



Surrey Faith Links Newsletter

May 2018

'Whoever destroys a single life is as guilty as though he had destroyed the entire world and whoever rescues a single life earns as much merit as though he had rescued the entire world.'
(The Talmud, Mishna. Sanhedrin 37a)

Plenty of interfaith events being organised by interfaith forums across Surrey. Ramadan, the holiest month for Muslims starts this week—for more information and guidance for schools, staff etc please visit: www.surreymuslims.org

Thank you

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Inside this issue:

Woking Pilgrimage	2
3FF: A new chapter	3
Religious and Cultural Training	3
Faith and Community Relations	4
BDB Multi Faith Day	4
Refugee Week	5
Modern day Slavery	5
The Great Get Together	5
Faith and Belief News	5
Funding Opportunities	6
Upcoming Events	7

Prominent religious leaders explore the topic of gender

Over 80 people gathered at St Mary's Church, Stoke d'Abernon on Tuesday 1st May to question and learn from female leaders within Judaism, Islam and Christianity on the topic of gender in religious leadership: 'Do women have a role in leading religion?'



Panellists for the event included Julie Siddique, listed in the Times' 100 Most Influential Muslim Women in the UK list, Rabbi Kath Vardi, interfaith campaigner and Rabbi at the North West Surrey Synagogue and Bishop Jo Bailey-Wells, the Bishop of Dorking and 10th female bishop in the Church of England.

Julie spoke about the challenges Muslim women are facing and how she

Main Faith Festivals in May 2018

- 1st—Laylat-ul-Bar'ah (Muslim)
- 3rd—Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
- 16th— Start of Ramadan (Muslim)
- 20&21—Shavuot (Jewish)
- 23rd—Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
- 24th—Zaratosht No Diso (Zoroastrian)
- 29th—Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
- 29th— Buddha Day (Buddhist)

would happily 'go back in time 1400 years where women were treated more equal to men.'

Rabbi Kath asked the question, who owns our religious texts? Historically men have owned them and interpreted them but as women have come into the mix, our understanding of God has changed and we have multiple truths.

Bishop Jo began by saying how important text is and referred to the Old Testament, Genesis. Where God begins by mentioning human kind, with no gender. She said, 'let's not over play gender distinction when talking about God.'

Kauser Akhtar, Surrey Faith Links Adviser, who organised the event, commented: "Through events like this we can help to shine a light on significant issues, like gender in religious leadership, which may otherwise go unnoticed and unchallenged.

"It was fantastic to see so many people come together to explore this important topic from an interfaith perspective, building friendships and understanding between faiths."

If you missed the event or want to hear the speeches again, they are available at:

<http://surreyfaithlinks.org.uk/news-and-events/do-women-have-a-role-in-leading-religion/>



Woking Pilgrimage

The Second Pilgrimage of Understanding organised by Woking People of Faith took place on Saturday 28th April. The day dawned cool, overcast and dreary, but it wasn't actually raining! About 28 pilgrims signed in at Christchurch and were given a warm welcome by Simon Trick, our Chair. Rev Martin Smith then gave a talk about the church's history; the kind of services that were held; and the congregation's participation in the community. We were able to see where their baptismal pool was located and a beautiful stained glass window from a distance. Then it was off to the Al Asr Centre. When we opened the door and went in, we were amazed at the welcome we received. Many of the members were there and had prepared a sumptuous feast of sandwiches, cakes and biscuits washed down by tea and coffee. Dr Naqvi gave an address expressing his desire that we would all acknowledge our similarities and not dwell on our differences. A smile was all that was needed to make friends. The centre began in 1995 and the building served the community too. It was a great opportunity for the pilgrims to chat to the Muslims there. Then Dr Naqvi and three young men joined our walkers.



