



"There is enough for everyone's need, but not for their greed."

Mahatma Gandhi

Happy New Year!

Not long to go for UN Interfaith Harmony Week! Two main events in Surrey to mark the week in Guildford and Woking (Read details on page 7 onwards of this newsletter)

An interfaith musical and online course for interfaith practitioners on page 5 and many upcoming events to take part in Surrey. Please get in touch if you are organising an interfaith event and would like some support.

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The Sultan and the Saint: A Bold Christian-Muslim Encounter



This year is the 800th anniversary of the encounter between St. Francis of Assisi and Sultan al-Kamil.

There are different perspectives of this encounter from both Christian and Muslim writers, but it is a reminder that responding to violence through violence cannot succeed, that goodness and respect can really change hearts.

The dynamic of stirring a populace to war has not changed over time; it still begins with demonizing the enemy. Francis saw through that.

The road to peace is for all of us, on individual basis, at personal level. Francis took matters into his own hands by bravely seeking out a

Main Faith Festivals in January 2019

- 5th: Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)
- 12th: Birthday of Swami Vivekananda (Hindu)
- 14th: Pongal (Hindu)
- 21st: Tu B'Shevat (Jewish)
- 30th: Jashn-e Sadeh (Zoroastrian)

personal relationship with the sultan. And al-Kamil went deeper into his own religious tradition to retrieve the theme of respect for holy Christians, even though he was under attack by the pope's army.

Hostility is more likely when one people is distanced from another and demonized. Peace gets a chance when the divide between people is bridged through personal relationships.

Watch the film and access educational lessons and guides:

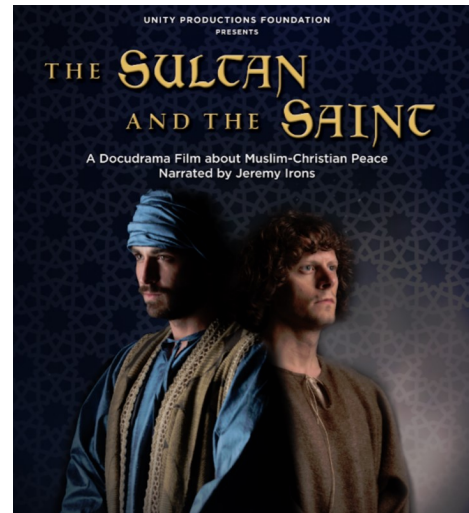
<https://www.sultanandthesaintfilm.com/education>

A Sufi perspective:

<https://sufiways.com/2016/05/02/st-francis-of-assisi-and-sultan-al-kamil-a-bold-christian-muslim-encounter>

Further reading:

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/117902/the-saint-and-the-sultan-by-paul-moses/9780385523707>



Report by Lord Bourne – Belief in communities: bridging the divide

On 14 November, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published a report by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Minister for Faith called Belief in communities: bridging the divide.

The report is based on Lord Bourne's recent Faith in Communities tour on which he visited over 55 places of worship, across over 20 beliefs and denominations across the country. It talks about how faith communities are helping to make strong neighbourhoods and highlights some of the work to create 'cohesive and resilient inter faith communities'. It also makes recommendations to ensure these ideas are shared and replicated more widely.

The report can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/belief-in-communities-bridging-the-divide.

All Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims and 'a working definition of Islamophobia'

On 27 November, the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims launched their latest report: Islamophobia Defined- The inquiry into a working definition of Islamophobia.

The APPG on British Muslims was established on 18 July 2017, to build on the work of the APPG on Islamophobia. The group is co-chaired by Anna Soubry MP and Wes Streeting MP. The core aims of the Group are to highlight the aspirations and challenges facing British Muslims; to celebrate the contributions of Muslim communities to Britain and to investigate prejudice, discrimination and hatred against Muslims in the UK. An inquiry into a working definition of Islamophobia was opened in April 2018.

