



Surrey Faith Links Newsletter

March 2020

“Turn yourself not away from three best things: Good Thought, Good Word, and Good Deed.” (Zoroaster)

Many encouraging reports from events that have taken place and some great events coming up. Please make sure you contact the organisers and RSVP as events may get cancelled due to the Coronavirus situation. For up to date information about the Coronavirus please visit:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
 Kawther Akhtar
 Faith Links Adviser
 E: Kausar.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk
 T: 01483 790334 | W: www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk

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CWGF LAUNCHES DIGITAL EXHIBITION - NOOR INAYAT-KHAN: A WOMAN OF CONSPICUOUS COURAGE TO MARK INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

The Commonwealth War Graves Foundation (CWGF) marked International Women’s Day by launching a new interactive way for families and young women to explore the story of the remarkable spy princess, Noor Inayat-Khan.



The digital exhibition has been developed with the help of young women from the Girlguiding Association in Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, who have turned the story of this inspiring female heroine of the Second World War, into a ground-breaking experience and learning resource for young women, shaped by young women.

Armed with a false passport and a pistol, Noor became the first female radio operator to be sent to Nazi-occupied France. Noor was an unlikely candidate to engage in espionage in the Second World War, but she did so with a “steely strength of will”. During her mission she was captured and tortured for information but never gave anything away and was eventually executed by the Nazis. In 1949 Noor was posthumously awarded the George Cross, the highest

- Main Faith Festivals in March 2020**
- 2: First day of Lent (Christian)
 - 9-10: Purim (Jewish)
 - 10: Holi (Hindu)
 - 10/11: Hola Mahalla (Sikh)
 - 11-20: Fravardigan (Zoroastrian)
 - 20: Naw Ruz (Baha’i)
 - 22: Isra wal Mi’raj (Muslim)
 - 23: Ava Mah Parab (Zoroastrian)
 - 26: Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)
- For a description of the festivals please visit: [Religious Festivals](#)

civilian award for bravery.

As a young refugee living in London, Noor faced many prejudices throughout her life, even as she was being trained and prepared for her work as a secret agent. The exhibition uncovers how Noor's Special Operations Executive (SOE) assessors initially had little faith in her abilities.



“Not overburdened with brains but has worked hard and shown keenness, apart from some dislike of the security side of the course. She has an unstable and temperamental personality and it is very doubtful whether she is really suited to work in the field.” (Colonel Frank Spooner, 21 May 1943)

Noor went on to overcome this prejudice and her own concerns. She broke new ground as a Muslim female operative. Her legacy lives on as a heroine and a woman who proved that an indomitable spirit can have a powerful impact and overcome even extreme adversity.

The harrowing tale of how she came to die for her country is told at CWGC's Runnymede Air Forces Memorial in the new digital exhibition Noor Inayat-Khan: A Woman of Conspicuous Courage.

The public will be able to put their code-breaking skills to the test and discover the scientific and technical skills of a wireless radio operator needed for the field. The exhibition has been funded by the AIM Biffa Award History Makers Scheme. The Scheme is managed by Biffa Award, a multi-million-pound fund that helps build communities and transform lives through awarding grants to communities and environmental projects across the UK as part of the Landfill Communities Trust.

Julian Evans, Director of International and Community Engagement at CWGC said:

Noor's story is an inspirational one and we believed it important, as the custodians of the memorial on which her name is inscribed, to help give it greater prominence.

Thanks to the award from AIM/Biffa we have been able to do this in an innovative way, by creating a digital exhibition whose content was developed with the help of members of the Girlguiding Movement. We hope that the exhibition will encourage more people to visit the Air Forces Memorial to explore the story of Noor and the 20,000 other members of the Commonwealth Air Forces who are commemorated here.



Jasmine Theti, a 15-year-old member of Girlguiding Berkshire and Buckinghamshire said:

“We must never forget her and the sacrifice she made. I loved learning the Morse Code it was good fun. Although I wouldn't have liked sending messages in a cold Parisian park whilst looking over my shoulder all the time. Noor was an inspiration”

Gillian French, Biffa Award Head of Grants said: “It is a privilege to be able to support the Commonwealth War Graves Foundation in creating their new digital exhibition celebrating the life and legacy of Noor Inayat-Khan. It is extremely important that we continue to support projects like this that remind people of some of the inspiring people who came before us and who played such significant and courageous roles in our history.”