The High Viz jackets caused some comments and questions from other pedestrians as we wended our way to St Mary's, Horsell. Mike Couper gave us a talk about this historical building and pointed out several 'must-see' features. After ten minutes wandering around the church, he treated us to his

excellent homemade cakes and more tea or coffee. Tearing ourselves away, we continued along scenic footpaths to Trinity Methodist Church, where we were served a chicken and/or vegetable curry with rice, crispy poppadums and salad delivered by Thali Thali Indian and Nepalese Restaurant. Rev Barry Tabraham clearly felt passionate about John and Charles Wesley, some of the founders of the Methodist Movement, and gave us a detailed account of their lives. Then Daphne Lander explained how the Methodist Hierarchy operated and then how their church was organised. Once again it was clear that the congregation were concerned with helping the community. Simon closed the pilgrimage about 2.15pm. Everyone agreed that they had thoroughly enjoyed the pilgrimage, especially the opportunity to talk to others whilst walking around Woking.



Marian Nash, Secretary, Woking People of Faith | www.wpof.org.uk

A new chapter

3FF has a new name: The Faith & Belief Forum!

For many years now, our work has included people of all faiths and beliefs, both religious and non-religious. And this week, we have changed our name to the Faith & Belief Forum to better reflect this inclusive ethos.

Our vision remains the same: A connected and supportive society where people of different faiths, beliefs and cultures have strong, productive and lasting relations.

We are inviting organisations across the UK to help us achieve this vision through a [new Charter for Faith & Belief Inclusion](#).

We encourage you to check out the Charter and the rest of our [new website](#) and invite you to join us on this new chapter of our journey!

With best wishes,
The Faith & Belief Forum Team

**The
Faith
& Belief
Forum**

Formerly 3FF (Three Faiths Forum)



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: Kausar Akhtar, Faith Links Adviser

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



Faith and Community Relations

The Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith Forum invited Jon Warnke (Emergency faith Coordinator) and Hannah Paisley (Prevent officer) to talk about their roles and how to engage with the faith communities on Thursday 3rd May at St Martin's Church, Epsom.



Jon spoke about the structure and system that is in place with Surrey County Council and how the Diocese takes the lead with the Faith sector. Jon explained the importance of the faith emergency responder and is looking for volunteers across Surrey from people of all faiths.

Hannah talked about Prevent and how it is working differently now to prevent all forms of extremism. She said, there are mostly extreme right wing referrals in Surrey and has been an increase in this. She works closely with young vulnerable people and schools to prevent them from being exploited and doing something radical.

If you would like more information or if you would like to contact either Jon Warnke or Hannah Paisley, please email: Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk

Bishop David Brown School Multi Faith Day

Woking People of Faith organised a Multi Faith Day at Bishop David Brown school on Wednesday 25th April for year 9 students.

Speakers included: Marian Nash (Christian) Philip Goldberg (Jewish), Geoff Hunt (Buddhist), Kauser Akhtar (Muslim) and Jennie Johnson (Humanist).

Students were excited to hear from people who practise their faith and were eager to learn more about them. The Multi Faith Day concluded with a Q & A panel session with all the students and speakers. Students posed some very challenging questions and heard from the different faith perspectives.



Jennie said, "The pupils answered the questions I gave them and joined in working out the ethical dilemmas"

Various interfaith forums are offering this sort of support to both primary and secondary schools across Surrey. If you would like to discuss this further with your local school and/or get involved with the Peace Day competition and event (Woking only), please email Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk.

Refugee Week 18-24 June



This takes place every year across the world in the week around World Refugee Day on the 20 June. In the UK, Refugee Week is a nationwide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK, and encourages a better understanding between communities. Refugee Week started in 1998 as a direct reaction to hostility in the media and society in general towards refugees and asylum seekers.

In June 2018, Refugee Week will reach an important milestone: 20 years of celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees. This 20 year anniversary is the theme of Refugee Week 2018 (18-24 June), and you are being invited to take part by doing one (or more!) of [20 Simple Acts – one for each year of Refugee Week](#).

For information and resources please visit: <http://refugeeweek.org.uk/>
Go to upcoming events of this newsletter for Refugee week related events in Surrey.

