



# IFN e-bulletin

July/August 2015

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If you have items which you would like considered for inclusion in the next e-bulletin please email these to [ifnet@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk) by 15 September with 'e-bulletin' in the subject line. Submissions may be edited for length or style. The e-bulletin is designed primarily to flag up new developments and projects and future events.

If your organisation distributes a programme, newsletter or e-bulletin, please add [ifnet@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk) to your mailing list.

Disclaimer: Information in this bulletin has been sourced and compiled with care. IFN does not take responsibility for accuracy of information supplied by external organisations and inclusion of items within this e-bulletin does not imply endorsement or validation by IFN of the events, publications or the bodies which have produced these.

Increasingly, IFN is making use of social media, in particular Twitter ([www.twitter.com/IFNetUK](http://www.twitter.com/IFNetUK)) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/IFNetUK](http://www.facebook.com/IFNetUK)).

Please take a moment to 'follow' and 'like' IFN and also Inter Faith Week ([www.twitter.com/IFWeek](http://www.twitter.com/IFWeek) and [www.facebook.com/IFWeek](http://www.facebook.com/IFWeek)) and also check in with the IFN website to see new items which are added on a regular basis.

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## FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE UPDATES

### Speech by Prime Minister on addressing extremism

On 20 July Prime Minister David Cameron made a speech setting out his plans to address extremism. This included: an announcement of a review to be led by Louise Casey to produce "a comprehensive review into boosting opportunity and integration to bring Britain together as one nation" and other plans including:

- Strengthen communications watchdog Ofcom role to take action against foreign TV channels broadcasting extremist messages
- 'Incentivise' schools to become more integrated
- Demand that internet service providers do more to remove extremist material and identify those responsible for it
- Overhaul the strategy to tackle extremism in prisons
- Consult on introducing lifetime anonymity for the victims of forced marriages
- Urge universities to do more to challenge the views of extremist speakers
- Set up a new engagement forum
- Launch a study looking at how extremism spreads

A copy of the full speech can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/extremism-pm-speech>.

Note: The May/June issue of the e-bulletin contained an update on recent legislation and guidance relating to anti-extremism.

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### National youth consultation on extremism

Faith Matters and British Muslim Youth launched a National Youth Consultation on 7 July in London, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the London bombings. The Consultation will take evidence from youth groups, academics, youth work practitioners and young people, with a view to assessing the accessibility and impact of extremist material on-line on young people. The Consultation will begin work in September and will visit Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Leeds and London. For further information, visit <http://faith-matters.org/2015/07/16/faith-matters-and-british-muslim-youth-launch-national-youth-consultation-on-extremism/>.

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## **Far Right rally moved**

A rally against the Shomrim, a Jewish neighbourhood watch group, in Golders Green in Barnet, North London timed for the Sabbath, was later moved, following high levels of concern, by Police order and took place instead in Whitehall.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/07/04/neo-nazi-london-protest\\_n\\_7726658.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/07/04/neo-nazi-london-protest_n_7726658.html)

Significant in the protest against the plans were Golders Green Together and the Barnet Multi Faith Forum. Local inter faith bodies in a number of areas of the UK, together with faith communities, continue to play an important role in seeking to defuse community tensions and tackle bigotry and extreme voices.

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## **Cremation and coroner services**

In the Summer Budget, presented on 8 July, Chancellor George Osborne announced that the Government will conduct a review into the size and provision of crematoria facilities to make sure that they are fit for purpose and sensitive to the needs of all users and faiths. This review will be carried out by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The Chancellor was quoted in a press release from Hindu Forum of Britain of the same day as having said that over the past year, a number of British Hindus and Sikhs had raised with him their concerns about cremation facilities for their communities and told him that often the facilities were not large enough for everyone from the community to pay their respects and did not always pay enough regard to cultural sensitivities.

Separately, the Ministry of Justice will be carrying out a consultation on changes to rules for cremations and a review of the out-of-hours services provided by coroners in England and Wales to make sure they are sensitive to the needs of the whole community, including those whose beliefs require burials to take place quickly. The latter Review follows meetings Justice Secretary Michael Gove has had with faith groups on improving coroner services.

Further information is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-budget-2015> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bereaved-to-benefit-from-action-on-cremation-and-coroner-services>.

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## Review of Marriage Law

The Government has asked the Law Commission to conduct a review of the law governing how and where people can marry in England and Wales. The question underlying the review is whether the current law, which has evolved over a long period of time, provides a fair and coherent legal framework for enabling people to marry in a way which meets their needs and wishes while recognising the interests of society and the state in protecting the status of marriage.

The Law Commission has recently begun an initial piece of work to prepare the way for the potential future reform. This includes a preliminary study involving research of domestic and comparative law, and engagement with key stakeholders including faith communities. The aim will be to identify and provide an initial analysis of the issues that need to be addressed in order to develop proposals for the reform of marriage law. It expects to publish its findings by the end of 2015 when, with Government, it will consider next steps, including the possible involvement of the Commission.

The review will not include questions of who can be married; whether or not religious groups should be obliged to solemnize marriages of same sex couples which was recently decided by Parliament; or of the rights or responsibilities which marriage imparts, such as the financial entitlements of surviving spouses or consequences of divorce.

For further information see <http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/marriage-law/> or contact [propertyandtrust@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:propertyandtrust@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk).

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## Public consultation starts on the 2021 Census in England and Wales

The next Census in England and Wales will be in 2021. As part of the census research programme, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has launched a public consultation asking users for their views on the topics that the 2021 Census questionnaire might cover. It is encouraging people to respond online to its current proposals. Anyone can take part in this public consultation which closes on Thursday 27 August and users' feedback will inform further research, development of questions, and consultations.

The consultation survey can be found at <https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/census/2021-census-topics-consultation/consultation>.

Further information is at <https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/census/2021-census-topics-consultation>.

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## **Religion and belief in school – a Westminster Faith Debates report**

A Westminster Faith Debates report ‘A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools’ by former Minister Charles Clarke and Professor Linda Woodhead was published in June. 18 policy recommendations are made by them, covering the act of collective worship, the content and formation of the legally required RE curriculum and the operation of faith schools. Among these there are proposals that: the requirement for schools to have an Act of Collective Worship should be abolished; consideration be given to using the phrase ‘Religious and Moral Education’ rather than ‘Religious Education’ in describing this part of the statutory curriculum; and the Religious Education syllabus in county and voluntary controlled schools should no longer be set by a system of locally agreed syllabuses, but be an agreed national syllabus which would have a similar legal status to the requirements of other subjects in the National Curriculum.

The full report can be downloaded at: <http://faithdebates.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/A-New-Settlement-for-Religion-and-Belief-in-schools.pdf>.

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## **INTER FAITH PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES AND DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Local inter faith practitioners day**

The Inter Faith Network for the UK has, since it was established in 1987, advocated strongly for the importance of local inter faith activity. As foreshadowed in the previous E-bulletin, IFN held a day event in London on 30 July for local inter faith practitioners across the UK to come together for learning and sharing. The day was one of two such days being held this year, the first of which was held in March in Sheffield. A copy of the report on the Sheffield day can be found at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/all-publications/all-publications>.

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### **Community, Commemoration and the First World War**

The Centre for Hidden Histories is interested in developing commemorative projects with national, faith and other emerging communities whose histories are rarely considered, and for whom the traditional Armistice Day celebrations may have strikingly different meanings.

Further information on the research project is available at <http://hiddenhistorieswwi.ac.uk/research-themes-2/>.

VJ Day commemorations will be happening on and around 15 August across the country. The Government is hosting a ceremony for veterans and their families in London. Further information is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/get-involved-in-vj-day-70>

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### **It's summer: it must be inter faith cricket!**

Inter faith cricket has become something of a phenomenon. 'Imams versus vicars' matches have taken place for some years in Leicester (organised by the St Philips Centre and the Community Football Academy), and Birmingham (Solihull Building Bridges Islamic Initiative). An annual tournament, 'The Bishop's Cup', has taken place between St Albans, Watford and Luton since 2011 when it was set up by the Inter Faith Adviser to the Diocese of St Albans.

There have also been inter faith cricket matches in cities such as Bradford and Leeds and in a number of other areas. For example the seventh annual inter faith cricket tournament recently took place at Boyne Hill Cricket Club in Maidenhead. This was organised by the Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum and the Guru Nanak Sat Sang Sabha Sikh Temple, in Rutland Road. About 100 people of all ages and faiths took part and the money raised went to Slough-based charity Khalsa Aid to distribute to support projects in Nepal. <http://www.maidenhead-advertiser.co.uk/News/Areas/Maidenhead/In-pictures-Inter-faith-cricket-tournament-to-support-victims-of-Nepalese-earthquake-07072015.htm>

A number of local inter faith bodies such as Huddersfield Inter Faith Council, Swindon Interfaith Group and Woking People of Faith have held inter faith matches and some, such as Bolton Inter Faith Council, have been involved in holding tournaments for young people of different faiths:

[http://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/11621476.In\\_pictures\\_Bolton\\_s\\_interfaith\\_cricket\\_tournament/](http://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/11621476.In_pictures_Bolton_s_interfaith_cricket_tournament/) Girls as well as boys took part. Upcoming on 31 August in North Shields is an Interfaith Cricket Match and Family Fun Day - <http://www.newcastle.anglican.org/whatson-details.aspx?id=3804>

The Yorkshire Cricket Board runs a special Leeds Inter Faith Project, the aim of which is to use cricket as a vehicle for bringing together communities of different faiths and those from a disadvantaged background in order to break down perceived barriers and encourage friendship.