Visitors to the CWGC's Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, will be invited to self-guide themselves around the iconic memorial that remembers more than 20,000 air forces personnel killed in the Second World War, who have no known grave.

Among them, is Noor Inayat Khan: poet, author, musician – secret agent.

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

Climate Emergency: Drastic times, drastic measures? Can faith give us hope?

The Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum (GGIFF) invited some members of Extinction Rebellion (XR) to share their experiences and how their faith motivated them to join XR.

Extinction Rebellion is an international movement that uses non-violent civil disobedience in an attempt to halt mass extinction and minimise the risk of social collapse. Their recent protests have caused some anger, however, have succeeded in putting the climate emergency on the political agenda.

Carol Foussat, an XR member, delivered a presentation on the 'science' of the climate change and explained the impact carbon has had on the planet and said we need to act now before it is too late.

Alison Moulden, a Anglican XR member, spoke with great passion about her journey to XR, her internal struggles and feelings of doubt followed by renewed faith and conviction to do her part to help save the planet through XR. Alison put her work on hold for a year to focus on this.

Anil Lyer explained the Hindu teachings on duty and responsibility towards the planet and how he was motivated to join XR

Alain Foussat said as a young student he was actively concerned about the environment but as time passed, he had swayed away from it. It wasn't until he was at a Quaker meeting, he felt a very strong calling towards this and once again felt directed to take action and joined XR to do this.

Carol Foussat spoke about a similar calling through a Quaker meeting; she is actively involved with protests and was recently man handled by police at a protest outside Surrey County Hall.

Rob Oulton explained what Unitarian beliefs were and how he felt the need to do more to save the planet. Rob has taken part in protests and was among those arrested in London during the shutdown week.

There were some thought provoking questions from the audience and concerns about the relationship with the police. The XR panel gave their own examples with the police and how they had empathy for the cause but were there to perform their duty as officers.



RASASC—Volunteers needed!

RASASC are looking for volunteers who offer a listening and support service to survivors of rape and sexual abuse who call our helpline.

The helpline is open Monday-Thursday evenings 19:30-21:30.

Volunteers are provided with full training, regular supervision and ongoing support. No experience or qualifications are needed for this role.

The dates of the next helpline training programme are as follows (it is mandatory to attend all of the sessions to pass the programme):

26 April (Sunday) 9:45 – 16:00 | 4th May (Monday) 18.45 – 21:00 | 18th May (Monday) 18.45 – 21:00

7th June (Sunday) 9:45 – 16:00

For further information about the helpline and details about how to apply please email

admin@rasasc-guildford.org or call the office on 01483 568000.

Faith communities and the environment

COP26, the 2020 UN Climate Change Conference will take place in Glasgow from 9 to 19 November. Many faith and inter faith organisations are already gearing up to hold activities related to it. The conference is at the same time as Inter Faith Week and Scottish Interfaith Week.

A number of faith communities and faith-based organisations have ongoing programmes of work on environmental issues and a number of linked initiatives have been developed, such as: the Bhumi Project (<http://www.bhumiproject.org/>); Eco-Church (<https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>); Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (<http://www.ifees.org.uk/>); Eco-Sikh (<http://www.ecosikh.org/about/>); EcoSynagogue (<https://ecosynagogue.org/about/>) and Operation Noah (<https://operationnoah.org/>). An Eco-Dharma working group has recently been set up (<https://www.nbo.org.uk/new-eco-dharma-network/>).

Examples of local inter faith activities can be found in IFN's latest online resource on 'Local inter faith organisations and environmental social action'. This includes case studies from Birmingham Council of Faiths, Devon Faith and Belief Forum, Harrow Interfaith and Redbridge faith Forum. <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/local-inter-faithorganisations-and-environmental-social-action>

Faiths4Change is an inter faith organisation working to connect the health and wellbeing of people and the environment across the North West through the use of arts, health and wellbeing activities.

<https://www.faiths4change.org.uk/>

Faith for the Climate (FfC) is a network of over 150 faith-based organisations and individuals working on climate change. It exists to encourage, inspire and equip faith in their work on climate change. Its website lists many faith-based campaigns and resources that inter faith groups can use and encourage their members to engage in. FfC also distributes a monthly e-news bulletin to its members, which can be signed up to at <https://faithfortheclimate.org.uk/>.

The Climate Coalition links 140 organisations of many different kinds. Its vision is of a future where the UK no longer contribute to climate change. Every February it encourages people to get involved in conversations about climate change through its Show the Love campaign: <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love>. This includes 'faith packs', faith-based resources created to enable greater grassroots faith participation in tackling climate change.

There are also international inter faith environmental initiatives such as the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative <https://www.interfaithrainforest.org>. Religions for Peace (RfP) has a Resource Guide on Climate Change for religious communities. <https://rfp.org/wpcontent/uploads/2017/09/RfP-Resource-Guide-on-Climate-Change.pdf>. Religions for Peace UK has a particular interest in this topic and is providing some support to Faith for the Climate and encouraging faith community conversations.

Interfaith Scotland has a guidance booklet, developed with its Youth Committee, to help faith communities become more eco-friendly. <https://interfaithscotland.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/07/Our-Sacred-Earth-a-guide-for-becoming-more-eco-friendly-inyour-faith-community.pdf>

New online resources

During January IFN published a resource on its website about Annual Memorial Days and Weeks including Holocaust Memorial Day and Remembering Srebrenica. This includes examples of events held by local inter faith organisations.

It can be found at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/annual-memorial-days-and-weeks>.

In February, it published a resource about local inter faith organisations and environmental social action: <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/local-inter-faithorganisations-and-environmental-social-action>

Resources for Community- and Faith-Based Leaders

Plan, prepare, and respond to coronavirus disease 2019

Important information and faith focussed advise:

<https://www.faithaction.net/coronavirus/>

[The NHS](#) – overview of coronavirus, including risks, prevention, and what to do if you suspect you’re infected

[The NHS](#) – FAQs, including advice on self-isolation

[GOV.UK](#) – general guidance on coronavirus, including daily updated information on identified cases)

Checklist for Community and Faith Leaders:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

For more general information, what you need to know, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Information, guidance and advice from National Council for Voluntary Organisations:

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/practical-support/information/coronavirus>

Please look after those most vulnerable in your local area, use social media, Street whatsapp groups to stay connected.

Faith and Cultural Awareness Training for Staff & Volunteers



It has become evident in todays 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 benefit from having a basic level of knowledge of different faiths; they have 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 more effective and positive experience with the people they work with.



The photos are from training held at Shah Jahan Mosque for Surrey Citizens Advice Bureau Managers. The training can be held anywhere with PowerPoint facility and tailored for individual organisations.

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

The Allen Lane Foundation

The Allen Lane Foundation aim to help organisations to become sustainable, supporting running and core costs to enable them to have flexibility, security and longevity.

They are interested in funding charitable causes which they believe to be unpopular both in society, and with other funders. If you believe your work to be an unpopular cause, both in society generally, and with other funders, and something you think the Foundation may be interested in funding, please email them to tell them more: info@allenlane.org.uk



The Community Business Bright Ideas Fund

What is The Community Business Bright Ideas Fund?

The Community Business Bright Ideas Fund is delivered by a consortium including Co-operatives UK, Plunkett Foundation and Groundwork UK, led by Locality and jointly funded by Power to Change and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. It aims to give community groups in England the support necessary to start setting up their community business. The Community Business Bright Ideas Fund is open now.

Who can apply?

Community groups in England looking to set up and start running a community business. Groups accepted onto the programme will receive tailored business development support, mentoring and visits and can apply for a small grant of up to £15,000 to fund development and start-up costs.

Visit The Community Business Bright Ideas Fund's website page for further information:

www.powertochange.org.uk



Healthy Communities Together

Healthy communities together is a major new programme to support local areas to improve their communities' health and wellbeing.

Working in partnership, The King's Fund and The National Lottery Community Fund will support up to six local areas for up to four years, helping to develop more effective partnerships between voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations and the NHS and local authorities in their area.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.faithaction.net/news/funding/2020/02/05/healthy-communities-together/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum Events 2020

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 0BS.

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

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

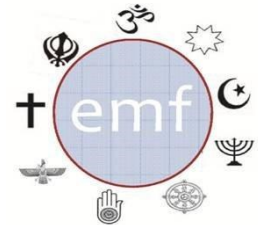
Further details to come soon.

