



Surrey Faith Links Newsletter

October 2017



'Seek peace, and pursue it' - seek it in your own place, and pursue it even to another place as well. Leviticus Rabah 9:9

Another packed newsletter with information about Interfaith Week, reports of Interfaith events in Surrey, upcoming events and much more. If you would like help/guidance on organising interfaith events or information about your nearest interfaith forum, please feel free to contact me.

In Peace,
Kausar Akhtar
Faith Links Adviser
E: Kausar.Akhtar@cofguildford.org.uk

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Woking's Children Support Peace-Makers

Woking primary schoolchildren publicly displayed their peace posters and essays on Saturday 23rd September at Mercia Walk, in Woking People of Faith's 5th annual International Day of Peace prize-giving.

The Mayor of Woking, Councillor Graham Cundy presented the prizes to children for their work on people they thought had contributed most to world peace. Councillor Cundy made reference to many of the individuals chosen by the children – including Malala and Mother



Teresa – speaking of their courage and vision and the need for all people to work towards peace, in front of an audience of parents, teachers and children from New Monument Academy, St Mary's CofE and Broadmere schools.

"It was really important to allow the children to express their reasons for admiring people who they felt had worked hard to encourage peace across the world," said WPOF Trustee and co-organiser of the event, Kausar Akhtar.

"Woking People of Faith have supported International Day of Peace for many years, as it falls within our aim of promoting knowledge, mutual understanding and respect of different faiths' beliefs and practices. As children are the future

Main Faith Festivals in October 2017

- 1st—Ashura (Islam)
- 1st—Jashn-e-Mehergan (Zoroastrian)
- 2nd—Gandhi Jayanti (Hindu)
- 5th—12th - Sukkot (Jewish)
- 13th—Simchat Torah (Jewish)
- 19th—Diwali (Hindu, Jain, Sikh)
- 21st—Birth of the Bab (Baha'i)
- 22nd—Birth of Baha'ullah (Baha'i)
- 24th—25th - Parvanda Day (Buddhist)

leaders and peace makers, it is only right that they begin thinking about peace while they are young,” said WPOF Chairman, Simon Trick. “We find that their work inspires us and their clarity of view sometimes takes us by surprise.”

The event put WPOF’s aims into action by encouraging the public to leave messages of peace on a ‘Peace Tree’, having religious scriptures read by members of the different world religions, including Imam Hashmi from the Shah Jahan Mosque and the Venerable Phra Suriyan Amaro from the Dhammakaya Temple, while songs for peace were performed by the Muslim, Hindu and Baha’i communities.

“We wanted to demonstrate that all the world’s religions believe in peace,” said Ms Akhtar, a Muslim who works for the Diocese of Guildford as Surrey Faith Links Coordinator, “and the sooner the children are aware of this, the more likely they are to meet people of other Faiths with friendship, instead of fear.”



Woking People of Faith are looking for volunteers to help with events, if you are interested please email Marian Nash: nashmarian@hotmail.com

For more information about Woking People of Faith and upcoming events please visit: www.wpof.org.uk



Woking People of Faith

Religious and Cultural training for Staff & Volunteers

It has become evident in today’s increasingly pluralist society that constructing and developing relations between people of faith and none is important for social cohesion. A positive attitude towards dialogue is essential for creating an environment in which different religions can relate to one another in a spirit of mutual respect .

It is equally important for professionals to understand different faiths and cultures for better working relationships between colleagues and staff with clients.

If you would like to hear about different religions and beliefs from speakers resident in Surrey and from various places of worship in Surrey or if you are a business or voluntary groups and you would like to know more about ‘faiths and cultures’ or you would like some training for your staff, please contact me.

Kauser Akhtar, Faith Links Adviser

T: 01483 790334, E: Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk, www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk



Interfaith Resources

Three new resources have been added to the IFN website at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/local-1>. These are part of a series of planned items looking at different themes in inter faith engagement. They are primarily focussed on local activity, but some will be of interest more widely.

The first three are 1) Inter faith engagement in social action; 2) Standing together; and 3) Local inter faith organisations and schools. If you have any suggestions for future themes that might form part of this series, please email these to ifnet@interfaith.org.uk.

Baha'i Community Celebrate Bicentenary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah

On Saturday 16th September 100 Bahá'ís and guests from around Surrey celebrated the bicentenary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah at Cobham Village Hall. The evening embraced friends of many nationalities from local Interfaith and community groups in a programme of introductory talks, prayers, music and song, finishing with a celebratory meal.

