



*'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in'*  
(The Bible, Matthew 25:35)

Thank you for your contributions; please keep them coming in for future newsletters.

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**Inside this issue:**

Freedom of Expression	2
Coordinator Vacancy for WPOF	3
Mitzvah Day	3
Volunteer Hosts for SYSS	4
Bishop's call for more Refugee intake	4
Faith & Belief News from 3FF	4
The Promise of World Peace	5
Volunteer for Age Concern Epsom	5
Funding Opportunities	6
Upcoming Events	7

**International Day of Peace**

Woking People of Faith (WPOF) celebrated its third, annual International Day of Peace competition in Mercia Walk on Sunday, 20th September at midday. His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Derek McCrum and the Mayoress, Mrs McCrum, were in attendance, along with children, parents and teachers from Woking schools.



Primary children from all over Woking had been asked by WPOF to draw posters or write on the question: "How can children help bring world peace?" Over the summer their entries were judged and all the schools were informed of the winners.

This year, there were more entries than ever before and the winners came from Barnsbury Primary, Beaufort Primary, Westfield Primary, Maybury Primary, Goldsworth Primary and the Shah Jahan Mosque. Boards were put up in Mercia Walk, displaying the children's work and allowing the public to put up post-its giving their own feelings about peace.

During the event, peace quotations were read from the world's major religions and there were peace songs from, first, Amaniya and Faiza from Shah Jahan Mosque, then Simon Trick from WPOF. The Mayor centred his speech on the situation of the refugees from Syria and Woking's agreement to take a number of

**Main Faith Festivals in October 2015**

- ◆ 1st—11th: Navaratri (Hindu)
- ◆ 2nd: Islamic New Year
- ◆ 2nd—4th: Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
- ◆ 11th: Ashura (Islam)
- ◆ 12th: Yom Kippur (Jewish)
- ◆ 16th—23rd: Sukkot (Jewish)
- ◆ 20th: Guru Granth Sahib declared Guru for all times (Sikh)

the families. He asked the children at the event to befriend the refugee children in order to help them to settle into the area when they arrive.

The winning children then received their certificates and gift tokens from the Mayor, while runners-up received prizes donated by WHSmith.

Imam Hashmi from Shah Jahan Mosque also briefly spoke about the importance of peace and how Islam and all the world's religions teach peace.

Kauser Akhtar (Surrey Faith Links) and Simon Trick (Woking People of Faith), thanked all the attendees and encouraged them to participate in next year's event and take part in any 'International Day of Peace' activities during the year, as World Peace is important to us all.



### Freedom of Expression

On the 29th of September, in Cobham, the Elmbridge Multifaith Forum invited four speakers to present their personal views in the discussion Freedom of Expression: "What limits, if any, should be put on freedom of speech/expression and how?"

Tara Taubman, international lawyer, explained that in the UK, freedom of expression is limited by "Article 10". The main aim of this is to protect privacy. Also, there is concern for publications that might incite violence, or be offensive towards people's religion, gender, or nation of origin. The law recognises a limit when such writing or speaking goes beyond being informative.

Zuymmer Calihi, Mufti to Kosovan and Bosnian community in UK, said anyone about to speak should ask himself "Will it benefit or harm?" However, he said, freedom to express is vital - how else can believers spread the word of God? But you should not seek to impose your belief on others. If you argue, ego takes over and you lose your spiritual power. If a doctor prescribes too much medicine he kills the patient.

Jennie Johnson of Farnham Humanists believes freedom of expression is vital for truth and democracy, and also important for individual happiness. She supports legal toleration moderated by social disapproval but expression which intends to incite violence should be illegal. Jennie wants to build bridges between belief communities and encourage understanding.

Hugh Bryant, lay preacher at St Andrew's Church Cobham, said that in Christianity there is no limit to freedom of expression, except in that the third commandment prohibits blasphemy. St Paul was aware of the problem of things being acceptable to one faith but blasphemous to another when he talked about eating meat from a pagan sacrifice being nourishing to a Jew but highly offensive to the pagan. Hugh said Christians can be guided by Jesus saying "Love God" and "Love your neighbour".



In Britain, we are easy with laughing at ourselves, but the parameters of satire are set by social disapproval, by how much malice there is behind the humour. The Mufti pointed out that there are aspects of beliefs that are too serious to joke about. No one would accept jokes about the holocaust. Discussion mostly centred on the conflicts between secularism and faiths and the general view of the floor was evidently to value balance and the avoidance of extremes.



Reported by John De Prey

### Job Vacancy: Co-ordinator for Woking People of Faith

We are looking to recruit someone who has experience relating with people of other faiths and cultures to be our interfaith co-ordinator to support the work of the management committee and Trustees of WPoF to achieve their aims and objectives.

The Interfaith Development Worker will work from their own home and be expected to work for WPoF for 15 hours per week. The hours can be flexible to suit the jobholder. To date, the co-ordinator has been self-employed. In addition, the co-ordinator is expected to meet with stakeholders in the Woking and surrounding areas on a regular basis, attend Management Committee meetings and other organised WPoF public events. Pay will be at the rate of £22,000 - £24,000 per annum, pro-rata (2/5ths). For more information please visit: [www.wpof.org.uk/get\\_involved](http://www.wpof.org.uk/get_involved)

For further details and how to apply, please contact Revd. Jonny Blair at:  
 Woking People of Faith, c/o St. Paul's Church, Oriental Road, Woking. GU22 7BD  
 Tel: 07894584097, E-mail: [jonny@stpaulswoking.org.uk](mailto:jonny@stpaulswoking.org.uk)  
 Closing Date: 16th October, Interviews: end-October (date tbc)  
 Start date: Position is available from 1 December 2015



Woking People of Faith

### Mitzvah Day

Yom Kippur is the Jewish Day of Atonement when we focus very clearly on what we can do better in the coming year. We consider mistakes we made in the past year, who we may have offended, and we ensure that we have apologised. It always strikes me at this time of year that we can and should do more for people in need and for those who simply need a little bit more of our time and love. This has never been truer than this year with so many people hungry, homeless, lonely and dispossessed. Yom Kippur and the Jewish holidays at this time of year mark the start of the build-up to Mitzvah Day, which is the day when we all give some of our time, rather than our money, for local causes. It is a way to get together with other like-minded people (of all faiths and none) and to volunteer for local causes as a committed group of people who share more similarities than differences.

If you would like to get involved in any way, please do get in touch via email with me ([laura@mitzvahday.org.uk](mailto:laura@mitzvahday.org.uk)) or Sue ([sue@mitzvahday.org.uk](mailto:sue@mitzvahday.org.uk)) so we can help you find projects and like-minded people.

Laura Marks OBE, Founder and Chair, Mitzvah Day

<http://mitzvahday.org.uk/>



### Surrey Youth Support Service Volunteer Hosts



Do you have a Spare Room?

Do you think you might have the skills to support a Young Person?

The Homelessness Prevention Service are looking for volunteer Hosts who have a spare room and could offer it as a safe respite place to stay for a few nights to a young person aged 16-21. This period of respite will allow family mediation to take place in order to support them to return home or into other types of accommodation.

You will receive full extensive training, guidance and ongoing support to help you in this role. Out of pocket expenses would be paid including a nightly allowance for Hosts to cover the cost of food and utilities.

We are interested in people from our diverse community to support our young people across Surrey. If you are interested in joining this new and exciting project we would like to hear from you.

For further information please contact:

The Homelessness Prevention Service on 01483 519198 or email [Pia.Smith@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:Pia.Smith@surreycc.gov.uk) or [donna.leedham@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:donna.leedham@surreycc.gov.uk)

Volunteers working in the Youth Support Service, are helping to achieve the fundamental aim, of encouraging Young People within Surrey to engage in purposeful activity. We provide comprehensive induction, training, support, development and supervision.

The Bishop of Guildford, The Right Revd Andrew Watson calls for the UK to take 50,000 refugees over five years, and highlights plight of Christians fleeing from refugee camps. To read the full statement please visit:

<http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/whats-on/news/detail/2015/09/25/bishop-of-guildford-calls-for-higher-allocation-of-refugees-to-uk>

### Faith & Belief news from 3 Faiths Forum:



- [David Cameron vows to end anti Semitic attacks in Jewish new year message](#)
- [Hate crimes against Muslims soar in London](#)
- [The Christian and Muslim Community In China is Multiplying](#)
- [Muslim student's creative clock draws police — and White House invitation](#)
- [Archbishop of Canterbury plans to loosen ties of divided Anglican communion](#)
- [Terrifying new poll: Nearly 1 in 3 Iowa Republicans thinks Islam should be illegal](#)
- [Pope urges 'tolerant and inclusive' US society](#)
- [Pope Francis Makes Surprise Stop To Bless Sculpture Symbolizing Catholic Unity With Jews](#)



### The Promise of World Peace

In 1985, the Baha'i Universal House of Justice addressed a message to the peoples of the world inviting them to consider that a new social order can be fostered by all peoples' seeing themselves as members of one universal family. This message was presented to world leaders and countless others during the United Nations International Year of Peace.

October 1985

To the Peoples of the World:

The Great Peace towards which people of good will throughout the centuries have inclined their hearts, of which seers and poets for countless generations have expressed their vision, and for which from age to age the sacred scriptures of mankind have constantly held the promise, is now at long last within the reach of the nations. For the first time in history it is possible for everyone to view the entire planet, with all its myriad diversified peoples, in one perspective. World peace is not only possible but inevitable. It is the next stage in the evolution of this planet—in the words of one great thinker, “the planetisation of mankind”.

Whether peace is to be reached only after unimaginable horrors precipitated by humanity's stubborn clinging to old patterns of behaviour, or is to be embraced now by an act of consultative will, is the choice before all who inhabit the earth. At this critical juncture when the intractable problems confronting nations have been fused into one common concern for the whole world, failure to stem the tide of conflict and disorder would be unconscionably irresponsible.

To read the full text: [www.bahai.org/documents/the-universal-house-of-justice/promise-world-peace](http://www.bahai.org/documents/the-universal-house-of-justice/promise-world-peace)

### BE A VOLUNTEER! BE PART OF SOMETHING GREAT!

#### WHAT OUR VOLUNTEERS SAY:

“Our clients constantly remind us of how grateful they are for the assistance they receive – but to me it is always a pleasure.”

“We readily make friends with our clients”

“ACEE is a brilliant charity to work for – working on the charity ball was great fun.”

“I look forward to meeting new people and being part of a brilliant team.”

#### WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY:

“Kathy is more of a friend than a volunteer. She is too good to be true.” Mr C

“Maria visits every Friday, I really look forward to it. Last week, she took me to a local Garden Centre”. Mrs S

“Mary is so kind and helpful when she drives me to the hospital. She stays with me and makes sure I'm OK.”

Mrs T

Just an hour or two a week can make all the difference to an older person who is lonely or needs help.

There are many volunteering opportunities available from driving to office work. Please pick up the phone and do something amazing.

Contact: Liz Hope, Volunteers' Co-ordinator 01372 732458

email: [liz.hope@ageconcernepsom.org.uk](mailto:liz.hope@ageconcernepsom.org.uk) website: [www.ageconcernepsom.org.uk](http://www.ageconcernepsom.org.uk)



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



Grants of up to £1,500 are being offered to individuals, organisations and groups to fund new projects that explore people's experiences of local health and care services and improve wellbeing in their community.

Healthwatch Surrey, the consumer champion for health and social care in Surrey, has launched the Community Cash Fund to invest in the capacity of small grassroots projects and groups that hope to improve the wellbeing of and amplify individuals' voices in their local communities.

Interested groups or individuals will need to complete a short application form by the 23rd October and will hear within two weeks if they have been successful.