Following consultation with academics, lawyers, local and nationally elected officials, Muslim organisation, activists, campaigners and local Muslim communities, the definition recommended by the report is as follows: "Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness."

The full report, along with the executive summary can be found at:

<https://appgbritishmuslims.org/s/Islamophobia-Defined.pdf>

Faith communities and Organ donation

During Inter Faith Week NHS Blood and Transplant encouraged people across different faith communities to help dispel myths and misconceptions by talking about organ donation. The aim was to increase understanding of organ donation and the stances of different faiths as well as be an opportunity for people to publicly show their support for donation. Discussions were encouraged, including on social media using the hashtags #InterFaithWeek and #YesIDonate. <https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/news-and-campaigns/news/talk-about-organ-donation-and-help-to-save-lives-this-inter-faith-week/>

Organ donation laws vary in different countries across the United Kingdom.

The current legislation for England is to opt in to organ and tissue donation. In the Summer the Government published a response to its consultation into the organ donation system in England and confirmed that under the proposed new system (commonly known as 'deemed consent' or 'opt out') everybody would be considered a potential organ donor unless they have added their details to the NHS Organ Donor Register to say that they do not wish to donate their organs or are in one of the excluded groups. They have provisionally indicated that the system may be in place in April 2020.

The current legislation for Scotland is to opt in to organ and tissue donation. The Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill, which includes provision for a 'deemed authorisation system', was published by the Scottish Government in June for consideration by the Scottish Parliament. The date for the change to legislation is not known but could be spring 2020.

The current legislation for Northern Ireland is to opt in to organ and tissue donation. Following detailed consideration of the issue, the Northern Ireland Assembly decided in 2016 not to proceed with any changes to the basis of consent for organ donation. However, they introduced a new statutory requirement for the Department of Health to promote organ donation as a means of increasing the number of organs available for transplantation.

The legislation for Wales is 'deemed consent'. This means that if you haven't registered an organ and tissue donation decision (opt in or opt out), you will be considered to have no objection to becoming a donor.

More information on the legislation is at:

www.organdonation.nhs.uk/faq/is-organ-donation-law-changing/.

Information on the NHS Organ Donor Register and how to join is at www.organdonation.nhs.uk/.

Young Sacred Activist of the Year Award

St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace is seeking nominations for extraordinary young people of 38 years or under who are making an innovative contribution to social change from a place rooted in faith or spiritual values.

Nominations should be submitted by 5pm on 14 February 2019 through <https://stethelburgas.org/projects/young-sacred-activist-of-the-year-award/>.

For more information, email Justine Huxley at justine@stethelburgas.org



St Ethelburga's
Centre for Reconciliation and Peace

Faith organisations scoop over £500k from government loneliness fund

£20 million. Yes, £20 million – that’s what the government announced last June to help fund charities and community groups to help isolated people and those experiencing loneliness. The winners of the funding have just been announced and it’s great to see a significant amount going to faith-based projects.

This serves to underline the contribution that faith-based organisations are making to tackle loneliness in our society. It also makes us wonder what else faith groups are doing that tackles loneliness, but without realising or even considering this as a main goal?

With a collective amount of nearly half a million pounds, we know that this will serve to highlight the role that faith groups already play in tackling this huge issue as well as significantly increasing the impact within and around the specific communities

Sometimes seeing the work of others makes you realise that you and your faith group are also doing something to tackle the issue! If this is the case, please add your voice to our project by completing this [short survey](#) which will tell us how you are responding to this issue and enable you to share your good practice, so that we can all serve our communities better.

Read more: <http://www.faithaction.net/blog/2019/01/10/faith-organisations-scoop-over-500k-from-government-loneliness-fund/>



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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Interfaith: The Musical

Today our world is in great turmoil. We have lost our bearings. Religious violence, brazen intolerance and rising nationalism are dominating the news today. Our country is divided, Congress is divided, and many of us live with increased fear and anxiety about the future. There are no easy answers to the challenges of peaceful coexistence in a fractured world characterised by multiple competing beliefs and narratives.