<http://www.yorkshirecricketboard.org.uk/index.php/en/development/inter-faith-project/115-leeds-inter-faith-project>

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## **Fathers and Sons football project**

Fathers and Sons is a project which aims to bring together fathers and sons to play football together weekly during the weekends. The project is supported by Near Neighbours and one of its main objectives is to get people of many religious backgrounds involved. The games take place every Saturday at 1pm at Paddington Recreation Ground in West London. The minimum age limit for sons is 9 years and there is a small charge to play, which includes refreshments. Further information can be found online at <http://www.fitcial.com/events/upcoming> or by telephoning 07722 446318.

Information about some of the other NN Funder projects can be found at: <https://www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours/grants/funded-projects>

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## **Rooted Visionaries project**

St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace and West London Synagogue are launching a new Christian-Jewish social action programme for young adults called Rooted Visionaries. The programme is running from October to December, and seeks to energise the next generation of Christians and Jews for faith based social action. It aims to inspire active and conscious reflection on the role of faith in daily life and to give participants the skills and confidence to articulate their vision for change in their community and provide ongoing mentorship and support to make this vision a reality. The focal point will be a residential held at Ammerdown Retreat Centre in Somerset, and there will also be an introductory evening and a number of follow-up sessions.

St Ethelburga's is looking for 'passionate, dynamic young Christians and Jews' who want to translate their faith into action, and would benefit from sharing experiences and learning across traditions. Further information from: Angharad at [angharad@stethelburgas.org](mailto:angharad@stethelburgas.org) or phone 07973 446846.

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## **RESOURCES AND TRAINING**

### **Faith and Domestic Abuse: Recommendations for faith leaders**

In July faith leaders gathered at the House of Lords for the launch of a Faith Leaders' Declaration on Domestic Abuse. The event was hosted by Lord McColl of Dulwich with FaithAction and Restored.

Faith Action launched a publication which is a collection of recommendations for faith leaders on how to deal with domestic abuse in their communities, aimed at starting an oft-neglected but vital conversation. The recommendations included in the publication come from a series of interviews held with faith leaders, faith-based organisations and domestic abuse organisations. A copy of the Recommendations can be downloaded from <http://www.faithaction.net/portal/faith-and-health/our-projects/domestic-abuse/>.

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### **Near Neighbours app**

The Near Neighbours project has recently launched a new app. The app allows people to share project information and photos and also to offer feedback through a short questionnaire. The mobile app is available on iOS and Android and can be found in the App/Play Store. For further information, visit <https://www.cuf.org.uk/blog/near-neighbours-app>.

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### **Young people and inter faith engagement microsite**

A youth inter faith engagement ‘microsite’ linked to the Inter Faith Network’s main website can be found at: <http://youth.interfaith.org.uk/>. On this site are materials arising from an IFN event, ‘Young Voices, Young Agents for Change’, which brought together over 80 participants of different ages from a range of organisations to explore aspects of inter faith activity developed by, with and for young people. The aim is to broaden and strengthen this area of activity, enabling even more young people to get involved.

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### **Northern Ireland Foundation**

The Northern Ireland Foundation is an organisation that works to secure a durable peace in Northern Ireland. Its priorities include: increasing an awareness and understanding of the themes identified in the Stormont House Agreement — civic conversation, economic renewal, integrated education, mixed housing, women in public life, reconciliation and a shared future; and promoting conflict transformation through projects such as the Forum for Cities in Transition. The Foundation’s website, <http://nifoundation.net/>, contains useful information about other projects working for reconciliation in Northern Ireland, including the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum.

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## **Faith communities and inter faith engagement - SCJC**

Faith communities continue to develop ways to equip their clergy, staff and volunteers to engage with those of other faiths. For example, the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities ([www.scojec.org](http://www.scojec.org)) has recently launched a volunteer training course which aims to help people who wish to represent Judaism in the local community including through working with inter faith groups. The course focuses on particular areas of Jewish life such as festivals, food, the life cycle, as well as information about the Religious and Moral Education syllabus in the Curriculum for Excellence, presentation skills, session planning and preparation, and how to be mindful of each faith and practice at an inter faith event.

