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### Main Faith Festivals in November 2017

- 4th—Birthday of Guru Nanak (Sikh)
- 4th—Loy Kraytong (Buddhist)
- 14th—Anapasati day (Buddhist)

*'No one is my enemy, no one is a foreigner, with all I am at peace, God within us renders us incapable of hate and prejudice' (Guru Nanak)*

Interfaith Week is upon us! Plenty of information in this issue about the Week and events that have been planned for the week. If you would like to get involved with interfaith work please get in touch.

In Peace,  
 Kauser Akhtar  
 Faith Links Adviser  
 E: [Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk)

**Inter Faith Week**  
**12-19 November**  
[www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)



Inter Faith Week 2017 is 12-19 November and there is so much planned across England, Northern Ireland and Wales. Having a special week like this provides a focal point, for celebrating the contribution of faith to UK society.

The three main aims of the week are:

1. Strengthening good inter faith relations at all levels
2. Increasing awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
3. Increasing understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

*The purpose of this newsletter is to share news/information and raise awareness about a wide rang of faiths and beliefs.*

For information about Interfaith events being organised in Surrey please go to page 7 onwards.

### Put yourself on the map!

If you are organising an event please do take time to register your event at [www.interfaithweek.org/events/submit](http://www.interfaithweek.org/events/submit)

### Inter Faith Week badges

Inter Faith Week badges are a great way to raise the profile of your activities! And they are, to quote one of the tweets from those who've bought them, 'fab!' They are matt finish and very attractive and are useable this year and in future years.

To order visit [www.interfaithweek.org/branding](http://www.interfaithweek.org/branding) and use the PayPal checkout at the bottom of the page, or contact the Inter Faith Week team on [interfaithweek@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:interfaithweek@interfaith.org.uk). Badges are £5 for 10; £8 for 20; £17.50 for 50 and £30 for 100 inc p and p. Prices for larger orders available on enquiry.

### Social media campaign

We are running a social media campaign to highlight the Week. Join the Most Revd Father Olu Abiola and colleagues from the Council of African and Afro-Caribbean Churches who are pictured, by taking a photograph of yourself/ves with a short message that sums up what is important about the Week for you.



You can print out the board to hold at [www.interfaithweek.org/resources/social-media](http://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/social-media). There are a variety of pre-written messages. If you have ideas for one, please email us ([Interfaithweek@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:Interfaithweek@interfaith.org.uk)) and we can add them.

Please tag us in your photos on Twitter or Instagram @IFWeek or use the hashtags #IFWeek or #InterFaithWeek. You can also post them in comments responding to posts on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/IFWeek](http://www.facebook.com/IFWeek)

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

### 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](mailto:Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk), [www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk](http://www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk)



### Incident Response Training

Surrey Muslim Association in partnership with Surrey Community Action, Surrey Police and Surrey Fire and Rescue organised a one day training session for the Voluntary, Faith and Community Sector.

Over 60 people attended the event on Saturday 7th October at the Parkview Community Centre in Sheerwater. Participants learnt about what to do in the event of an incident, prevention, handling the situation and recovering.

There was various interactive presentations by the Counter Terrorism Unit, Surrey Police and Surrey Fire & Rescue.

Attendees found it very informative and felt it was a much needed training session.

For more information about future training session please contact Karen Holdsworth Canon, Community Buildings Advisor, Surrey Community Action. E: [karenh@surreyca.org.uk](mailto:karenh@surreyca.org.uk)



### The True Face Of Islam

Rev'd Vicki Burrows shares the experiences of the congregation of Holy Trinity Church, Bramley, who invited the Diocese's Faith Links Advisor, Kauser Akhtar to present an informative course on 'the True Face of Islam'.

Seventy members of the parish came together with Kauser Akhtar to sit down and share a two course meal before Kauser presented a talk on 'the True Face of Islam'.

Kauser is a Muslim and the Diocese of Guildford's Faith Links Adviser. Born in Lancashire, she lives with her husband and three young sons in Woking where he is the Imam of the Shah Jahan Mosque.

The evening was not only instructive but moving and we thought about how much of the estrangement between our faith communities arises from cultural differences rather than ones of faith - for instance the wearing of the hijab and the burka, with Islam, like Judaism and Christianity, teaching the virtues of modesty and chastity.

Kauser explained that whether a Muslim woman interprets that teaching by wearing a burka or a hijab, can be influenced by different conventions of local culture (e.g. Saudi, British Muslim, Pakistani, Egyptian, Indonesian and so on). Likewise the matter of a woman's place in society: Islam doesn't make women inferior to men but in fact teaches equality, although in some cultures men are seen as superior. We heard passages from the Qur'an that show how Islam honours the place of women in the home and in society.

Kauser spoke to us from the heart, from Islamic scriptures and the sayings of the prophet. We came away feeling that the peace of the world would be the better secured if everyone who believes what they read in the sensationalist media about Islam were to hear her speak. Kauser is a force for peace and understanding; we cannot recommend her highly enough.

*If you would like to hear from a different faith perspective at your place of worship or centre, please get in touch: [Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk) | Tel: 01483 790 334*



### Epsom and Ewell Interfaith Lunch

Epsom and Ewell Interfaith Forum organised an Interfaith Lunch at All Saints Church, West Ewell.

Approximately 20 people brought one of their family's favourites for lunch and shared it with everyone. It was a lovely atmosphere, people from different faiths and cultures sharing food and conversation together.

"It was a wonderful way of getting to know people from other faiths in my local area and I hope to continue meeting in the future" said one participant.



Epsom and Ewell Interfaith Forum are a newly established forum and are proactively organising events; for more information please contact:

Lynne Scofield: [lynnescholefield@gmail.com](mailto:lynnescholefield@gmail.com)



### Faith Safari Supper

Surrey Heath Faith Forum organised a 'Faith Safari Supper' to bring people together from different faith and cultural backgrounds.

Attendees started off at the Surrey Heath Council Chambers for the starters with a presentation from Surrey Police on Hate Crime, followed by the 'main meal' at the Al Kharafi Mosque in Camberley where the Chair, Susan Bolen gave an update about the Forums events. The Safari Supper was concluded at St Michael's Church where everyone enjoyed some delicious pudding an update from the council about welcoming a refugee family to Surrey Heath.



### Faith and Belief News from the Three Faiths Forum:

- National Theatre and The Public Partner on New PUBLIC ACTS Initiative
- Some think interfaith dialogue goes nowhere. A veteran rabbi begs to differ.
- Jews and Hindus are setting the standard for interfaith
- Go ahead for new NW3 Christian centre will 'make world better place'
- These Young Black British Muslims Were So Fed Up With Being Erased They Made Their Own Web Series And It's Lit
- Jane Flint: 'Having an atheist chaplain is about patient choice'
- Catholic expert on Islam calls for interfaith cooperation
- Meet the Sikh volunteers handing out free food in Manchester city centre
- Catholic Archbishop marks Martin Luther anniversary with unity call in Protestant cathedral





## Chaplaincy in a Plural Society - Faiths in Service

South East England's Faith Forum (SEEFF) held their Annual AGM and Conference at Worth Abbey this year on Tuesday 17th October. After an Interfaith Prayer led by Iyad Daoud, the ninety or so people gathered for SEEFF's Annual Day Conference were welcomed to the Abbey by Abbot Luke Jolly who wished us well in what he saw as a worthwhile bringing together of people of faith to enhance harmony and peace between our different faiths and cultures.



The MP for Crawley, Henry Smith MP welcomed us to what he sees as a Parliamentary constituency that has great diversity of religion and culture. This was echoed by Peter Lamb, Leader of Crawley Borough Council, who explained how Crawley New Town had originally been designed as a place for people of many faiths and cultures.

Dr Shakil Malik, Clinical Director and Consultant Psychiatrist, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, began the first session by looking at the human person and emphasised that the process of healing is not just causing the absence of disease but 'whole person care'. Where the state of mind reflects the state of body helped by the ministry of respect, compassion and spirit that the chaplain brings to the situation.

Canon David Wilbraham - Force Chaplain, Thames Valley Police and National Police Chaplain. David briefly gave the background to his becoming a force police chaplain.

Three Chaplains from the Muslim, Sikh and Hindu faith shared their experiences as chaplains followed by the AGM and tour of Worth Abbey. After the AGM/tour participants attended workshops on chaplaincy which participants had signed up to; each workshop gave people the chance to learn more of the areas of work from practitioners in the particular channel.

Bishop Richard Moth - RC Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, Former RC Bishop to the UK Forces shared his experiences and the event was closed by Bede Gerrard, Chair of SEEFF who thanked all for attending.

## Samhain

For many people, 31 October is Hallowe'en and a time for trick-or-treating by children, but this is not the case for pagans. The date marks the Feast of Winter, Samhain; it is a Celtic fire festival and Gylden Fellowship (Pagans of the Gylden River) celebrate it in a very unusual way.

Each year, we organise a Dumb Supper for all who wish to attend – usually about 20 people at a private venue in Farnborough. It is a ritual meal, held in complete silence, to honour and communicate with ancestors and loved ones who have departed this life and passed on into the otherworld. We held our event on 30 October 2017 at the same venue, using the same spiritual team.

For more details, please contact either: [lucinvampire@hotmail.com](mailto:lucinvampire@hotmail.com), or [nickthewitch7@gmail.com](mailto:nickthewitch7@gmail.com)



## 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](http://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](#)

### The Aziz Foundation

The Aziz Foundation is an independent grant-making body seeking to support the most disadvantaged communities in Britain. It aims to do this through supporting community empowerment, leadership development and greater public engagement by them in wider society.

The Foundation seeks to support individuals and projects, strengthen organisations and networks, and help incubate innovative ideas that will ultimately improve the conditions in and for these sections of our society.

The lowest amount that a grant will normally be made for is £500. This applies to small grants. Applicants should be mindful that we can only fund up to 25% of a project and that amount is capped at £15,000. Grants are awarded to those charitable activities which meet their three core aims:

1. Community Empowerment
2. Leadership Development
3. Public Engagement Deadline: Monday 8 January 2018 11pm

For more information: <http://azizfoundation.org.uk/funding/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**"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.

**Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith Forum – November programme**

Epsom and Ewell Interfaith Forum invite you to join them where Najaah Oozeer will share her experience of Hajj, Pilgrimage to Makkah with presentation slides and videos on 15th November, 7.30 pm at St Martin's Church, Epsom.

For more information or to confirm attendance please email Lynne Schofield:

[lynneschofield@gmail.com](mailto:lynneschofield@gmail.com)

Woking People of Faith invite you to their Interfaith Week Event:

**The Role of Institutions' within Diversity and Inclusion**

Sunday 19th November 2017 from 2.00 - 5.00

At Parkview Community Centre, Off Blackmore Crescent, Sheerwater, GU21 5NZ

Listen to speakers from the Armed Forces and Police

Learn about 'The Role of Institutions' within Diversity and Inclusion

Chat over refreshments

All are welcome

For more information please contact: [secretary@wpof.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wpof.org.uk),

[www.wpof.org.uk](http://www.wpof.org.uk), 07882 131215



Woking People of Faith

# GUILDFORD AND GODALMING INTERFAITH FORUM

warmly invite you to their Annual Commemoration of Interfaith Week

The Mayor of Guildford Councillor Nigel Manning and Mayoress Councillor Marsha Moseley will be joining us for an Interfaith Service

## 'STANDING TOGETHER'

on Sunday 19th November 2017 at 3.00 pm

St Nicholas Community Centre, Bury St, Guildford GU2 4AW

Representatives of local Hindu, Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Sikh and Bahá'í communities will be sharing their Faith's teachings and music .

There will be shared food after the programme

Donations will go to War Child: [www.warchild.org.uk](http://www.warchild.org.uk)

For further information please contact:

Carolyn Neogi - 01483 415773 or

Bernard Jones - 01483 424257



Rabbi Meir and Rebbetzen Rina Shindler of Richmond United Synagogue talking about

## THE WORK OF A RABBINIC COUPLE TODAY

Tuesday 21 November 8pm | Staines Synagogue

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

### About Rabbi Meir and Rebbetzin Rina

Meir Shindler is from London, where his father was a community rabbi. With a first class honours degree from King's College London in Mechatronics, (a blend of mechanical engineering with smart electronics) he worked in industry before becoming a rabbi.

Encouraging youth and young families, is an important part of his role, as well as leading services, giving sermons, pastoral work and being involved in the life cycle events of his congregation.

Rina Shindler grew up in New York and has a BA degree in Psychology and an MSc in Clinical Sociology/Family Counselling, as well as being educated in a Seminary in Jerusalem. She has various teaching qualifications and in her present role, plays a very active part across all sections of the community and all age groups, including teaching batmitzvah girls and leading other educational projects.

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

This event is our contribution to the Inter Faith Week celebrations

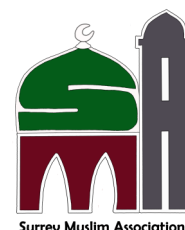


Future date: 7th March 2018, when the speaker at CCJ Staines will be Jonathan Paull, Jewish Tutor at Eton College

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



## Together for Carers Muslim Carers Engagement Event



Wednesday 15th November 2017, 10 – 2pm  
Parkview Community Centre, Woking, GU21 5NZ

Action for Carers Surrey in partnership with Surrey Muslim Association invite you to join a Carers Engagement Event ahead of Carers Rights Day.

There will be a presentation on the Islamic perspective of caring and details of the new Action for Carers Surrey, Adult Carers Support Service. There will be the opportunity to network during lunch and receive advice and information from our stall holders. For those who are eligible there will be the opportunity to receive a free carer health check.

Bengali, Urdu and Arabic interpretation throughout the event  
Lunch will be provided.

Registration essential for catering purposes.

To book: Send Email to: [Training@actionforcarers.org.uk](mailto:Training@actionforcarers.org.uk)

Telephone: 01883 626264

Post: Hasu Ramji c/o Action for Carers (Surrey), Mellbreak, Tydcombe Road, Warlingham, Surrey CR6 9LU



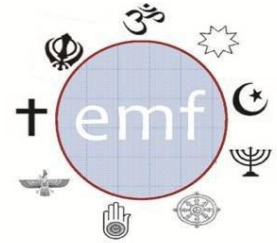
## Fully Funded Training Opportunities for VCFS

Course Title	Date	Venue	Time
Web-creating core s-net & external pages	14/12/2017	Quadrant Court	9.30-16.30
Pre Retirement	08/11/2017	Consort House	9.30-16.30
Web-creating core s-net & external pages	16/11/2017	County Hall	9.30-16.30
Web-creating core s-net & external pages	28/11/2017	Quadrant Court	9.30-16.30
Lean Continuous Improvement	04/12/2017	Consort House	9.30-12.30
Budget Monitoring	21/11/2017	County Hall	9.30-12.30
Valuing Budgets	30/11/2017	County Hall	9.30-12.30

For more information please visit: <http://surreyskillsacademy.learningpool.com/>

## 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 0BS
- 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](mailto: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](mailto:keithsc_2000@yahoo.com)



**Surrey Faith Links c/o CET, Diocese of Guildford**

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