We need hope. Now more than ever before. Interfaith: the Musical is a celebration of our religious and cultural diversity. The story and songs offer a rare opportunity for us to laugh and cry at our foibles, idiosyncrasies, heartaches and current state of the world – even as we take our faith seriously.

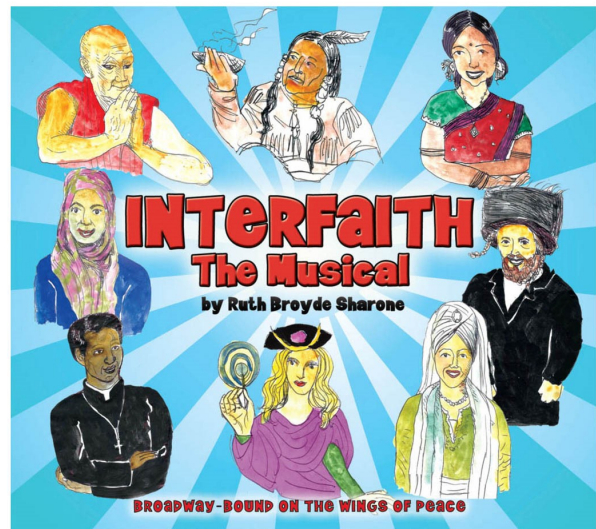
Interfaith: the Musical takes you on a journey of self-discovery and asks some provocative questions that you may have never considered before.

- How important is your faith and tradition?
- What would you be willing to give up for love?
 - Your relationship with your children?
 - Your parents?
 - A place in your community?

These are just some of the issues you'll explore as you listen to the story and songs of Interfaith: the Musical, a show that is relevant to our present day world reality.

For more information, please visit:

<https://interfaiththemusical.com/>



Online Course: Religion is..

Many of the misunderstandings and misinterpretations surrounding religion today stem from a lack of study as well as scrutiny. This course, Religion is..., will provide participants with an introduction to religion and will allow anyone who has a thirst for knowledge to discover narratives and stories and to travel through time and reflect on key events and historical moments.

It will help participants understand the process by which religion has changed, through time and locations, and also how it contributes to, and is influenced by, society in the 21st-century.

The course is accessed via Hedwig which is hosted by the Cambridge Theological Federation

Every year, when comparing participants' contributions in the first week with those in the final week of Religion is..., I understand tangibly the importance of religious literacy in changing our context of hostility.

Amin El Yousfi (Course Co-Creator & Co-Leader 2017-19, Religion is..., and PhD Scholar)

Religion is... seeks to educate participants about the foundations of the Abrahamic faiths and how they exist in the world day. But it is more than that. Religion is... draws heavily on the experience of the participants, encouraging them to approach different faiths and issues from new perspectives. It is an online course that can easily be applied to the lived experiences of all of us.

Austin Tiffany (Course Co-Creator & Co-Leader 2017 & 2018, Religion is... & PhD Candidate)

For more information and to register please visit:

<https://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study/online-courses/religion-is>

Deadline for applications: 27 January 2019

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Community Cash Fund – Now launched!

We are pleased to announce the return of the Community Cash Fund. This will be our 4th year running and we hope it is the biggest one yet! The aim of this fund is to help small groups start projects which improve health and wellbeing in their local community. We will be awarding grants of up to £1,500 per successful applicant for community projects that promote

Surrey's community vision for wellbeing in one or more of the following ways:

- Everyone lives healthy, active and fulfilling lives, and makes good choices about their wellbeing.
- Everyone gets the health and social care support and information they need at the right time and place.
- Communities are welcoming and supportive, especially of those most in need, and people feel able to contribute to community life.

If you are interested in applying then sign up to get an alert when the community cash fund launches in January, by emailing: sarah.browne@healthwatchesurrey.co.uk

Or you can call enquiries on 0303 303 0023, text 07592 787533

Please note that applications close on 18th February



Big Lottery Fund:

The Big Lottery Fund, funds projects and activities that make communities stronger and more vibrant, and that are led by people who live in them.

