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Main Faith Festivals in November 2019

- 1st: All Saints Day (Christian)
- 2nd: Anniversary of Crowning of Haile Selassie (Rastafarian)
- 10th: Prophet Muhammad's birthday (Islam)
- 12th: Anapanasati Day (Buddhist)
- 12th: Loy Kraytong (Buddhist)
- 12th: Birthday of Guru Nanak (Sikh)
- 24th: Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh)

For description of festivals please visit: [Religious Festivals](#)

**“Like the bee gathering honey from different flowers, the wise person accepts the essence of the different scriptures, and sees only the good in all religions”
(Mahatma Ghandi)**

Interfaith week begins this Sunday; find out what is happening on page 7 onwards of this newsletter—some really good events and get the pop corn ready for a couple of film screenings! The Sultan and the Saint has been a popular theme this year to mark the 800th anniversary of the historic encounter.

If you would like to get involved with interfaith, please get in touch.

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Leaving the EU: The important role of faith communities at a time of transition

Faith communities play a vital role in the lives of their members and also more widely within society. This is perhaps particularly the case at times of significant transition.

The Faith Communities Forum (FCF) of the Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN) (www.interfaith.org.uk) brings together national faith community representative bodies in IFN's membership. At a recent meeting it discussed faith communities and Brexit. It also discussed the pressing need for respectful modes of discourse that can bridge rather than divide.

A short note has been developed by the IFN office in the light of discussion at the FCF meeting and also of subsequent correspondence with the national faith community member bodies of IFN about Brexit. It highlights faith communities' trusted role in signposting information and as providers of community support and their vital work to unite communities, promote good relations and tackle hatred. It can be found online at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/leaving-the-eu-the-important-role-of-faith-communities-at-a-time-of-transition>.

General Election

A General Election has been called for 12 December.

The IFN office will be working to update the IFN guidance note on 'The Law Relating to Elections, Charities and Undue Spiritual Influence'.

If organisations are holding hustings on an inter faith basis, the office would be pleased to receive details.

Harriet Crabtree

Executive Director

Email: ifnet@interfaith.org.uk

Web: www.interfaith.org.uk

Phone: 020 7730 0410



FREE Making Every Contact Count (MECC) Training and new MECC Train the Trainer Programme.

MECC is national initiative which encourages health, social care and other public facing staff to use the opportunities arising during their routine interactions with people and patients to have brief conversations on how they might make positive improvements to their health or wellbeing.

We offer:

Fixed MECC Training

(1.5hr, 3hr and full day training) at various locations across Surrey.

Booking link: <http://www.ncbc-uk.com/surrey-heartlands-mecc.html>

Bespoke MECC Training

Delivered in-house for 8+ staff, tailored to the needs of your workforce/organisation.

To request this training please email Natalija.voronina@surreycc.gov.uk

MECC Train the Trainer Programme

2 day training course for staff committed and able to cascade train MECC and embed MECC principles within your organisation

To register interest in this training please email myself or Natalija.voronina@surreycc.gov.uk



Prayer Vigil

13th October 2019

13 of us gathered in the Chapel at Woking URC to pray for refugees. Prayers were led by a Sunni Muslim Imam, a Baha'i, an Anglican vicar, and an Elder of Woking URC. Everyone was together praying in the same room, but we all prayed in our own tradition, Muslims, Catholics, Anglican, Free Church and Baha'i and the atmosphere was very spiritual. The event was good and was very uplifting.

Thanks to everyone who came who made this a good event.

John West, Trustee, Woking People of Faith

Let's reunite the Kingdom

Business bosses, faith leaders and charities to launch campaign to heal nation's divide over Brexit

BRITAIN has never been so divided.

Families have fractured, friends have fallen out and communities have clashed over their opposing views on our battle to free ourselves from the EU.

Organisers have deliberately kept it free of politicians to help reunite the nation — whatever the outcome of the ongoing Brexit talks.

They hope the initiative will resonate with a public desperate to move on by focusing on the values that we all have in common.

The group includes the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, TUC head Francis O'Grady and Carolyn Fairbairn, the boss of the CBI, and prominent Brexiters.

They held open talks at Lambeth Palace in central London and their goal is to celebrate all that is great about Britain.

Read the full article here: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/brexit/9885911/britain-brexit-divide-campaign/>

Faiths for Forests

'Faiths for Forests' is a programme of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative. It is described as a "a global call to action to all faith-based organisations, networks and places of worship around the world to join the movement to end the destruction of the planet's rainforests and advocate for climate justice". More about the programme, including information on the declaration to sign, toolkits and fact sheets, can be found at <https://faithsforforests.com/>.

Shap Calendar of Religious Festivals

The Shap Calendar of Religious Festivals for 2019-20 is available to order from

<http://www.shapcalendar.org.uk/>. The e-calendar provides: 3 A4 calendar sheets, 12 images of people celebrating festivals, a booklet giving a brief description of each religious festival in 12 of the world's faiths and traditions, from Baha'i to Zoroastrian, including Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Pagan festivals and editorial notes by members of the Shap Working Party. A hard copy wallchart is also available.

Faith and Football Calendar

The Football Association has produced a new 'Faith & Football Calendar' for the 2019-20 season. The calendar is designed for use across football to raise awareness of faith across the game. This season's calendar also includes guidance on appropriate social media messages around faith dates. The Calendar can be downloaded at <http://www.thefa.com/-/media/files/thefaportal/governance-docs/equality/faith-in-football/faith-and-football-calendar-2019-20.ashx>.

British Library Discovering Sacred Texts online

In September the British Library launched its latest online learning resource, Discovering Sacred Texts, which invites visitors to explore the world's major faiths through the Library's extensive collections. The new website includes over 250 digitised collection items, teachers' resources, short films and articles.

Further information can be found at <https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2019/09/discovering-sacred-texts-launch.html> and the resource itself is at <https://www.bl.uk/sacred-texts>.

Independent Member of the Police and Crime Panel

Would you like the opportunity to have an input into decisions about the delivery of policing services in Surrey?

The panel is part of the new arrangements for developing accountability of policing in Surrey. It provides checks and balances on the performance of the directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner - to be newly elected in May 2020 - and on their priorities.

The main role of the Police and Crime Panel will be to scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner, to promote openness in the delivery of policing services and to support the Commissioner in providing quality policing throughout Surrey.

For further information on the role of Independent Members, please contact Amelia Christopher at Surrey County Council on 020 8213 2838 or email amelia.christopher@surreycc.gov.uk

Closing date for applications: midday 5th January 2020 | Interviews are due to be held during the week beginning: 20th January 2020

Holocaust Memorial Day Resources

Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 (27 January) will mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Inspired by this year's theme Stand Together, the Council of Christian and Jews (CCJ) annual resource reflects on the complex roles of Christians during the Holocaust. It encourages churches in the UK to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in their services and in their communities and includes suggested prayers and commentaries on the readings set for the Sunday closest to Holocaust Memorial Day. There are notes on how to lead an all-age address, examples of survivor testimony, poetry, and images to encourage reflections.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbi, Presidents of CCJ, have contributed to the resource. For the first time this year stories of Christians have also been included who have been recognised by Yad Vashem as Righteous among the Nations for their work in saving the lives of Jews during the Holocaust. These stories can be shared with congregations to encourage the sort of solidarity between faiths which the theme of Stand Together powerfully invokes.

The resource can be downloaded here:

<http://www.ccj.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/HMD-Resource-2020.pdf>

Help Us Help You is back again this year to make sure that people do everything they can to stay well over winter. The campaign, which launches this October, gets across important winter wellness messages, encouraging people to get their flu jab, stay warm in their homes and get help the right NHS help when they become unwell.

Business and employers have an important part to play in the campaign, delivering the messages to staff and customers alike. To help them, Public Health England has produced a range of resources that employers can download and print, or can use across digital and social channels. The resource pack includes posters and leaflets, key messages and stats, and suggested social media content.

To view and download the materials, visit the dedicated campaign page on [PHE's Campaign Resource Centre](#).

For larger partners, the campaign materials have been designed to be co-branded. If you are interested in co-branding any Help Us Help You materials for your staff or customers, email PHE marketing manager Daniel Ward - daniel.ward@phe.gov.uk.



Homeshare in Woking

Homeshare UK part of Shared Lives Plus is working with Woking Borough Council to look into the feasibility of having a local Homeshare service in Woking.

Homeshare is a simple concept that brings two unrelated people together for mutual benefit. One has a room to spare and needs a bit of help to stay independent at home. The other is looking for affordable accommodation and is happy to spend around 10 hours a week offering practical help and companionship.

There are around 20 organisations delivering Homeshare around the UK but currently nothing local in Woking. We are looking for some feedback from you as professionals working with communities as to whether this kind of service would be beneficial to the residents of Woking and how it might fit within the existing services offered. You can find out more about Homeshare at www.homeshareuk.org

There are TWO ways you can help us with this work.

Survey

The short survey below shouldn't take more than 15 minutes of your time and we would be very interested to hear from you. Deadline for completion 17th November 2019

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/homeshareinwoking> - for professionals

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/homesharewoking> -for potential participants – anyone that needs support to remain independent at home or people looking for affordable accommodation in exchange for practical help around the house.

Consultation Event

Date: Thursday 21st November | Time: 2-4pm | Venue: Woking venue TBC

We are hoping for a mix of professional working in older people's services and older people themselves if you can bring the mailing to hear more about Homeshare and discuss how the service might look and work in Woking.

Please register via Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/homeshare-in-woking-consultation-event-tickets-78340152505>

Thank-you for any time you spend helping us with the research. If you would like to discuss anything further, please contact Alice or Debs at contact@homeshareuk.org

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.

For more information or to organize a training session please contact:

Kauser Akhtar, Faith Links Adviser, T: 01483 790334,

E: Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Surrey Education Fund

The Surrey Education Fund provides funding to help disadvantaged children and young people up to 25 years to access education and training.

Grants are awarded to fund costs such as equipment, books, travel or tuition fees or support the costs of providing charitable educational facilities. Funding is also available for voluntary or charitable projects that provide training and skills development.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available.

More information here: <https://www.cfsurrey.org.uk/fund/surrey-education-fund/>

Funding Available for Strategic Projects in Surrey

Community Foundation for Surrey have funds available where their donors are keenly interested in supporting the strategic development of charities in Surrey.

Grants of £5,000 – £20,000 are available to support strategic projects which strengthen charities, increasing your potential impact and encouraging long-term sustainability:

- Capital Expenditure – including equipment, new construction, renovation, and expansion which are critical to sustainability and achieving your mission
- Strategic IT Projects – including investments in hardware/software which will enable expansion or efficiency in service delivery
- Strategic Organisational Developments – including mergers and planning initiatives which use expert consultants to determine new, transformational paths.

Director of Grants and Impact, Kate Peters is available to chat through in more detail and would love to hear from you if you have a project – or a dream you can see this funding fulfilling! If you would like to contact Kate Peters, please email kate@cfsurrey.org.uk

Guildford Lottery

Guildford Community Lottery which was launched by Guildford Borough Council in December 2018 to help local good causes raise funds. 116 good causes have signed-up to date, including local charities, clubs and other community groups.

The Council meets the costs of operating the lottery for the benefit of organisations in the borough and there are no costs at all to any participating club, group or charity.

Please visit the website for more information www.guildfordlottery.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum Events 2019/20

Remembrance: Tuesday 12th November | 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start
 "Remembering the men and women from all the countries who fought for freedom"
 St Andrews Church, Downside Bridge Rd, Cobham KT11 3EJ
 Dr Zafar Iqbal: From India to Woking – The role of Indian Army in WW1
 The Commonwealth contribution, Indian Army and the Muslim contribution
 specifically including the history of Muslim Burial Ground and installation of the Peace
 Garden.

Victor Eyles & David Cooke Cobham Remembers: Accounts of local contributions.
 Light refreshments from 7.00 pm. Free event, donations welcome to cover costs.

Tuesday 21st January 2020: Modern Day Slavery

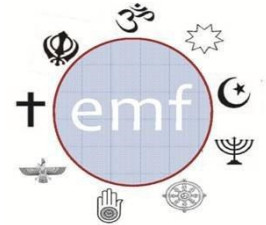
Tuesday 4th February: Visit to the Sri Raja Rajeswari Amman Temple, Epsom

Tuesday 21st April 2020: Guided tour of the Peace Garden, Horsell and Brookwood Cemetery. More details to come soon.

For more information please email:

Secretary: Kausar.Akhtar@cofefeguildford.org.uk

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



Baraka

Epsom and Ewell Interfaith Forum invite all to a film screening of the film Baraka to coincide with Interfaith Week.

Featuring no conventional narrative, this film presents footage of people, places and things from around the world. From chaotic cities to barren wilderness, the movie takes viewers around the globe to witness a variety of spectacles in both natural and technological realms. Detouring into former concentration camps, the production doesn't shy away from the dark side of humanity, and ultimately shows how much of the world is interconnected by both the tragedy and the vibrancy of life.

The event is to take place on Sunday 10th November 2019, 3pm at the residence of one of our members. Please RSVP to get more information and the address: eeiff@outlook.com



Understanding Islam: Muslim views of Christianity

A study day led by Dr Chris Hewer

Wednesday 20th November 10am - 4pm

Richmond Library Annexe, Quadrant Road, Richmond TW9 1DH

No charge but donations requested to cover costs. Bring your own lunch, drinks provided.

dianamills@phonecoop.coop | Mob 07804866349

Surrey Heath Faith Forum

The Sultan and The Saint

It is the 800th anniversary of the meeting between Saint Francis of Assisi and Sultan Al Kamil—both men of God, who made efforts for peace during the crusades.

The film will be screened on Thursday 14th November at St Michael's Church, London Rd, Camberley during Interfaith Week at 6.30 pm

All welcome

For more information please contact Jayne Boitout

E: Jayne.Boitout@surreyheath.gov.uk



Woking Debates: Film Screenings

The Woking Debates committee have decided to put on three film showings on peace and social issues this . After each film there will be a discussion on the film. They will be held at the Woking Quaker meeting house in Park Road

The last of the films for this year will be screened on 14th November, 'A Bold Peace'

A Bold Peace, the award winning feature documentary about Costa Rica's answer for world peace

See www.wokingdebates.com for more details

or contact Keith on 01483 824908 or email: keithsc_2000@yahoo.com

Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum

Interfaith Service to mark Interfaith Week

The theme is: Saving our home—faith perspectives on the climate crisis

Sunday 17th November, 3 pm—5pm, St Nicholas Church, Bury St, Guildford GU2 4AW

Representatives of local Hindu, Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Sikh and Bahá'í communities will be sharing their Faith's teachings and devotions.

Cllr Penny Rivers, Mayor of Godalming will conclude the talks.

There will be shared food after the programme

Donations will go to 'Practical Action' (<https://practicalaction.org/>)

All welcome!

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



Woking People of Faith
Programme of Events 2020

'who do we think we are' Saturday 1st February at Parkview Community Centre

Interfaith Pilgrimage in Byfleet—Saturday 21st March

Interfaith Football Tournament—Saturday 6th June

Refugee Week event—Tuesday 16th June

More information to come, keep updated via the website: www.wpof.org.uk

Or contact Kerry Barry: administrator@wpof.org.uk



Woking People of Faith

Guildford Action Sleep Out 2019

Please see below a message from Guildford Action about their upcoming Sleep Out to raise funds for homelessness in Guildford:

"Last November Guildford Action held our first Sleep Out event and through your participation and fundraising the charity has been able to provide support and practical help to vulnerable families and the homeless in Guildford over the past year.

We are excited to let you know that we are now organising Sleep Out 2019 on Friday 29th November and we are asking for your help to make this years event even bigger and better.

We will be holding the main Sleep Out event at the Guildford Spectrum car park but we would also like to encourage supporters to hold their own events at satellite locations, whether that's in a work place, garden or community venue. This will enable more people to take part and raise awareness of the work of the charity as well as secure vital donations.

Please consider taking part in this year's event and sharing our invitation with your friends, family and local community. We would love to have you there.

To book your place on Sleep Out 2019 at the Guildford Spectrum, the registration is via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/guildford-action-sleep-out-2019-tickets-74357678819?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

The charity page for our Virgin Money Giving account to collect donations is via the link below:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?uniqueVmgCharityUrl=surreycommunity-6>

Thank you very much for your ongoing support for Guildford Action. It is greatly appreciated and makes a big difference to everyone who comes to us for help. "

When: 29 Nov 2019 until 30 Nov 2019

Woking Debates 2020

Climate Emergency- what can we do? Saturday 11th January 2020

Islamophobia, how much of a problem is it in Woking? – Saturday 8th February 2020

A Rock and a Hard place. Journeymen Theatre play on domestic abuse – Saturday 14th March 2020

Are we giving vulnerable children the help they need? – Saturday 18th April 2020

What good is football? Saturday 9th May 2020

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

Bridging the Great Divide: the Jewish-Muslim Encounter

The Woolf Institute is running a 15-week online course, beginning in January, 'Bridging the Great Divide: the Jewish-Muslim Encounter'. The course will explore the history, culture and theology of Muslims and Jews, reflecting both on similarities and differences as well as discussing the major challenges. Run in partnership with the School of International Service at the American University in Washington DC, the course will also offer strategies for building bridges between the communities. For more information, visit

<https://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/whats-on/news/apply-now-for-online-course-bridging-the-great-divide-the-jewish-muslim-encounter-1>.

The closing date for applications is 15 December.

Celebrating 130 Years of the Shah Jahan Mosque in Woking

The Shah Jahan Mosque was built in 1889, and is the first purpose-built mosque and the first Grade I listed mosque in Britain. The exhibition explores the history of the building and the fascinating intertwined narratives of both the people of Woking and of those that visited and worked at the mosque.

The historical research reveals the significant history of the establishment of Muslim organisations and figures in Britain, whilst the personal stories uncover less well-known aspects of history.

On display on the ground floor of the building of the Lightbox Art Gallery, Chobham Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 4AA

5 - 28 November 2019

Free Entry | Suggested Donation £3



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TRANSFORMING CHURCH
TRANSFORMING LIVES
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