



# Surrey Faith Links Newsletter

December 2020

**“If you think yourselves as strong, strong you will be.”**

**(Swami Vivekananda)**

*Happy Christmas to all those celebrating and wishing you all a peaceful  
New Year.*

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**Fill your street with happiness**

A partnership proposal for UK towns and cities  
Our shared experience of the pandemic has in many ways brought us closer together. How can we embed that positive experience of community, so that it doesn't just peter out as things (eventually!) get back to 'normal'?

In our personal lives, the experience of Lock-down has for many been highly impactful. There has been bereavement, loss, fear and trauma; a knock to confidence in socializing; a sense that we may have rediscovered things that had been forgotten, things that matter; a desire for 'something' – a spark to light a new fire. And now it might be a long winter...

A key response to all of this is found in real, supportive, loving, community. A vision for a restoration of neighbourly relationships, solidarity and a sense of



**Main Faith Festivals in  
January 2021**

- 5: Birthday of Guru Gobindh Singh (Sikh)
- 12: Birthday of Swami Vivekananda (Hindu)
- 13/14: Pongal (Hindu)
- 13: Maghi (Sikh)
- 25: Honen Memorial Day (Buddhist)
- 28: Tu B'Shvat (Jewish)
- 30: Jashn-e Sadeh (Zoroastrian)

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

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belonging is a prize worth fighting for – and now is the time to fight, as the refreshing of community spirit during the Lock-down and subsequent restrictions gives us a once-in-a-generation opportunity to facilitate something more permanent.

For more information about how to get involved or set up something in your local area, please visit:

<https://as-one.uk/>

### 'The living and the dead: exploring minority burial grounds in Brookwood Cemetery'

Surrey Heritage is a partner in a new 2-year project, led by Woking Asian Business Forum (WABF), aimed at exploring and documenting minority burial grounds in Brookwood Cemetery, Woking. Awarded £93,400 by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project will significantly adding to our knowledge of the cemetery burial communities and the resulting research will be made accessible on our [Exploring Surrey's Past](#) website.



Unknown to most, Brookwood Cemetery is host to the highest concentration of minority burial grounds in the UK. Apart from a wide range of Muslim burial grounds, these include the first Zoroastrian burial ground established in Europe, as well as Swedish, Latvian and Serbian grounds, to name but a few. These burial grounds constitute an important part of Brookwood Cemetery, and they represent a unique cultural heritage that has so far remained undocumented.

WABF, working with Surrey History Centre, Brookwood Cemetery Society and The Lightbox, will collect information concerning the history and rituals relating to the burial grounds, and make it widely available. An app will also be developed enabling visitors to Brookwood Cemetery to access information about the minority burial ground while visiting the cemetery. Additional outputs include a documentary, an exhibition at The Lightbox, oral history interviews, and thematic walks in collaboration with Brookwood Cemetery Society.

The project will be managed by Woking-based social researcher Ole Jensen, who has supported us with previous outreach work, and he'll be working with local stakeholders and volunteers. More details about the project can be found at the website of [Woking Asian Business Forum](#).

### Difference

Difference is a 5 session course that explores what it means to follow Jesus in the face of conflict and see transformation through everyday encounters.

"Reconciliation is not the ending of all difference, but the transformation of how we deal with difference."

Archbishop Justin Welby

A transformed world starts with transformed relationships. The course teaches 3 habits to help us encounter others well, cross divides and see society transformed. For more information please [click here](#)

### **“The Future of Interreligious Dialogue” - Essay Competition**

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has announced an essay competition for youth who want to reflect on the theme “The Future of Interreligious Dialogue.” The contest marks the 50th anniversary of the WCC’s Office of Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation.

The contest aims to encourage people under the age of 30 with interests in the field of interreligious relations and engagement to develop and share their ideas on different subjects such as: Christian theologies of interreligious engagement; some aspect of another religious tradition which is relevant to its relationship to Christianity; religious pluralism more widely; or the theory or practice of interreligious dialogue. Essays may also reflect on interreligious cooperation for the sake of the common good; or the World Council of Churches and interreligious relations.

The deadline for the competition is 15 January 2021

For more information please [click here](#)

### **Rise in Computer Software Fraud**

Fraudsters are taking advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to commit Computer Software Service Fraud (CSSF), as the UK public continue to stay at home and utilise the internet more as a result of ongoing restrictions.

2,007 reports were made to Action Fraud in November 2020 in relation to CSSF, with a total loss of £2,148,976. This is a 22% increase in reporting compared to the previous month.

Suspects cold call victims, or use a ‘pop up’ window, purporting to be calling from well-known broadband providers primarily, claiming that victims have problems with their computers, routers, or internet.

The suspect persuades the victim to download and connect via a Remote Access Tool (RAT), allowing the suspect to gain access to the victim’s computer or mobile phone. Victims are persuaded to log into their online banking to receive a refund as a form of compensation, allowing the suspect access to the victim’s bank account, and the ability to move funds out of the victims account into a UK mule account.

There has also been an increase in the variety of service providers being impersonated, with multiple providers being affected.

What you need to do:

Always remember:

- Genuine organisations would never contact you out of the blue to ask for personal or financial details, such as your PIN or full banking password.
- Never install any software, or grant remote access to your computer, because of a cold call.
- Don’t contact companies promoting tech support services via browser pop-ups.
- Hang up on any callers that claim they can get your money back for you.

If you have been a victim:

- If you have made a payment, contact your bank immediately. They can help you prevent any further losses.
- If you granted remote access to your computer, seek technical support to remove any unwanted software. If you need tech advice, look for reviews online first or ask friends for recommendations

For more information, visit: [www.cyberaware.gov.uk](http://www.cyberaware.gov.uk) and [takefive-stopfraud.org.uk](http://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk)

### **Fixed term paid Internship opportunity**

Interfaith Network UK are advertising a fixed term paid Internship from 14 January to 31 March. The post has a strong focus on youth inter faith support and working with HE and FE institutions. The post holder will be expected to work remotely while Government COVID-19 restrictions point to this, but will otherwise be primarily based at the London office.

Further information about the role is available on the IFN website at:

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/vacancies/jobs>

The deadline for applications is 11am on 4 January. There is a tighter than usual turn around on this recruitment. However, it would be appreciated if member bodies would draw this role to the attention of their members.

### **MINDS, HEARTS, BODIES, SPIRITS**

It was in March 2020 that COVID shutdowns and lockdowns began all over the world. 'And the people stayed home,' wrote Kitty O'Meara in a prose-poem that became widely known and loved. And, she continued, people 'read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still.' 'And listened more deeply.' 'Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.' '... And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.'

This paper lists 32 websites that between them sketch out what Kitty O'Meara may have had in mind.

<http://www.insted.co.uk/pdfs/Staying%20Home.pdf>

Kitty O'Meara's poem In The Time Of Pandemic may be read with a range of attractive musical and pictorial settings at <https://the-daily-round.com/2020/03/30/gifts/>

### **Professional Outdoor Training Courses**

Surrey Outdoor Learning and Developing are offering a free outdoor learning experience for staff and volunteers in the voluntary sector to promote team building skills. This will take place over 2 days and is an opportunity for groups of people to share experiences and meet outside the work environment. If you feel that this would be of interest for your organisation, please contact Gareth Moss from [Surrey Outdoor Learning & Development](#) by email at [gareth.moss@surreycc.org.uk](mailto:gareth.moss@surreycc.org.uk) for more information

### **COVID-19 advice in different languages**

Big Leaf Foundation have produced recent COVID tier rules in languages representative of displaced communities. They are available to download at: <https://www.bigleafoundation.org.uk/covid-19-advice.html>

### **Frustrations of adapting to digital interactions**

For many of us, this has been a year of rapid adaptation. Most significantly, adapting to a digital way of interacting with one another. As an organisation that is all about 'face-to-face encounter' and immersive residential experiences, it has been a fascinating journey to question how we can respond with integrity to the change of circumstances and shifting needs of those we exist to serve. We resisted jumping on the digital bandwagon before spending a good amount of time questioning 'to what extent is our work even possible online?' Is it possible to build trust across difficult divides in a virtual environment rather than a shared physical space?

We had already started a process of distilling the essence of our approach to reconciliation into 12 actionable habits, which we have enjoyed sharing in its most simple form through our [Habit Advent Calendar](#) and in its fuller form through our virtual programme journey. And we had already started to think about how we could develop a digital platform to support the ongoing collaboration of our global network beyond their residential experience. These projects have ended up being well timed for the necessary migration to the digital domain and have led to creative ways of developing some digital programming that remains rooted in our DNA. Our approach to 'digitalisation' has not been to try and replicate what we do online, but rather to reconsider how we can bring people together across divides in the new landscape that COVID-19 has revealed. In the same way that needs are always changing over time, it has been good to be present to and respond to this year's changes in the world around us.

[Click here to read the full article](#) written by Owen May from Rose Castle Foundation.

### **Stay safe and avoid waiting in A&E – just call 111 first**

People in Surrey who need urgent NHS care are being asked to call NHS 111 before they decide to walk into the local Emergency Department (ED), or as many people know it, A&E.

The new approach will ensure that patients can access the clinical service they need, first time. It will help to us to maintain social distancing, reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19 and keep patients and staff as safe as possible.

To ensure social distancing in the emergency department waiting areas people with urgent, but not life-threatening, health problems are being asked to contact NHS 111 before attending. NHS 111 will provide help straight away; if you need urgent care they will book you in so you can be seen quickly and safely. They may signpost you to an alternative service where you can access the right care in the right place.

Surrey Heartlands will go-live on 1 December as part of the national roll out.

This is about making it easier for our patients to access the right care quickly and, importantly, keeping them safe during the pandemic. This winter it is crucial that we carefully manage the numbers of people in our emergency department and calling NHS 111 first can help to prevent overcrowding. This is specifically for people who are not in serious danger but need urgent attention. The fastest way to get the right care is to contact NHS 111.

They will be spoken to by a trained professional and a clinician if needed. If it is decided you need to go to the emergency department then you will be given a suitable time to attend and staff at the hospital will be expecting you. That means less waiting around and faster treatment.

Nationally around 70 per cent of people attending emergency departments had just walked in and the majority of those could have been seen through other services such as the urgent treatment centres, GP or even pharmacy.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### The Surrey Crisis Fund

The [Surrey Crisis Fund](#) is a discretionary fund run by Surrey County Council. It offers financial help to Surrey residents who have nowhere else to turn in an emergency or following a disaster.

### What would you do with a £100m in Surrey?

[Surrey County Council's 'Your Fund Surrey'](#) has launched £100 m for local communities. Visit their website for details and the interactive map showing what is going on in your community.

### Community Foundation for Surrey Donor Funds

Funding to support groups addressing the Community Foundation Priority areas:

- Health & Wellbeing – Advance people’s physical and mental health, wellbeing and safety
- Education & Skills – Improve life skills, education, employability and enterprise
- Disadvantage & Exclusion – Promote reduction of isolation and disadvantage and access to local services
- Stronger Communities – Maximise ability to strengthen community cohesion and build social capacity

CFS are currently accepting applications on a rolling basis with the next awards made in January 2021.

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

### Spelthorne Covid-19 Community Group Grants

If you are a voluntary group or organisation in Spelthorne and suffering financially from the current challenging times due to Covid, why not apply for a grant. The process is quite simple and you can download the application form from here: <https://voluntarysupport.org.uk/latest-funds/>

### Digital Fundraising

Receive free advice on digital fundraising strategies by registering with your email address for Charity Digital and/or Blackbaud but please note, these organisations offer a mix of free and chargeable services to charities so make sure you check which category it is before you sign up to products:

<https://charitydigital.org.uk/>

<https://hub.blackbaud.co.uk/npinsights/fundraising-focus-looking-beyond-covid-19>

The London LEAP and Coast to Capital LEP has invested ESF funds to deliver a **Community Grants programme** for the region from 1st April 2019.

Working with the voluntary and community sector, the programme will support people with multiple and complex barriers to participation to address these underlying issues and to move closer to or into the labour market.. For more information please visit: <https://www.londonlc.org.uk/community-grants/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Community support...local courses for local people.

2021 Spring term is enrolling now!  
FREE Passport to Wellbeing courses.

Surrey Adult Learning offers FREE wellbeing courses that are designed to support adults with mild-moderate mental health conditions that have an impact on daily life. These might include depression, anxiety, or sleeping disorders. Please can you share this email with those who would benefit from our programme?  
Courses start from 18th January.  
Please get in contact by 8 January to give enough time to complete the enrolment process.  
Bookings are by phone: 0300 200 1044.



You may also know families who could benefit from our [Family Learning parenting courses](#) or vulnerable adults who need [Outreach](#) support.

Please forward to interested parties.  
If you have any questions, please contact us via [adultlearning@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:adultlearning@surreycc.gov.uk)

### The Great Winter Get Together

December 14th – January 18th

This year's Great Winter Get Together will be like no other. We must join together to build connections during what is already a lonely time of year for many.

So mark your calendars – our exciting winter campaign will run from December 14th to January 18th. With a whole host of new initiatives to take part in.

Let's face loneliness together: one connection at a time.

[Sign up here](#) to join our winter campaign and find out how you can get involved – including exclusive access to events!

For more information please visit: [https://www.greatgettogether.org/winter\\_get\\_together](https://www.greatgettogether.org/winter_get_together)

### Free Online Learning

How to teach online, free course: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/teach-online>

National Emergency Library: <https://archive.org/details/nationalemergencylibrary>

Free online courses from top Universities: <https://www.classcentral.com/>

Free learning from the Open University: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>

### Woking Debates 2021 Programme

11.00 am—12.30 pm

16th January: Are we giving vulnerable children the help they need?

20th February: Future of Woking

20th March: Knife Crime and Gangs

17th April: Air pollution

15th May: Arms Trade—Military Expenditure



Please note these are the finalised titles of the debates but planned areas of discussion/debate.

For zoom joining details, please contact Keith Scott: [keithsc\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:keithsc_2000@yahoo.com) or 01483 824980

For more information please visit: [www.wokingdebates.com](http://www.wokingdebates.com) and/or follow on Facebook

### Researching cemeteries: exploring a shared and living heritage workshop

Woking Asian Business Forum has the pleasure of inviting you to a Zoom-generated seminar on cemetery research, on Saturday 23 January.

The seminar will provide an introduction to cemetery research, with emphasis on Victorian cemeteries, the early history and development of Brookwood Cemetery, and the particular role of minority burial grounds in contemporary cemetery landscapes.



Speakers will include:

Julie Ruggs, leader of the Cemetery Research Group, University of York.

John Clarke, foremost authority on Brookwood Cemetery, and author of 'London's Necropolis: A guide to Brookwood Cemetery'.

Avril Madderel, Reading University, leader of research project on 'Deathscapes and diversity: Making space for death and remembrance in multicultural England and Wales'.

When

The seminar will take place on Saturday 23 January 2021, 11:00-16:00. Due to the current situation, it will be held online, using Zoom.

RSVP

Ole Jensen, 07838 132521, [o.jensen@open.ac.uk](mailto:o.jensen@open.ac.uk). Registered participants will be sent a zoom link ahead of the workshop.



Family Learning provides free online parenting courses for parents and carers, including grandparents, who lack confidence or are struggling to support their children with school, homework or behaviour issues.

Bookings open now for FREE courses starting from 8 January

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/adult-learning/courses/family-learning>



### **Festival of Connection: Reclaim Blue Monday**

Save the Date: 18 January 2020

We're also launching a packed programme of online events specially curated to reduce loneliness in partnership with SocialEyes - a virtual venue offering live, exclusive experiences with some of the best names in the entertainment industry.

The busy schedule includes a singing masterclass from Olivier Award winning actress, Cassidy Janson, astounding illusions from magic circle veteran Katherine Rhodes and hilarious comedy with Josie Long. What's more, in a bid to give everyone a bit of cheer, each event will be free to attend, live and fully interactive.

Sign up for priority access here: [https://www.greatgettogether.org/reclaim\\_blue\\_monday](https://www.greatgettogether.org/reclaim_blue_monday)

### **The Faith and Belief Forum's Virtual Gala 2021**



Tuesday 19 January 2021, 7pm- 8pm

The Faith and Beliefs Faith Forum will be hosting their third annual Gala in an evening of celebration and connection.

In a time of lockdown, isolation, and uncertainty, we want to celebrate connection, community, and diversity – join them in doing that.

The Gala will be a chance to learn how their beneficiaries and communities have been impacted and supported by their work during the Covid crisis, to hear from inspirational speakers, and to raise funds for the organisation.

For more information and/or to register please [click here](#)

Let's talk about it...9 out of 10 experience it. It exists across all ages, gender, cultures. Health and care services can be guilty of it. Even friends and family show it and sometimes, an individual will turn it on him or herself.

What is it? Mental Health Stigma..

Let's take the talking about it to doing something about it—Join a virtual event to mark Time to Talk on 4th February 2021, 11.00—13.00 on Zoom.

Register for this free event and more information: Megan Aspel, Time to Change Surrey Coordinator

E: [megal.aspel@sky.com](mailto:megal.aspel@sky.com)

### **Live Streaming of Religious Services:**

A Church Near you: [https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/?tags=Live\\_stream](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/?tags=Live_stream)

Diocese of Arundel and Brighton: <https://www.dabnet.org/>

Surrey Muslim Association: <http://www.surreymuslims.org/Resources/>

Join Wat Phra Dhammakaya Buddhist Temple in daily meditation: <https://www.facebook.com/DMCtvLondon/>

# HELPLINE FOR FAITH INSTITUTIONS

## 0333 772 1989

EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK, 1PM-7PM



Call our team of expert consultants for up-to-date support during this critical time.

**CALL US ON  
0333 772 1989 OR SEND  
US AN EMAIL AT  
INFO@SFITOGETHER.ORG**

[www.sfitogether.org](http://www.sfitogether.org)

**SFI** | Strengthening  
Faith Institutions

### WE CAN HELP WITH:

- Local and National Government economic support schemes
- Charity Registration
- Gift Aid
- Legal matters
- counseling support
- Safeguarding children online
- Health and well-being
- Volunteer opportunities
- technical and financial support for online engagement

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Diocese of  
**Guildford**   
TRANSFORMING CHURCH  
TRANSFORMING LIVES  
Communities Engagement