We support charities, community groups, and people with great ideas - local or national, large or small. We also bring people and groups together: to share experiences, learn from each other and try new ways of working.

To find out more: <https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/funding>

Heritage Lottery Fund

From the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks we love, from precious memories to rare wildlife, we use money raised by National Lottery players to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about.

For more information: <https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding>

Arts Council

We invest in art and culture for a lasting return. We're looking for organisations, artists, events, initiatives and others to apply for our funding and help us achieve [our mission of great art and culture for everyone](#).

Use our [funding finder](#) if you're interested in applying for funding.

Or, if you want to find out where we get our money from and how we invest it, you can [learn more here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum Events 2019**Tuesday 19th February: Visit to West London Synagogue, hosted by Rabbi Helen Freeman**

Coach leaves Thames Ditton Centre, Mercer Close, Thames Ditton, KT7 OBS at 9.30 am and arrives back to the Thames Ditton Centre by 4.00pm. Transport cost: £15 per person. Payment can be made by cheque to EMF or in cash on the day to Geoff Morris. Post cheque to:

Geoffrey Morris, Edale House, 32 Milner Drive, Cobham, KT11 2EZ

Limited number of places, please book early to avoid disappointment. For more information:

E: geoffreymorris@emas-bc.co.uk | T: 01932 868454

Monday 29th April: Refugee event (refugee speakers and much more) 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start. Further details to follow.

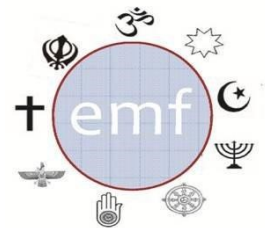
Tuesday 25th June: AGM and Conference. 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start at St John's Church, 1 The Furrows, Walton-on Thames, Surrey, KT12 3JQ

Saturday 12th October: Evening Gala/Cultural Celebration, 6.00 pm at St John's Church, 1 The Furrows, Walton-on Thames, Surrey, KT12 3JQ

For more information please email:

Secretary: Kauser.Akhtar@cofefeguildford.org.uk

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

**Woking People of Faith Events 2019****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.

To book a free ticket:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/can-faith-institutions-save-our-planet-tickets-53534072853>

Read bio's of speakers on www.wpof.org.uk

Tuesday 18th June: Refugee Week Event, HG Wells, Woking, 6pm

Sunday 4th August : Last Post Multi-Faith Service, Brookwood Cemetery, 2 pm

Saturday 21st September: International Day of Peace, Mercia Walk, Woking, 12pm

More information E: administrator@wpof.org.uk

Or visit: www.wpof.org.uk



Woking People of Faith

Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum Events 2019

Can female leadership be a force for change and renewal in religion?

An event to mark UN Interfaith Harmony Week

Thursday 7th February 7.00 pm at St Nicholas Church, Bury St, Guildford GU2 4AW

4 female speakers: Unitarian, Christian Scientist, Muslim and Hindu

Interfaith Service to mark Interfaith Week

Sunday 17th November, 3 pm—5pm,

St Nicholas Church, Bury St, Guildford GU2 4AW

For more information please contact: Bernard Jones (Secretary)

T: 01483 424257 E: bernard.jones10@btinternet.com

Or Carolyn Neogi: E: carolynneogi@aol.com | T: 01483 415773



GGIFF

Self Employment Essentials

Tuesday 22nd January 2019, 2pm to 4pm

50 East street, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 1HQ

This is a half day workshop for those considering self employment and who want a taste session about what is involved. To book, please email: nichola@wworkstressolutions.org.uk

Work Stress Solutions relies on grants and donations to fund its courses. This course is free to people who meet their criteria for registration or available for a minimum donation of £5

'Malthus was Wrong: we can solve the problem of world population growth'

Speaker David Hepper

Tuesday, 12th February at 7.30pm

David is a computer scientist with a biology degree, working part-time for the British Dragonfly Society, maintaining their scientific records, and part-time for Population Matters, the charity and think-tank supported by those concerned about world population growth. In this talk he will show that population concerns fits well with Humanism but the threats from those wanting to bring on the Apocalypse or breed a Socialist utopia are equally clear. We now have the tools to steer world population to a sustainable future without frying the planet, thus avoiding the 'Malthusian Catastrophe'. But do we have the collective will to use them?

