



Surrey Faith Links Newsletter

August 2018



*"Turn yourself not away from three best things: Good Thought, Good Word and Good Deed."
(Zoroaster)*

Not long to go for [International Day of Peace](#) (21st September) and then [Interfaith Week](#) in November—keep a look out for events near you. If you would like some support to organise something with your organisation, please get in touch.

Thank you

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Walk and Talk Pilgrimage

Around 30 friends joined the Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum during the course of the evening on Thursday 19th July. These included friends from the Unitarian, URC, Mormon, Jewish, Guildford and Woking Quakers & Shah Jahan Mosque communities.



The walkers at the Friends' Meeting House

We began at Ladywell Convent, owned by the R.C. Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood since 1956. We had an introductory talk in the Lounge by Sister Marie Grogan who is currently the head of the Order, whose outreach is mainly Africa and the Far East. We visited the beautiful chapel, with its 8,000-piece mosaic transported from Italy, and were taken

Main Faith Festivals in August 2018

- 7—16: Fravardigan (Zoroastrian)
- 17: Nowruz (Zoroastrian)
- 20-24: Hajj (Islam)
- 22/23: Eid ul Adha (Islam)
- 22: Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)
- 26: Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)

to the Shrine of Our Lady of Godalming which stands on the foundations of the Minster which dated from the 7th Century and was excavated in 1869.

One of our guides lived in Africa with our friend Sister Veronica, who passed away two years ago and is buried in the grounds of the Convent.

We then rushed down to the 'Pepperpot', the old Town Hall, for a detailed talk about the history and tenets of the Bahá'í Faith and the community-building activities they are engaged in around the world. The local Bahá'í community is one of several groups who regularly use this historic building opposite the Museum.



Next we visited the Parish Church of St. Peter & St. Paul which has features from Norman & Tudor times and a 14th Century leaded spire, viewing the valuable ancient font and the organ, reputedly one of the finest in Surrey, before adjourning to the nearby Friends' Meeting House for much appreciated refreshments and an interesting talk about their activities and method of worship. We visited their burial ground and were surprised to hear that at one time 20% of the population were Quakers so it was entirely possible that some of us have ancestors there!

As the light was fast-fading on this very hot evening it was sadly agreed that we should not proceed with the 'Historic Godalming' part of our programme in the Jack Phillips Memorial Park and Godalming High Street so we ended the evening outside the new Christian Scientist Church before dispersing into the night.



Unfortunately the building has not been 'signed off' yet but we look forward to holding our November meeting there. And maybe an afternoon walk to visit the places we missed this time.

Carolyn Neogi, Bahai member of the Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum

First Ever Multi Faith Last Post Service at Brookwood Cemetery

The Brookwood cemetery saw it's first ever multi faith Last Post Service in the 70 years that the service has been held there. Woking People of Faith in partnership with the Last Post Association organised a guided tour around the military cemetery followed by the monthly Last Post Service. The service was held on Sunday 5th August to remember those Commonwealth soldiers killed in all wars from across the faith spectrum.



Representatives from the Bahá'í, Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh faiths held a prayer, the poem 'The Crosses' by Bill Mitton was read out, followed by the Last Post and the National Anthem. At the end of the ceremony, Chairman, Kevin Davis and Woking Mayor, Cllr Will Forster inspected the Standards on parade.

Approximately 40 people gathered for the service and were lead to some refreshments after the service. This Multi Faith service will now become an annual event in partnership with Woking People

of Faith. The Brookwood Military Cemetery hold monthly guided tours. More information about the Military Cemetery can be found here:

<https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-cemeteries-and-memorials/44400/brookwood-military-cemetery>

More photos: https://www.facebook.com/pg/Woking-People-of-Faith-827210560709214/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1883880498375543



Hate crime and security

On 22 July Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) published its 2017 Annual Report - <https://tellmamauk.org/tell-mamas-annual-report-for-2017-shows-highest-number-of-anti-muslim-incidents/> - which shows a rise in anti-Muslim incidents since the last reporting period. Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, spoke at the launch of the report the following day.

