



“One of the biggest challenges for people involved in interfaith dialogue is to break down the stereotypes of the "other" that exist within their own religious traditions and groups. Religious groups need to first acknowledge and confess their own role in fostering and contributing to injustice and conflict. (by Cilliers, Ch. 3, p. 49)”

(David R. Smock, Interfaith Dialogue and Peacebuilding)

Interfaith week is upon us! We have already had one event in Elmbridge, which will be reported in the next newsletter along with all the Interfaith week events. If you are organising anything please get in touch.

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Inside this issue:

Refugee Support	2
Peaceful Schools UK	3
Camberley Multi Faith Peace Vigil	4
Faith & Cultural Awareness Training	4
Woking Debate: Brexit	5
Peace Award 2018	5
Funding Opportunities	6
Upcoming Events	7

Engaging with Tolerance



Approximately 50 people attended the South East England faiths Forum annual conference and AGM on the 25th October at Newbold College in Binfield.

Abu Ahmed from the Home Office, Head of Communications and Engagement for Prevent spoke about the various forms of extremism

which are prevalent in the UK and abroad. He talked about the Prevent strategy and said the Government need to build trust with the various communities in the UK.

Naheem Bashir, Prevent Coordinator for Slough Borough Council said there was a need for dialogue and pathways forward. The prevent strategy has changed and looks at all forms of extremism and there is a perception of the strategy which is not reality, so this needs addressing.

Main Faith Festivals in November 2018

- 7: Divali (Sikh)
- 7 to 11: Divali (Hindu/Jain)
- 9: Birth of Bab (Baha'i)
- 10: Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
- 20: Birth of Prophet Muhammad (Muslim)
- 23: Loy Krathong (Buddhist)
- 23: Birth of Guru Nanak (Sikh)
- 24: Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh)

Rabbi Jonathan from the Maidenhead Synagogue said things have changed from the past 20 years, there are a lot more mixed marriages for example, sports stars like Mo Salah have emerged and people of all faiths and none are among his fans. Rabbi Jonathan talked about intolerance from both other faiths and within faiths. He said the home is the place that can nourish and poison children and single faith schools don't allow children as well as parents to mix and have open communication.

Hari Parekh spoke about his experience as an apostate (formerly Hindu, now Humanist) and the intolerance people can be faced with if they choose to leave their faith.

Sarbjit Athwal from True Honour spoke about the horrific ordeal she went through when her sister in law was murdered for 'honour', how the police responded and although new law has come into force, there is still a need for creating awareness around the issue of honour based violence.

Alison Webster, author of 'Found out—Transgressive faith and sexuality' spoke about the intolerances faced by homosexuals. She said religions should honour the individuals experience and not violate the individual by not allowing them to be who they want to be. She said faith communities have denied who we are and failed us.

The conference was ably chaired by Mrs Margaret Lenton, former Head Teacher, Magistrate and former Mayoress of Windsor and Maidenhead.

For more information about SEEFF, please visit: <http://se-faithforum.net/>



Refugee Support



The Communities Engagement Team (CET) from the Diocese of Guildford organised a Refugee conference to learn from the experiences and testimonies of various people nationally and in Surrey. Approximately 100 people attended the conference at St saviours Church in Guildford on Monday 5th November.

Speakers included Maurice Wren, CEO of Refugee Council who gave a national overview, Sarah Black from Guildford Borough Council, who gave a local overview: involvement in the Syrian resettlement programme, Bekele Woyecha from Citizens UK who spoke about Community Sponsorship, Maggie Hamilton from St Bartholomew's

Church, Haslemere who gave a parish experience, Gill Cox, a volunteer who is supporting some refugee families with learning English and Jonathan Cullen who shared a detainee's Tale from Refugee Tales. A video clip of testimonies from young refugees was played during the conference, which gave insight to the sensitivities, challenges and hopes of young refugees.

Jo Cookes, Director of CET said 'the event involved a breadth of experience and expertise being shared; and there was a real buzz in the room. It was a great opportunity for us all to come together to celebrate what has been achieved but also to acknowledge all that is still to be done to welcome and support refugees and

asylum seekers to resettle here in Surrey and the rest of the UK. To hear from those working nationally through to those supporting refugees on a 1:1 basis, as well as hearing the voice of those who are not often heard was incredibly powerful and thought provoking.'

Jo Cookes, concluded with some steps that should be taken following the conference, which included:

- Houses are in short supply in this area and refugees can only be received if we can find privately owned and managed houses. It would be good to raise awareness of this. If you are aware of any houses, or of people who may have houses, please get in touch with diane.peters@cofeildford.org.uk
- There is a real need for foster carers in Surrey for those young people who arrive in this country on their own, but also for children living in our communities. For more information, please see: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/fostering-and-adoption/fostering>
- If as a community you are passionate about community sponsorship of a refugee, please find more information here: <http://www.sponsorrefugees.org/>
- If you are interested in volunteering to help support refugees, please contact: diane.peters@cofeildford.org.uk
- If lobbying is your thing, please think about campaigning to end indefinite detention and to enable families reunion. Amnesty and Refugee Tales are campaigning to end indefinite detention. See <http://refugeetales.org/> and in particular the '28 tales for 28 days'.
- The poem excerpts read by Maggie Hamilton were from Home by Warsan Shire.



Peaceful Schools UK

The Peaceful Schools Movement in the UK is a network of schools and organisations steered by the Peaceful Schools Strategy Group.

We have developed the concept of a 'Peaceful School' which has four, inter-connected levels of peace:

- ⇒ Inner peace for the individual pupil/student and members of staff;
- ⇒ Peaceful relationships and constructive resolution of conflicts;
- ⇒ Peaceful school ethos and environment (indoors and outdoors);
- ⇒ Peacemaking within the wider community/world!

We support and work in partnership with schools and many peace-promoting organisations including 'Peace One Day', Values-Based Education/Living Values, the Peace Mala Project, the Peace Education Network, the Peer Mediation Network, Peacemakers (WMQPEP), Mind with Heart, A Quiet Place and many others

Our aim is that schools should become peaceful learning environments. We support schools and the peace-promoting organisations that work with them.

Our Peaceful Schools Awards scheme celebrates the important role that schools play in equipping children and young people with the skills they need to live peaceful lives and to be peacemakers in their families, communities and the world!

To contact the Peaceful Schools Strategy Group email the Peaceful Schools Coordinator, Anna Lubelska - anna@peacefulschools.org.uk | by post: Peaceful Schools, Witch Hazel Cottage, Linden Road, Headley Down, Hampshire GU35 8EN | Phone: Tel: 01428 717090 | <https://www.peacefulschools.org.uk/>

Camberley holds Multi-Faith Peace Vigil

On Saturday afternoon a group of Camberley's community gathered in response to the recent terror attack at the synagogue in Pittsburgh, USA, in which eleven people lost their lives. They were joined by passers-by interested in their message of peace and hope for a better future.

The vigil, organised by Surrey Heath Faith Forum, which took place on 10th November on Park Street Camberley, demonstrated their solidarity in condemning terrorism, and in offering an opportunity to remember those who had died. It also gave thanks for those who responded so quickly to the needs of the victims, and highlighted the importance of community cohesion in the wake of the attacks.

Members of each of five faith traditions spoke words of peace.

Sending out a strong message of public unity, Revd Susan Bolen of St Peter's Church Frimley read a statement of peace written by Surrey Heath Faith Forum. It included the following:

"We stand together today as residents of Surrey Heath and members of this community, having been deeply affected and saddened by the horrific act of violence that took place at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, USA."

"Despite our differences we are one humanity and each of us desires to live in a world which knows peace, hope and love."

At the end of the ceremony Ray Wicksman added: "Today we have stood up for peace and unity. Now we leave with a shared determination to live this out in our own lives."

