



**“One good deed is worth a thousand prayers.”  
(Zoroaster)**

April was truly a multi faith month with 9 religions celebrating a faith festival; an overlap that takes place after every 33 years! Read more about it below.

Many interfaith events have been planned for May (please do have a look from page 7 onwards) including My Islam event at the new Mosque in Molesey and Faiths in Harmony event taking place at Parkview Community Centre in Woking.

**Kawther Hashmi**

Faith Links Adviser

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#### Festival Time!

April was a very multi faith month which saw an overlap of many faith festivals, and it occurs after every 33 years!

Japanese Buddhists had Hanamatsuri on 8th April, Mahayana flower festival to celebrate the Buddha Shakyamuni's birthday

Jains had Mahavir Jayanti on the 14th April where they celebrated the birth of Lord Mahavir, the last Tirthankara (saviour).

Sikhs had Vaisakhi on the 14th April to mark the creation of Sikhism and the ordination of the Khalsa.

Christians had Easter from 15th-19th April where the death and resurrection of Jesus was marked.

Jews had Passover from 16th – 23rd April to celebrate the Exodus, the freedom from slavery of the Children of Israel from ancient Egypt that followed the Ten Plagues

Hindus had Hanuman Jayanthi on 16th April when the birth of Hanuman was

#### Main Faith Festivals in May 2022

2/3: Eid ul Fitr (Muslim)  
16: Wesak (Buddhist)  
19: Lag B'Omer (Jewish)  
23: Anniversary of Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)  
23: Zaratosht No Diso (Zoroastrian)  
29: Anniversary of Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)  
30: Trinity Sunday (Christian)

For a description of the festivals please visit: [Religious Festivals](http://www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk/religious-festivals)

commemorated.

Zoroastrians had Adar Mah Parab on the 21st April, when the birthday of fire was celebrated.

Baha'i have Ridvan from 21st April—2nd May, which is the most important Baha'i festival when Baha'u'llah declared himself the Promised One, prophesied by the Bab. It is during this period that Baha'is elect all their governing bodies.

Muslims have Ramadan from 2nd April- 2nd May, which marks the most significant month in the Muslim calendar as they fast daily from dawn to sunset.

Faith festivals are great opportunities for learning about each other's faiths and these dates are shared monthly via this newsletter but a list of all faith festivals can also be found for the year on the Interfaith Network UK [website here](#).

### **Surrey Day**

It's Surrey Day on Saturday 7 May 2022, and everyone's invited! The idea, as always, is to celebrate the wonders of this special corner of England.

As well as [special events](#) being laid on for Surrey Day, there's a full day of coverage on BBC Radio Surrey. Tune in to 104.0 FM (Reigate and Crawley) 104.6 FM (Guildford) for interviews with local personalities and hit songs from famous musicians with Surrey connections. There will be plenty of opportunities for listeners to get involved, too!

#### A Celebration of the North Downs Way

Making the most of the sights and sounds of this fantastic walking route. They'll be walks on the day and an hour-long special on BBC Radio Surrey at 7pm as part of their Surrey Day celebratory coverage.

#### Surrey Day Heritage Bus with BBC Surrey

BBC Radio Surrey presenter Lesley McCabe will be climbing aboard a heritage bus from The London Bus Museum at Brooklands to spend Surrey Day broadcasting from around the county.

#### Great Surrey Menu

We'll be sharing an array of dishes and recipes created by Surrey-based members of [LocalFoodBritain.com](#) while Surrey Day ambassador Eamonn Holmes will be tasting the Great Surrey Menu at [Loseley Park](#) from 1pm, live on air BBC Radio Surrey's James Cannon.

#### Going Green!

As the sun sets, Guildford Cathedral will once again be bathed in green light on the evening of Surrey Day - a symbolic way end a fabulous day of celebration. Thanks to [Peachy Productions](#) for their expert help in making this happen.

#### Surrey Flag

We have our own county flag here in Surrey and it would be great to see the county flag raised on Surrey Day. Our flag has a lot of history behind it - [find out more](#).

Organising an event for Surrey Day? Then don't forget to upload it free to our [What's On Guide](#)

Surrey Day is a collaboration between Visit Surrey and BBC Radio Surrey, Surrey Life Magazine, Surrey Lieutenancy and Local Food Surrey.

For more information [click here](#) or contact [membership@visitsurrey.com](mailto:membership@visitsurrey.com)



Thank You Day takes place on Sunday 5th June. It is a great opportunity to reflect back upon the challenges and successes of the past couple of years and to say thank you to your congregation and beyond.

Thank You Day is on the last day of the Jubilee celebrations, a great way to amplify your plans by giving a Platinum Plated Thank You to the Queen, each other and our communities. The Queen's recent [letter](#) to the nation is an important reminder of

the need to celebrate, be thankful and come together. During the pandemic, faith groups and places of worship were at the forefront of keeping people safe and helping wherever it was needed.

The Thank You Day team have [published new guides on their website](#), including a guide for faith groups looking to celebrate to help you make the most of Thank You Day.

### **DBS launches a new customer webchat service**

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) launched a new webchat service on 25th April 2022.

The webchat service provides a way for customers to get answers to general questions in real time from customer service staff, without having to call the customer contact centre.

The service will operate Monday to Friday, 10:00am to 4:00pm, and is available to answer general customer questions to anyone completing a task such as applying for a DBS check, making a barring referral, or logging into the Update Service.

For answers to specific queries such as the progress of a DBS check, a barring referral dispute, or complaint, customers should contact the customer service team on 03000 200 190 or [customerservices@db.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@db.gov.uk).

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dbs-launches-a-new-customer-webchat-service>

### **Support for Ukrainian Nationals**

For information to support Ukrainian nationals in Surrey please [click here](#)

Charities can apply for free mobile phone sims to provide 6-months' call and data for Ukrainian Refugees from Vodafone [here](#)

### **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](mailto:ashley.beck@interfaith.org.uk).

## Special Weeks/Days

**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](#).

## Surrey Skills Academy

Surrey Skills Academy offer free training; for a list of courses and further information please visit:

[Surrey Skills Academy](#)

## 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.

## Government sets out next steps for living with COVID-19

The Government has set out the [next steps for living with COVID](#) and has announced who will be able to access free COVID tests following the halt to the universal testing offer for the general public.

Free tests will continue to be provided to people who are at risk of serious illness from COVID-19, and eligible for treatments, to use if they develop symptoms. NHS and adult social care staff will also continue to get free tests, along with those in other high-risk settings.

There are national plans in place to implement a rapid testing response should a new health threat emerge, such as a variant of concern. Vaccines and anti-viral treatments will enable the country to manage COVID in the same way as other respiratory infections.

## Nominations for Queen's Award

The nominations for the Queens Award for Voluntary Services is open from 1st April 2022 until 15th September 2022 for 2023 awards.

If you would like to nominate a charity, please [click here](#) for more information.



## 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 Topmark. For more information please [click here](#)



### Charity Excellence Funder List

Funding Finder Grant Directory - Most grant funding directories, for trusts and foundations, are paid for, with annual costs of up to £400. The Funding Finder database gives you click through to a huge range of funders, with the latest uploaded weekly into the Recent Additions search category. Funding Finder is not only completely free, it's a lot more than just another funding directory.

[Learn more](#)

### BA Better World Community Fund

British Airways has teamed up with Crowdfunder to support communities to create a better world. With up to £50,000 in +Extra funding, the BA Better World fund aims to support projects and organisations that create positive impact across several categories including; Environment, Diversity, inclusion & wellbeing, Education & employability and Thriving communities. [Learn more](#)



### LoCASE Grant Funding

The Low Carbon Across the South and East (LoCASE) programme is supported by the European Regional Development Fund to provide a free business support programme in the South and East for SME's and Charities. The aim is to help them become more competitive and profitable while protecting the environment and encouraging low carbon solutions.

To do this, LoCASE provides grants for businesses and charities of up to £10,000 as well as training workshops and fully funded events. For more information please visit their [website here](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Woking Debates Programme 2022

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 Soroptimists and Woking Quakers.

For more information please contact: Keith Scott: 01483 824980 | [keithsc\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:keithsc_2000@yahoo.com)

For more information please visit: [www.wokingdebates.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bernard.jones10@btinternet.com)



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## Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum Events 2022

### My Islam: differences among Muslims.

Tuesday 10th May, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start at the 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.

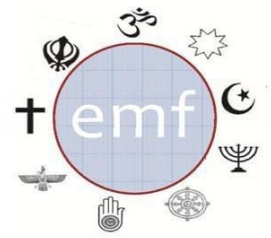
**EMF AGM**, Tuesday 21st June, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start

**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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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](mailto:southeastconference@bahaievents.org.uk)

**The Five Pillars of Islam – A Jewish Perspective**

Rick Sopher will explain the so-called "Five Pillars of Islam" (declaration of faith, prayer, giving, fasting and pilgrimage) and look at connections, similarities and differences with Jewish Practise. He will explore the basis of these practises and how one might have influenced the other.

For further details about this event and other events organised by the Woolf Institute please [click here](#).

### 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](http://www.brigitte-trust.org) | 01306 880862



### Passport to Wellbeing

Surrey Adult Learning [@surreyal] believes residents' wellbeing is paramount. They run a successful programme called Passport to Wellbeing to help adult learners develop new creative skills whilst improving their mental health. Participation can help those managing mental health conditions that have a mild to moderate impact on their day-to-day lives, such as depression, anxiety or sleeping disorders. These free courses are separate from the main course programme.

Courses are held online and at centres. Subjects include: • Creating decorative mosaics • Cookery • Sewing • Painting and mixed media • Tai Chi and Yoga

Enrol today! Passport to Wellbeing with adult learning - [Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](http://Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk))



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

[Supporting Parents](#)

### Earth Day Events

Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum are organising Earth Day events in Woking, Redhill and Camberley.

There will be talks from experts on recycling, climate change and how to be eco-friendly. They are free family friendly events with workshops for children (and adults!) on upcycling, sustainable fabric art and gardening.

**Redhill event:** 22nd May, 2.30 pm—5.00 pm at the Harlequin Theatre, Warwick Road, RH1 1NN

[Click here to register](#)

**Woking Event:** 11th June, 12.00 pm—3.00 pm at The Maybury Centre, 27 Board School Road, GU21 5HD. [Click here to register](#)

**Camberley Event:** 12th June, 2.00 pm—5.00 pm at High Cross Church, Knoll Road, GU15 3SY

[Click here to register](#)

For more information please contact [kriszkoch@smef.org.uk](mailto:kriszkoch@smef.org.uk)



### Surrey Faith Links, Surrey Ethnic Minority Forum

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