The Community Security Trust has just published its report on anti-Semitic incidents from January to June 2018. <https://cst.org.uk/data/file/e/5/Incidents%20Report%20January-June%202018.1532518541.pdf> This reports a small fall in the number of incidents compared with the same period in 2017, but notes that it was still the second highest ever-recorded in a 6 month period.

All Party Parliamentary Groups

Recent years have seen an increase in the number of All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) with relevance to inter faith engagement.

There are a number of APPGs about individual faith communities such as: Baha'i Faith; Hindu; Jain; Jewish; Muslim; Sikh; and Zoroastrian, mainly with a British focus. These are often involved in raising the profile of individual faith communities in the UK. This is sometimes done through holding events at the Houses of Parliament to mark festivals, for example the events held by the APPG on Jainism with the Institute of Jainology to mark Mahavir Jayanti. It is also done by holding events on themes, such as those held recently by the APPG on Hindus, with the Hindu Forum of Britain, on 'Dharma, the Individual and Society'.

There are also APPGs which focus on subjects such as: Counter-Extremism; Faith and Society; Hate Crime; Inter-Faith; International Freedom of Religion or Belief; Social Integration; and Religious Education.

The APPG on Inter-Faith, for example has as its purpose "To raise awareness amongst parliamentarians of the religious dimension to current issues." It was with the APPG on Inter-Faith that Inter Faith Network UK held an event in the Houses of Parliament during Inter Faith Week 2016 on 'Sharing local inter faith experience and good practice'.

APPGs are informal cross-party groups run by and for Members of the Commons and Lords, though many choose to involve individuals and organisations from outside Parliament in their administration and activities. <https://www.parliament.uk/about/mps-and-lords/members/apg/>

They do not have an official status and the rules state that groups must be transparent about their nature, membership and funding. In particular, they must avoid presenting themselves in a way which could lead to confusion with Select Committees.

LGA Green Paper on Adult Social Care

The Local Government Association (LGA) has released its own version of a green paper on the future of adult social care and support. The LGA are looking for views from voluntary, community and faith groups as well as councils.

The consultation looks at how to pay for adult social care and support for older people, working age adults with mental or physical disabilities and unpaid carers. The LGA estimates that adult social care services face an annual funding gap of £3.5 billion by 2025.

Years of significant underfunding of councils, alongside rising demand and costs for care and support has pushed adult social care services to breaking point. More and more people are unable to receive good, reliable care, such as help with getting washed and dressed, and funding is increasingly having to be diverted from other vital council services, such as parks, leisure centres and libraries, to plug growing adult social care funding gaps.

Surrey County Council's gross expenditure on Adult Social Care services this year is £500 million and have a target to save £33 million from their budget by 2021. We anticipate demand for social care services to continue increasing. By 2030, over 22% of Surrey residents will be aged 65 and over (compared to 19% this year). Over the same time period, the number of residents aged over 65 who will be living in a care home is predicted to increase by 47%. Surrey already cares for the largest number of people with learning disabilities in the UK (over 3,800) and this number is set to rise.

The LGA's eight-week consultation is open to all members of the public – regardless of whether they are directly affected by or receive adult social care and support – and community groups. The findings will be used to help influence the Government's own green paper and its spending plans.

Organisations are strongly encouraged to contribute to this important piece of work. Your views will help provide evidence to strengthen the case to Government for additional investment and sustainable solution to an important national issue.

The deadline for submissions is 26 September. More information and the consultation can be found here: <https://futureofadultsocialcare.co.uk/>

Faith and Cultural Awareness training for Staff & Volunteers

Do you have staff or volunteers 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.