Vanda Green (Healthwatch Surrey Engagement Officer) explained that the projects do not have to be expensive or complicated: "It could just be a few hundred pounds to cover the cost of hiring a community centre room so that a group of young people can meet or take an exercise class, or the cost of hiring a film studio to record short videos about health and social care services in different languages. The options are only limited by people's imagination and commitment to improving the wellbeing of their local community".

The Healthwatch Surrey team are particularly keen to receive requests for funding to support projects that help hard to reach and seldom heard groups.

The projects need to meet the following criteria:

- Increase the participation and involvement of disadvantaged communities in health and social care related services.
- Increase the feedback from hard to reach or seldom heard communities about health and social care services.
- Improve the wellbeing of hard to reach or seldom heard communities through involvement.

More information about the Community Cash Fund and how to apply can be found at:

<http://www.healthwatchesurrey.co.uk/community-cash-fund> or contact Vanda Green on 07702 336514.

### Crowdfunding

Setting a crowdfunding campaign target: <http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/Page.aspx?SP=6604>

### Start your Christmas crowdfunding campaign

Christmas is a great time of year to run a fundraising campaign. A Christmas crowdfunding campaign could help raise more funds and build a wider supporter base.

From community Christmas trees to Christmas dinner for carers and presents for young people who need them most; last year community groups raised thousands of pounds through crowdfunding campaigns.

Start your Christmas crowdfunding campaign on Crowdfunder:

<http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/workingwith/christmas/?af=fundingcentral>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### A FREE Prevention Through Education Project workshop

Protect your premises: Crime Prevention - Fire Risk Assessments - Premises Licensing

The training is being run by Surrey Community Action, Surrey Police and Surrey Fire, Rescue Service, Woking Borough Council and various District and Borough Councils around Surrey throughout the year

- 1st Oct 2015 White Hart Barn Godstone, Tandridge area
- 18th Nov 2015 Compton Village Hall, Waverley area
- 8th Dec 2015 Long Ditton Village Hall, Elmbridge area
- 19th Jan 2016 Dorking area
- 23rd Feb 2016 Guildford area

All trustees, volunteers and regular hirers of a community or religious building should be encouraged to come on the training. If you would like more information or to register please contact Karen Holdsworth-Cannon, Community Buildings Advisor, Surrey Community Action, Guildford, GU4 7BR, Email: [karenh@surreyca.org.uk](mailto:karenh@surreyca.org.uk)



TRUST • RESPECT • UNDERSTANDING • EMPOWER • HONOUR • OPTIMISM • NUTURE • OPEN • UNBIASED  
• REACHING OUT

Wednesday 7th October 2015, 11-2pm

In memory of Surjit Athwal

Open morning for Asian women to come along and celebrate the life of Surjit Athwal



[www.truehonour.org.uk](http://www.truehonour.org.uk)

Refreshments provided

The Hub Woking • 51 Commercial Way • Woking • Surrey • GU21 6HN • 01483 747400

[info@hubwoking.org.uk](mailto:info@hubwoking.org.uk) • [www.thesurreyhubs.org.uk](http://www.thesurreyhubs.org.uk)

### From London to Jerusalem... and back

Elizabeth Harris-Sawczenko, deputy director of the Council of Christians and Jews, has become one of the leaders in British interfaith work. She will be talking about her life and varied work in Israel and back in the UK, when she speaks at Staines Synagogue as guest of the CCJ's Staines branch on Tuesday October 13 at 8pm.

After growing up in Britain and graduating from Leeds University, where she was President of the Soviet Jewry Society, Elizabeth made Aliyah, moving to Israel. She lived there for 25 years. Her work took her to the Melitz Institute for Jewish-Zionist Education and then to the New Israel Fund, which works for positive social change and full democracy for all citizens, and where she was in contact with the wide spectrum of people who make up Israeli society. On returning to the UK, Elizabeth worked as Public Affairs and Policy Director at the Board of Deputies of British Jews for six years and joined the CCJ last year.