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 Great Get Together

The Great Get Together this year will be celebrated on 22-24 June and is inspired by Jo Cox MP, who was killed on 16 June 2016. We believe there is a groundswell of people who reject divisive politics and simply want to bring our communities together and celebrate all that unites us. For resources and more information : <https://www.greatgettogether.org/>

Faith and Belief News

- [Police urges everyone to unite against Islamophobia using #WeStandTogether](#)
- [The Mirror joins Jewish News in backing #No2H8Crime](#)
- [The NHS Humanist chaplain is a welcome sign of shifting spirituality](#)
- [Interfaith group offers training in 'pink spirituality'](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Big Lottery Fund Relaunches Reaching Communities England

The Big Lottery Fund is seeking ideas for projects that will improve communities across England and will make grants of more than £10,000 available to support organisations that want to take action on the issues that matter to people and communities.

The funding can support project activities, operating costs, organisational development and capital costs and can support work for up to five years.

To be eligible, groups need to show how their ideas meet the following three priorities:

1. Bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities.
2. Improve the places and spaces that matter to communities.
3. Enable more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.

Organisations that are interested in applying will need to have an initial discussion with the Big Lottery Fund about their proposed idea. If the idea is accepted, the Big Lottery Fund panel of staff will then invite a full proposal.

This is a rolling programme with no deadlines. For more information please visit:

<https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/reaching-communities-england>

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/>

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.

Israel and Palestine: Now and the future. Saturday 19th May

A Jewish perspective, a Muslim perspective and testimony of a Quaker.

All welcome

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

Woking People of Faith Events 2018

Refugee Week Event: Tuesday 19th June 6.30 pm till 8.30 pm at HG Wells, Woking

Football tournament: Saturday 30th June at Winston Churchill School, starts at 10.00 am.

The Last Post: Sunday 5th August, 3.00 pm. A Multi faith service and tour around the Brookwood Military Cemetery

Peace Day event: Saturday 22nd September, the annual peace day event, 12.00 pm—1.00 pm, Mercia Walk. Woking.

For more information please contact Kerry Barry: administrator@wpof.org.uk
www.wpof.org.uk



Woking People of Faith

The story of music from a humanist perspective

Tuesday 12th June 7.30pm

The Guildford Institute in Ward Street, Guildford, GU1 4LH

Speaker: Teddy Prout

Music is often regarded as being a central and defining part of most people's lives. Why does it have so much of a hold on our emotions and why do we look to music to help us express our emotions? This talk looks at the history and development of music as part of the human experience on a personal and societal level. Teddy will speak about his experiences as a composer and performer, a music teacher, and as a Humanist Celebrant. He is the Director of Community Services for Humanists UK.

Tea/coffee and biscuits break at about 8.40

For more information: david.simmonds40@gmail.com



“The Happiness Course” Can we teach people how to be happy?

Sunday May 20th 7 for 7.30pm

David Warden is chair of Dorset Humanists and an Honorary Member of Humanists UK. Together with colleagues he developed and ran a six-session course aiming to help people lead happier lives.

He will talk about the course including his assessment of its effectiveness. Please come along and help us decide whether to run this course in Farnham



“Who Controls Our Schools?”

Sunday June 17th 7 for 7.30pm

Dr Robert Sykes was Head teacher of a large, mixed comprehensive school in Hampshire for 23 years. His school was twice graded as outstanding in all categories by Ofsted. He was awarded a CBE for services to education in 2014.

The talk examines the development of faith schools in the state system and then looks at the current Government policies regarding faith, selective, academy and free schools.

Daniel Hall, Long Garden Walk, Farnham, GU9 7HX

Tea & coffee included. Other drinks available from the Hop Blossom Pub close by. Donation £2 to help costs

Hosted by **farnhamHUMANISTS**

Enquiries: 01252 723044 www.farnham.humanist.org.uk

Free Training Courses for Voluntary Sector

Surrey County Council are offering the following training courses free of charge to the voluntary sector.

The Surrey Skills Academy site contains course details but if the course is not listed please call 0208 541 7213 for more information. Please also find the application form here which needs to be completed and sent back to the Surrey Skills Academy email surreyskillsacademy@surreycc.gov.uk. Please call 0208 541 7213 if there are any other queries.

Course name: Outlook 2013
Date: 25th May 2018 from 9.30 am to 1 pm
Location: County Hall

Course name: Emergency First Aid at Work
Date: 8th June 2018 from 9.30 am to 5 pm
Location: County Hall

Course name: Excel as a Database - Further Features
Date: 1st June 2018 from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm
Location: Quadrant Court

Course name: Outlook 2013
Date: 11th June 2018 from 9.30 am to 1 pm
Location: Quadrant Court

Course name: Excel - Lookups & Nested IF Functions
Date: 8th June 2018 from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm
Location: Quadrant Court

Course name: Budget Monitoring
Date: 27th June 2018 from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm
Location: Quadrant Court

Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith Forum Programme 2018

June 3rd	1.0-1.00 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: lynneschofield@gmail.com

'I speak music'

Book your place on the 'I Speak Music' networking event now here :

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/i-speak-music-networking-event-tickets-45189843037>

This unique networking event will bring together refugee (and similar) support agencies with music and arts organisations and practitioners to explore shared objectives and potential partnering opportunities in order to increase the life opportunities of vulnerable and 'newly arrived' young people.

There will be live music, guest speakers from national organisations, updates on local opportunities and a networking lunch will be provided!

Admission is free and lunch is provided

7th June from 09:30 to 14:00 at Farnham Maltings, GU9 7QR

For more information contact mona4youthmusic@gmail.com

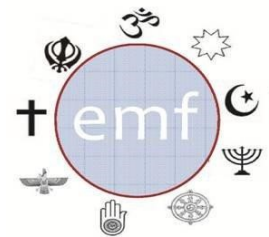
<https://www.surreymusicclub.com/news/new-arts-project-breaking-cult/>

Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum AGM and Conference

"The True Face of Islam" - a talk delivered by Kauser Akhtar, representative of Shah Jahan Mosque, Woking. A myth busting talk followed by a Q&A session.

Tuesday 26th June, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm Start
St Christopher's Church, Claygate Lane, Esher KT10 0AQ

For more information please contact Margaret Hicks: margarethicks2@hotmail.co.uk



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. 3 pm till 5pm

For further information please contact: Carolyn Neogi - 01483 415773 E: CarolynNeogi@aol.com

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.

Contemplating Jerusalem and Galilee

An Interfaith Tour in November 2018

NOVEMBER 9th to 19th 2018 11 ! Days, 10 Nights

Combining interfaith engagement and prayerful encounter with Jews, Christians, Muslims, Baha'is in Israel and Palestine whilst visiting the holy sites of the faiths.

This tour is designed to explore diverse realities of life in this amazing place with opportunities to share in prayer, reflection and worship every day, in different locations. The itinerary is structured for a small group of up to 20 people.

£2,495 per person sharing, £2,695 single. All Inclusive*

British Airways Heathrow daytime flights; en suite, full board, accommodation at internationally acclaimed Tantur Ecumenical Institute, Jerusalem, and the Kibbutz Ein Gev, Galilee; all internal transport, entry fees, guides and tips.

*Travel insurance, a requirement of this tour, is not included.

“This Year In Jerusalem!”

The tour includes Bethlehem, Jewish Jerusalem, Old City, Western Wall; Haram al Sharif, Dome of the Rock, Al Aqsa Mosque; Mount of Olives, Church of the Holy Sepulchre; Galilee and the Gospel sites (including a boat trip); Baah'i Temple & Gardens, Haifa; Masada, Qumran and the Dead Sea.

For more information or a booking form please contact!

Denise Moll on 01932 343614 or denise.newleaf@phonecoop.coop



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