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## **Faith Guiding**

The Faith Encounter Programme offers training to people of all faiths in Birmingham as Faith Guides, so that places of worship can be better equipped to offer high quality educational visits.

The Faith Guiding course is an opportunity to:

- Get to know and understand people of different faiths
- Gain valuable skills in presenting your place of worship to visitors
- Help visitors, mainly schoolchildren, to understand and respect people of all faiths
- Receive and accredited qualification from the Institute of Tourist Guiding

The next course will begin in September and will take place on Wednesday evenings at the Faithful Neighbourhoods Centre in Birmingham. There is a registration fee to take part.

Further information is available at

[http://www.faithencounter.org.uk/Train/train\\_guiding.html](http://www.faithencounter.org.uk/Train/train_guiding.html) and any queries can be directed to Ruth Tetlow on 0121 449 4892 or at [ruthtetlow@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthtetlow@btinternet.com).

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## **JOBS, INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING**

### **Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby – Youth Work Manager**

The Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby is seeking to employ a Youth Work Manager with strategic skills in a full time fixed term contact at 37.5 hours a week.

The successful candidate will support the Director of the Multi-Faith Centre with the management of other youth workers in the team as a key member of a small but dynamic team working within and across diverse faith and cultural boundaries. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on 14 August.

For an application form and further information, contact the Multi-Faith Centre at [mfc@derby.ac.uk](mailto:mfc@derby.ac.uk) or telephone 01332 591285.

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### **Inter Faith Network for the UK – Honorary Treasurer**

The Inter Faith Network for the UK is seeking an Honorary Treasurer to take up role from mid October. This is a voluntary role which is supported by an in-office part-time Bookkeeper and external accounting advice where necessary. The role calls for strong finance and charity experience, including an accountancy background; the ability to operate well in a challenging financial environment; and a commitment to the development of good inter faith relations in the UK.

The role of Honorary Treasurer is an elected one and the name of the proposed person will be put forward at the Inter Faith Network for the UK's AGM in October.

Anyone interested in applying should contact IFN's Director, Harriet Crabtree, at [ifnet@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk) or on 020 7 730 0410 by 11 August. Further details on the application process will be provided to them.

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## **CALLS FOR INFORMATION, COMPETITIONS, AND NOMINATIONS**

### **Faith Through a Lens photography competition**

Faith Through a Lens is an annual photography competition, linked to Inter Faith Week, held by Congregational and General Insurance. It aims to profile the positive effects of faith within a diverse range of communities.

This year's competition is now open and will close on 12 October. Entry is only open to amateur photographers and will be judged based on emotional connection, creativity and originality. The judges will be looking for the photograph that best encapsulates faith and the community and the organisers suggest considering the following:

- A moment of faith - Try capturing one of those special moments that really demonstrates that faith exists, whether it is a planned event or a one off snapshot that catches the eye and imagination.
- Community spirit against the odds - A photograph which conveys how your community has united despite specific challenges could make a great shot.
- A community hero - Is there a certain individual in your area who has represented faith in the community? Why not capture a shot of them doing what they do best.

For further information, visit [www.faiththroughalens.co.uk](http://www.faiththroughalens.co.uk).

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### **Faith and Spirituality photography competition in Derbyshire**

The Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby is holding a photography competition entitled 'Faith and Spirituality'. The competition is an opportunity to capture a snapshot of faith and spirituality in Derbyshire that conveys 'Something which seems to point beyond itself'. Winning and highly recommended photographs will be displayed at the Multi-Faith Centre in Derby. Some may also appear in *The Derby Telegraph* as part of coverage for Inter Faith Week 2015.

There are prizes in two categories: 17 and under and 18 and over. Entries must be submitted between 1 September and 16 October.

For further information, including an entry form, contact [mfc@derby.ac.uk](mailto:mfc@derby.ac.uk).

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### **Honours List nominations**

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) is keen to ensure that individuals from the full breadth of society who are making a significant contribution to public life are properly recognised through the Honours system. It is particularly keen to recognise individuals who have contributed to building integrated communities and notes

that nominees can come from all levels; being in a junior role is not a barrier to a nomination.

DCLG is holding a series of workshops during August at its offices in London giving a brief overview of the nominations process and guidance about how to draft a citation. All nominations must be made on an official citation form before 4 September and nominees should not be informed that they have been nominated. Citation forms, as well as further information about workshops, can be obtained from [integration@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:integration@communities.gsi.gov.uk).

