



“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it”
 Robert Swan OBE

Some amazing events this month to mark UN Interfaith Harmony week, bringing people of all faiths and none together on topical issues such as gender equality and the environment. A heart touching account of refugees and how local people have been involved and plenty of upcoming events to get involved in.

Kauser Akhtar
 Faith Links Adviser
 E: Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk
 T: 01483 790334
 W: www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk

Inside this issue:

Can faith institutions save our planet?	2
Modern Slavery	3
Holocaust Memorial Day	3
Vacancy: Trainee Assistant Chaplain	4
EEIFF AGM and Refugee Talks	5
SMEF One World	5
Funding Opportunities	6
Upcoming Events	7

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

Guildford & Godalming Interfaith Forum organised this event to mark UN Interfaith Harmony Week on Thursday 7th February 2019, St Nicolas’ Church Hall, Guildford

Speakers included: Sheena Gabriel (Unitarian), Kauser Akhtar (Muslim), Lizzie Witney (Christian Scientist) and Meeta Joshi (Hindu) and the meeting was ably chaired by Louise Elder (Latter Day Saints)

Each speaker gave examples from the history of their own religion of very effective female leaders and how they inspire many women today to continue this role in bringing change and renewal in religion.



Main Faith Festivals in February 2019

1st: Candlemas (Pagan)
 5-7th: Losar (Buddhist)
 8th: Parinirvana (Buddhist)
 9th: Sarasvati Puja (Hindu)
 19th: Magha Puja (Buddhist)

The subsequent discussion generally agreed with the conclusion of the speakers.

The meeting was opened for general questions and discussions. Approximately 50 people attended the event and left on a positive note, for men and women to work equally alongside with each other, complimentary rather than competing.

For information about future events organised by Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum, please contact Bernard Jones

E: bernard.jones10@btinternet.com

T: 01483 424257



Can faith Institutions save our planet?



An amazing event organised by Woking People of Faith on a very important subject which attracted over 150 people on Tuesday 12th February at HG Wells, Woking.

Simon Trick, Chair, Woking People of Faith introduced the event and a very short video (Human Impact On The Environment) was played, which can be found online: <https://youtu.be/OzPcR7wgh0c>

The Bishop of Guildford, Rt Rev. Andrew Watson and CEO of Faith Associates, Shaukat Warraich in answering the question, 'Can faith institutions save our planet?' covered the subject according to their own faith perspectives.



Although particular attention was given to faith institutions and their role in being eco-friendly, it was unanimously agreed that every individual, regardless of faith or none, should unite for this cause.

"Climate change remains one of the greatest challenges of our generation, and it's been great to see churches getting on board with the Eco Church movement as a very practical step towards reducing their carbon footprints." (Bishop Andrew Watson)



"Spiritual Sustainability is linked to environmental sustainability, and how Mosques and Islamic religious practices have historically conserved precious resources needs to be further enhanced in the 21st century. Learning from other faiths and through scientific discoveries, developing environmental consciousness should be at the heart of all faith institutions". (Shaukat Warraich)

LA21, Waste Solutions, Woking Borough Council, Plastic Free Woking and a new business 'Bair and Fair' were present to inform attendees of their work and invite people to join the cause in helping to save the planet through changing habits and being more actively involved with green spaces.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious hot buffet meal and continued the conversation followed by a lively Q&A session. The evening was concluded with closing remarks from the Mayor of Woking, Cllr Will Forster who summarised the event and thanked the speakers for their contributions.

For future events organised by Woking People of Faith please visit: www.wpof.org.uk or email: administrator@wpof.org.uk

Modern Slavery

The Woking Debates invites Suzette Jones from the Diocese of Guildford and Rebekka Davies from Surrey Police to talk about Modern Day slavery on Saturday 9th February at Christ Church in Woking.

Approximately 60 people heard about the crime which often goes unnoticed; Suzette Jones urged everyone present to make a note of the Modern Slavery Helpline (08000 121 700) and ring if it was felt someone might be being exploited or abused. She talked about the Clewer Initiative, which enables Church of England dioceses and wider church networks to develop strategies for detecting modern slavery in their communities and help provide victim support and care. For more information about the Clewer Initiative please visit: <https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/>



DC Rebekka Davies talked about the law and what Surrey Police do to help victims of slavery. More than 200 years after the abolition of the slave trade there are still an estimated 40.3 million men, women and children trapped in modern slavery, and up to 136,000 potential victims in the UK alone.

DC Rebekka Davies gave some examples of exploitation in Surrey and Woking specifically. She mentioned the link with County Lines—drugs—and how people are trafficked from all over the world and within in UK.

The attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions to the panel of speakers, which was ably chaired by the Mayor of Woking, Cllr Will Forster.

Questions included what support was provided to victims once they had been rescued, if those trafficked from different countries were taken back or given asylum as well as how individuals could do more to help and get involve with the Clewer Initiative.

For future debates please visit: <http://wokingdebates.com/>



Holocaust Memorial Day

'A well-attended meeting took place at the University of Surrey to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day 2019.

The programme, entitled 'Torn from Home', included evocative music from Guildford Cathedral and from the Jewish Society Choir and talks from Dr. Lynette Nusbacher about the Holocaust and about other more recent Genocides around the world.

We also heard from Irene Black and Annick Lever about their respective families' experiences in Germany and France, and the kindness shown by non-Jewish friends and family in those dark days.

Following the evening prayers led by Rabbi Alex Goldberg, Jewish Chaplain, candles were lit by the participants, including Tony Samuels, leader of Surrey County Council, Alex Harden, President of University of Surrey Students' Union, and other Faith representatives'

Reported by Carolyn Neogi, Baha'i member of Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum



Job Vacancy: Trainee Chaplaincy Assistant

A Full Time Assistant Chaplain is required at Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to continue development of embedded clinical engagement and education as part of targeted projects. These meet the Trust objectives of improving the quality of pastoral and spiritual support for patients, their families and carers, and for staff. This is an exciting opportunity to work within the wider remit of the Chaplaincy, Pastoral & Spiritual Support Services. This role ensures the Multi-Faith Team has capacity to deliver more focussed support for those living with and beyond Cancer and for those facing life-limiting conditions or end of life.

HOURS: 37.5 Hours per week

CONTRACT: Permanent

Salary: £32,258 to £41,308 pa Inc. of HCAS

Please apply via NHS Jobs website: www.nhsjobs.com

Reference number: 396-1423-CC-OJA

Closing date: 24 February 2019

Contact: Revd Susan van Beveren - via Hospital Switchboard 020 8546 7711



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

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



Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith Forum AGM and Talk on refugees

Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith forum held their AGM on Wednesday 14th February at All Saints Church, West Ewell.

The evening started with a bring and share meal, with foods from various backgrounds. This was followed by the more formal matters of the AGM and re-elections of members.

Three speakers were invited to speak of their experiences with Refugees. Mike Freedman from Wimbledon Synagogue Ark Project talked about their community sponsorship. He mentioned how the different faiths worked together to get their refugee family through the community sponsorship scheme and the ongoing support they are providing to the family.

Mariana Bracho from Surrey County Council talked about unaccompanied asylum seeking children and how there is a need to foster vulnerable young children. She read out an emotional poem by Warsan Shire 'Home' (read the poem here: <https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/home-433/>)

Jo Sherring from the Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network spoke about how they worked with Epsom and Ewell Borough Council to bring a family from the camp in Lebanon. Jo went to Calais and was touched by the plight of people there so decided she had to do something to help.

It was a very emotional and informative evening, everyone could feel the sincerity and passion of all three speakers for the work that they are doing to help refugees and vulnerable people.

Epsom and Ewell Interfaith Forum has been established for almost two years and have organised many amazing events in those two year. Read page 7 onwards for more upcoming events!



SMEF One World

2019 marks the tenth anniversary of SMEF's existence in Surrey. To mark this milestone SMEF will run a series of celebratory activities:

'JOURNEY TO SURREY DIARY' – During the year 2019

'SMEF's monthly newsletter will profile two of our members, who will write about their experience of living and working in Surrey, alongside a reference to their country of origin.

ART COMPETITION – From now till 22nd April

'Each of SMEF's member groups will run an art competition for children between the ages of 7-14 titled 'I live in Surrey', the winning entries will be compiled into a commemorative calendar

SPONSORED SMEF WALK – First bank holiday Monday on 6 May 2019

'A sponsored SMEF walk involving all SMEF's members will be organised to raise funds for a local charity.

WORKSHOPS FOR OUR COMMUNITY LEADERS – Sunday 24th March 2019 from 2pm, Parkview Community Centre, Sheerwater

Three workshops for community leaders; on 'Hosting a community event', on 'Fundraising' and on 'Effective Partnership working'

SMEF ONE WORLD CULTURAL EVENT – Sunday in June or July 2019

SEMINAR – October 2019

'We will host a seminar on the challenges that ethnic minority communities face as they make Surrey their home. This will cover; health, education, employment and housing

For more information please contact Krisztina Koch | Project Coordinator | Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum
E: krisztinakoch@smef.org.uk | 01483 447142 | Astolat Coniers Way Burpham Guildford Surrey GU4 7HL
www.smef.org.uk



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.