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

Tea/coffee and biscuits break at about 8.40 pm

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

For further information, please phone David Simmonds (01483 800397)

or Mike Adams (01483 233324), or see our website

<http://guildfordwoking.humanist.org.uk>

We are also on Meetup, Facebook and Twitter.



Designing the right Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health service for Children and Young People across Surrey

Surrey County Council, in partnership with Surrey Clinical Commissioning Groups, is holding a series of events for families, children, young people and professionals to join an open and honest discussion about the future of emotional wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people across Surrey.

The series of workshops will run between 14 and 22 January 2019 in locations across the county including Staines, Ewell, Caterham, Dorking, Woking, Godalming and Farnham.

These events will be tailored for different groups and will provide an opportunity to contribute to the way emotional wellbeing and mental health support and care is provided for children, young people, families and carers.

Anyone interested in attending one of the workshops being held from 14 January to 22 January 2019 can register interest via:

- Eventbrite - <http://surreywmh.eventbrite.com>
- SMS text - 07917 087 560
- Email - gwccg.info@nhs.net

Alternatively, details about the events are available on the following websites:

- NHS Guildford and Waverley CCG www.guildfordandwaverleyccg.nhs.uk/info.aspx?p=7
- Surrey County Council www.surreycc.gov.uk

Who cares?

You are invited to A Day Conference bringing together National and Local Government, Service Providers, Professionals, Volunteers, Churches and those who work in our community; informing, strengthening partnerships and improving local support for Carers.

Keynote speaker: Caroline Dinenage MP Minister of State, Department of Health and Social Care
 19 February 2019, 9.30 am - 4.00 pm, at Redhill and Reigate Golf Club, Pendleton Road, Redhill RH1 6LB
 A buffet lunch will be provided. To reserve a place please email: racc190219@gmail.com
 stating your name, organisation, position and any dietary requirements.

Diocese of Southwark
 Croydon Episcopal Area



Free Courses from Surrey Skills Academy

Email: surreyskillsacademy@surreycc.gov.uk. For more information and to register

Course Title	Course Date	Venue	Course Time
Excel as a Database - Further Features	17/01/2018	Quadrant Court, Woking	13.30 - 16.30
Excel Pivot Tables	21/01/2018	County Hall, Kingston	9.30 - 12.30
Emergency First Aid at Work	08/02/2018	Wray Park, Reigate	9.30 - 12.30
Excel Pivot Tables	14/02/2018	County Hall, Kingston	9:30 - 12:30

Woking Debates 2019

- 19 January: Who cares? Health and Social Care today.
 9 February: Modern Slavery: What is it and is it happening in Woking?
 9 March: Social housing: Is Woking just for rich people?
 13 April: Over the Top, a play by the Journeymen Theatre about militarism in schools.
 11 May: Where do we come from? Where do we go? Travellers tales.

10.30 am Refreshments for 11.00 am start till 12.30 pm

Christ Church, Jubilee Square, Woking, GU21 6YG

Entrance is free, donations welcome.

The Woking Debates are organised by: Woking Action for Peace, Friends of the Earth, Surrey Faith Links, Woking LA21, Woking Quakers and Woking People of Faith.

For more information please contact: Keith Scott: 01483 824980 | keithsc_2000@yahoo.com

www.wokingdebates.com

This is the seventh year of the debates. Started by Woking Action for Peace to encourage active participation in our community by looking at underlying issues facing us, they are organised with the support of several local groups. We believe that together we can find ways forward to a more equal, peaceful and united world



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 worshippers 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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