

# Surrey Faith Links Newsletter

January 2020



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**“O Thou kind Lord!**

**Unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home. May they all live together in perfect harmony...'**

**Baha'i Writings**

Happy New Year!

The New Year kick started with the Woking Debate on climate and is a recurring theme in interfaith events for 2020. Please read page 7 onwards for upcoming events.

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## Climate Emergency: What can we do?

The first of the Woking Debates for 2020 took place on Saturday 11th January at Christ Church, Woking, with over 80 people attending in concern of the climate emergency.

Dr Justine Huxley, CEO of St Ethelburga's said “we are much further down the line in climate breakdown than people felt able to say until recently. Experts have advised that 2050 is highly likely to be the year of mass extinction of humanity—that is 30 years away!”

“Many of us have to put ourselves through the process, spiritually, to face the worst case scenario, so that it transforms us.”

Dr Huxley further said “it is the responsibility of the West—we are creating collapse in other countries by contributing to the



## Main Faith Festivals in January 2020

- 2nd: Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)
- 6th: Epiphany (Christian)
- 12th: Birthday of Swami Vivekananda (Hindu)
- 12th: Baptism of Christ (Christian)
- 13th: Pongal (Hindu)
- 19th: World Religion Day
- 25th: Losar (Buddhist)
- 27th: Vasant Panchami (Hindu)
- 30th: Jashn-e-Sadeh (Zoroastrian)

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

global supply chain. The number of people living below sea level is huge, will we see climate refugees as a drain on us when they come or realise we have led them to that point?

Norman John, Chair of Woking Environmental Action spoke about practical action Woking has taken to tackle climate change but felt the government are not doing enough. Norman said “we are targeting working business and shop keepers and also the council about their own properties. He also said, “food waste is an important source of green energy. Single use plastic is unnecessary, we need to move to cardboard.

SAS (Surfers Against Sewage) are a national organisation who help plastic free cause; they talk to supermarkets and engage with customers to encourage them to remove plastic from their shopping and leave it at supermarkets for them to recycle.” Norman said a lot of supermarkets will not engage with them. There are many local initiatives such as Bare and Fair and plastic free cafes. We should be recycling in the street bins as well as at home; make sure recycling is dry, and only things that are mentioned, otherwise the whole bin will not be contaminated and end up in landfill. People think things like crisp packets can not be recycled, but Ellie’s fund (a school girl) is doing just that, West End butchers will take them for the fund. She’s hoping to move in to plastic pens and Pringles cans next.



Danny Hubbard from Extinction Rebellion, who also works at RHS Wisley said ‘my hope is by bringing people closer to nature they will reprioritise the planets needs over their own. By shopping with sustainable vendors, we can have a bigger effect. Share advice between each other - to reduce our carbon footprint and talk about challenges we’ve faced. We are expected to have plastic on what we buy but we need to start to be a strange and difficult person in face of these barriers, we need to go outside of our comfort zone and ask, why am I paying more for products which don’t include meat, when they have such a reduced impact on environment? We have to start pushing at rules and conventions which all need to change.

There were many questions and comments from the floor, which were addressed by the panel. There was much hope for the future to bring change and encourage others to do the same.

The next Woking debate is, “Islamophobia: how much of a problem is it Woking?’ on Saturday 8th February, Christ Church, Jubilee Square Woking. For more information please visit: [www.wokingdebates.com](http://www.wokingdebates.com)

### Why Religion Matters: Religion Literacy, Culture and Diversity

The Religious Studies department at the Open University has developed a new free course on its Future Learn site entitled ‘Why Religion Matters: Religious Literacy, Culture and Diversity’. The course aims to provide an understanding of why religion matters in society and in different cultures and is for anyone who may interact with a religiously diverse public in their personal or professional lives. This includes police, civil servants, teachers, journalists, council workers and parents. The duration of the course is 4 weeks, with 3 hours of weekly study time.

For further details, visit

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/why-religion-matters>



### Faith & Belief Forum online resources for secondary schools

The Faith & Belief Forum's education and learning team has been working, supported by Dangoor Education, to make its resources accessible to more schools and young people by putting its resources online.

The first set of lessons is now ready to pilot in schools. The first topic is Safe Space, exploring the principles and skills needed to have meaningful encounters and dialogues with others.

The package includes 6 lesson plans with the lessons aimed at Key Stage 3, particularly Years 7 to 9.

Any school wishing to be involved, should contact Sarah Koster, Education and Learning Manager by email at [sarah@faithbeliefforum.org](mailto:sarah@faithbeliefforum.org)

### New IFN inter faith resource for primary schools

In the course of Inter Faith Week the Inter Faith Network launched a new primary school resource designed to help increase pupils' understanding of, and skills for, inter faith encounter, dialogue and action. It focuses on learning about real examples of inter faith engagement, including in their areas.

The resource is for Upper Key Stage 2 pupils. It consists of a teachers' introduction and four units, which are:

- 1a Religious Diversity in the UK and the Importance of Inter Faith Activity,
- 1b Introducing Inter Faith Activity,
- 2 Let's Talk – Inter Faith Dialogue,
- 3 Making a Difference in the Community: Inter Faith Social Action, and
- 4 Team Spirit – Inter Faith Sport.



The resource can be found at:

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/learning-about-inter-faith-activity-a-primary-resource>

### Improving Healthcare Together public consultation launches

NHS Surrey Downs, Sutton and Merton Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are launching a public consultation starting on 8 January on three potential options for the location of a new specialist emergency care hospital on the Epsom, St Helier or Sutton hospital sites; the CCGs' preferred option being Sutton Hospital, next to the Royal Marsden specialist cancer hospital. The new hospital will bring together six services for the most unwell patients, as well as births at the hospital.

Views are being sought until Wednesday 1 April 2020 and people can respond directly to the consultation questionnaire or get involved through different ways including public listening events, pop up stalls, funding for voluntary groups, targeted outreach or telephone surveys.

You can read about the engagement plans here: [https://improvinghealthcaretogether.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/3.-Committees-in-Common\\_Paper\\_Draft-consultation-plan.pdf](https://improvinghealthcaretogether.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/3.-Committees-in-Common_Paper_Draft-consultation-plan.pdf) and a copy of the full consultation document and a consultation questionnaire can be accessed from [improvinghealthcaretogether.org.uk](https://improvinghealthcaretogether.org.uk).

A hard copy can be requested by emailing [hello@improvinghealthcaretogether.org.uk](mailto:hello@improvinghealthcaretogether.org.uk) and you can keep up to date on the consultation by visiting the Improving Healthcare Together 2020-2030 Facebook page or the @IHTogether Twitter feed.



### Church of England teaching document on Christian-Jewish relations

The Faith and Order Commission of the Church of England have published a teaching document on Christian-Jewish relations entitled 'God's unfailing word'. The document encourages Christians to rediscover the relationship of "unique significance" between the two faiths, worshipping one God, with scriptures shared in common. It speaks of attitudes towards Judaism over many centuries as providing a "fertile seed-bed for murderous antisemitism".

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/church-england-teaching-document-calls-repentance-over-role-christians>

The Council of Christians and Jews has welcomed the document. A copy of its statement is at <http://www.ccj.org.uk/ccj-statement-on-gods-unfailing-word/>.



### Climate Change



faith  
for the  
climate

Faiths for the Climate continues to develop its work with faith communities to respond to Climate Change. Its website carries updates on actions by these. The latest news can be seen at <https://faithfortheclimate.org.uk/news>.

Glasgow will be hosting the next UN Climate Change Summit (COP26) at the end of 2020 and some faith and inter faith bodies are already planning work towards that. See, for example, <https://bit.ly/34h6bom>.

A significant number of Inter Faith Week events this year had a focus on climate change and other environmental issues. <https://www.interfaithweek.org/events/calendar/environment-climate-event/>

### Come Together Appeal

The Inter Faith Network for the UK have launched the 'Come Together Appeal'.

In these often divided times, it is vital for people to stand together against prejudice and hatred and to come together in respect, understanding and cooperation for the common good.

[www.interfaith.org.uk/news/appeal](http://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/appeal)

The Inter Faith Network works in many different ways to support the development of greater inter faith understanding and cooperation and to enable people to come together.

On behalf of the Board of IFN, Co-Chairs Jatinder Singh Birdi and Bishop Jonathan Clark encourage all readers to consider a donation to support IFN's vital work. Every gift will be carefully used to make a real difference. It is easy to donate by clicking on this link: [www.interfaith.org.uk/donate](http://www.interfaith.org.uk/donate), by PayPal or by sending a cheque to: the Inter Faith Network for the UK, 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH

### “Policing your Community” roadshows now underway

Surrey Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey are holding a series of free public Policing your Community events.

These events give you an opportunity to ask to David Munro, the Police and Crime Commissioner about his planned proposal for the 2020-21 Council Tax Precept and take part in his public consultation, and also receive updates on local policing and community matters

Click on the venue to register to attend:

Wednesday 8th January - [Surrey Heath \(Camberley Theatre\)](#)

Thursday 9th January - [Mole Valley \(Dorking Halls\)](#)

Tuesday 14th January - [Elmbridge \(Civic Centre\)](#)

Wednesday 15th January - [Spelthorne \(Hazelwood Centre\)](#)

Tuesday 21st January - [Woking \(LightBox\)](#)

Monday 27th January - [Epsom & Ewell \(Longmead Centre\)](#)

Tuesday 28th January - [Reigate & Banstead \(Harlequin Theatre\)](#)

Wednesday 29th January - [Runnymede \(Chertsey Hall\)](#)

Thursday 30th January - [Tandridge \(South Godstone Community Hall\)](#)

Monday 3rd February - [Waverley \(Farnham Maltings\)](#)

Wednesday 5th February - [Guildford \(Harbour Hotel\)](#)



[Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey](#)

### Reading Well Schemes from Surrey Libraries

Surrey Libraries, in conjunction with the Reading Agency, offer the following Reading Well schemes:

- [Reading Well for Mental Health](#)
- [Books on Prescription: Dementia](#)
- [Shelf Help](#)
- [Reading Well for Long Term Conditions](#)



The reading lists help people to understand and manage their health and wellbeing using self-help reading.

Find more information on [Surrey Libraries](#) website, as well as a list of books for each scheme.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:kate@cfsurrey.org.uk)



### FCC Community Action Fund

The FCC Communities Foundation is offering grants between £2,000 and £100,000 for projects which involve the provision, maintenance or improvement of public amenities including community spaces in places of worship, which are registered charities.

Projects must be based within 10 miles of an eligible FCC Environment waste facility. The next round opens on 18 December and closes on 4 March. For more information, visit

<https://fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk/funds/fcc-community-action-fund>



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum Events 2020****Tuesday 21st January 2020: Modern Day Slavery**

Is Modern Day Slavery a problem in Surrey? If so, do we have a role to play?

Suzette Jones from the Diocese of Guildford will be speaking on the subject at the Sacred Heart Church Hall, 25 Between Streets, Cobham KT11 1AA.

Light refreshments from 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start.

This is a free event, however, donations are welcome to cover the costs.

**Tuesday 21st April 2020: Guided tour of the Peace Garden, Horsell and Brookwood Cemetery.**

Coach leaves at 9.30 am and arrives back at 1.30 pm at the Thames Ditton Centre, Mercer Close, Thames Ditton KT7 OBS .

10.00 am – 11.00 am at the Peace Garden—a guided tour followed by time for reflection.

11.15 – 12.50 at Brookwood Cemetery—a guided tour and walk.

To book a place on the coach please contact Geoffrey Morris: [geoffreymorris@emas-bc.co.uk](mailto:geoffreymorris@emas-bc.co.uk)

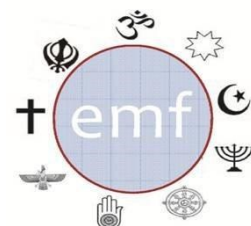
**Tuesday 30th June, AGM and talk on Climate Emergency. 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start.**

Further details to come soon.

**Primary school competition on Interfaith for Interfaith week** (more details to come soon)

For more information please email Secretary: [Kausar.Akhtar@cofefeguildford.org.uk](mailto:Kausar.Akhtar@cofefeguildford.org.uk)

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

**Guildford and Godalming Events 2020****Climate Emergency: drastic times, drastic measures?**

Can faith give us hope? Come along and listen to perspectives from people of faith involved with Extinction Rebellion etc. Opportunity to ask questions.

Tuesday 3rd March, 7.00 pm refreshments for 7.30 pm start  
at St Nicolas Church, Bury St, Guildford GU2 4AW

Interfaith walk—Thursday 16th July

Interfaith week service, Sunday 15th November

For more information please contact: Bernard Jones (Secretary)

T: 01483 424257 E: [bernard.jones10@btinternet.com](mailto:bernard.jones10@btinternet.com)

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



**GGIFF**

### Woking People of Faith Programme of Events 2020

#### 'who do we think we are'

Woking People of Faith invite you to a discussion around the table about our personal journeys to Woking. Come and chat over afternoon tea. RSVP by Saturday 18th January to [administrator@wpof.org.uk](mailto:administrator@wpof.org.uk) or 07805 605 2176. A prayer room will be available for Muslims.

Date: Saturday 1st February 2020 | Time: 2pm - 4pm

Location: Parkview, Blackmore Crescent, Sheerwater, GU21 5NZ

**Interfaith Pilgrimage** in Byfleet—Saturday 21st March. More details to come soon.

**Horsell Common Preservation Society**—28th March , more details to come.

**Interfaith Football Tournament**—Book your team NOW On Saturday 6th June 2020, 10 am—3 pm

At Winston Churchill School Sports Centre, Winston Churchill School, Hermitage Road, Woking GU21 8TL

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL—to enter a team please contact

Zafar Iqbal: [zafar.iqbal@woking.gov.uk](mailto:zafar.iqbal@woking.gov.uk) or

John West: [john.west63@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.west63@ntlworld.com)

**Refugee Week event**—Monday 15th June, HG Wells, 6 pm—8 pm

Refugee Week takes place every year around World Refugee Day on the 20th June. In the UK, Refugee Week is a nationwide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK and encourages a better understanding between communities.

**Multi Faith Last Post Service**—Sunday 2nd August, Brookwood Cemetery

**International Day of Peace**—Saturday 19th September, Mercia Walk, Woking.

**Visit to first eco Mosque, Cambridge**—Thursday 3rd October. TBC

**Doing God Together**, interfaith week event TBA



Woking People of Faith

More information to come, keep updated via the website: [www.wpof.org.uk](http://www.wpof.org.uk)

Or contact Kerry Barry: [administrator@wpof.org.uk](mailto:administrator@wpof.org.uk)

### Runnymede and Spelthorne Faith Forum events 2020

**Multi Faith Tu BiSh'vat Walking Seder at RHS Wisley Gardens**, Sunday 9th February, 10 am

**Scriptural Reasoning**: Tuesday 3rd March, Tuesday 2nd June, Tuesday 1st September and Tuesday 1st December

**Speed Faithing**—event for interfaith week, Thursday 12th November

For more information please contact [Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk)



### Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith Forum Events 2020

Fasting: perspectives from different faiths and AGM.

Thursday 13th February, 7.30 pm at All Saints Church, Webber Hall, 7 Church Rd, Ewell, Epsom KT19 9QY

International Women's Day - women of faith discuss how their faith has contributed or shaped their success.

Thursday 13th March, 7.30 pm at St Michael's The Sanctuary, 4A Church St, Ewell, Epsom KT17 2AS

23rd of April - Tour of Guru Harrai Sahib Gurudwara, 58 Lower Marsh Ln, Kingston upon Thames KT1 3BJ

24th May for the Flag hoisting ceremony at Sri Raja Rajeswari Amman Temple, 4 Dell Ln, Epsom KT17 2NE

June's Summer Social is still TBC

For more information please contact Naajah Oozeer: [eeiff@outlook.com](mailto:eeiff@outlook.com)

### Woking Debates 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](mailto:keithsc_2000@yahoo.com)

[www.wokingdebates.com](http://www.wokingdebates.com)

### Taking a stand against scams



Join us at our scams awareness event

Wednesday 29th January 2020 from 10:30am

at Community & Wellbeing Centre, Sefton Road, Epsom KT19 9HG

RSVP: Zara D'Souza. Email: [zara.dsouza@natwest.com](mailto:zara.dsouza@natwest.com)

Tel: 07990921344

## **Singing our Lives – Stand Together**

This special night of music features hundreds of performers onstage to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day and celebrate the power of uniting with one another through music and song. This evening is the culmination of the ground breaking Singing Our Lives project, which has brought together people from local UK, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds to co-create and perform new music together.

Hosted by Jumoké Fashola, the concert brings together members of the Orchestra of Syrian Musicians , the Sing for Freedom Choir , the Mixed up Chorus, the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus, the Mind & Soul Choir , the Citizens of the World Choir, I Speak Music Community Orchestra, and special guests.

All profits raised from the concert will go towards the Singing Our Lives project and Sing for Freedom Choir.

Sunday 26th January 2020, Doors open 17:30

Union Chapel, Compton Terrace, Islington, London, N1 2UN.

For more information or to book tickets, please visit:

<https://www.unionchapel.org.uk/event/26-01-2020-singing-our-lives/>



## **Risks and opportunities of artificial super intelligence**

When: Tuesday 14th April

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

Speaker: David Wood

Intelligence - what is it? And how intelligent could machines become? What factors could accelerate the development of ASI? How could powerful ASI go wrong? And how can we ensure that ASI is beneficial rather than destructive for humanity?

David will consider these questions and their ethical implications. He is an entertaining and very experienced speaker and has researched this subject for many years. He has written a number of books and is the chair at London Futurists. Further info: phone David (01483 800397).

There is no charge for the talks, but a small donation of £2 or 3 is requested to cover expenses (but not from students). For further information please phone David Simmonds (01483 800 397) or Mike Adams (01483 233 324), or see

[www.facebook.com/GuildfordWokingHumanists](http://www.facebook.com/GuildfordWokingHumanists) or [www.meetup.com/Guildford-Woking-Humanists](http://www.meetup.com/Guildford-Woking-Humanists)

### **Surrey Faith Links c/o CET, Diocese of Guildford**

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W: [www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk](http://www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk)