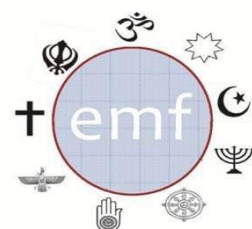
Tuesday 25th June: AGM and Conference. 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start at St John's Church, 1 The Furrows, Walton-on Thames, Surrey, KT12 3JQ

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**

Pulling up Pine saplings with Horsell Common Preservation Society: Saturday 23rd February, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Ladies' Coffee Morning: Saturday 9th March, 10.30 – 11.30am New Life Church, GU22 9BX

Ladies' Coffee Morning: Monday 25th March, 10.30 – 11.30am New Life Church, GU22 9BX

Football Tournament: Saturday 15th June, 10am - 4pm, Winston Churchill School, Woking

Refugee Week Event: Tuesday 18th June, 6pm – 8pm, HG Wells, Woking

Last Post Multi-Faith Service: Sunday 4th August, 2pm, Brookwood Cemetery, Dawney Hill, GU24 0JB

International Day of Peace: Saturday 21st September, 12 noon - 1pm,

Mercia Walk, Woking

More information E: administrator@wpof.org.uk

Or visit: www.wpof.org.uk



Woking People of Faith

Runnymede and Spelthorne Faith Forum invite you to:
"Spiritual Crisis - Reconnecting with God"

Saturday 23rd February - 6pm-7pm
 Simon Perfect (Theos Think Tank, SOAS London University)
 &
 Sulayman Van Ael (The Ark Institute)

The discussion will look at what the Christian and Muslim faiths

- 1) define as a spiritual crisis,
- 2) state as symptoms manifest of such a state and
- 3) provide as potential remedies

Each of our respective speakers will address the above points from the perspective of their faith after which there will be time allocated for audience interaction and Q&A.

Free event. For more information or to register:

<http://www.ascc.uk.com/events/spiritual-crisis-interfaith-programme>

Visit My Mosque Day

#VisitMyMosque Day is a national initiative facilitated by the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) encouraging 250+ mosques across the UK to hold open days to welcome in their neighbours from all faiths and none and building bridges across communities.

The next #VisitMyMosque Day will be taking place on 3 March 2019

Find out which Mosques are participating near you:

<https://www.visitmymosque.org/>



War School Screening and Q&A

[Quakers in Britain](#) are concerned about the new nationwide [tide in militarisation](#) particularly in our schools and wish to engage in conversations to increase public awareness and scrutiny of this development.

To this end, Esher Quakers invite Friends, attenders and members of our local community to join us on Saturday 9 March 2019 to kick start such a conversation. To get us going, we will be screening 'War School' followed by a Q&A session with the Director Mic Dixon. Full details of this FREE event are as follows:

WAR SCHOOL Screening and Q&A

Esher Friends Meeting House, 3 Claremont Lane, Esher, KT10 9DP

Saturday 9 March - 7 for 7.15 start time

Places are limited so please book in advance via

<https://warschool-esherquakers.eventbrite.co.uk>.

For further information: equakerevents@gmail.com



Woking Debates 2019

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.



"Secularism, freedom and democracy"

Tuesday, 12th March at 7.30pm

Speaker: Stephen Evans

Steven Evans was formerly campaigns manager and is now chief executive of the National Secular Society.

What makes some rabbis, some bishops and Richard Dawkins unite in support of secularism? What is secularism and why is it important for freedom and democracy throughout the world?

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.



"Relating Across the Divides" Oxford Three Faiths Week 2019

Three Faiths Encounter week is being held at St. John's College, Oxford this coming April 1-7th. This is the second year of the programme, following a very well-received pilot year, which had the theme "Beyond the Headlines". This years theme is "Relating Across the Divides" where we will be looking at the beliefs and theology of different groups within each faith.

The focus is on an increased understanding and friendship between Judaism, Christianity and Islam. All who wish to learn more about the beliefs and practices of these three faiths are welcome

For any further information, please contact me at info@spiritofpeace.co.uk or visit: www.spiritofpeace.co.uk

Free Courses from Surrey Skills Academy

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

Name Course	Course Date	Course Location	Time of Course
Pre Retirement	18/02/2019	Quadrant Court	09:30 - 16:30
First Aid at Work	25/02/2019 - 27/02/2019	Fairmount House	09:30 - 17:00
Outlook 2013	27/02/2019	County Hall	09:30 - 13:00
First Aid at Work Requalification	06/03/2019 - 07/03/2019	County Hall	09:30 - 17:00
Delivering Presentations	14/03/2019	Quadrant Court	09:30 - 16:30
Outlook 2013	15/03/2019	Quadrant Court	09:30 - 13:00
Emergency First Aid At Work	26/03/2019	County Hall	09:30 - 17:00

Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum Events 2019

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

Surrey Faith Links c/o CET, Diocese of Guildford
Church House Guildford, 20 Alan Turing Road, Guildford, GU2 7YF
T: 01483 790334, E: Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk
W: www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk

