



“However many holy words you read, however many you speak, what good will they do you if you do not act on upon them?”
(Buddha)

Another packed newsletter with useful information, news and events. Keep sending in your events and check out the website for new resources, interfaith related websites and interfaith forums in Surrey.

Thank you
Kauser Akhtar
 Faith Links Adviser, Surrey Faith Links.

Inside this issue:

Healthwatch Surrey	2
Jubilee Debt Campaign	2
Faith Based Dietary Practise	3
Religions for Peace UK Projects	3
Woodland Trust Tree Packs	3
Doing God Together	4
Ministerial Statement	4
Administration Apprentice	5
RE: The Truth Unmasked	5
Making Dialogue Effective	5
Faith with its Sleeves Rolled up	5
SCA New Logo, New Website	6
What IF Campaign	6
Funding Opportunities	6
Upcoming Events	7

Dhammakaya Buddhist Temple Visit



On 21st of April 2013, Surrey Faith Links organised a visit to the Dhammakaya temple in Knaphill; a group of 22 people from different faiths visited the temple, took part in meditation and had an opportunity to ask questions to the monk.

People were encouraged to wear light-coloured clothes or white if possible. When we arrived we were greeted very warmly and courteously by the volunteers who work at the temple. The temple itself was formerly a church and still has some Christian motifs dating from that time on some of the windows.

The temple has a beautiful, large hall space where people come to meditate and there were dozens of special baskets by the ‘meditation mats’ with offerings for the monks which were to be given the next day.

Thai Buddhists believe in world peace starting with each individual. A major part of this is through meditation.

We were ushered into a smaller room, where we were introduced to one of the monks (the head monk, unfortunately was ill that day). The monks spend no more than two years in any temple to avoid becoming attached to a place or people. He spoke to us of the power of meditation. Through a translator, he explained that

Main Faith Festivals in June 2013

- ◆ 16th - Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev
- ◆ 29th - St Peter & St Paul's Day
- ◆ 30th - All Saints Day (Orthodox)



meditation helps you centre yourself and you by focusing on one thing at a time, you will not be distracted by many things at once, which tends to happen in daily life. This focus aids calmness in your activities and your power to do things well in the area on which you focus, increases.

We then had 15 minutes of meditation, where we were asked to focus our minds on one thing of our choice. This was a very peaceful time and, when asked by the monk, many people present said that they were so focused that they did not notice the time go!



Later, it was explained to me that meditation was 'rediscovered' by a monk in Thailand in the 19th Century and this monk proceeded to teach others. It is his teachings that guide the Thai Buddhists today.

The Thai Buddhist Temple welcomes people from the local community on a regular basis and has meditation classes for anyone interested.



Simon Trick

Follow us on Face Book or contact Kauser Akhtar (Faith Links Adviser) to get regular updates on meditation sessions run by Phra Nicholas Thanissaro BSc. MA, PGCE, Dip.Med.Teacher (Scottish monk) at the temple.

Healthwatch

Healthwatch Surrey is the newly established consumer champion for health and social care in Surrey and a ground-breaking Social Enterprise. It has been formed to deliver the Local Healthwatch service which Surrey County Council has awarded to Citizens Advice Surrey, Help & Care and Surrey Independent Living Council.

At a local level, Healthwatch will work to help local people get the best out of their health and social care services, whether it's improving them today or helping to shape them for tomorrow. Healthwatch Surrey is all about local voices being able to influence the delivery and design of services. Alongside Healthwatch England it will be influential in making a difference for local people. It will also have the power to enter and view health and social care services across Surrey as well as produce reports and recommendations to influence the way services are designed and delivered.

info@healthwatchesurrey.org, www.healthwatchesurrey.co.uk



Jubilee Debt Campaign – Faith leaders' letter

More than 400 faith community leaders signed the Jubilee for Justice letter, that was presented to the Prime Minister at a Parliamentary reception in February as part of the Jubilee Debt Campaign (JDC). The Jubilee for Justice campaign is calling for the cancellation of "unjust debts of the most indebted nations;" the promotion of "just and progressive taxation, rather than excessive borrowing;" and the stopping of "harmful lending which forces countries into debt." Further signatures to the faith leaders' letter are still being accepted. The letter can be found online at:

<http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/Signatories3720to3720the3720Faith3720Leaders3720Letter+7709.twl>

Catering and Faith Based Dietary Practice

Following discussion at meetings of the Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN) Faith Communities Forum and Executive Committee about halal and non-halal provision in catering contexts, a multi faith Working Group was tasked with developing guidance on faith and dietary practice. This guidance note has recently been published by IFN.

The guidance has four sections:

1. 'Some key principles' concerning faith based dietary practice – which explains both the importance and provenance of the document.
2. Part 1 'Some general points on catering for a religiously diverse clientele' – which offers points for those catering for or managing the catering of people of different faiths and sets out good practice points on provision and procurement.
3. Part 2 'Some more detailed points about particular issues' – which goes into more depth about some of the more complex aspects of the

dietary practices of different religions including the separate storage and preparation of different types of food and the changes that can occur in faith based diet during religious festivals.

4. A chart which contains information on faith based dietary practices – which is intended to give caterers a reasonably comprehensive idea of what certain groups are, or are not, likely to consume but is not intended to be an exhaustive list of the dietary requirements of different faiths.

A pdf of the document can be downloaded from <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/Catering-and-Faith-Based-Dietary-Practice.pdf>

For further information, e: ifnet@interfaith.org.uk.

Please also visit www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk for more resources.

Religions for Peace (UK) projects

Religions for Peace (UK) is embarking on projects to build:

- a Religions for Peace Multi-faith Disarmament Committee;
- a Religions for Peace UK Interfaith Youth Network; and
- a Religions for Peace Multi-faith Committee on Human Rights – Freedom of Religion and Belief.

Anyone interested can contact Jehangir Sarosh at jehangirsarosh@gmail.com or

David Horner dvd.horner@googlemail.com.

Visit www.religionsforpeace.org.uk for more information

Woodland Trust tree packs

The Woodland Trust is offering community groups, youth groups and schools the chance to apply for packs of free trees for delivery in November 2013. The Trust says that whether groups are interested in helping wildlife; creating a faith, or inter faith, green space; a community garden or allotment; or just want to enhance their local area they all are very welcome to apply for the free trees.

There are 4,000 trees to give away and the tree packs come in three sizes – 30 saplings, 105 saplings and 420 saplings in various themes (wildlife, wild harvest, year-round colour, future firewood and wetland). Applications will be accepted until September but the Trust advises groups to apply sooner rather than later as they are usually oversubscribed and may have to close early. Further information can be found online at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/communitytrees. Any queries can be addressed to Beverley Gormley E: beverleygormley@woodlandtrust.org.uk.

One mouth, two ears: 'cool' event brings new insight and understanding in Woking



Woking's 'Doing God Together' group emerged out of the United Nations' Interfaith Harmony week in February 2012. The idea was to create a welcoming forum where people of all faiths and

none can explore ideas and understandings of God through discussion and sharing of ideas and perspectives. On 28th April 2013 a 'Doing God Together' meeting was held at the Shah Jahan Mosque in Woking. Fifty local adults of all ages, (from six different faith groups) were welcomed with tea and delicious cakes. Group work began immediately with pooling of ideas about 'Heaven and Hell', after which, Father Peter Andrews (St Dunstan's Catholic Church) Mrs Kauser Akhtar (Surrey Faith Links) and Rev Pippa Ross-McCabe (Woking People of Faith and Guildford Diocese) offered a montage of images, stories, and quotes about life after death from six different faith perspectives. This brief presentation became the starting point for further group work and reflection. A lively discussion took place in groups made up of people of different faiths.

'It was a marvellous privilege to share and to gain knowledge and respect for our sisters and brothers of other faiths', commented one participant. Others reported that the open discussion had been 'a great opportunity', 'interesting, useful, informative, insightful and inspiring', and there was an almost

universal call for more meetings of this kind. The phrase, 'one mouth two ears' was informally adopted by the group to capture their sense of the importance of listening for mutual learning.

A visitor from Hampshire confirmed the unique success of this forum and remarked that other local inter-faith organisations could be encouraged by this example of a diverse and lively group. Another participant confirmed that 'It was lovely being welcomed in and really helpful to hear about other faiths in a friendly, accepting atmosphere' and 'very good to hear and understand other beliefs as we have such a diverse community in Woking.' One of the highlights for many is the discovery of how much people of different faiths and cultures have in common.

Perhaps the strongest endorsement comes from a young adult participant who simply wrote 'cool'!

Doing God Together is organised and facilitated by local interfaith charities, Woking People of Faith and Surrey Faith Links.



More pictures of the event are on the Surrey Faith Links Facebook page.

Ministerial statement on caste discrimination

On 1 March the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Women and Equalities, Helen Grant MP, announced that the Government has no current plans to add caste to the definition of race in the Equality Act 2010 and is instead to run an educational programme to raise awareness of caste discrimination among affected groups, including employers. The statement was made in response to an amendment tabled to the 'Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill' in the House of Lords in March by Lord Harries of Pentregarth that suggested adding 'and caste' after 'race' in the descriptions of the protected characteristics in the Equalities Act 2010.

The Government Equalities Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government have appointed Talk for a Change "to engage with the affected communities to run an educational programme to help tackle this complex and sensitive issue". The full ministerial statement can be found online at <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-vote-office/March-2013/1st-March/1.DCMS-Caste.pdf>.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has issued a statement about the decision which can be found at <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2013/march/news-tackling-caste-discrimination/>

**The Diocese of Guildford seek to recruit
Administration Apprentice – (Carer Support)**

Salary of £10,500 + 15% Pension Contribution
Full-time, based in Guildford



Diocese of Guildford

This role will help support the work of the Communities Engagement Team in working across the whole of Surrey and North East Hampshire, supporting their work with carers. The role will be supported by a programme of work, study and training designed to develop the skills and abilities in order to achieve a nationally recognised qualification. The right candidate should be willing to undertake a programme designed to develop the skills and abilities of the Apprentice to achieve a level 2 or 3 NVQ qualification in Business Administration. The post is initially for one year. The closing date for applications will be: 19th July 2013. Interviews will be held on: 25th July 2013

For an application pack please contact Gerardine Brown
email: recruitment.diocese@cofeguildford.org.uk , tel: 01483 790302



The role is funded and supported by Surrey County Council, Adult Services

RE: The Truth Unmasked

RE: The Truth Unmasked is the title of the final report of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Religious Education following its investigation of the supply of, and support for, teachers of RE. The report draws on over 400 sources of evidence, and presents both the findings of its investigation and a comprehensive range of recommendations for the DfE as well as for schools, teacher training courses, Local Authorities and Ofsted. The full report, as well as a 1 page summary, can be downloaded from

<http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/appg/news/2013-03-18/appg-re-final-report-the-truth-unmasked>

‘Making Dialogue Effective’

The Dialogue Society has recently published a document entitled Making Dialogue Effective. The booklet brings together key insights and recommendations from a series of discussions exploring the role and value of dialogue and considering how its quality might be improved and its reach extended. The discussions brought together dialogue professionals, religious leaders, conflict resolution specialists, academics and other professionals with relevant experience. The booklet comprises short articles on each of the discussions and a list of recommendations, some taken from the discussions and some based on Dialogue Society experience. It is intended to be a contribution to an ongoing dialogue on dialogue and to the sharing of best practice.

The booklet can be downloaded free of charge from www.dialoguesociety.org/publications.html. A limited number of copies will be printed and distributed to relevant practitioners and researchers. To request a hard copy of the booklet, contact Ilknur Kahraman at ikahraman@dialoguesociety.org or telephone 020 7619 0361.

Faith With its Sleeves Rolled Up

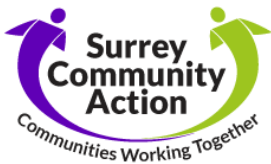
Speaking at a packed parliament gathering on the 9th May, the Rt. Hon Eric Pickles MP launched a new collection of essays - Faith With Its Sleeves Rolled Up - intended to record the most innovative faith based analyses of social action today which emerges from the work of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Faith in Society

The publication of this book will help publicise our message – shared by the APPG – that people of faith are making significant, though underappreciated, contributions to UK society.

View full press release: <http://www.faithaction.net/index.php?p=1168>

Surrey Community Action – New Logo and New Website!

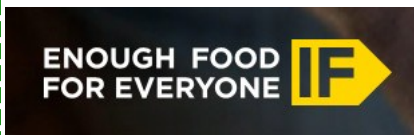
The new website is currently being repopulated with news and interesting information including:



- The outcomes of the “Changing Needs of Surrey’s Communities” conference
- A full list of what SCA can offer you
- A members only area with searchable directory of useful contacts, lively discussions and useful information
- News and notices

Registering for membership is FREE and only takes a minute. Visit: www.Surreyca.org.uk

IF CAMPAIGN



Nearly one billion people go to bed hungry every night and two million children die from malnutrition every year. We've made progress in other areas, but hunger is still the great scandal of our age. All around the world, even in the UK, people are struggling to feed their families.

In 2013, the government has promised to provide 0.7% of national income for aid and to host a Hunger Summit. We must make sure they keep these promises. In June, the world’s most powerful leaders will meet in the UK at the G8. This is our best opportunity to tackle hunger. We must make IF happen. For more information please visit: <http://enoughfoodif.org/home>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Taize Pilgrimage Fund – grants for young people

The Taizé Community in Taize, Burgundy in France is composed of about one hundred brothers, from both Protestant and Catholic traditions, who originate from about thirty countries across the world.

Over 100,000 young people (aged 17-29) from around the world make pilgrimages to Taizé each year to spend one week in a daily pattern of prayer, Bible study, sharing, and communal work.

The Taize Pilgrimage Fund provides grants for young adults aged 17-29 who wish to journey to Taize. The maximum amount granted is the current return bus fare from Victoria Coach Station to Taize. A grant request needs the approval of the person’s incumbent and treasurer. The money was donated just for this purpose and can only be used for this. It really needs to be used! Please get in touch if you would like more information or would like a grant request from Jan Brind e: janbrind@googlemail.com. For more visit the Taizé website www.taize.fr

Surrey Local Assistance Scheme

As of April 2nd, two former components of the Social Fund; Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for Living Expenses have been abolished and will no longer be available through Jobcentre Plus. A new emergency funding scheme has been established in Surrey called the Surrey Local Assistance Scheme. Applications for this fund must be made through CABs with the support agreed by Surrey County Council, who have responsibility for this fund.

More details on the following link:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/advice-guidance-and-support/financial-advice-and-benefits/surrey-local-assistance-scheme>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wat Phra Dhammakaya Meditation

The Dhammakaya Temple will be holding meditation sessions led by Ven. Phra Nicholas Thanissaro. The next one is on Saturday 18th May at 7.00 pm—9.00 pm at the temple, 2 Brushfield Way, Knaphill, GU21 2TG.

Ven. Phra Nicholas Thanissaro is a Thai Buddhist monk of UK origin. He has been a monk for seventeen years and has over twenty years of Buddhist experience. For more information please contact Kruawan Sookcharoen on 01483-475757, 07855-485555 or by email kruawans@hotmail.com

“THE WOKING DEBATES”

Saturday 18th May 2013: Can we become a more equal society?

11.00 am—12.30 pm

Speaker: **SEAN BAINE, Chair of The Equality Trust**

For more information contact:

At: Christ Church, Jubilee square, Woking, GU21 6YG

Keith Scott, t: 01483 824980

e: keithsc_2000@yahoo.com

Understanding Dementia

Join us for an informative morning designed to help people understand more about dementia, learn how to cope with the diagnosis and find out more about the support services

We'll be showcasing Surrey's finest services and information, as well as providing practical help and advice

Open to members, non-members and staff -do bring a friend!

Tuesday 21st May 2013, 10am– 12pm

The Studio, G Live Guildford

London Road, Guildford,

Surrey GU21 2AA

Surrey and Borders Partnership 
NHS Foundation Trust

Book your place today! call 01372 216158 or [email engage@sabp.nhs.uk](mailto:engage@sabp.nhs.uk)

CORPORATE NURSING DIRECTORATE

DEPARTMENT OF PASTORAL CARE

Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals 
NHS Foundation Trust

A warm welcome is extended to leaders and representatives of our local faith communities to join us for an afternoon seminar.

AN HOLISTIC APPROACH TO BEST CARE

Wednesday 22nd May 2013, 2pm – 5pm

THE EDUCATION CENTRE, ASHFORD HOSPITAL, TW15 3AA

This is the third in our series of Seminars and we should love to welcome you to be with us, whether you have joined us previously or not! Issues addressed this time will include: Communicating with Patients and their Carers and, as a follow-up to our previous seminar, addressing the Pastoral needs of our Dementia patients.

This seminar is free to participants but we need to know numbers attending in order to arrange the afternoon appropriately. Please reply by Email to: Judith.allford@asph.nhs.uk

WHAT ROLE CAN RELIGION PLAY IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION?

A public meeting organised by Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum

Speaker: **Simon Keyes, Director at St Ethelburgas,**

Centre of Reconciliation and Peace

Thursday 6th June 2013, 7.30 pm

At the Long Room, the Methodist Church, Woodbridge Road,
Guildford, GU1 4RB

For more information contact Bernard Jones (Secretary)

T: 01483 424, E: Bernard.jones10@btinternet.com



FOREST ESTATE COMMUNITY HUB

HALF TERM FUN DAY

Wednesday 29th May, 12 pm—4 pm

At the British Legion, Larchwood Drive, Englefield Green, Egham TW20 0SL

Free refreshments and café

Activities Include:

Gladiator Joist, face painting, crafts, bouncy castle, table tennis, under 5's play area, Children's Centre Bus

For more information please contact: Vicky Earl

E: Vicky@thejourney.org.uk, T: 07779 137 305

Upcoming Events organised by Woking People of Faith

Inter-faith Cricket Tournament: Saturday 18th May 2013, West Byfleet Cricket Ground. The reigning champions, The Shah Jahan team, are ready to defend their title! If you wish to enter a team or to come along and join a team, please contact Richard Cook cookingwok@gmail.com or Imam Hafiz Hashmi shashmi51@hotmail.co.uk

Ladies' summer tea party: Sunday 26th May, 3-5pm, The Rectory, 81 Rectory Lane, Byfleet, KT14 7LX. RSVP to Pippa coordinator@wpof.org.uk 07986342355. Children welcome – there will be a children's entertainer!



Woking People of Faith
understanding differences in faith and culture

Football Festival : Saturday 29th June 2013, 10am – 4pm, Winston Churchill School. This year we are concentrating on gathering interested and talented players from faith and cultural groups into 6-a-side teams (with one substitute). If you are interested in participating or in entering a team, please contact Jitu Kakad jit.kakad@ntlworld.com or Muhammad Ali u97066@yahoo.com . No football clubs.

The Big IF London event: Enough Food For Everyone IF

Saturday, 8 June 2013 from 14:00 to 17:00 (BST), London, United Kingdom

For more information and booking: <https://bigiflondon-enoughfoodneutral.eventbrite.co.uk>

Reigate and Banstead Crime Summit

With Kevin Hurley, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey

2.30-4.30pm on Saturday 8 June 2013 at the Harlequin Theatre, Warwick Quadrant, Redhill, RH1 1NN

Spaces are limited please register either by the website:

<http://www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk/2013/05/reigatesummit> and register online or Tel: 01483 630200,

e-mail: surreypcc@surrey.police.uk. Website: www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk

The event is open to all

Face to face

A series of conversations between the Minister and a prominent guest

At Godalming United Church, Bridge Street, Godalming, GU7 3DU

Coffee served afterwards. Everyone welcome.

Sunday 23rd June, 6.30 pm

THE REVD BARONESS RICHARDSON

First woman President of Methodist Conference, First woman Methodist Minister in the House of Lords.

Sunday 6th October, 6.30 pm

THE RT REVD CHRISTOPHER HILL

Bishop of Guildford

Delivering Empowerment, Annual Conference 2013



Organised by Empowerment Boards for People with Physical, Sensory and Cognitive impairments in Surrey

Making Surrey even safer, providing disabled people with advice and information to stay safe in Surrey Monday 24th June 2013, At Dorking Halls, Dorking RH4 1SG. 10am – 3.30 pm. To register contact Yasmin Broome on 01483 517294 or SMS text on 07812 104490 or email at yasmin.broome@surreycc.gov.uk



- Hear from the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Surrey, Jeff Harris.
- Talk to Surrey Police about disability hate crime in Surrey
- Presentation from Surrey Fire and Rescue Service
- Telecare to keep you safe
- Keeping you safe at home and in the community - Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board

A Kingston Community of Cultures discussion: Faith schools – A good thing?

Join in this discussion, involving both Christian and Muslim people active in shaping education for tomorrow.

Thursday 27 June 2013, 7:30-9:00pm, All Saints Church, Market Place, Kingston, KT1 1JP

Kingston Community of Cultures is a discussion forum organised by All Saints Parish Church, Kingston University Chaplaincy and the Kingston Inter Faith Forum. For information, contact leslie@packerhome.fsnet.co.uk

You are cordially invited to **An Evening with Peter Slot**, Author of A Layman's Faith
On Saturday 29th June at 6pm at St Michael's Church, Betchworth

A chance to meet the author and hear about the inspiration for A Layman's Faith. Generations of churchgoers in Betchworth have been inspired and provoked by the thoughtful and powerfully clear sermons that form the basis of this book. Wine, soft drinks and light refreshments will be served.

Copies of A Layman's Faith will be on sale, and the author will be signing copies. All proceeds from the sale of the book will be devoted to St Michael's Church and other Church of England charitable causes.

RSVP: david.slater2@tiscali.co.uk or 07833 737576 by 20th June 2013

Film Project

The aim of the project is to have local young people between 12 and 16 years old showing their creativity and learning new skills from professionals from Peer Productions. The project is free for those to take part and will give people the chance to learn about using a camera, writing a script, acting and other aspects of production. The youngsters involved will have control over the theme of the film and there will be a community film showing of the final product in the following months

The project will run between the 6th and 8th of August 2013 at the Parkview Centre, Sheerwater

For more information contact Bob Morgan:
Telephone: 01483 743340, Email: bob.morgan@woking.gov.uk

You are warmly invited to an **Islamic Cultural Open Day**

Date: Sunday 30th June 2013

Time: 11.00 am – 4.00 pm

Venue: Ian Goodchild Centre, Camberley, GU15 3SY

Exhibition from Discover Islam:

www.discoverislam.co.uk

Organised by Surrey Heath Muslim Association

ST MARY'S BUCKLAND
ART EXHIBITION* *AND SALES
AUGUST 24TH TO 26TH, SATURDAY 10AM TO 4PM,
SUNDAY 11AM TO 4PM, MONDAY 10AM TO 4PM

PLANTS *CRAFTS* *REFRESHMENTS*

Tea, coffee and homemade cakes

The Reading Room, Old Road, Buckland RH3 7DY
Just off A25 opposite Village Green

Domestic Abuse Seminar

Tuesday 17th September from 10am to 3pm
Holy Trinity Church, High St, Guildford GU1 3HN
Refreshments provided; Bring your own lunch.
Open to all, suggested donation £5 on the day



To secure your place please email: emma.beswick@cofguildford.org.uk or tel: 01483 790324



Surrey Faith Links

Diocesan House, Quarry Street, Guildford, GU1 3XG
T: 07502 460 397, E: Kausar.Akhtar@cofguildford.org.uk