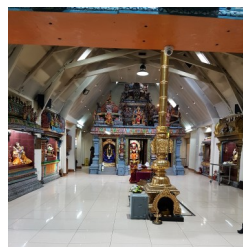
This was a very joyful gathering with guests across the generations. The children took a prominent role, singing Bahá'í prayers and songs, with a beautiful piano solo from Natalie Jolly (Epsom). Mandisa Taylor gave an excellent talk about the Life of Baha'u'llah, weaving in stories of her childhood in South Africa, whilst Diba Rahmani spoke about the Teachings of Baha'u'lláh. The programme was lovingly introduced by Dr. Nabil Mustapha.

Surrey's Only Hindu Temple!

On Sunday 17th September, the Epsom and Ewell Interfaith Forum organised a visit to Surrey's only Hindu Temple in Stoneleigh, the Raja Rajeswary Amman Temple.

The group were given a guided tour around the temple and asked questions as they were shown various parts of the temple followed by refreshments and more discussions. 'It was a warm, welcoming and educational visit and I felt I should have visited a lot sooner,' said one of the visitors.

The Epsom and Ewell Interfaith forum was inaugurated in July 2017 and have already planned more events for the year. For upcoming events please visit page 7 onwards.



Prayer Vigil for Peace

Guildford & Godalming Interfaith Forum observed the International Day for Peace at Godalming Unitarian Chapel on 21st September. The meeting was led by Rev. Sheena Gabriel who spoke about the origins of the Day for Peace before a silent vigil. This was followed by the lighting of candles for all those caught up in conflicts around the world, the homeless, the orphaned, the persecuted, world leaders gathered at the U.N., animals, the powerless...

There were Readings from the Hindu, Jewish, Muslim & Bahá'í, and Buddhist Scriptures and the Teachings of Vivekananda, Christian Science and Quaker tradition, interspersed by well-chosen music and song.

This was followed by refreshments and animated conversation. Some of those attending had been on the Peace stall in Guildford High St. earlier in the day and others attended Woking People of Faith's Peace Day event at the weekend. Information was on display for a number of Peace initiatives, and £140 was raised for www.warchild.org.uk

Godalming Baha'is Bicentennial Celebration

Godalming Bahá'ís had an historic gathering at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre, when they were the first community to show the film A LIGHT ON THE WORLD, which has been specially prepared at the Bahá'í World Centre for the Bicentenary of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh. Godalming was also the first town to have electric lights, in 1881. Dr. Vafa Ram gave an introductory talk, putting the film into context. It will be on general release from 18th October. The event was very much enjoyed by friends and neighbours from across the Faith communities. An exhibition is at Godalming Library until 21st October, where several other communities in Surrey will be holding their own events.



Week of Prayer for World Peace (8th to 16th October 2017)

The things we agree on are many and precious. What we disagree on is precious too. We give our interior assent to all who stand and pray for peace with us. When that is challenging, we withhold our interior assent, yet stand with that person, as a friend and as a partner for peace.

Each year, the committee produces a leaflet of prayers and inspirational quotations for peace drawn from the major religious traditions of the world. At the present time, the committee and the sponsoring body include adherents of the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian religions, and prayers and readings from all these faiths are included in the prayer leaflet for the year.

For more information about Week of Prayer for World Peace and how you can get involved:

<http://www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com/>

Interfaith Week 2017

Inter Faith Week was established as a way to highlight the positive contributions that faith communities make to society and to strengthen inter faith engagement, as well as dialogue with those of non-religious beliefs. All these aims remain crucially important. Bringing people of different backgrounds together for positive interaction and cooperation has never been more vital.



Inter Faith Week offers a great platform for local inter faith bodies to showcase the important work that they do all year round, to increase understanding and to engage new people in dialogue and cooperation for the common good.

If you are thinking about whether to hold an activity and what that might be, the [Inter Faith Week Toolkit](#) has lots of ideas for marking the Week complete with helpful checklists for organisers. IFN has also published a short, illustrated report on Inter Faith Week 2016: [Stories from 2016, Inspiration for 2017](#). This is full of the interesting and exciting ways that people chose to mark the Week last year. The report concludes with a short section looking forward to the Week in 2017. We hope that it inspires you to take part!

For more information about Interfaith Week, please visit: <https://www.interfaithweek.org/>

Transforming Justice and the VCS in Surrey

Transforming Justice aims to provide a different and better experience for those in contact with the criminal justice system in Surrey and to prevent those at risk, coming into contact at all.

The aim of Transforming Justice is to develop a more integrated way of working between agencies in and outside of the criminal justice system in Surrey to reduce offending and reoffending, reducing costs and increase victim confidence.

Partners are currently working to test and investigate changes that would transform the criminal justice system for women in Surrey. Women face greater impacts when in the criminal justice system and there are greater wider social impacts than in comparison with men. The data brought together shows the grey areas between women as offenders and victims of crime (68% for the reconvicted cohort) and highlights reconviction (40%) and re arrest rates (48%) for women are high. There are though other system failings with other vulnerable groups and the approaches trialled with females will serve as a test for wider system transformation with other cohorts.

Community Reparation

Reparation activity is through a local Surrey initiative known as the Women's Justice Intervention (WJI). The WJI seeks to divert women from the Criminal Justice System by offering an alternative to being charged with interventions and support. This is a partnership between Surrey Police and the Women's Support Centre, along with other local partners.

Community Payback

The purpose of Community Payback is to deliver the order of the Court when a Service User (offender) is sentenced to unpaid work as an element of their Community Order. We aim to support the completion of unpaid work hours in meaningful projects and our contractual obligations to Her Majesties Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) are set out in the Community Payback Operating Manual, Probation Instructions (www.justice.gov.uk) and learning from national and local inspections.

For more information or to get involved please contact:

Reparation Activities Contact: Freya Swift, WJI Co-ordinator, Surrey Police.

Tel: 01483 633037, email: Freya.Swift@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Community Payback Activities Contact: Bernii Langridge, Operational Manager, Community Payback Surrey

Tel: 01784 770352, email: Bernii.langridge@ksscrc.co.uk

Get online week - 2nd to 8th October 2017

The purpose of this week is to encourage people to go online and learn to use the internet in practical ways. There are lots of interactive sessions across Surrey which you can view in the Get Online Week leaflet [here](#) to find an event near you and you can also see the year round event schedule for Surrey Online events [here](#).



Voluntary Support North Surrey will be holding an event on 21st October to demonstrate a system called SeeYouLink which has been designed by a company called NatPoint. This system replaces the usual windows interface with a simplified screen which can be used for email, web search and browsing, photos and video calls. If you feel this might be of interest to you please register your interest by calling the office on 01932 571122. You can read a little background information about it in Charity Digital News [here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Vulnerable Faith Institutions Scheme

The scheme will provide funding for security measures to places of worship and associated community centres that are vulnerable to attack on racial, religious or ideological grounds. We will consider bids from places of worship in England and Wales. Below are some examples of places of worship eligible to apply for the funding (please note this is not an exhaustive list):

Mosques, Gurdwaras, Temples, Churches, associated faith community centres (for example a community centre run by a place of worship or near a place of worship that is faith based).

For more information about the Scheme and how to bid, please visit:

www.gov.uk/guidance/vulnerable-faith-institutions-scheme

Tesco Bags for Help funding

Tesco Bags for Help funding is now available to even more communities across the UK.

As well as continuing to fund the development of and activity in outdoor spaces such as allotments and community gardens, grants will now be available to fund the purchase of items such as sports kits, camping equipment, spades, litter pickers or specialised medical equipment.

Funding is also available for improvements to community buildings, for example scout or guide hut, church or village hall or sports changing rooms. Groups looking to hold seasonal events and activities such as a Christmas lights can also apply for funding through the programme.

These are just some examples of projects that are now eligible as the green light will be given to many other schemes that meet the programme's aims and objectives to fund projects which will benefit the local community.

For information on how to [apply please click here](#) or for further inspiration and help, check out our [Community Project Toolkit](#)

Harlequins Foundation

The Harlequins Foundation launch a Brighter Futures Local Community grant programme

The Harlequins Foundation is interested in projects that build happy, healthy and resilient communities and in doing so ideally improve the lives of local young people. We want to enable local charities, community groups or schools to do something they couldn't otherwise afford to do. This could include equipment for activities, improvements to facilities, individual or group trips, an event, or access to new or relevant opportunities.

Applications will be accepted between Friday 1st September and Monday 30th October 2017. The applications will be reviewed by the Harlequins Foundation grants committee, against the criteria outlined in the application, and successful applicants will be contacted by Friday 10th November.

Find out more on the website below -

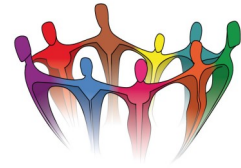
<http://www.harlequins.foundation/sustainable-communities/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Environmental Working Party

7th October 2017, 10am to 12.30pm , Sandy Track Carpark, Shores Road

Come and help the environment !
Bring Boots and Gloves



Woking People of Faith

For more information email John West on john.west63@ntlworld.com

Diwali Community Lantern Parade 2017

Thursday 12 October 2017, 6pm, Woking Town Centre
FREE opportunities to take part...



Dance and Educational workshops: Thursday 12 October 2017, 9.30am

The Diwali parade organisers will be presenting a short evening of Indian music, song and dance immediately after the parade. The event at the H.G. Wells Centre will feature performances such as Kerala drumming and traditional Indian dance.

The party is FREE to attend and will be hosted by the Woking Malayalee Association, The Art of Living, Surrey Hindu Cultural Association and the Woking Nepalese community. For more information please contact: Tara Stevenson, Arts Development Officer, E: tara.stevenson@woking.gov.uk

Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith Forum – October programme

Sunday 8th October is going to be busy for us!

2.00 p.m. is the interfaith prayers for peace at Clayhill Green, Epsom, followed by tea at Christ Church. Go up West Hill from Epsom town centre and the green is on the right. Christ Church is further along going out of Epsom, on the left hand side. There will be readings and prayers from the different faiths. Please let us know if you are coming, but you can just turn up.

At 4.00 p.m. there will be a inter faith panel as part of Epsom Health and Wellbeing Festival which is being organized by Love Me Love My Mind. The event will be at St Barnabas Church, Temple Road, KT19 8HA.

Saturday 21st October. The Baha'is of Epsom and Ewell warmly invite you to the celebration of the birth of Baha'u'llah on the occasion of the bicentenary of his birth. There will be prayers, music, readings, personal perspectives and light refreshments. This is being held at Langley Vale Village Hall, Roseberry Road, Langley Vale, KT18 6AF. Please RSVP to eebahai@gmail.com

For more information or to confirm attendance please email Lynne Schofield:
lynneschofield@gmail.com

An Evening of New Sacred Jewish Music

with singer, teacher and celebrant Alexander Massey

Monday 9th October, 7.45 pm, Staines Synagogue, Westbrook Road, Staines TW18 4PR

Find out more about inspirational work at alexandermassey.com

RSVP to Cedric Dowe on 01252 622978 or email ccjstaines@gmail.com

Please do mention this event to friends and colleagues. They would be most welcome.



Another date for your diary is Tuesday 21 November when we will welcome Rabbi and Rebbetzen Meir and Rina Shindler from Richmond United Synagogue to speak about the work of a rabbinic couple today.

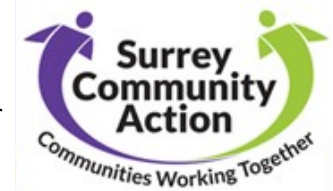
Free Fundraising Fair

Surrey Community Action are organising a FREE Fundraising fair on Thursday 19th October at Broadwater Pavilion (Guildford Road GU7 3BU) between 10.00 am—4.00 pm.

An exciting programme of inspiring fundraising presentations, practical workshops, one-to-one support from experts and a market place full of funders. The full programme is available to download.

A buffet lunch will be provided. For more information, details of the programme or to register please visit:

<http://www.surreyca.org.uk/fundraising-fair/>



FREE Counter Terrorism and Incident Response Training for community and religious building managers

7th October 2017, 9.30am-3.30pm, Parkview Centre for the Community Recreation Ground off Blackmore Crescent, Sheerwater GU21 5NZ

Learn: what do in the event of an incident, prevention. handling the situation, recovering

All participants who successfully complete the training will receive a Surrey Fire and Rescue Fire Awareness Certificate. This training is funded by a grant from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey and Surrey County Council.

To book contact Anne-Marie Long at Surrey Community Action: Call 01483 447133, SMS 07470 955 866 or email anne-mariel@surreyca.org.uk

SEEFF ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM

Chaplaincy in a Plural Society: Faiths in Service

Tuesday 17th October, 9:30 am—5:00 pm

WORTH ABBEY, Turners Hill, Crawley, RH10 4SB

Performance Arts Centre (Building Opposite the Church)

Speakers and workshops will cover chaplaincy work

Conference Registration Fee: £12 (Lunch Included)

To register please contact Rabbi Wallach, E: rabbiwallach@gmail.com , M: 07909 506506

www.se-faithforum.net | Email: contact@se-faithforum.net



10th Anniversary event of Epsom Mental Health and Well-Being

Festival to be held 7 - 15 October at St Barnabas Church, Temple Road, Epsom, KT19 8HA.

Mental health and well-being affects us all and we will be reaching out to the local community so as many people can take part.

