



# Surrey Faith Links Newsletter

October 2018

***“Kindness is a mark of faith, and whoever is not kind has no faith.”***  
**(Prophet Muhammad, pbuh)**

Interfaith Week is nearly upon us and the Interfaith Forums across Surrey have been busy organising events, please see page 7 onwards for events near you including, ‘Who do we think we are?’, ‘Peace Celebration’ and “Building Bridges not Walls”

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### Woking Celebrate Peace

Woking primary school children publicly displayed their peace posters and essays on Saturday, 22nd September at Mercia Walk, in Woking People of Faith’s (WPOF) 6th annual International Day of Peace prize-giving.



The audience comprised children, family, friends and staff of The Marist, Westfield, Barnsbury, St Mary’s CofE, Byfleet and New Monument primary schools and also secondary school students attending the Shah Jahan Mosque. About 60 people were in attendance, approximately 20 of whom were school

children. The general public were also able to listen to and watch the ceremony. The Mayor of Woking, Councillor Will Forster, accompanied by the Mayoress, Hannah Thompson, presented the prizes to children for their work on the British Value they thought would contribute most to world peace. Councillor Forster spoke

### Main Faith Festivals in October 2018

- 1st: Jashn-e-Mehergan (Zoroastrian)
- 2nd: Simchat Torah (Jewish)
- 2nd: Gandhi Jayanti (Hindu)
- 9-17th: Navarati (Hindu)
- 20th: Conferring of Guruship on Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh)
- 24th: Pavarana Day (Buddhist)

about it being the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and how important it is to have children working on projects that help them think about this. He commended the work done by WPOF.

The children's work was on display for all to see and there was henna and face painting using peace symbols for those who were interested. Peace Action were present to give information on how individuals can build peace in their local community.

The event put WPOF's aims into action by having religious scriptures (Hindu, Baha'i, Buddhist, Jewish and Muslim) read by members of different world religions in Woking, including Imam Hashmi from the Shah Jahan Mosque.

Songs for peace were performed by the URC Choir, a young female Muslim and a universal Baha'i song was performed and acted with the assistance of all in attendance.

The event was very positive and those in attendance gave a lot of enthusiastic feedback.

Simon Trick, Chair, Woking People of Faith



### Reset Communities and Refugees

Reset Communities and Refugees is a new, national charity, funded by the Home Office and philanthropic foundations in order to promote and grow community sponsorship in the UK.

Community sponsorship provides a practical way for groups to support refugees affected by the Syrian crisis to build a new life in the UK. Through community sponsorship, groups come together to welcome families into their local area and support them to find housing, jobs, English lessons, schools and doctors. Communities also offer friendship and advice – whether it is helping the children with their homework or explaining some of the idiosyncrasies of British culture. Communities empower refugees to become self-sufficient as they settle into their new lives. Faith groups are often among those acting as community sponsors.

Further information can be found at <http://www.resetuk.org.uk> and in the video at <https://youtu.be/85DRSackFn4>.

### Multi Faith Service For Chairman of Mole Valley District Council



Chairman Raj Haque decided that a Multi Faith Service was the ideal form of Civic Ceremony to officially recognise his year in office, which the Mole Valley District Council team delivered in real style to the delight of the many faith leaders, civic dignitaries and community members present.

Raj and Nasima invited Imam Joynal Ahmed (Epsom & Ewell Islamic Society); Martin O'Donovan (Chairman of Ashted Churches Together); Rabbi Kath Vardi (North West Surrey Synagogue); David Savage (Humanists UK) and Meeta Joshi (Hindu Chaplain, University of Surrey) to speak, and all delivered consistent messages of unity. The Imam captured the spirit of the occasion perfectly by identifying the word PEACE (Positivity; Empathy; Appreciation; Communication; Equality) as the means to administer fair justice for all members of our community. A powerful thought indeed!

Nishi Joshi delivered an exquisite dance performance to round off the perfect ceremony

## Do you look after or support someone else at home?

If you do, it is really important that you know about resources, help and support that may be available to you.

When looking after someone else, you want to do the best for them, and you also know just how much time the caring role requires. Within the family there are bonds of love and relation that mean we can find ourselves in several roles at once. We can be a wife and a carer, a daughter/son and a carer. We may even find ourselves looking after our own spouse and children and elderly relatives as well! Often we do what we do because the person we look after is our husband/wife, or a parent, and we see what we do as only what a spouse or son/daughter would do.