For more information about the Surrey Heath Faith Forum please contact Jayne Boitoult

E: jayne.boitoult@surreyheath.gov.uk



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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Woking Debate: Brexit

Brexit: Have your say was the title of the Woking debate held on Saturday 10 November. On the day after the other Johnson, Jo, resigned from the cabinet on The Brexit deal the debate was held at a crucial time in the negotiations and for our country reaching a decision. Approximately 50 people attended and this was a good debate with robust views expressed and everyone listening attentively to different viewpoints.

The Chair opened the debate with a summary of where we are now.

It was said that the language used in the Brexit discussion was terrible. There had been no proper discussion on the issues and no clear reasons had been presented for coming out of the EU or what the future would be like if we came out of the EU during the Referendum. It was suggested that the press had been largely for coming out and has been consistently anti Europe and pro US. The emphasis on the US mid term elections has been significantly greater than on the French elections. Why? Who would you want to go out for a meal with, Trump or Barnier? Woking voted 56% to stay in and 44% to come out.

As a smaller unit we will be in a weaker negotiating position than the EU. Germany alone exports three times as much to China than the UK. We have not had any trade negotiators since joining Europe in 1973. Are we able to negotiate good deals? Does the US really care about us enough to give us a good deal? Cameron was to blame for not preparing for a Leave vote.

MP, Jonathan Lord said the next four months will be crucial. The Withdrawal Act that has been passed by Parliament commits the UK to leave the EU in March whether there has been a deal agreed or not. The prospects for a second referendum are very low. The PM and the Government would have to agree to it and they have ruled it out. The original leaflet explaining the basis of the Referendum had committed the Government to implement the decision of the people in that vote.

On the benefits of leaving Jonathan spoke strongly about sovereignty. When we voted to join it was to join a trading agreement, now it has become increasingly a political union. He foresaw tangible benefits from leaving in fisheries, agriculture and opening up to trade from the Third World.

Someone working in financial services said leaving the EU would just add another tier of standards to the industry and they would still need to keep the EU's standards to trade there.

A psychologist predicted a major increase in psychological problems and asked how people can help build community cohesion at this difficult time.

Report by: Keith Scott, Chair, Woking Debates

<http://www.wokingdebates.com/>



Wilson/Hinkes Peace Award 2018

This award was established by the Week of Prayer for World Peace (WPWP) to recognise significant contributions by individuals, organisations or projects in furthering peace, justice and reconciliation. The award focuses on grassroots initiatives; it enables often untold stories to be told and honoured and seeks to inspire others. It is open to all, irrespective of nationality, ethnicity or faith.

This years winners are: Issa Souf (A Palestinean), John Morris from Guildford (known as the Peace Man) and Elizabeth O'Donohoe from Sisters of the Holy Cross.

The WPWP 's guiding principle is "The peace of the world must be prayed for by the faiths of the world". Each year a leaflet is produced of prayers. For more information please visit: www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com

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 to support vulnerable women who experience various difficulties such as low confidence, mental health issues, homelessness and teenage pregnancy.

For more information visit

<https://www.ukcommunityfoundations.org/our-programmes/tampon-tax-community-fund>

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. For more information visit www.rosauk.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

INTERFAITH WEEK 2018 EVENTS IN SURREY

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 Boitoutl

E: Jayne.Boitoutl@surreyheath.gov.uk

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.

Chair: Father Andrew Norman, St. Nicolas

Welcome: Councillor Nick Williams - Godalming Mayor

HINDU: Meeta Joshi, Chaplain - Surrey University

JEWISH: Ray Wicksman - Guildford Synagogue

BUDDHIST: Geoff Hunt, Chaplain - Surrey University

CHRISTIAN: Louise Elder - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

MUSLIM: Atif Rashid - Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

SIKH: Bahadur Singh - Sikh Missionary Society

BAHÁ'Í: Carolyn Neogi - Surrey Bahá'í Community

DEVOTIONAL DANCE: Nishi Joshi-Bhatt

Close: Rev. Jenny Miller - Interfaith Minister

Donations invited for
SHELTER BOX

Charity No. 1096479

Company No. 461652

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 | T: 01483 415773

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@phonecoop.coop | Phone: 020 8948 3276 or 078 0486 6349 .