The Monday Evening Drop-in

Monday from 4.00pm-7.00pm is time for Drop-in at St Barnabas Church. Everyone is welcome, especially those isolated by mental health difficulties. Visitors will always find a warm welcome, coffee, cake and a home-cooked meal. There is also a varied programme of activities and outings chosen by Drop-in members. The Drop-in is eleven years old and some 30+ people attend each week and have a strong sense of belonging and ownership.

Let's Talk Epsom

Wednesdays 7.30pm-9.00pm, St Barnabas Church Temple Road Epsom KT19 8HA

A self help group where people who are affected by any kind of depression can meet to share experiences and coping strategies with others in similar situations.

Over 80 Free Events; All are welcome! For more information please contact:

Allen Price, Trustee, Love Me Love My Mind

T: 01372 721518, W: www.lovemelovemy mind.org.uk, @epsommental



"The Life and Legacy of Charles Bradlaugh"

Tuesday 14th November at 7.30pm, Venue: The Guildford Institute in Ward Street, Guildford, GU1 4LH.

Speaker: Deborah Lavin

Guildford and Woking Humanists will be hosting the following open meeting. All are welcome.

Deborah Lavin is an independent historian with a special interest in 19th century Liberalism and radicalism. Her illustrated talk will look critically at the life and legacy of Charles Bradlaugh the "Atheist, Republican and Malthusian" founder of the National Secular Society. (Bradlaugh is buried in Brookwood Cemetery, Woking.) Her talk examines Bradlaugh's separate battles with Karl Marx and William Gladstone, taking in the Orsini Bomb Plot, the Paris Commune, the Bulgarian Atrocities, Bradlaugh's 1877 trial alongside Annie Besant for obscenity, and press ownership in the 19th century.

Tea/coffee and biscuits break at about 8.30.

[There is no charge, but a small donation is requested of £2 or £3 (but not from students) to cover the speaker's expenses and the hire of the hall.]

If anyone would like further information, please telephone Mike Adams (01483 233324) or David Simmonds (01483 800397). We are also on Meetup, Facebook and Twitter.



Action to Help Homeless People in Epsom

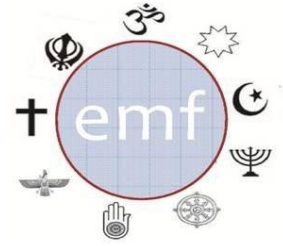
6th November at 7.30 pm at Kings Church, Gibraltar Crescent, Epsom are hosting a meeting to discuss how the churches of Epsom might be able to help the homeless in Epsom.

This has been a subject which a number of local Christians have been looking at over the last year but so far it has been difficult to make any concrete progress. Ed Walker, the Founder of Hope into Action which is a Christian charity will speak on how the charity helps the homeless and how Epsom can get involved.

Everyone with a concern for the homeless is welcome to this meeting.

Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum

Upcoming Events



Visit to Winchester Cathedral & Christmas Market

Wednesday 29th November 2017

- 9.15am Coach will leave from Mercer Close, Thames Ditton, KT7 OBS
- 11.00 am Guided tour of Winchester Cathedral including the memorial to Jane Austen (whose portrait appears on the new £10 note)
- 12.30pm Lunch at venue of your choice
- 1.30pm Visit to Christmas Market beside Cathedral
- 3.30pm Coach departs

Further dates for your diaries

30th January 2018, 7 for 7.30pm; Judge Georgina - venue tbc

7th March 2018, Visit to West London Synagogue

1st May 2018, 7 for 7.30pm, "The Role of Women in Religion", St. Mary's Hall, Stoke d'Abernon, KT11 3PX

26th June 2018, 7 for 7.30pm, AGM – theme "Spirituality & Wellbeing" Venue TBA

September 2018 – date tbc , Visit to The Central London Mosque

For more information please contact Jackie Foster: jackie@fosterja.co.uk

Follow ElmbridgeMultiFaithForum on Facebook for regular updates.

Woking Debates 2018

Woking Action for Peace, LA21, Friends of the Earth, Quakers, Churches Together, Woking People of Faith and Surrey Faith Links work in partnership to bring you some thought provoking and topical debates.

1. Is privacy a luxury or necessity? Saturday 20th January 2018
2. Is our democracy breaking down? Saturday 17th February 2018
3. Why are people living in poverty in 21st century Britain? Saturday 17th March 2018
4. What is the future of work? Saturday 14th April 2018

The debates are held at Christ Church, Jubilee Square, Woking GU21 6YG
11.00 am till 12.30 pm

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



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