Please get in touch: Kauser Akhtar, Faith Links Adviser

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Faith & Belief News

- [Graduates of 'Parliamentors' programme address challenges in their communities](#)
- [Westminster: ParliaMentors graduation ceremony](#)
- [BBC NEWS: Religious Education 'vital for diversity'](#)
- [Over 400 people join Oxford's Annual Interfaith Friendship Walk](#)
- [Post-millennial generation 'more tolerant' of Christianity](#)
- [Ground-Breaking Interfaith Event at St Andrews Uni](#)
- [How meditation helped Thai boys stuck in cave](#)
- [Irish Protestant churches push to keep R.E. core primary school subject](#)
- [Oxford's world-leading Hindu research centre turns 20](#)



Truth Project - Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse recently published fifty accounts of child sexual abuse and institutional failure at a wide range of organisations. The experiences were shared with the Inquiry's Truth Project, which has made significant efforts to engage with faith groups.

The publication can be viewed online or downloaded from

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/victims-and-survivors/experiences-shared>, and more information about the Truth Project is available at www.truthproject.org.uk

Vacancies at Catalyst

Catalyst, as part of its partnership delivery of integrated drug and alcohol services with i-access in Surrey, currently has vacancies in the following roles:

Data Analyst – Full-time based in Guildford

Community Drug and Alcohol Workers – full-time based in North West Surrey (Chertsey) and Guildford. Further information including Job Description and application details can be found on:

<https://www.catalystsupport.org.uk/work-for-us/>



Healthwatch Surrey - Communications Officer Vacancy

The Communications Officer is responsible for the external and internal communications and marketing functions for Healthwatch Surrey, proactively seeking opportunities to promote Healthwatch Surrey through a wide range of communications channels. Closing date for application is Tuesday 28th August. All details can also be found on the website at;

<https://www.healthwatchesurrey.co.uk/work-with-us>

Any applications or questions about the role can be directed to email recruitment@healthwatchesurrey.co.uk or contact the office on 01483 572790.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Elmbridge Partnership Fund

A new Partnership Fund has been launched jointly with Elmbridge Borough Council and Elmbridge Community Fund. Funding applications are welcome from organisations supporting isolated, or potentially isolated local people

Organisations can apply for funding to start a new project or to cover existing project costs

The fund is £31,000. One award of up to £10,000 is available, otherwise the maximum amount will be £5,000, although smaller applications are also welcome

Applications must be received by noon on 31 October 2018

They are particularly keen to receive applications from small organisations or community groups

If you are thinking of applying and need support, Central Surrey Voluntary Action will be happy to help you

You can contact them on 01372 463587 or contact@vae.org.uk

Please click on the link below for more information

<https://www.waltoncharity.org.uk/partnership-fund-2018>

or go straight to the Council's website to download the guidelines and application forms

<http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/css/voluntary-sector-funding/>

Building a Stronger Britain Together programme

The Home Office programme closed its latest call for grants on 16 February. However, the programme is continuing to offer in-kind support such as social media training, technical assistance to help a group improve their website, or capacity building work to help a group protect more vulnerable individuals. Applications for in-kind support can be submitted at any time.

For more information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/building-a-stronger-britain-together>

Supermarket grant schemes

Bags of Help is Tesco's local community grant scheme where the money raised from the 5p bag levy in Tesco stores is being used to fund community projects across the UK

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/tescocommunityscheme/pages/Category/the-tesco-bags-of-help-programme-tes2>

Waitrose supports charities through its Community Matters scheme

<http://www.waitrose.com/branches/index.aspx>.

Sainsbury's stores partner with a Local Charity of the Year voted on by the local people. More information

<https://www.sainsburyslocalcharity.co.uk/>.