As well as speaking about the vibrancy and sometimes the terror of living in Israel, Elizabeth will touch on changes she has seen in Anglo-Jewry since her return to Britain and of her current work in interfaith, focusing on social action, as CCJ's deputy director.

To find out more call us on 01252 622978 or email [ccjstaines@gmail.com](mailto:ccjstaines@gmail.com)

Staines Synagogue is at Westbrook Road, Staines, TW18 4PR

There is no entry charge but we invite donations towards CCJ's work



### Memorial Scrolls Trust's Travelling Exhibition

North West Surrey Synagogue in Weybridge is delighted to announce that the Memorial Scrolls Trust's Travelling Exhibition will be visiting our synagogue commencing on 9th October 2015 for two weeks.

A bit of history on the Scrolls: In 1964 a benefactor bought 1564 Torah Scrolls, along with other Jewish artefacts, from the Czech government. As an act of resistance to the Nazis, the items were collected and hidden before they could be destroyed when the Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia during the Second World War. Most Czech Jews were sent to Terezin and Auschwitz; nobody ever came back for their scrolls.



NWSS owns a Czech Scroll from Klatovy. That is the town where one of our members' family lived and perished in the Holocaust. In order for the scrolls to be viewed by as many people as possible, the Scrolls Memorial Trust created a Travelling Exhibit to be loaned to synagogues in Great Britain.

When someone dies, we say 'May their memory be for a blessing.' These scrolls are a way to make the memory of the Czech Jewish community be a blessing within the wider Jewish community as well as the non-Jewish world. There will be a special Shabbat service remembering the Czech community of Klatovy on Saturday 17th October.

There are also two Open Dates at the synagogue to view the Exhibit:

Sunday, October 18 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM; Monday, October 19 from 3:00 to 5:30 PM

Everyone is welcome. For more details, please telephone the Synagogue Administrator on 01932 855400 or contact Jean Cohen, the Press Officer, Email: [rmcroyal@msn.com](mailto:rmcroyal@msn.com) T: 01932 854693



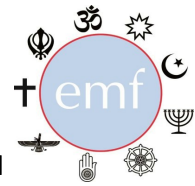
### Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum Events

⇒ Armenian Church Visit—Wednesday 21st October 2015

The Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum (EMF) have been invited by Bishop Manukyan to visit the Armenian Church of St Yeghiche, Cranley Gardens, London, SW7 3BB at 11 am on Wednesday 21st October. A coach will leave from Mercer Close, Thames Ditton at 10am and will return approximately at 3 pm. Cost is £10.

⇒ 'Annual Gala Evening' on Saturday, **28th November 2015** at 7 for 7.30pm at the Grenfell Centre, Claremont Fancourt School, Claremont, Cobham, KT11 2JL KT10. Superb buffet supper and intercultural entertainment. A donation of £15 per person would be thankfully appreciated to help offset costs. (please make cheques payable to Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum)

For more information about EMF events/ activities please contact Geoffrey Morris: [geoffreymorris@emas-bc.co.uk](mailto:geoffreymorris@emas-bc.co.uk) or T: 01932 868454



On the occasion of National Interfaith Week and in light of the mass movement of people into Europe, Woking People of Faith warmly invites you to join

**Baroness Warsi**

(Lawyer, businesswoman, cabinet minister)

**Rt Revd Andrew Watson**

(Bishop of Guildford)

In considering **'Valuing Culture and Faith; the challenges of integrating in society whilst retaining our identity'**

Wednesday 18th November 2015, 7 – 9.30pm. H.G. Wells Centre, Woking.

Three course meal included. Tickets only £5

BOOKING ESSENTIAL – Places limited



Woking People of Faith

To reserve a place please visit the eventbrite link <http://wpof-event.eventbrite.com>

Each attendee MUST register prior to the event. If an individual purchases multiple tickets, they need to register unique names for all attendees. Nobody will be permitted to enter the event unless their name appears on the registration list.

