



**"Be the peace you wish for the world."
(Mahatma Gandhi)**

It's been a very busy month in interfaith activity and many more plans as International Day of Peace and National Interfaith Week get closer.

Please feel free to get in contact with me if you would like to know more about SFL or would like support in organising an interfaith event.

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Living and Working Together in the 21st Century



On a balmy midsummer evening, we found ourselves gathering under the large marquee set in the grounds of the residence of the Rt. Revd. Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford. The large grounds of the residence was a quintessential picture of a serene, eye pleasing, soul uplifting, well tended, garden. The marquee was well laid out with tables, and guests were treated to drinks as they took their seats on allocated tables.



The gathering was in response to an invitation to inter-faith groups and organisations working in Surrey, and the attendance did not disappoint. There were about 90 people present. Indeed, it was an apt response to an invitation that demonstrated a generosity combining spirituality with the drive towards social and community integration and understanding.

A short welcome and introduction to the evening was given by Bishop Andrew, and that was followed by introduction of the following speakers by Kauser Akhtar:

- Carolyn Neogi (Guildford & Godalming Interfaith Forum)
- Nabil Mustapha (Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum)

Main Faith Festivals in July 2015

- ◆ 2nd – Dharma Day (Buddhist)
- ◆ 10th - Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
- ◆ 18th/19th - Eid ul Fitr (Islam)
- ◆ 18th - Ratha Yatra (Hindu)
- ◆ 20th - Choekhor Duechen (Buddhist)

- Pippa Ross McCabe (Woking People of Faith)
- Karen Kendall (Surrey Heath Faith Forum)
- Vivien Turner (All Saints, Banstead)



Each spoke for five minutes describing the salient activities of the organisation they represent. The extent and variations of these narratives were really heart warming and demonstrated the real spirit and zeal there is in Surrey, and the variety of methods used in bringing together people of different faiths or no faith to exchange information and join in activities.

Chris Rich, Director of the Communities Engagement Team, (Diocese of Guildford) reminded us all about the multi faith aspects of the police chaplaincy, street angels and other such projects. He emphasized on the importance of the faith sector and that people of faith are motivated by their faith to volunteer for such projects.

The closing speech was delivered by the Rt. Revd. Watson, and he spoke about his experience of tragedies he witnessed while in Birmingham, and then spoke about mercy and its interpretations. He quoted the Beatitude : "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy" and then chose the story of "The Good Samaritan" as an example of utmost sacrifice and mercy shown by that Samaritan to a non Samaritan and where Samaritans were normally despised by the others. A more relevant demonstration of what the world needs now cannot easily be found.



The final part of the gathering was a delicious buffet over discussion about interfaith activity. Naturally, a lot of socialising took place within and in between the tables.

We all thanked, Bishop Andrew, his staff, especially Chris Rich and Kauser Akhtar.

Reported by Nabil M Mustapha (Chair, Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum)

Football Success!

On Saturday 13th June Woking People of Faith held their 2015 6 - a - side football tournament at Winston Churchill School. Six teams took part and played for a cup and a plate: the Al Asr Centre, Woking Asian Business Forum, Shah Jahan Mosque, St Dunstan's Church, Knaphill Methodist Church and the COIGN in Woking.



All the teams played each other and the top four went through to play for the cup whilst the bottom two played for the plate. One of the teams representing the Shah Jahan Mosque won the cup and a team representing the Al Asr Centre was the runner up. A team from the Knaphill Anglican church won the Plate in a tense well played game against St Dunstans. The other two teams playing was a second team from the Shah Jahan Mosque and a team from the Coign.

All the games were played in a spirit of fun and fairness. If you are a faith group in or around Woking and you would like to play in next year's competition please drop an email to John West at john.west63@ntlworld.com.

Surrey Muslim Association Launch

The sun was shining brightly on this delightful summer's afternoon when guests started to arrive in the attractive grounds of Shah Jahan Mosque, in Woking, to attend the Surrey Muslim Association (SMA) Launch Event. This was the first ever public event hosted by the SMA since its inauguration on 12th December 2013. The aim of this organisation is to represent Muslims of Surrey and bring together scattered resources for the betterment of Muslims in Surrey and the wider communities.

The guests included the honourable guest speaker Lord Lieutenant Dame Sarah Goad, MP Jonathan Lord, Chair of Surrey County council Sally Marks, Chief Constable Lynn Owens, Chief Superintendent John Cox, Chief executive of Woking Borough Council Ray Morgan, Police and Crime Commissioner Kevin Hurley and a number of faith representatives from various faith groups.



SMA Members with Dame Sarah Goad

A very informative talk about 'Presentation of Muslims in Surrey' was then delivered by our Faith Links Adviser Kauser Akhtar who informed her captivated audience the statistics regarding the Muslim population in Surrey and about new projects like Noah's ark that is helping to coordinate social, charitable, religious and educational projects in the local community, currently housed at the Ashford & Staines Community Centre.



SMA members with guests

The audience were then taken to virtual trip to Prophet Mohammad's (peace be upon him) city-Madinah through a very sweet song full of loving memories of this city sung by young Amaniya Najib who is a student of Winston Churchill School and the Shah Jahan Mosque.

Dame Sarah Goad mesmerised the audience with her superbly delivered message of peace, unity and inter faith relationship. She pointed out that Muslims, Christians and Jews share Prophet Abraham (Peace be upon him) as our common ancestor. Dame Sarah Goad also shared her experience when she read the translation of the Holy Quran and found it to be a book written with supreme excellence and delivering the same message of 'oneness of God' and 'mercy and forgiveness' as delivered by Bible and Torah. She finished her captivating speech by reciting verses from Lord Tennyson's famous verses ' More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.'



Amaniya Najib Singing

To round off this afternoon, Brother Arshad Gamiet of the Islamic Welfare Association, West Surrey delivered an enchanting talk titled, British Muslims: helping to build a better Britain. He gave several fascinating references from Quran and the life of Prophet (peace be upon him) regarding promoting respect and tolerance, saying '....our human diversity is a divine gift and we should not fear diversity. Race, religion and culture should not stop us from promoting good and preventing evil...we must work together to make Britain even better'.

With a final note of gratitude from the organisers, the event came to a close. By this time, the enticing aroma of the delicious spread of food, had engulfed the whole atmosphere and so a perfect day ended in a perfect manner as all the guests and SMA members mingled with each other while enjoying their lunch and making new friends.

Reported by: Humaira Ahmad (SMA member)

For more information about the SMA: www.surreymuslims.org



Community Open Day



Surrey Heath Muslim Association organised a 'Community Open day' on Sunday 14th June at the Ian Good Child Centre in Camberley. It was a well attended by various members of the community.



There was a 'Discover Islam' exhibition, some organisations e.g. Foster Care held stalls, plenty of food, henna, try a hijab on, write your name in Arabic calligraphy and even a children's fun activity section.

Attendees were given free packs of information and books; most of all it was an occasion to enjoy the company of other community members who may not usually meet. A great way to build community cohesion and positive dialogue.

SACRE VISIT TO PLACES OF WORSHIP



This year teacher training for Religious Studies teachers in Surrey involved visits to the Guildford Cathedral, North West Surrey Synagogue in Weybridge and the Shah Jahan Mosque in Woking. Organised by Surrey SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education).

Teachers as well as SACRE members were shown around the places of worship followed by a Question and Answer session.



The feedback from teachers were very positive; those who were previously reluctant to organise school trips to the places of worship feel their students would actually benefit from such visits and are now planning their visits.



Church opens facilities to Muslims for prayer after Mosque fire

Following a fire at Kingston Mosque on 9 June, the nearby church of St Luke's has welcomed the Muslim community into its facilities in Burton Road and members of the mosque have been praying in the church's music room. Fr Martin Hislop said: "We are happy to rearrange things so the Muslim community can use our music room for everyday prayers. We are just working out what they need."

Although the Church cannot accommodate the Friday communal prayer needs, he said "We are going to do as much as we can. It does mean a bit of re-jigging – but that's what neighbours do." The fire, termed 'unsuspicious', caused damage but those in the Mosque were not endangered. Further information can be found at

http://www.surreycomet.co.uk/news/13323141.Love_thy_neighbour__Church_opens_doors_to_Muslim_worshippers_after_Kingston_Mosque_fire/

National Inter Faith Week

National Inter Faith Week takes place in November each year in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. Its aims are:

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

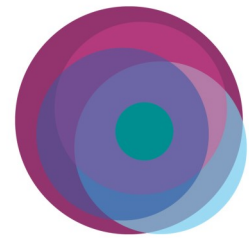
Inter Faith Week is a programme of the Inter Faith Network for the UK. Its Trustees hope that you will join the many faith, belief and inter faith bodies, community and voluntary organisations, local authorities, Police and emergency services, SACREs, schools, colleges, universities, chaplaincies, businesses and others who will be taking part this year.

In a special message for Inter Faith Week 2015, Baroness Williams of Trafford, Minister with responsibility for integration and faith at the Department for Communities and Local Government, has said:

"Inter Faith Week helps to bridge gaps in understanding and encourage dialogue between the different faith communities. It plays a pivotal role in bringing together people of faith and of none in a range of events. I would encourage all faith groups and institutions up and down the country to support this year's Inter Faith Week activities and help make it a week that truly celebrates the rich diversity of the communities we serve."

For further ideas, resources and event information, go to www.interfaithweek.org. If your organisation holds an event or takes part in one we hope that you will take a few minutes to register it on-line later in the year and put your event 'on the map'.

**Inter Faith
Week**



This month's news stories from the Three Faiths Forum:

- ⇒ [London's Golders Green plans 'show of strength' against neo-Nazi protest](#)
- ⇒ [Jews And Muslims Work Together At Salaam Shalom Kitchen To Serve Nottingham's Needy](#)
- ⇒ [NYPD working to increase ranks of Muslims in department](#)
- ⇒ [New Ramadan rules to help Nordic Muslims in midnight sun](#)
- ⇒ [Rabbi Lord Sacks: How to end the wars of hatred](#)
- ⇒ [Belgian Muslim Community Reminds Us That Peacefully 'Living Together' Is the Under-reported Norm](#)
- ⇒ [Is the UK still a Christian country?](#)
- ⇒ [European anti-Muslim and anti-Semitic feeling falls in wake of Charlie Hebdo terror attacks](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

M&S Energy - Launch of Community Energy Fund Competition (Great Britain)

M&S Energy has launched the Community Energy Fund Competition to enable more communities to generate renewable energy and become environmentally and financially sustainable.

Not-for-profit organisations in Great Britain are eligible to apply for funding for renewable energy projects that can demonstrate they have the support of their local community. Grants can be used for all capital costs relating to the installation of the specified technology.

There are three types of funding available to apply for:

- A national funding pot for a project that requires a maximum of £40,000.
- A national funding pot for a project that requires a maximum of £20,000.
- Regional funding pots for projects that require a maximum of £12,500.

There is also a minimum funding of £15,000 which will be split between the most inspiring and innovative projects. Shortlisted applicants will need to organise support from their community to vote for their campaign on the competition website. The deadline for applications is 29 July 2015.

More information and to apply go to: <https://www.mandsenergyfund.com/>

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) IMPACT Awards Open to Applications (UK)

The IMPACT Awards recognise and reward small to medium-sized charities in the UK (which are at least three years old) that are doing excellent work to improve people's health. Applicants must target community health needs in the UK and have a track record of achievement in this area.

The Awards recognise excellence in existing work and do not seek to fund new projects. The assessment is based on the work of the whole organisation and the assessment will focus on excellence in the six areas of IMPACT. The judges will be looking for evidence of:

Innovation: Leadership, creativity and initiative in addressing current challenges in healthcare access and delivery.

Management: Efficient use of resources; quality of management processes; equality of opportunity; clear objectives and plans; strength and financial effectiveness of the organisation.

Partnership: Working effectively with others (members, users, private and public sector partners, etc.); willingness to share 'best practice' and to learn from others.

Achievement: Measurable results achieved; numbers of people benefited; impact on access to healthcare; a reflective approach to evaluation of the work; measurement and monitoring of performance; being able to report on outcomes and impact.

Community focus: Involving and responding to users and the community; openness and provision of information; adaptability to changing circumstances and needs.

Targeting needs: Awareness of community issues and priorities and having a detailed understanding of the target community; ensuring services are accessible to, and focus on, people in need.

Up to ten winners will receive £30,000 unrestricted funding with one overall winner receiving £40,000. Winners will also receive free training and development valued at up to £6,000, a specially commissioned professional film and photographs along with publicity and press support. Up to ten runners-up will receive £3,000. The deadline for applications is 25 September 2015 (5pm).

More information and details of how to apply can be found at: <http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/projects/gsk-impact-awards/apply>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Freedom to Share our Faith

Date: 14 July 2015, Time: 18:45 - 20:45

Address: Education Centre, Guildford Cathedral, Stag Hill, Guildford, GU2 7UP

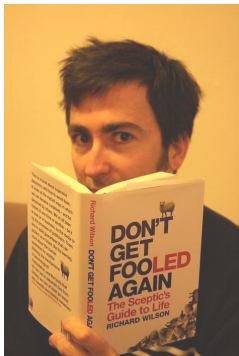
Fee: £10, Speakers: Philip Simpson and Kauser Akhtar

Revd Philip Simpson worked for 10 years in Pakistan with the Church Mission Society. He is now Non-Stipendiary Minister at Christ Church, Woking. Kauser Akhtar is Surrey Faith Links Adviser in Guildford Diocese and married to the Imam at the Shah Jahan Mosque in Woking.

Both Christianity and Islam are missionary faiths. In this interactive session, Phil Simpson and Kauser Akhtar will engage from a Christian and a Muslim perspective, with the challenges of sharing faith today. The session will involve a 'scriptural reasoning' exercise through the reading of Qur'anic and Biblical missionary texts. Come prepared to listen, to learn and to share. For more information and booking:

[http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/life/lifelong-learning/summer-school/details/freedom-to-share-our-faith-\(10-15\)](http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/life/lifelong-learning/summer-school/details/freedom-to-share-our-faith-(10-15))

How not to get fooled by myth and quackery



Everyone is welcome!! Do come along and join in
Sunday 19th July, 7 for 7.30pm
Daniel Hall, Long Garden Walk, Farnham, GU9 7HX

Richard Wilson highlights how we are all vulnerable to deception and delusion by peddlers of myth and quackery, from corporate pseudo-science to paranoid conspiracy theories. He proposes ways we can minimise the dangers of being taken in by bogus sceptics portraying their ideas as "rational and evidence-based".

Writer George Monbiot describes Richard's book 'Don't Get Fooled Again' as "rigorous, witty and beautifully-written".

Tea & coffee included. Other drinks available from the Hop Blossom Pub close by. Donation £2 to help costs

Hosted by **farnhamHUMANISTS**
Enquiries: 01252 723044 www.farnham.humanist.org.uk



'Discovering the Hospice Labyrinth'

During the summer months we are inviting groups from within the community to visit the Hospice to learn about the Labyrinth and to experience it for themselves. These visits will include a brief presentation about labyrinths, their history and attributed features, followed by the opportunity to walk the labyrinth, facilitated by our trained labyrinth guides. The visits will take place from 2.30–4.00pm on the following dates: **20 July, 14 September**

To book a visit please email Revd Dr Steve Nolan Chaplain
Princess Alice Hospice, West End Lane, Esher Surrey KT10 8NA
t:01372 461806, m: 07793 773072, e: chaplain@pah.org.uk, w: www.pah.org.uk



Hearing Champions
Hearing Aid maintenance training
free, simple sessions open to everyone HEAR HERE !

Hearing Champions Training will include:

- ⇒ Checking the hearing aid is working
- ⇒ Replacing the battery, battery life
- ⇒ Re-tubing
- ⇒ Fitting the hearing aid in the ear
- ⇒ Hearing aid controls
- ⇒ T-loop
- ⇒ Use of hearing aid
- ⇒ Assistive listening devices
- ⇒ Communication tactics
- ⇒ Outline of audiology pathways in your area

Refreshments provided.

Opportunity to purchase a basic maintenance toolkit. To book a space or for more information please contact: Tracey Wade, Sensory Inclusion Adviser, tel: 01483 790327 or 18001 01483 790327 mobile/SMS (txt/voice): 07531 268 476; email: tracey.wade@cofeguildford.org.uk

Event details for Leatherhead:

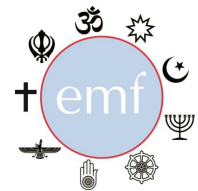
Venue: St Mary's Church Annexe, The Ridgeway, Fetcham, Leatherhead, KT22 9AZ
 Date: Wednesday 22nd July 2015
 Times: 1.30 — 4.30 pm

Event details for Spelthorne

Venue: Spelthorne Borough Council offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames TW18 1XB
 Date: Thursday 30th July
 Times: 10am - 4pm

Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum Events

- ⇒ **Democracy and Faith:** EMF AGM, talk on democracy and the role of faith by Nabil Mustapha followed by discussion and AGM. Tuesday 28th July, 7 pm for 7:30 pm at Elmbridge Multi faith Centre, Mercer Close, Thames Ditton, KT7 0BS
- ⇒ **Gala:** Saturday 28th November at 7 pm for 7.30 pm at Grenville Centre, Claremont, Cobham, KT11 2JL
- ⇒ Visit to Zoroastrian Centre: TBA
- ⇒ Event on Freedom of Speech: TBA (September)



For more information about EMF activities please contact Geoffrey Morris: geoffreymorris@emas-bc.co.uk

The Bridge exhibition

The Bridge is an East-West travelling art exhibition organised and curated by CARAVAN, an interreligious and intercultural peacebuilding NGO, which will showcase the work of 47 visual artists from 15 countries. The exhibition is a gathering of international artists focusing on what they hold in common through their cultures and creeds: Christian, Jewish and Muslim. The exhibition will be at venues throughout the world and is being held at St Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square in London from 1 June until 31 July. For further information, visit www.oncaravan.org and www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/visiting/art-and-exhibitions.

**Interfaith Network day event for local inter faith groups
Thursday 30 July, London**

The day will be an opportunity for local inter faith practitioners from anywhere in the UK to share their experiences, discuss issues of common interest and concern and have focused learning opportunities about practical aspects of developing successful inter faith programmes.

Registration is dependent on availability of space. There is no charge to attend but donations towards the vegetarian lunch will be welcome. A programme with further detail and booking form will follow next week.

Just a few of the plenary themes:

- 7 ways local inter faith organisations make a powerful contribution to our shared life
- Faith groups working together to add to the wellbeing of their local community
- Working with public agencies and service deliverers
- How inter faith bodies can help faith communities engage well together with challenging issues – including those on which there may not be agreement
- Creating opportunities for learning and safe spaces for dialogue
- Faith trails, inter faith pilgrimages and ‘open door’ days
- Inter Faith Week

The important contribution local inter faith initiatives can make to encouraging positive engagement and discouraging prejudice and extreme voices – particularly in the context of an increasing impact on inter faith relations in the UK of overseas events and, in some areas, extreme voices at home.

There will be two workshop sessions. 3 of the workshops, on ‘nuts and bolts’, are being held twice so that participants have a chance to attend more than one of these if they wish:

- Developing inter faith programmes that work well for our area
- Funding and resourcing our work
- ‘Getting the message across’ – communications, including social media

There will also be a workshop on women and local inter faith engagement in the morning and a workshop on young people and local inter faith engagement in the afternoon.

For more information or to book a place please email: ifnet@interfaith.org.uk

Nuclear Free World

Quaker Peace and Social Witness is organising an inter faith service of commemoration and commitment to a nuclear-free world on Thursday 6 August. The date marks the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The service will be held from 2.30pm to 3.30pm at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ and will be followed by refreshments and exhibitions.

To reserve a place, complete the form at <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/hiroshima> or contact Kristin Skarsholt at kristins@quaker.org.uk or on 020 7663 1121.

Interfaith Cricket Match

Monday 10th August, 5.30pm

West Byfleet Recreational Ground, Parvis Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6LS
Surrey Faith Links is organising an interfaith cricket match; all welcome to attend.

Shah Jahan Mosque vs Diocese of Guildford

Sponsored by Woking Asian Business Forum



International Day of Peace Celebration

Surrey Faith Links and Woking People of Faith organise an annual competition for primary schools in Woking where students are asked to either make a poster, write a poem or story on the theme of 'Peace'. This year the question is: 'How can children help to bring about world peace?'

You are invited to attend the Peace Day Celebration which will take place on Sunday 20th September at 12.00 pm at Mercia Walk, Woking (town centre). The winners will be awarded their prizes by the Mayor of Woking, there will also be live entertainment and short sayings of peace from the different faiths.

This is a public event and we would like to encourage everyone to stop by for one hour to express our desire and commitment for peace.

If you would like your school or youth group to participate or for more information please contact either Simon Trick nstricks@yahoo.com or Kauser Akhtar: Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk



Living Well in Woking - Monday 28 September – Sunday 4 October 2015

In partnership with Surrey County Council, the NHS and our colleagues at Freedom Leisure Woking Borough Council is hosting a Living Well Week at the end of September 2015. On offer will be a fantastic range of health and wellbeing activities in the Borough to inspire people to have fun, be active, eat well and be more informed about how to stay healthier.

This is a community wide event, open to all public, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations and the business community.

More information will be provided between now and September but you're welcome to register your interest or discuss hosting a headline event now by contacting John Maguire, Living & Ageing Well Coordinator, by email john.maguire@woking.gov.uk or telephone 01483 743352.



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