The Asda Foundation offers grants for local community projects which will "make a real long term difference, benefitting the wider community with [its] vision to 'Transform Communities, improving lives locally.'" Further details: www.asdafoundation.org/applying-for-funding/significant-local-community-projects.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Southern Region Order of Franciscans Secular
Welcome ALL those with a `Franciscan Heart` are warmly invited to a Celebration

Loving God`s Creation

Invited Speakers: Dr Martin & Rev Margot Hodson
Climate Change: A Christian Response
at Holly Barn, Wintershall Estate, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey GU5 0LR
Saturday August 11th 2018, 10.30 am - 4.00 pm

Please let us know if you are able to join us in this celebration and for directions to Holly Barn.
Bring a packed lunch. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided.

Contact: Jennie McManus E: sjenniemcmanus@gmail.com Telephone: 01483 203642

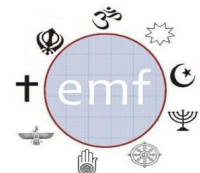
ELMBRIDGE MULTI FAITH FORUM PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

- ◆ Visit to West London Synagogue Date TBC
- ◆ 'Faith has no place in Modern Society', Hindu, Christian, Muslim and Humanist speakers share their views on the topic, Tuesday 13th November, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start at Sacred Heart Church, Cobham.
- ◆ Visit to Westminster Cathedral (date to be confirmed, either 12th or 19th March 2019)
- ◆ Refugees: Support and Welcome. Tuesday 30th April 2019, venue TBC.
- ◆ EMF AGM on Tuesday 25th June 2019

For more information please email, Margaret Hicks, Chair: margarethicks2@hotmail.co.uk
or

Secretary: Kausar.Akhtar@cofefeguildford.org.uk

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



Free Training Courses for VCFS

Surrey County Council have the following training courses on offer at no cost for the voluntary, community and faith sector:-

How to Visualise Data Using Infographics

When: Friday 14th September 2018

Where: County Hall, Kingston Upon Thames

Time: 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

Emergency First Aid at Work

When: Friday 21st September 2018

Where: Consort House, Redhill

Time: 9.30 am to 5.00 pm

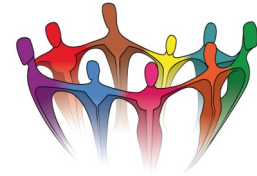
The Surrey Skills Academy site has a list giving the [course details](#), however, if the course is not listed please call 0208 541 7213. Please request for the application form, which needs to be completed and sent back to the Surrey Skills Academy email surreyskillsacademy@surreycc.gov.uk.

Woking People of Faith Events 2018

Annual Peace Day event: Saturday 22nd September, 12.00 pm—1.00 pm, Mercia Walk. Woking. School children who participated in the Peace Day competition will be awarded their prizes by the Mayor of Woking, there will be entertainment, henna, face painting, readings of peace from faith leaders and much more. This is a free public event for all.

Interfaith week event “Who do you think we are?": 10th November, venue TBC.

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



Woking People of Faith

EPSOM AND EWELL INTER FAITH FORUM PROGRAMME

- September 26th** - 7.30 p.m. Succot related event at Wimbledon Synagogue, 1, Queensmere Road, Wimbledon, SW19 5QD. Meet with Mike Freedman.
- October 7th** - 3.00 p.m. Mental health week inter faith panel, St Barnabas Church, Epsom.
- October 21st** - 3.00 p.m. Interfaith gathering to pray for peace, Clayhill Green, Epsom with tea afterwards.
- December 16th** - 6.00 p.m. visit to St Martin’s Church, Epsom, for Nine Lessons and Carols followed by refreshments.

Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith Forum exists to increase understanding and good relationships between people of faith in our area. We also hope to work together in a spirit of service to the community in Epsom and Ewell. There is a varied programme of activities, meetings and visits each year.



For more information please contact Lynne Schofield, Secretary, Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith Forum:
lynneschofield@gmail.com

Get Outdoors and Explore This Summer

There’s lots of information available to help residents make of the most of the summer by getting outdoors and exploring Surrey’s countryside:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/countryside>

You can find out more about the countryside by visiting the Explore Surrey website.

Or try the iFootpath walking app for a great collection of walks on your doorstep:

<https://www.ifootpath.com/walk-collections/explore-surrey-collection>



**South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS
Foundation Trust Annual Members
Meeting & Open Day (AMM)**

South East Coast Ambulance Service 
NHS Foundation Trust

Learn more about your local NHS ambulance service at this free event on
Friday 14th September, Lingfield Park Resort & Racecourse, Surrey, RH7 6PQ.

- 13:30 Exhibition opens
- 14:30 - 16:30 Annual Members Meeting

The SECAS have been working hard to make improvements to services and would love to tell you about progress so far at this event. However, we know that communication is very much a two-way street! Therefore, YOU will have the opportunity to ask the Chief Exec and his colleagues questions in the popular Q&A session. It is free to attend and open to all so please register your attendance today by completing our online form:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SECAMBAMM2018>



RSVP: Phone the Membership Office on 0300 123 9180 to book your place, or book online at - www.secamb.nhs.uk

Title: Witches in history and today

Tuesday 11th September, 7.30pm

Speaker: Deborah Hyde

Deborah Hyde has written and lectured extensively about superstition, paranormal beliefs, mythical monsters, folklore and psychology. Her varied interests include witch-hunting and exorcisms in parts of Africa. She has always been fascinated by “dark stuff” and the macabre. For this she blames “having spent too much time with mad aunties”. She will talk about witchcraft, including child witches and witchcraft laws, in this country and elsewhere. In her day job Deborah is a make-up effects co-ordinator in the film industry, and has contributed to many films including Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s stone.

Title: Artificial Intelligence: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Tuesday 9th October, 7.30pm

Speaker: Professor Paul Krause

Professor Krause is Director of Research in the Department of Computer Science, University of Surrey. He graduated in Pure Mathematics and Experimental Physics at Exeter University in 1977. His talk will focus on the interface between computer systems and human society. He believes that computer systems and AI (Artificial Intelligence) can help our understanding of many of society’s problems, but that the challenges are considerable.

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

Tea/coffee and biscuits break at about 8.40

There is no charge for the talks, but a small donation is requested to cover expenses (but not from students).

If anyone would like further information, please telephone David Simmonds (01483 800397) or Mike Adams (01483 233324). We are also on Meetup, Facebook and Twitter



INTRODUCTION TO MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN SPIRITUAL & PASTORAL CARE

A 10 week Programme exploring Mental Health issues within Spiritual & Pastoral Care

GUILDFORD COURSE VENUE & DATES

Venue: Education Centre, Farnham Road Hospital, GU2 7LX

Time: 6:30 for 6.45 – 9.00 pm

Wednesday evenings, September 12th — November 28th 2018

(no training on 24th and 31st October 2018)

The venue is fully accessible.

AIM:

To equip participants with the relevant skills, knowledge and awareness of mental health issues to be able to provide appropriate pastoral care within a community/faith setting and/or to support people who are under the care of Surrey & Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

PROGRAMME CONTENT:

- Pastoral psychology
- Religion and mental health
- Pastoral skills workshop
- A Mental Health Field Project; each participant undertakes to research mental health issues within their church, community or faith setting.

For more information or to register please email:

Richard.adams@sabp.nhs.uk

Surrey and Borders Partnership 
NHS Foundation Trust

"How do we find meaning, purpose and hope in changing times? "

Epsom Mental Health & Well Being Festival (formerly Epsom Mental Health Week) has been going for ten years and is organised by Love Me Love My Mind, a local registered charity. For several years now, an event in the programme has been an inter faith panel discussion, attracting 30 to 50 people.

This year's Inter Faith Panel Discussion will take place on 7th October, 3pm to 4.15pm at St. Barnabas Church, Temple Road, Epsom.



For more information: <http://www.lovemelovemymind.org.uk/epsom-mental-health-week/>