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



Woking People of Faith

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



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

'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>

Sleep Out for the Homeless in Guildford

This winter Guildford Action and the Guildford Lions are coming together to shine a spotlight on the issue of homelessness in our local community with a December Sleep Out.

The Sleep Out will take place in the underground car park of the Guildford Spectrum on Friday 30th November 2018 from 9pm—6 am .

To take part in the Sleep Out, Guildford Action kindly ask for a £10 donation to secure a pitch, £5 for under 16s and a minimum sponsorship of £100. Unfortunately, children under the age of 11 will be unable to attend the event and all under 16s need to be accompanied by an adult.

If you would like to take part or for more information please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/guildford-action-sleep-out-tickets-51329287280?utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-source=strongmail&utm-term=listing>

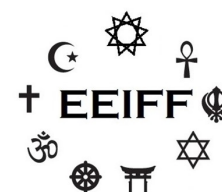
Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith Forum Autumn Events

Nine Lessons and Carols at St Martin's Church, Epsom

The Vicar of St Martin's, Rev Nick Parish, the Churchwardens and parishioners extend an invitation to friends and associates across all faiths to come to St Martin's as special guests and join them in their Christmas tradition of the Christian Church.

St Martin's Church, Church Street, Epsom, KT17 4PX at 6.00 pm on Sunday 16th December 2018

For more information or to RSVP E: lynescholefield@gmail.com



Can Faith Institutions Save Our Planet?

Faith institutions' buildings should help to save our planet as well as reflect their beliefs and worship'

Join Woking People of Faith at this event where the Bishop of Guildford, Andrew Watson will speak from a Christian perspective and Shaukat Warraich, Founder and CEO of Faith Associates, will speak from the Islamic perspective.

Tuesday 12th February, 7.00 pm at HG Wells Conference Centre, Woking.

More information E: administrator@wpof.org.uk



Woking People of Faith

ELMBRIDGE MULTI FAITH FORUM EVENTS 2019

- ◆ **West London Synagogue**—19th February 2019
- ◆ **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

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





Be a Peacemaker this Christmas

Join us for an evening of carols and fellowship

St. Mary's Church, Quarry Street, Guildford, GU1 3UA
and meet Zeina, a psychologist, working to support child refugees in Lebanon

Tuesday 4 December 2018 at 7.30 pm. Light refreshments served from 7.00 pm

Resident consultations launched

A consultation has been launched by Surrey County Council on a range of services and want to hear the views of as many residents as possible by Friday 4 January 2019 to help us shape those services for the future and set a sustainable budget. The consultations are about:

- Family resilience – children's centres
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Libraries and cultural services
- Concessionary bus travel
- Community recycling centres

You can find the consultations online at:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/have-your-say/consultations>



Police offer Counter Terrorism training for staff and volunteers working at places of worship

Counter Terrorism Police are calling on places of worship to take part in an innovative new training

scheme that is proving a hit with major shopping and entertainment venues.

The package – free to use and developed in partnership with retail giant Marks & Spencer – aims to equip workers in crowded places with knowledge to help prevent terror attacks

Called ACT Awareness e-Learning, the training covers how to spot the signs of suspicious behaviour and what to do if a major incident should take place. Free to use, the package can be divided into short sections to suit business or service needs. However, it takes just three quarters of an hour to complete – 45 vital minutes that could save lives

Last year 36 people were killed and many more were injured in five separate incidents in London and Manchester. One of the attacks involved a group of worshipers outside a mosque. One man lost his life and many others were injured.

Police are now asking leaders of all faith institutions – especially those who host large congregations – to encourage staff and volunteers to take part.

For more information, or to apply for registration:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/national-counter-terrorism-security-office>

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TRANSFORMING CHURCH
TRANSFORMING LIVES
Communities Engagement