It's important for our own wellbeing to recognise we are in more than one role. This matters because it helps us to see that a good relationship can be better maintained if we know our caring role is linked to, but not the same as, our role as a spouse, parent or child. This means we give ourselves permission to receive help and support with our caring responsibilities, but that this in no way compromises or diminishes our role and relationships within our families. Indeed, by enabling better care, we enhance the lives of our loved ones, and can find more time to be a good spouse, daughter, or son.

It's a fact that people from ethnic minorities provide more care than average. They face additional difficulties as they care, struggling with language barriers, accessing culturally appropriate services, -and with stereotyping around caring. This puts them at greater risk of ill health, poverty, loss of employment and social exclusion. So knowing what help is available, and where it can be found, really matters.

Sometimes equipment such as a mattress to avoid bed sores, or handrails around the home can make daily life easier and better for everyone. At other times, just feeling you can have a couple of hours to yourself can be just what's needed. These, and many other ways of support are all available to those with caring responsibilities at home.

If you are looking after someone who has physical or mental health problems or is disabled, find out what is available to you. There is a full range of help and support, including help through benefits, equipment, respite care, emotional support, and professional care-worker support.

On the 29th November there is a special event to help those from our ethnic minorities to get better information and help about what's available to them. The event is chaired by Fatima-Khan-Shah, a National Patient Public and Carers Champion, and will include presentations on Carers Support & Services available in Surrey. The event includes lunch. Please see below for more details.

Building a Surrey Carers Service for Everyone

### Black, Asian and minority ethnic Communities Carers Engagement Event

10am - 2pm, 29 November 2018, Leatherhead Leisure Centre, Leatherhead

Free Parking Permits will be issued in advance to registered participants. Refreshments and lunch will be available at the event. To register and book your place Phone: 0303 040 1234, or Text: 07714075993, or Email: [carersupport@actionforcarers.org.uk](mailto:carersupport@actionforcarers.org.uk)



**Chair – Fatima Khan-Shah \* Information Stalls \* Presentations from Care Service Providers \* Giving Carers a Voice \* Films & Websites \* Round Table Consultations \* Networking \* Lunch & Refreshments**



### Final report of the Commission on Religious Education

On 9 September the Commission on Religious Education published its final report: Religion and Worldviews: the way forward. A national plan for RE.

The final report makes 11 recommendations, which include changing the name of the subject RE to 'Religion and Worldviews'. It sets out a 'national entitlement' for RE that would apply to all state funded schools. It calls for a special body to be formed by the Government to write programmes of study for Religion and Worldviews based on the 'national entitlement' which would act in a similar way to the National Curriculum for other subjects.

The full report and the executive summary can be found at: <https://www.commissiononre.org.uk/final-report-religion-and-worldviews-the-way-forward-a-national-plan-for-re/> where there is also a short video explaining why the Commission believes there is the need for change.

The Commission has now ended its work. Any queries or comments about the report can be sent to the RE Council of England and Wales using the email address: [enquiries@commissiononre.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@commissiononre.org.uk)

### Have your say: Religious leaders are asked to tackle extremism

The Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper, published in March 2018, lays out the Government's commitment to supporting the training of faith leaders to strengthen ministering in the British context.

The ideal outcome is that places of worship have well-qualified, informed and confident faith leaders, who are outward-looking, involve all parts of the community (especially women and young people), and are capable of resisting, and helping their congregations to resist, intolerant or extremist arguments. They ask faith institutions to address this question, but look to help and ensure that suitable training is available to religious ministers to ensure they understand their rights and responsibilities, including relevant aspects of the British legal system, to help support confident ministering in the British context.

In light of the Government's commitments around supporting training for faith leaders, your thoughts would be much appreciated. Click here to [complete Survey](#).

### Faith and Cultural Awareness training for Staff & Volunteers

It has become evident in today's increasingly multicultural society that constructing and developing relations between people of all faiths and none is important for work life as well as social cohesion.

Employers should have a basic level of knowledge of different faiths to get a better understanding of staff/customer needs and requirements.

It is also good for staff to have some level of knowledge and awareness of faiths and cultures for a better experience with the people they work with.

The training delivered by Surrey Faith Links aims to equip individuals with the basic knowledge of different faiths beliefs and practices as well as cultural customs and traditions, which may have an impact on their work and help them have a better understanding.