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## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Near Neighbours programme**

The Near Neighbours programme, a partnership between the Church Urban Fund and the Archbishops' Council, awards small grants of between £250 and £5,000 to projects that enable people of different faiths or none to work together for the benefit of the community. This is a rolling programme with no deadlines available in certain parts of England (maps showing eligible areas can be found at <http://www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours/grants/eligible-areas>). Its second phase is due to run until December 2015.

Details on eligibility and how to apply can be found online at <http://www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours/grants>.

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### **First Steps programme**

The Faith Based Regeneration Network, in partnership with Locality, the Community Development Foundation and others has launched a new programme of support for local community action, funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government, called 'First Steps'. The programme will initially be working to support at least 115 local neighbourhoods or areas to work collaboratively in their communities to create a community action plan by March 2016. Grants of up to £2,500 are available to assist community groups in putting together their first plan. The Starter Pack and Guidance Notes can be downloaded from <http://cdf.org.uk/content/funding-programmes/first-steps>.

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### **Funding Central website**

Funding Central - <http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/default.aspx> - is a free website for charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises that provides access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities, together with tools and resources for supporting organisations to develop sustainable income strategies appropriate to their needs.

Funding Central is managed by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, in partnership with Idox Information Solutions Ltd, and funded by the Government's Office for Civil Society.

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### **Comic Relief Stronger Communities grants**

Comic Relief's grants programme now has five themes, one of which is 'Stronger Communities'. Grants for the Stronger Communities theme are managed by Local Community Foundations and range in size from £1,000 to £10,000 per year. Priority is given to small, locally-based groups or organisations in areas of disadvantage that have a clear understanding of the needs of their community and are undertaking actions as a means of addressing these needs. Anyone wishing to apply for a Local Communities grant should contact their local community foundation. Further details can be found online at [http://ukcommunityfoundations.org/programmes/comic\\_relief/](http://ukcommunityfoundations.org/programmes/comic_relief/).

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### **Interfaith Youth Trust**

The Interfaith Youth Trust will again be making available a special programme of grants for Inter Faith Week this year. Grants of up to £500 are awarded for proposals for inter faith activities by children and young people from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and other faiths and those of no formal faith. The age range for young people is 11-25 years. Priority will be given to projects which:

- Actively involve young people in planning, running, and evaluation of the project.
- Promote positive action, ie young people from different backgrounds coming together to address shared problems, eg improving green spaces.
- Are run by non-statutory organisations, such as youth clubs, scout/guide groups, local voluntary and community organisations.

Further information at: <http://www.ifyouthtrust.org.uk>

## **SPECIAL WEEKS/DAYS**

### **Sewa Day - Sunday 4 October**

The Sanskrit word 'Sewa' means 'selfless service'. The aim of Sewa Day is to provide people with a chance to give back to the local community through volunteering on a single day to make a difference. For more information and to get involved visit: [www.sewaday.org](http://www.sewaday.org)

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### **One World Week - Sunday 18 to Sunday 25 October**

One World Week is an opportunity for people from diverse backgrounds to come together to learn about global justice, to spread that learning and to use it to take action for justice locally and globally. The theme for this year's One World Week is 'Hope in Action'. For more information, including guidance for inter faith and inter cultural events, visit <http://www.oneworldweek.org>.

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### **National Inter Faith Week in England, Wales and Northern Ireland - Sunday 15 to Saturday 21 November.**

National Inter Faith Week is a programme of the Inter Faith Network for the UK. 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

Many different kinds of organisation will be holding events to mark the Week: faith community bodies; inter faith organisations; non-religious belief bodies; schools and Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs); universities and colleges; local authorities and Police and Fire and Rescue Services; hospitals; businesses; voluntary organisations; chaplaincies; and others.

Just a few possible ways of marking the Week are:

- Faith trails and open door days – opportunities to visit places of worship

- Highlighting an inter faith project or programme of your organisation
- Launching a new inter faith project or resource
- A social media inter faith awareness campaign
- Joint social action – like a community litter-pick or charity fundraising
- Dialogues, debates and talks
- Quizzes, poster and photography competitions
- Inter faith sports events
- Hands-on learning activities and exhibitions
- Exchange visits between members of different places of worship
- Whole school and classroom activities
- A young people's inter faith forum event
- Arts and cultural events
- Faith and food events

This year, why not consider a hands-on social action project – from tree planting to volunteering together in another way that helps the local community. Or hold a discussion about how living well together as people of different faiths and beliefs and how we contribute to our shared society.

The listing form for events for 2015 goes live on 31 July. If you are holding an event, please take a few minutes to register it to that the IFN office can add it to the map so that it can inspire others to take part and to hold events too.

For further ideas, resources, event information and to register your own event and put it on the map, go to [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)

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### **Mitzvah Day - Sunday 22 November**

Mitzvah Day is a Jewish led day of social action – around the world thousands of people take part in hands on projects to support existing charities and to build stronger communities. People are encouraged to volunteer for projects in their communities and anyone can take part regardless of their background. This year, Mitzvah Day takes place on the day following Inter Faith Week but the Week is delighted to include its events as part of the calendar.

Mitzvah Day 365 takes place year round and is a catalyst in building local communities by bringing together over 37,000 people each year, to take part in collective, hands-on social action projects which make a real difference to local issues. For further information, visit [www.mitzvahday.org.uk](http://www.mitzvahday.org.uk).

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## Scottish Interfaith Week - Sunday 22 to Monday 30 November

Scottish Inter Faith Week is led by Interfaith Scotland. The theme this year is 'Care for Creation'. Further information is online at <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/events/>.

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## DIARY DATES

**Spectrum of Spirituality** is holding an inter faith event on Thursday 30 July as part of the Liverpool Pride festival. The event is entitled 'Love in the Dock: a Compendium of Contemplation and Celebration'. The evening is cabaret-style – guests will sit at café tables and watch a performance, share experience of traditions from different faiths, listen to live music performed by Liverpool LGBT Choir, and share a free two course meal together. The event takes place at 7pm at Ullet Road Unitarian Church Hall, Ullet Road, Liverpool. For further information and tickets, visit <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/love-in-the-dock-liverpool-pride-2015-tickets-17418128090?aff=es2>.

**Bolton Interfaith Council** is leading on the organisation of 'Spirit of Bolton' which takes place on Saturday 1 August in Victoria Square in Bolton. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> event of this kind and is about celebrating the many partnership workings and diversity of Bolton. There will be displays from community groups, traditional cultural activities and music and dance shows. It runs from 10.45am until 3.30pm. For further information, contact Chan Parmar on 01204 546110 or at [chan@boltoninterfaithcouncil.org.uk](mailto:chan@boltoninterfaithcouncil.org.uk)

The **Multifaith Chapel and Library at the Burngreave Ashram** will be holding its next Meditation/Prayer Lunch and Open Forum on Monday 3 August. The event takes place from 12 noon until 2.30pm at the Ashram at 86 Spital Hill, Sheffield S4 7LG. For further information, contact Nirmal Fernando on 07932 017929 or at [curlsu@hotmail.com](mailto:curlsu@hotmail.com).

**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 70<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:kristins@quaker.org.uk) or on 020 7663 1121.

**Interfaith Scotland** will be holding a Members Dialogue Event on Sunday 9 August. This will be held from 1.30pm to 6pm at the Thistle Hotel in Inverness and is open to member bodies of Interfaith Scotland. For further information contact [Maureen@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:Maureen@interfaithscotland.org).

The **London Peace Pagoda** is organising an Interfaith Peace Walk on Sunday 9 August. The walk will take place at 7.30pm from the Sacred Heart Chapel to the London Peace Pagoda in Battersea Park, London. The Walk will conclude with a Floating Lantern

Ceremony to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary for victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and all wars. All are welcome to join and offer flowers and incense. For further information, contact Nipponzan Myohoji on 020 7228 9620.

**Hounslow Friends of Faith Women's Group** meets monthly for discussion and friendship. Its next event on Sunday 16 August will be a picnic at 1.30pm at Chiswick House Gardens, Burlington Lane, London W4 2RP. For further information, visit <http://www.hounslowfriendsofffaith.org/events/event/womens-group-picnic/> or contact Divya on 07931 944790.

**Interfaith Wolverhampton** is hosting a 'Bring and share' lunch on Tuesday 18 August. This will be held from 12.45pm until 2pm at 24 School Street, Wolverhampton WV1 4LF. For further information, contact [admin@ifwton.org.uk](mailto:admin@ifwton.org.uk) or telephone 01902 427601.

**Norwich Interfaith Link** will be holding its annual guided walk on Tuesday 18 August. It will begin at 6pm opposite the Playhouse Theatre on St. Gregory's Street and will end with refreshments at Martineau Hall on Colegate. For further information, visit [www.norwichinterfaith.co.uk](http://www.norwichinterfaith.co.uk) or contact Chris Wood on 01603 667314.

**Cheltenham Interfaith** will be meeting on Tuesday 18 August at the Presbytery, Chandos Street, Winchcombe GL54 5HX. Members will be meeting to enjoy the Diversity Board Game that explores what people know about the world's religions. There will be a 'bring and share' supper from 6.30pm and games from 7.30pm. For further information, contact [info@cheltenhaminterfaith.org.uk](mailto:info@cheltenhaminterfaith.org.uk) or visit [http://www.cheltenhaminterfaith.org.uk/events\\_and\\_news.html](http://www.cheltenhaminterfaith.org.uk/events_and_news.html).

**Bolton Interfaith Council** is holding the next meeting of its Networking Forum on Tuesday 18 August. The Networking Forum is a platform for anyone interested in inter faith engagement issues to come together and share any work or events happening in the local community which could be shared and supported by others. The meeting will be held in the third floor conference room at The Hub, Bold Street, Bolton BL3 4XP. The guest speaker will be Jim Battle, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Greater Manchester. For further information, contact [chan@boltoninterfaithcouncil.org.uk](mailto:chan@boltoninterfaithcouncil.org.uk).

**Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship** will be holding its next meeting on Monday 24 August. The theme for the evening will be 'Leeds – City of Sanctuary' and the speaker will be Matthew Neil of the Meet and Travel Together Asylum Support Project. The meeting begins at 7.30pm at Friends' Meeting House, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9DX. For further information, contact [chair@concord-leeds.org.uk](mailto:chair@concord-leeds.org.uk).

**York Interfaith Group** will be holding its next event on Wednesday 2 September at 7.30pm. This will be a visit to the Rock Church on Priory Street. For further information, contact [yorkinterfaithgroup@gmail.com](mailto:yorkinterfaithgroup@gmail.com).

The **Council of Christians and Jews** is holding its CCJ Branch Conference from Wednesday 2 to Thursday 3 September. The conference will take place at College Court in

Leicester and aims to enable CCJ members to meet, network and share ideas. Non-CCJ members may attend and there is a fee to do so. For further information, contact Dr Joy Barrow at [joy.barrow@ccj.org.uk](mailto:joy.barrow@ccj.org.uk).

**South East England Faiths Forum**, in conjunction with the **National Association of SACREs** and the **University of Winchester**, is holding a day conference on Thursday 3 September on 'The Role of Faith in British Schools/Education'. The event will be held from 10am to 4pm at the Stripe Building, University of Winchester SO22 4NR. The keynote speaker will be Alan Brine, former RE lead at OFSTED and the day will end with the SEEFF AGM at 4pm. There is a charge to attend, which includes a vegetarian lunch. For further information, contact [elizabeth.jenkerson@btopenworld.com](mailto:elizabeth.jenkerson@btopenworld.com) or visit <http://se-faithforum.net/>.

**Cheltenham Interfaith** will be meeting on Thursday 3 September at 7.30pm at Friends Meeting House, Warwick Place, (off Portland Street), Cheltenham GL52 2NP. During the evening a film will be shown entitled 'To Light a Candle'. This is a documentary film about the courage of Baha'is in Iran in a time of persecution. For further information, contact [info@cheltenhaminterfaith.org.uk](mailto:info@cheltenhaminterfaith.org.uk) or visit [http://www.cheltenhaminterfaith.org.uk/events\\_and\\_news.html](http://www.cheltenhaminterfaith.org.uk/events_and_news.html).

**Interfaith MK (Milton Keynes)** is holding its AGM on Thursday 3 September. This will be held at 7.30pm at Christ the Cornerstone, 300 Saxon Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 2ES. For further information, contact [interfaithmk@gmail.com](mailto:interfaithmk@gmail.com).

**Faiths Together in Lambeth** is holding the annual Lambeth Inter Faith Walk on Saturday 5 September. The Walk will visit six places of worship and will begin at 10.30am at the Shree Swaminarayan Hindu Temple, 72 Colmer Road, SW16 5JZ (near Norbury train station), finishing at St Leonard's Church on Streatham High Road at 4pm. For further information, contact 07889 221 847 or [ftil@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ftil@hotmail.co.uk).

The **Forum for Research into Equality and Diversity** is holding a seminar on Wednesday 9 September exploring the Equality and Human Rights Commission's policy, research and legal work on religion or belief. The seminar will be held at the University of Chester and will be led by Dr Dave Perfect. For further details and to register, visit <http://www.chester.ac.uk/fred/events> or email [chantal.davies@chester.ac.uk](mailto:chantal.davies@chester.ac.uk).

**Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group** will be meeting on Tuesday 15 September. The meeting will run from 4pm to 5pm in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace, close to Westminster Cathedral. The speaker will be Karanodakasayi Visnu Dasa Adhikari (Man Mohan Gupta) who will be talking on Vedic culture and civilisation. For further information contact John Woodhouse at [woodhousesopten@btinternet.com](mailto:woodhousesopten@btinternet.com) or text him on 07908 888 586.

**Interfaith Wolverhampton** will be holding its AGM on Tuesday 15 September. The evening will begin at 6pm and will include a talk about Thomas Merton by Stephen Dunhill, co-editor of the Merton Journal. Thomas Merton was a Christian mystic and a

keen proponent of inter faith understanding - this year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. For further information, including venue details, contact [admin@ifwton.org.uk](mailto:admin@ifwton.org.uk) or telephone 01902 427601.

**Building Bridges in Burnley** next Face to Face – Share Faith Share Food event will be held on Tuesday 15 September at the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre. These events are open to women of all ages from all faith backgrounds and none. They offer an opportunity to learn about each other, build friendships and share food, to which everyone contributes. For further information, contact Farah Naheem at [farahnaeem@hotmail.com](mailto:farahnaeem@hotmail.com) or Bea Foster at [bea\\_foster@hotmail.com](mailto:bea_foster@hotmail.com).

**Interfaith Scotland** is holding a Women’s Interfaith Dialogue event on Wednesday 16 September at the Punjabi Junction Sikh Sanjog Café in Edinburgh. The event takes place from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. For further information, contact [frances@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:frances@interfaithscotland.org).

**Nottingham Inter Faith Council** is holding its AGM on Wednesday 16 September at the Nottingham Mechanics Institute. It will take place at 7pm and will include a guest speaker. For further information, contact [office@interfaithnottingham.org.uk](mailto:office@interfaithnottingham.org.uk).

The **Multi Faith Centre at the University of Derby** is continuing its series of Conversations Across Faiths. The next session will be held on Thursday 17 September and will be on the Swedenborg Faith. The discussions take place at the Centre at 7pm. For further details, contact Pam on 01332 841486.

**Medway Inter Faith Action** will be holding the annual Medway Inter Faith Pilgrimage on Sunday 20 September. The Pilgrimage will begin at 8.45am outside the Quaker Meeting House, Northgate, Rochester ME1 1LS and will include visits to Rochester Cathedral, Gillingham Mosque and the Hindu Sabha Mandir. There will be an evening event with food and entertainment from 6pm at the Sunlight Centre on Richmond Road in Gillingham. For further information, contact Hugh Hawkins on 01634 843307 or at [julihugh@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:julihugh@tiscali.co.uk).

**Grassroots** and **Luton Council of Faiths** are holding a Peace Walk on Saturday 26 September in Lewsey, Luton. The Walk will begin at Lewsey Community Centre, Landrace Road, LU4 0SW at 2.30pm. Further information will be available nearer the time.

**Hull and East Riding Interfaith** will be holding its AGM on Tuesday 29 September. This will take place at 5pm in Committee Room 1, The Guildhall, Hull HU1 2AA. It will be followed at 5.30pm by an ‘Open Space’ for anyone to raise relevant issues. For further information contact Jackie on 01482 445728 or Kath at [Kath.Beal@heri.org.uk](mailto:Kath.Beal@heri.org.uk).

**London Boroughs Faiths Network** is holding an event on Thursday 8 October on ‘Safety & Security: Places & People’. The event will offer expert advice on keeping places of worship and communities safe and secure and will be held at New Scotland Yard in London with the Metropolitan Police, Tell Mama, the Community Security Trust and Ecclesiastical

Insurance. Booking is essential. For further information, contact Catriona Robertson at [convener@lbfm.org](mailto:convener@lbfm.org) or on 07903 682 142.

**INFORM** is holding a seminar on Saturday 17 October entitled 'Children, Minority Religions and the Law'. It will take place from 9.30am to 4.30pm at Clement House at the London School of Economics and will concentrate on legal issues surrounding children in minority religious communities, from a variety of perspectives. There is a charge to attend. A full copy of the programme and how to book can be found at <http://www.inform.ac/node/1576>.

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**For more information on events and projects in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales see:**

Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum: [www.niinterfaithforum.org](http://www.niinterfaithforum.org)

Interfaith Scotland: [www.interfaithscotland.org](http://www.interfaithscotland.org)

Inter-faith Council for Wales: [www.interfaithwales.org.uk](http://www.interfaithwales.org.uk)

If you have items which you would like considered for inclusion in the next e-bulletin please email these to [ifnet@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk) by **15 September** with 'e-bulletin' in the subject line. Submissions may be edited for length or style.

**Disclaimer:** Information in this bulletin has been sourced and compiled with care. IFN does not take responsibility for accuracy of information supplied by external organisations and inclusion of items within this e-bulletin does not imply endorsement or validation by IFN of the events, publications or the bodies which have produced these.

Inter Faith Network for the UK, 2 Grosvenor Gardens London SW1W 0DH  
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