For further information, please contact Pippa Ross McCabe: [coordinator@wpof.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@wpof.org.uk)



### "How do you get the Most From Your One Wild and Precious Life?"

Tuesday November 3rd at 7.30pm

Trinity Centre, 5 Trinity Churchyard,  
Guildford, Surrey, GU1 3RR

Tickets – £8 (Students £4)

To book your ticket go to

[www.farnham.humanist.org.uk](http://www.farnham.humanist.org.uk)

or call 01252 726684 or 01483 233324



**farnhamHUMANISTS**  
[www.farnham.humanist.org.uk](http://www.farnham.humanist.org.uk)

**Dr Phil Hammond**

**TV Celebrity Comedian & NHS Doctor**

BBC TV's "Have I got news for you" comedian Dr Phil argues that most lives need living not medicalising. And for 90% of symptoms, you're better off with a dog than a doctor!



CLANGERS is a good model for living well: Connect, Learn, be Active, Notice, Give back, Eat well, Relax and Sleep, not forgetting your 5 portions of fun!

Dr Phil Hammond is a patron of the British Humanist Association



Guildford & Godalming Interfaith Forum will be having their annual multi-faith event titled: 'Freedom, Rights and Responsibilities' on 15th November to celebrate Interfaith Week. This will take place at St. Nicolas Parish Room, Millmead, Bury Street, Guildford, GU2 4AW at 3.00p.m.

The interfaith service will begin with a devotional Hindu dance followed by readings from Ray Spiers - Judaism, Nigel Harte - Buddhism, Sarah Gall - Christianity, Kauser Hashmi - Islám, Bahadur Singh - Sikhism and Carolyn Neogi - Baha'í.

The Mayor of Guildford Cllr Nikki Nelson-Smith & Mayor of Godalming Cllr Anne Bott will both be taking part. We look forward to welcoming people of all Faiths for an afternoon of fellowship.

For more information please contact Bernard Jones E: [bernard.jones10@btinternet.com](mailto:bernard.jones10@btinternet.com), T: 01483 424257 or Carolyn Neogi E: [carolynneogi@aol.com](mailto:carolynneogi@aol.com), T: 01483 415773

Voluntary Action in Spelthorne would like to invite you to join them at the  
**22nd VAIS AGM and Community Engagement Event**

Tuesday 24th November 2015 in the Council Chamber, Spelthorne Borough Council Offices, starting at 10:30am – 12:15pm (registration at 10:15am), followed by refreshments.

The Community Engagement Event is themed 'Homelessness and support services within the borough and surrounding areas'. VAIS has therefore, invited the following Keynote Speakers:

- Steve Moore, Area Manager, Surrey North and Sutton, Transform Housing & Support
- Jonathan Scarth, Regional Manager, Tina Millhouse, Senior Project Worker, and Debbie Adams, Peer Advice Link Volunteer, from St. Mungo's Broadway
- Karen Sinclair and Deborah Ashman, Head of Housing and Independent Living, Spelthorne Borough Council

Deputy Mayor of Spelthorne, Cllr Alfred Friday and the Deputy Mayoress of Spelthorne, Mrs Kaye Friday will also attend the event.

The closing address will be given by Kwasi Kwarteng, Member of Parliament for Spelthorne.

For further information and to register your place please email: [info@vais.org.uk](mailto:info@vais.org.uk) or call 01784 465536 including:

your full name, job title, organisation, contact telephone number and email of each delegate wishing to attend.

**Woking Debates at Christ Church, Woking from 11.00 am—12.30 pm**

9 January: How do we prevent people becoming terrorists? Kevin Hurley and another speaker TBC

13 February: How sustainable can Woking become? Speakers to be finalised.

12 March: Water (title to be agreed) David Charters and son

9 April: Is Woking an integrated community? Kauser Akhtar and another speaker TBC

18 June: Refugees? What have they got to do with us? Speakers to be finalised.



Surrey Faith Links c/o CET, Diocese of Guildford

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