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

For more information please email Secretary: Kausar.Akhtar@cofefeguildford.org.uk

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

Postponed



Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith Forum Events 2020

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



“Together “ Voluntary Action South West Surrey 2020 conference takes place on 31 March

Voluntary Action South West Surrey’s annual conference is this year themed **“Together”** and will explore the themes of how we work together; within our own organisations, across sectors and within communities; communicating effectively, building connections and forming partnerships which are essential to successful service delivery.

Speakers include: Joanna Killian, Surrey County Council; Karl Wilding, NCVO; Maria Zealey, Surrey Welfare Rights Unit; Tara Rowe, Reconnections; Debbie Boulter, Cherry Trees; Corin Harrison, Space to Grow.

Venue: Rik Medlik Building, University of Surrey, Guildford

Date and time: 31 March 9.30am-4.30pm

Price: £25

Tickets: [Eventbrite](#)

Woking People of Faith Programme of Events 2020

Interfaith Pilgrimage in Byfleet—Saturday 21st March. **Cancelled**

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 or

John West: 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

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

Woking Debates 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 Team will be organising some screening of films in the autumn; more details to come soon.

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



Runnymede and Spelthorne Faith Forum events 2020

Scriptural Reasoning:

Fasting—Tuesday 18th March (please note change of date from 3rd to 18th March)

Parish Centre, St Nicholas Church, Shepperton, TW17 7JY. 7.30 pm—8.45 pm

Scripture—Tuesday 2nd June, North West Surrey Synagogue,

Horvath Close, Rosslyn Park, Weybridge, KT13 9QZ. 7.30 pm

Topics yet to be decided for Tuesday 1st September and Tuesday 1st December

For more information about scriptural reasoning, please visit: www.scripturalreasoning.org

Mental Capacity Act and Faith: Training for faith leaders and volunteers.

Thursday 11th June, 9.30 am—1.00 pm. Training and materials are free .

Ashford and Staines Community Centre, 774 London Road, Stanwell, Feltham TW14 8FP

For more information please email: admin@ascc.uk.com

Speed Faithing—event for interfaith week, Thursday 12th November. More details to come soon.

For more information about RSFF events, please contact Kausar.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk

Postponed

Guildford and Godalming Events 2020

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

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



GGIFF

Runnymede's Networking Market Place

After the success of last year's networking event, Runnymede Community Development team have decided to run another event. This year's Networking Market Place will be held at Addlestone Community Centre on Wednesday 20 May, 10:00am to 12:00pm.

Organisations, charities and voluntary groups are being invited to showcase what their services do and make connections with other professionals.

If you wish to reserve a table or have any questions, please contact Azra Mukadam:

CommunityDevelopment@runnymede.gov.uk

Surrey Community Action 70th anniversary conference – save the date!

2020 marks a special year for Surrey Community Action, as they will be celebrating their 70th anniversary. Surrey Community Action will be marking this birthday at their conference on 14 May 2020, in which they will look back at the history of Surrey's voluntary sector and look forward to what it might look like in the future. Please save the date and more details will follow.



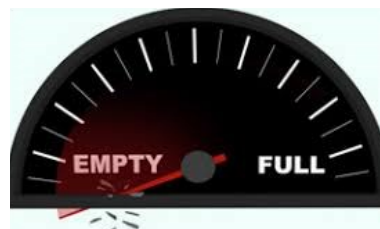
Compassion Fatigue led by Jayne Ellis

Wednesday 22nd April 2020 | 9.30 am - 12.30 pm (Coffee available from 9 am)
at Godalming Baptist Church, Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BA

Compassion Fatigue is the set of symptoms you experience when you become involved in helping others who are experiencing distress or trauma. It is the physical and emotional effect of being compassionate and empathetic, and it is essential that you are aware of it so you know how to react to the symptoms and strengthen your emotional resilience.

In the workshop we will explore the risk factors, causes, signs and symptoms and then explore some simple but effective self-care strategies.

To reserve a place (£9) by Wednesday 8th April please contact Sally Pollard (email: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk), or the Church Office, 01483 422105 on Mon, Wed, or Fri mornings, (office.gbc@btinternet.com)



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?

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 or www.meetup.com/Guildford-Woking-Humanists

Surrey Faith Links, Diocese of Guildford

Church House Guildford, 20 Alan Turing Road, Guildford, GU2 7YF

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

W: www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk

