



Surrey Faith Links Newsletter

March 2022



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"O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous."

(Qur'an: 2:183)

April appears to have a faith festival for almost all the religions! Indeed, a time of increasing ones spirituality and incorporating it into every day life.

There are plenty of opportunities to engage in interfaith and it usually helps if they are linked with national/international days; some of these can be found on page 4 of this newsletter and of course, we have the celebration of the Queens Platinum Jubilee this year; many events have been planned for the celebration.

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91,240 More Trees Planted in Surrey to Tackle Climate Change

Surrey County Council remains on target in its work with communities, residents and partners to facilitate the planting of 1.2 million trees in Surrey, one for every resident, by 2030 and supports the Council's aim to be carbon neutral by 2050.

Since the launch of the initiative in 2019, over 333,749 trees have been planted, and another 91,240 planted during the most recent tree planting season which runs from November to March. The trees planted this year



contribute towards the [Queen's Green Canopy](#), marking Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

The County Council and Forestry Commission formed an

Main Faith Festivals in April 2022

3 April—2nd May: Ramadan (Muslim)
 8: Hanamatsuri (Buddhist)
 10-16: Holy Week (Christian)
 10: Rama Navami (Hindu)
 13-15: Songkran (Buddhist)
 13: Vaisakhi (Sikh)
 14: Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
 15: Good Friday (Christian)
 16/17: Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)
 16-23: Passover (Jewish)
 17: Easter Day (Christian)
 21 - 2 May: Ridvan (Baha'i)
 21: Adar Mah Parab (Zoroastrian)

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

alliance at a recent Tree Summit which encouraged farmers, landowners and land managers to come together and find out how they can help tackle the impacts of climate change, improve biodiversity and support Surrey's greener future through planting trees. More than half of those who attended pledged to take the next steps to tree planting and woodland creation on their land in Surrey.

Other initiatives to promote tree planting and woodland creation across the county include a giveaway of 550 trees to residents at Godalming, Banstead and Bookham libraries, and many volunteer tree planting events.

To read about the new Tree Strategy visit the [Surrey County Council website](#).

'No' to more plastic waste?



Reducing plastic waste can be tricky. Last year student Elina set out to reduce her plastic waste, a couple of things she did:

"I changed my toothbrush from a plastic one to a bamboo one. I also switched to bamboo cotton swabs and reusable makeup remover cotton pads.

I stopped buying liquid soap and started using solid one instead. I used to think this would dry my hands but most of the newer formulas contain hydrating ingredients and, frankly, I cannot tell a difference."

Read Elina's blog where she shares her top tips in the latest [Greener Futures blog](#).

Making Local Action on Climate Change Happen in Surrey

This one-day masterclass will equip you with the knowledge & skills to make a green difference in your local community.

Do you want to be part of ground level, community-based solutions to the climate crisis? This morning masterclass will equip you with the knowledge and skills to make a difference in your local community and help to create a low carbon future and local green jobs.

During the morning we will bring together some of the leaders in the community energy sector across the UK. We will give you step by step support on how you can join with people in your local community to start up renewable energy, energy efficiency and fuel poverty projects.

The morning will include sessions on starting a community energy group, finding funding, developing projects and a technical crash course. We will tell you about inspiring projects that that will give you food for thought and explain the support that Community Energy South can offer you to make it all happen.

Thursday 7th April, 10 am—1.00 pm

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

Support for Ukrainians

Faith communities are praying for peace in Ukraine and have stepped forward as usual by providing practical support.

If you are a resident of Surrey and wish to volunteer your home to host those fleeing the war in Ukraine, you can do so via the government's ['Homes for Ukraine'](#) initiative.

Further information on how the scheme operates and how residents can register is available via GOV.UK web page: [Homes for Ukraine scheme: frequently asked questions](#).

Additionally, if you wish to donate to help the Ukrainian people in their time of crisis you can do so through the British Red Cross Disaster Emergency Committee Ukrainian Humanitarian Appeal: [DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal British Red Cross](#)

Some other information:

- ⇒ [Free rail travel for refugees on arrival in Great Britain](#)
- ⇒ [Further support for Ukrainians](#)
- ⇒ [Welcome guide for Ukrainians arriving in the UK](#)

First Aid training for volunteers

St John's Ambulance is offering free first aid training for voluntary organisations in Reigate and Banstead. The half-day training can take place at an organisation's premise for groups of up to 15 people. It is available to book now for dates in May and June.

For further details or to book, please contact info@varb.org.uk giving the preferred dates and venue details.

Religions for Peace (UK) – Women's Project Coordinator Religions for Peace (UK)

Women of Faith Network is seeking a Women's Project Coordinator to deliver a series of small and medium size projects related to the training and empowerment of women of faith, religious literacy, and religion's role in responding to the climate emergency. The Project Coordinator will be responsible for all aspects of project implementation and management, including monitoring and evaluation and reporting. They will also provide support for the UK Women of Faith network. It is envisioned that the role and responsibilities will develop over time as the organisation grows. This is a part-time, freelance role. The deadline for applications is 10 April. For further information, visit <https://www.charityjob.co.uk/jobs/view/807545?tsId=8>.

IFN 'Digital surgery' slots for local inter faith organisations

Interfaith Network UK is continuing to make available free half hour digital 'surgery' slots for local inter faith organisations who would like a chance to talk about how their group might strengthen their use of digital communications. Any local inter faith group interested in booking a slot can email IFN Project Director, Ashley Beck, at ashley.beck@interfaith.org.uk.

Special Weeks/Days

Great British Spring Clean Keep Britain Tidy runs an annual Great British Spring Clean campaign, which this year runs from Friday 25 March to Sunday 10 April. Every year lots of faith and inter faith groups take part. For more information, visit the [website here](#).

The Big Lunch this year is an official part of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June. Across the years millions of people from different backgrounds have joined together to take part through street parties, BBQs, iftars and picnics. For more information visit their [website here](#).

Refugee Week will take place from Monday 20 to Sunday 26 June. 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. The theme for the 2022 Week is 'Healing'. For more information please [click here](#).

The Great Get Together inspired by the late Jo Cox MP, is taking place from Friday 24 to Sunday 26 June. <https://www.greatgettogether.org/>

Srebrenica Memorial Day takes place each year on 11 July. This year's theme is 'Combatting Denial: Challenging Hatred'. It is organised by Remembering Srebrenica. For more information please [click here](#).

National Hate Crime Awareness Week takes place from Saturday 8 October to Saturday 15 October. <https://nationalhcaw.uk/>

One World Week will take place from Sunday 23 to Sunday 30 October. More information [here](#)

Inter Faith Week, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, will take place from Sunday 13 to Sunday 20 November. More information on their [website here](#).

Mitzvah Day will take place on Sunday 20 November. It is an annual day of faith-based social action led by the Jewish community where people give their time to make a difference to the community around them. Many events and projects held for the day have an inter faith focus. More information [here](#).

Sewa Day is a day of faith-based social action led by the Hindu community. It normally takes place on 4 dates across the year. Due to COVID there are currently no fixed days; rather, 'every day is Sewa day' and volunteers are helping people continually as they are able. More information [here](#).

VisitMyMosque Day is a national campaign facilitated by the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) that encourages mosques across the UK to hold an open day to welcome in their neighbours from all faiths and none. More information [here](#).

The Platinum Jubilee



A special 4-day weekend of events to mark the Platinum Jubilee will take place from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June. More information can be found at <https://www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend>.

As well as planting trees for [The Queen's Green Canopy](#), there are a number of other ways for individuals and communities to take part.

Street parties and events—Street parties are great opportunities to not only bring communities together, but a safe place for everyone to take advantage of a traffic free zone. Why not organise events such as skateboarding, cycling, egg and spoon races, tug of war, even a game of badminton to take advantage of your car free street.

If you're thinking of organising a street party or an event you will need to submit an application. This is not done via Surrey County Council but via your local district and borough council. If you need to apply for a road closure please allow 6-12 weeks before your event. See the District and Borough links on page 8 of this newsletter to submit an application in your area.

Big Lunches—The Big Lunch is an idea from the Eden Project to bring people together to meet, chat and have fun in their neighbourhoods, annually fundraising £8m for local causes they care about. It's about sharing food and fun during the Jubilee bank holiday weekend of 2 to 5 June 2022, or throughout the Month of Community in June as we celebrate good causes across the UK.

Great things happen when we all get together! For tips and ideas on hosting your own Big Lunch event visit the [Eden Project's Big Jubilee Lunch](#) website.

For information about planned events in your area, please go to page 8 of this newsletter.

Make a Difference Awards

This year BBC Radio Sussex and BBC Radio Surrey wants to celebrate and say thank you to people living in our villages, towns and cities who make where we live a better place.

Every day we hear stories of people doing incredible things for each other and their communities. Now it's time to recognise them for all their hard work.

Whether it's caring for someone in need, being a brilliant neighbour, or inspiring children in the classroom, if you know someone who is really making a difference to our lives then you can nominate them for an Award

There are 8 categories;

- Volunteer
- Community Group
- Fundraiser
- Carer
- Great Neighbour
- Key Worker
- Environment
- Together award



You can nominate someone you know at bbc.co.uk/makeadifference, where you can also see full Terms and our Privacy Notice. Nominations are now open and will close on the 29th of April 2022 at 11:00pm. The winners will be announced at our Make a Difference awards ceremony in September.

And follow #BBCMakeADifference on Twitter and Facebook for more details.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

COVID-19 related funding

The Charities Aid Foundation has collated a list of organisations which are supporting charities and voluntary groups at this time. <https://www.cafonline.org/covid-19-support/help-for-charities#tab1>

Listed Places of Worship grant scheme

The Listed Places of Worship (LPW) Grant Scheme gives grants that cover the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings in use as places of worship. The scheme covers repairs to the fabric of the building, along with associated professional fees, plus repairs to turret clocks, pews, bells and pipe organs.

The Grant Scheme is run by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and administered by Top-mark. For more information please [click here](#)

Lottery Funding for Platinum Jubilee projects

There is some Lottery Funding available, for grants of up to £10,000, for Platinum Jubilee projects. Applications should be received no later than 31 March. Further information can be found at [here](#)

Grants and benefits to help you pay your energy bills

You can get help if you're struggling to afford your energy bills or top up your prepayment meter. You might be able to take advantage of certain benefits, grants and help offered by the government and energy suppliers. Find out more on the [Citizens Advice website](#)

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 current round closes on 2 March. [FCC Community Action Fund](#)

Subsidised fundraising workshops

The Foundation for Social Improvement offers subsidised training programmes for small charities across the UK. The courses cover a wide range of subjects from event planning to leadership. Many of the courses focus on fundraising and sustainability skills in particular. Further information and dates for upcoming courses, now being held online, can be found at <http://www.thefsi.org/services/training>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Woking Debates Programme 2022

23 April: Do we have an effective welfare state?

21 May: 'The Bundle', a play by Journeymen Theatre about immigration

18 June: Does military intervention work?

The debates will take place at Christ Church, Jubilee Square, Woking, GU21 6YG

10.30 am Refreshments for 11.00 am start till 12.30 pm. Entrance is free, donations welcome.

The Woking debates are organised by: Woking Action for Peace, Surrey Faith Links, Woking Environment Action, Woking People of Faith, Woking Sorooptimists and Woking Quakers.

For more information please contact: Keith Scott: 01483 824980 | keithsc_2000@yahoo.com

For more information please visit: www.wokingdebates.com and/or follow on Facebook



Woking People of Faith

Interfaith Football Tournament—Winston Churchill Sports Centre, Hermitage Road, St John's, GU21 8TL, Saturday 21st May, 9am - 4pm. Book your six-a-side team now by emailing treasurer@wpof.org.uk. There will be medals for all players as well as a trophy for the winning team. Lunch will be served. More details to follow.

Faith in Harmony—Parkview Community Centre, Blackmore Crescent, Sheerwater, GU21 5NZ Thursday 26th May 6.30 pm (refreshments) for 7pm start. Join us as we listen to musicians from all different faiths and cultures followed by a meal. More details to follow.

Dates for your diary:

Refugee Week Event, 20th - 26th June

Last Post Service, Brookwood Cemetery, Sunday 7th August

International Day of Peace Event, Saturday 24th September

Interfaith Cricket Tournament, September tbc

Interfaith Week Event, November tbc

For more information: administrator@wpof.org.uk



Woking People of Faith

Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum Events

Appreciating interfaith friendships—Tuesday 19th July, 6.00 pm by the river

What do we mean by prayer? perspectives from different faiths—Tuesday 20th September, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start at the Christian Science Church, Godalming

Interfaith Service—20th November 3 pm – 5 pm at St Nicholas Church

For more information please contact Bernard Jones: bernard.jones10@btinternet.com



GGIFF

Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum Events 2022

My Islam: differences among Muslims.

Tuesday 10th May, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start at the East Molesey Islamic and Cultural Centre, 94 Road Walton Road, East Molesey KT8 0DL.

Speakers included will be a Sunni, Shia and Sufi. There will be an opportunity to ask questions, all welcome. To RSVP please contact Kawther on the details below.

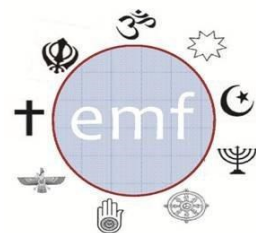
EMF AGM, Tuesday 21st June, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start

Visit to the Peace Garden (Woking) and Brookwood Cemetery. Tuesday 13th September

My Christianity, differences among Christians. Wednesday 16th November, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start at St John's Church, Walton-on-Thames

Further updates to follow in the next newsletter. For more information please contact: Kawther Hashmi, Secretary, Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum

E: KawtherH@smef.org.uk | M: 07827 974792



The Platinum Jubilee

On 6 February this year Her Majesty the Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

To mark this historical occasion there will be a four day Bank Holiday weekend, from Thursday 2 June until Sunday 5 June.

You can get involved in celebrating Her Majesty's historic reign, nationally and in Surrey.

There will be lots of things going on in Surrey and you can find out some of these here by clicking on the borough and district link:

- [Epsom and Ewell](#) for information about organising street parties [click here](#).
- [Elmbridge](#) for information about organising street parties [click here](#)
- [Guildford](#) for information about organising street parties [click here](#)
- [Mole Valley](#) for information about organising street parties [click here](#).
- [Reigate and Banstead](#) for information about organising street parties [click here](#)
- [Runnymede](#) for information about organising street parties [click here](#)
- [Spelthorne](#) for information about organising street parties [click here](#)
- [Surrey Heath](#) for information about organising street parties [click here](#)
- [Tandridge](#) for information about organising street parties [click here](#)
- [Woking](#) for information about organising street parties [click here](#)
- [Waverley](#) for information about organising street parties [click here](#)



Exploring minority burial grounds in Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey

Sunday 24th April (13:00 to 15:00) Muslim burial grounds in Brookwood Cemetery. Starting with the establishment of the first Muslim burial ground in the UK in 1884, Brookwood Cemetery hosts a wide range of Muslim burial grounds. This walk will introduce the history of these burial grounds, and also trace some of the journeys travelled by some of those buried here.

Sunday 22nd May (13:00 to 15:00): From far away: Exploring minority burial grounds in Brookwood Cemetery. Content as above.

Sunday 12th June (13:00 to 15:00): Muslim burial grounds in Brookwood Cemetery. Content as above

Note: All walks are organised in collaboration with Brookwood Cemetery Society. Limited numbers, so booking is essential at walks@tbcs.org.uk

Talks at Surrey History Centre

Saturday 23rd April (14:00 to 15:30): Roots & Routes: On the history of minority burial grounds in Brookwood Cemetery (Part I). Based on an outline of 19th Century demographic development and legislative reform, the talk will explore how Brookwood Cemetery emerged as 'host' to the highest concentration of minority burial grounds in the UK. The talk will then turn towards the defining features of some of the burial grounds, including the Zoroastrian, Swedish and Latvian plots.

Saturday 14th May (14:00 to 15:30): Roots & Routes: On the history of minority burial grounds in Brookwood Cemetery (Part II). The second talk will trace cultural and religious roots of some of the burial communities in Brookwood Cemetery and also trace the routes taken by these communities, in particular the East African connection. There will be particular focus on the settlement and burial practices of Woking-based Pakistani- and Italian-heritage communities.

Note: Both talks take place at Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking GU21 6ND, booking at Surrey County Council - [Surrey Heritage Events Bookings \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://surreycc.gov.uk)

For further information, please contact project manager Ole Jensen, ole.jensen@open.ac.uk

Baha'i South East Regional Event

The South East of England Conference Building Vibrant Communities will be one of many global conferences this year, and will be held in the Surrey University, Stag Hill, University Campus, Guildford, GU2 7XH from Saturday 30th April to Monday 2nd May.

Join with friends, families, colleagues & neighbours of all backgrounds, cultures, religions, and beliefs to advance a unified vision for the betterment of our one world.

This Conference will explore the oneness of humanity, through meaningful conversations, arts & a spirit of joyful fellowship!

The [programme is available here](#) and to register or for more information [please click here](#).

E: southeastconference@bahaievents.org.uk

END OF LIFE MATTERS MARKETPLACE —The Brigitte Trust

You're invited to drop in to their first End of Life Matters Marketplace in Surrey.

Meet a range of professionals from different types of funeral businesses and from end of life care services

Funeral Directors, Crematorium managers, Natural Burial grounds, Celebrants, Doulas, Health professionals, Coffin makers, Florists, Hospices and many more.

May 5, 2022 2 - 7 pm Holiday Inn Guildford, GU2 7XZ

Free Entry | no booking required.

www.brigitte-trust.org | 01306 880862



*Free Courses Leading to a Qualification from Surrey Adult Learning

Improve maths and English skills to GCSE level: [SAL English and maths courses for adults](#).

[English for Speakers of Other Languages \(ESOL\)](#). From basic everyday vocabulary to being ready to move on to English Functional Skills and then GCSE courses.

[Essential Digital Skills](#): To develop digital skills to support adults keep up in this increasingly digital world.

*Free to those meeting the ESFA funding eligibility requirements

For more information and other courses, please visit: www.surreycc.gov.uk/adultlearning



Surrey Family Learning offer FREE online courses for parents, grandparents and carers who live in Surrey. New courses can be found here:

[Supporting Parents](#)

You are invited to attend a free webinar organised by the Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus

Slavery is happening right here right now. Alongside efforts to bring an end to this scourge on our society, there are many organisations who are supporting survivors, helping them take the steps towards a positive future. Please join online to learn more about the current situation regarding slavery in Surrey and find out what happens when someone is released from slavery in our local area and more widely.

This event is open to all and will include an opportunity to ask questions. Please book your free ticket and share with anyone who may be interested in attending.

Speakers include:

- Bishop Alastair Redfern, Chair The Clewer Initiative
- Ven Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate
- DCI Kerry Loveless, Surrey Police
- Sarah, Victim Navigator from Justice and Care
- Jess Visser, Strength & Stem

Saturday 7th May, 10 am—12 pm

[Click here](#) for more information and to register

Surrey Faith Links, Surrey Ethnic Minority Forum

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W: www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk

