/archives-and-history/surrey-history-centre/heritage-events>

Youth Mental Health First Aid Course

Dates: 30th April and 1st May 2018

Time: 9am to 5pm

Venue : Flintstone, Wilmerhatch Lane, Epsom. Surrey KT18 7EH



The course is led by experienced instructors and presented in a welcoming environment - it is an invaluable source of knowledge, skills and understanding of mental health issues affecting young people.

At the end of the two day course delegates will become qualified Youth Mental Health First Aiders. The usual cost of this course is £300 but we are offering it at a reduced cost of £220.

If you would like to book a place on this course or find out more information please email admin@workstressolutions.org.uk

Work Stress Solutions (WSS) was established in 2007 and became a registered charity in 2010. It is an Epsom-based organisation covering the County of Surrey and is supported by grants and donations. WSS provide services to support individuals (aged 16 and over) to build new skills and develop their full potential. To learn more about the charity please visit: <http://www.workstressolutions.org.uk/>



An exciting initiative supporting people with poor mental health is being launched in Spelthorne on Thursday 26th April from 2 to 4 pm. Learn how the project has evolved, the successes and challenges and our vision for the project as it moves forwards. There will be an opportunity for networking, refreshments will be provided and there will be speakers from the Community Foundation for Surrey and Public Health England.

For further details and to register please email Laura Wallman at laura@voluntarysupport.org.uk or telephone 01276 707565

Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith Forum Programme 2018

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| May 3rd | 7.00 for 7.30 'Faith and Community Relations – exploring our local responsibilities'
Speakers: Jon Warnke, the Faith Emergency Response Coordinator, Diocese of Guildford and Hannah Paisley, the Epsom and Ewell Prevent Officer.
St Martin's Church House, Church Street, Epsom KT17 4PX |
| June 3rd | 11.00-1.00 Hindu Chariot Festival, Stoneleigh |
| June 9th | Iftar at the Islamic Centre, Epsom sharing the breaking of the Ramadan fast |
| July 19th | Visit to Coptic Cathedral, Stevenage |

For more information or to confirm attendance please email Lynne Schofield: lynnescholefield@gmail.com

Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum Events 2018

Interfaith Pilgrimage

Thursday 19th July 2018

The pilgrimage will take place in Godalming between different places of worship. Details to be finalised, more information in the next newsletter.

Interfaith Service

The Annual GGIFF Interfaith Service to mark Interfaith Week, Sunday 18th November, St Nicholas Church, Guildford.

For further information please contact: Carolyn Neogi - 01483 415773 or Bernard Jones - 01483 424257

Refugee Support Conference 2018

Celebrating, Reflecting and Learning
What more can we do?

Join Bishop Andrew, Maurice Wren (CEO, Refugee Council) and other leading figures, for a morning learning from the experiences and testimonies both Nationally and in Surrey.

Date: Monday 5th November 2018

Time: 9:30 am—1.00 pm

Venue: St Saviours Church, Woodbridge Rd, Guildford, GU1 4QD (no parking on-site)

Booking: to reserve your place please contact: Emma.Beswick@cofeguildford.org.uk

Communities Engagement Team, Diocese of Guildford.

Do women have a role in leading religion?

Date: Tuesday 1st May

**Time: 6.30 pm Guided tour around the Church
(the oldest Church in Surrey)**

7.00 pm Refreshments

7.30 pm start

**Venue: St Mary's Church Hall, Stoke Rd, Stoke
D'Abernon, Cobham KT11 3PX**



Rabbi Kath Vardi



Bishop Jo Bailey Wells



Julie Siddique

Open to all, this event will explore the important topic of gender in the leadership of religion; perspectives from three prominent leaders followed by Q&A from the public.

Suggested donation of £5 to cover costs.

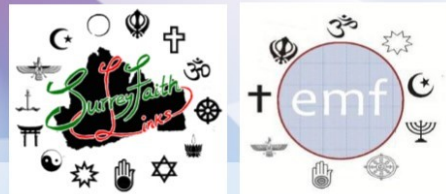
To book a place and/or read the speakers profiles,
please visit: cofeguildford.org.uk/women-leading-religion

For more information please contact:

Kauser Akhtar, E: Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk

Margaret Hicks, E: margarethicks2@hotmail.co.uk

Organised by Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum
in Partnership with Surrey Faith Links



www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk | www.elmbridgemultifaith.org.uk




Surrey Faith Links c/o CET, Diocese of Guildford

Church House Guildford, 20 Alan Turing Road, Guildford, GU2 7YF

T: 01483 790334, E: Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk

W: www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk

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