The people delivering the training are volunteers who practice their faith.

Please get in touch: Kauser Akhtar, Faith Links Adviser

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## Armistice100

Remembrance Sunday is marked from the smallest villages to the largest cities. Hundreds of thousands of people participate in services and other events commemorating the contribution of British and Commonwealth military servicemen and women and non-combatants in the two World Wars and later conflicts. People from all faith backgrounds and none took part in these conflicts.

Remembrance Sunday falls on the second Sunday in November, the one nearest to 11 November which is Armistice Day, the anniversary of the end of World War I at 11 am in 1918. A two minute silence is held at that time.

The march past the cenotaph in Whitehall, London on Remembrance Sunday is a major focus of the day, with the 'march past' of British and Commonwealth former military and civilian service personnel and wreath laying.

Because 11 November 2018 marks the Centenary of the end of World War 1 there will this year be many special additional activities for Remembrance Sunday and the period leading up to that. Among these will be a 'People's march' past the Cenotaph and special bell ringing. More about these and other events and activities can be found at: <https://armistice100.org/>.



## Hate Crime

There have continued to be reports of hate crimes linked to religious identity, affecting both individuals and places of worship.

On 28 August there was a petrol bomb attack on a Sikh Gurdwara in Leith, Edinburgh. Government and Interfaith Scotland responses to this can be seen at

<https://twitter.com/JBrokenshire/status/1034554562634555393> and

<https://www.facebook.com/interfaithscotland>. There was a strong cross-community response. A suspect has been arrested for that attack, as well as for an attack earlier that day on a Methodist church nearby.

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/news/2018/august/man-charged-following-fires-at-sikh-temple-and-methodist-church>

On 19 September, just before Ashura, three people were injured after a car ploughed into a crowd outside the Al-Majlis Al-Hussaini mosque on Edgware Road in North London, in an incident that is being treated as a hate crime.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/sep/19/brent-mosque-london-three-injured-in-hit-and-run>.

There was also in this instance strong cross-community support including visits from members of two local synagogues even though it was Yom Kippur.

<https://jewishnews.timesofisrael.com/jewish-communities-visit-muslim-neighbours-on-yom-kippur-after-mosque-attack/>

The National No2H8 Crime Awards 2018 took place in London on 13 September. The Awards are made by a coalition of partners including Tell MAMA, the Community Security Trust, GALOP, Stonewall and the 'No to Hate Crime' campaign. The Awards "honour those individuals and organisations who stand against hatred, prejudice and intolerance." Further information is at <https://no2h8crimeawards.org/>.

National Hate Crime Awareness Week will be taking place this year from Saturday 13 to Saturday 20 October. Further information is at <https://nationalhcaw.uk/>.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Tampon Tax Community Fund

UK Community Foundations is working in partnership with Community Foundation members to deliver the Tampon Tax Community Fund. Grants of between £5,000 and £10,000 will be offered to successful applicants.

The Tampon Tax Fund allocates funds generated from the VAT on sanitary products to projects that improve the lives of disadvantaged women and girls. Organisations that will be funded will aim at targeting vulnerable women who experience various difficulties such as low confidence, mental health issues, homelessness and teenage pregnancy.

For more information visit [www.ukcommunityfoundations.org](http://www.ukcommunityfoundations.org)

### Funding for Caring for Older Carers in the UK

Bupa UK Foundation is accepting applications to its 2018 programme.

The theme of the 2018 funding programme is 'Caring for our Carers'. This theme was selected in recognition of the fact that 'carers make a vital, hidden contribution to the health and wellbeing of the nation, yet they can often feel socially isolated, lacking support and a sense of community' and 'many carers report that caring has taken a toll on their own health'.

Not-for-profit organisations whose work in the UK focuses on supporting and improving the health and wellbeing of older carers can apply for grants of up to £20,000.

For more information: <https://www.bupaukfoundation.org/>

### Rosa – Now's The Time fund

Rosa want to amplify the voices of all the individuals and groups who are calling for an end to sexual harassment and abuse, in their workplaces and in their communities. In their Now's The Time programme, up to £1 million will be awarded through a Challenge Fund which asks: "What would you do toward ending sexual harassment?"

They want to support:

- Prevention work (including education and other initiatives)
- Awareness-raising activities
- Grass-roots activism
- Influencing
- Work with groups and communities who might face additional barriers to getting their voices heard, or might be at higher risk of sexual harassment and abuse, to amplify those voices
- Work that tries out new ideas
- Innovative uses of tech/arts/sports/etc.
- Work that replicates tried and tested approaches in new settings
- Work that others can learn from

Large grants, of £25,000 to £100,000, are currently available.

The closing date for applications is Friday 14th December 2018 at 5pm. They advise you to participate in one of their webinars on Monday 15th October: 10.30am – 11.30am and Wednesday 14th November: 2pm – 3pm before you apply. For more information visit [www.rosauk.org](http://www.rosauk.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith Forum Autumn Events**

**Gathering to pray for peace: Sunday 21st October, 3.00 pm at Clayhill Green, just off West Hill, in Epsom – the B280**

A simple order of service, with readings and prayers from different religious traditions, and it lasts about 30 minutes. Refreshments at Christ Church after the service (a few minutes' walk along West Hill, out of Epsom). There is some parking on the Green and a car park at Christ Church. Please come along, no registration required.



'Nine Lessons and Carols' Sunday 16th December at 6.00 p.m. at St Martin's Church, Epsom  
There will be readings from the Old and New Testament, carols sung by the choir, and congregational carols. After the service, we are invited to stay for refreshments and conversation

For more information, please contact Lynne Schofield: [lynneschofield@gmail.com](mailto:lynneschofield@gmail.com)

**ENGAGING WITH INTOLERANCE...**

You are invited to South East England Faith Forum's 2018 Annual Conference

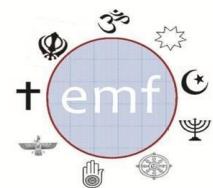
From Prevent to Apostasy to Honour Killing or LGBT. If you wish to know more and discuss about intolerance of all sorts, South East England Faith Forum's Annual Conference may be the place.

To register to this all day conference at the Newbold College on 25th October, click on the link <https://tinyurl.com/yczasrok>

**ELMBRIDGE MULTI FAITH FORUM EVENTS**

◆ **Visit to Westminster Cathedral:**

Tuesday 6th November, 9.00 am (Coach leaves from Thames Ditton Centre, Mercer Close, Thames Ditton, KT7 OBS and returns at 4.00 pm). £15 per person, to book a place please contact Geoff Morris, E: [geoffreymorris@emas-bc.co.uk](mailto:geoffreymorris@emas-bc.co.uk), T: 01932 868454



◆ **'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, 25 Between Streets, Cobham KT11 1AA.

◆ **Refugees: Support and Welcome.** Tuesday 30th April 2019, venue TBC.

◆ **EMF AGM** on Tuesday 25th June 2019

For more information please email:

Secretary: [Kausar.Akhtar@cofefeguildford.org.uk](mailto:Kausar.Akhtar@cofefeguildford.org.uk)

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

### Volunteer training courses

#### Retaining and Motivating Volunteers

Thursday 25th October - 9.30 am until 1.00 pm

Voluntary Support North Surrey Runnymede office, 6, The Sainsbury Centre, Chertsey KT16 9AG

This workshop is aimed at voluntary organisations who want to establish good practices to help retain and motivate the volunteers that they have.

#### Volunteering and the Law

Thursday 15th November - 10 am until 1 pm

Camberley Library, Knoll Road, Camberley GU15 3SY

This workshop will provide an opportunity to learn about or refresh your knowledge on volunteering and the law.

Spaces are limited so please call 01784 465536 or email [alison@voluntarysupport.org.uk](mailto:alison@voluntarysupport.org.uk) to reserve your place.

#### Title: "Talk yourself better: A confused person's guide to therapy, counselling and self help"

Tuesday 13th November, 7.30pm

Speaker: Ariane Sherine.

Ariane is a comedy writer and journalist. After recovering from a major nervous breakdown in 2010 Ariane began work on her book "Talk Yourself Better", featuring interviews with Stephen Fry, Charlie Brooker, David Baddiel and many more, and is described as a "super accessible guide" (Derren Brown) and "Brilliant – makes a baffling world comprehensible" (Jeremy Vine). Come along and hear Ariane's story.

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



### An evening on Judaism

The Church of the Good Shepherd in Pyrford ( Coldharbour Rd, Woking GU22 8SP) has kindly invited Philip Goldenberg (Deputy Chair of Woking People of Faith) to lead a discussion on Judaism at 6.30 pm on Sunday 18 November 2018. All welcome.

### Understanding Islam (The Basics)

Tuesday 20 November 2018 ~ at Guildhall, High Street, Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames KT1 1EU Surrey.. 09:30 to 16:30 Hours (9:30AM to 4:30PM) . For further information please contact Diana Mills,

E: [dianamills@phoncoop.coop](mailto:dianamills@phoncoop.coop) | Phone: 020 8948 3276 or 078 0486 6349 .



## Surrey Heath Faith Forum Interfaith Week Event

Saturday 17th November  
2.00 pm - 4.00 pm  
West End Parish Council  
The Pavilion, Benner Ln, West End, Woking GU24 9JP



School children have taken part in a 'Peace Competition: What does peace look like to you?' Winners will be awarded their prizes by the Mayor of Surrey Heath, Councillor Dan Adams and Surrey Heath Area Dean, Revd Jonathan Hillman

Entertainment: songs of peace from different faith groups  
Faith leaders speak about peace

Henna | Face Painting | World Foods | Free Event | All Welcome

For more information please contact Jayne Boitoult  
E: [Jayne.Boitoult@surreyheath.gov.uk](mailto:Jayne.Boitoult@surreyheath.gov.uk)



[www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)

## Interfaith Week Service

Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum invite you to their annual interfaith service:

### "Bridges not Borders"

Sunday 18th November, 4.00 pm at St. Nicolas Church.

This year the service will be held in the Church itself rather than the Community Centre which is being refurbished, which affords the opportunity to look around this lovely old building.

Refreshments will be provided after the service. No need to register, just turn up and bring friends.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Neogi:

E: [carolynneogi@aol.com](mailto:carolynneogi@aol.com) | T: 01483 415773



## Woking People of Faith Events 2018

Interfaith week event **"Who do you think we are?"**

When people look into their family's past, they often get surprises.

We invite you to a discussion of discovery about our personal journeys to Woking.

Come and chat over afternoon tea

Saturday 24th November, 2.00 pm—4.00 pm, Parkview Community Centre, Blackmore Crescent, Sheerwater, Woking GU21 5NZ.

Woking People of Faith are looking for volunteers to help with events for 2019, if you are interested, please get in touch.

For more information please contact Kerry Barry: [administrator@wpof.org.uk](mailto:administrator@wpof.org.uk)  
[www.wpof.org.uk](http://www.wpof.org.uk)



Woking People of Faith

### 'The March of the Women' Project Community Day

Sat 24th November 2018, 10am-4pm, at Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6ND

This exciting day celebrating Surrey's suffrage connections will include:

#### Talks

- Dr Elizabeth Crawford - Suffrage Art and Artists
- Kathy Atherton - The Money behind the Militant Movement: Emmeline and Fred Pethick Lawrence
- Tessa Boase - Mrs Lemon, the 'Dragon' of Redhill: saviour of the birds & anti-suffrage champion
- Carol Brown - Noeline Baker and the suffrage campaign in Guildford
- Surrey Heritage - 'The March of the Women' project discoveries

#### Drama

- LynchPin Theatre - providing Suffrage drama with an extract from their witty new play When the Cat's Away
- Surrey Heritage's 'The March of the Women' school's radio podcast

Plus Suffrage selfies, displays and author book sales (cash and cheques only please, no card payments).

Tea and coffee will be provided throughout the day but please make your own lunch arrangements.

Tickets are free but must be booked in advance.

Visit the website for the full programme and book tickets at:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/history-centre/events>

### ST DUNSTAN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday, 24th November 2018 , 12:30pm to 2:30pm

Shaftesbury Road, Woking, GU22 7DT

In support of MIND, Woking , Surrey Young Carers , Riding for the Disabled Association (LDA)

Tuesday, 12th February at 7.30pm

Title **What is humanism and what do humanists believe?**

Speaker Andrew Copson

Is humanism a life style, a belief system, an alternative to religion, a philosophy? All or none of these? Andrew has been Chief Executive of Humanists UK for 9 years, and is also president of the International Humanist Ethical Union. He has written and spoken a great deal on the subject, including on radio and television. He is always interesting and eloquent, and speaks with clarity. He will bring signed copies of his recent book.

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

Tea/coffee and biscuits break at about 8.40



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Diocese of  
**Guildford**   
TRANSFORMING CHURCH  
TRANSFORMING LIVES  
Communities Engagement