



ANNUAL REVIEW 2018/2019





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THIS REVIEW

This Annual Review reports on the work of the Inter Faith Network between the July 2018 AGM and the July 2019 AGM. It complements the formal Trustees' Annual Report published with the accounts, which are available on the Charity Commission website.

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Cover photographs:
Front cover, Top row left to right: The Revd James Breslin and Nemu Chandaria OBE; Jatinder Singh Birdi and Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, Singapore; Canon John O'Toole and Vinaya Sharma
Bottom row left to right: Lynne Broadbent and Kawser Akhtar; Gabrielle Turner and Chan Parmar; Rabbi David Mason.
Back cover: Launch of *Inter Faith Week: Stories from 2018, Inspiration for 2019* – Sheikh Irfan Soni, Trupti Patel, Cllr Tom Aditya, Dr Norman Richardson MBE and Julie Jones

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MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

The work that the Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN) has carried out since 1987 to help strengthen inter faith understanding and cooperation has never been more important. If you value IFN's work and would like to help it to continue, please do consider joining our supporters with a standing order or one off donation. Details of how to do that are at www.interfaith.org.uk/donate.

2018–19 has been a year of change and development, and a year of responding to major political changes, including Brexit, and the impact on UK inter faith relations of global factors such as terrorism.

The year has seen a strong focus on supporting and encouraging local inter faith organisations, of which there are now over 250 in the UK. Two very successful Inter Faith Network meetings in Bradford and Peterborough enabled groups from anywhere in the UK to come and learn from each other and from special guest speakers about a wide range of topics from practical guidance on running effective programmes to issues such as: managing dialogue on difficult issues, youth inter faith engagement and working in partnership with local authorities and other agencies. The 2019 IFN National Meeting had as its theme 'The Changing Face of Local Inter Faith Dialogue and Cooperation'. National and local faith and inter faith bodies explored together many aspects of this such as the diversifying pattern of types of initiative; the rise of inter faith social action projects and working together to tackle social problems and global issues such as climate change.

National faith community member bodies have continued to meet through the year as the Faith Communities Forum of IFN. On their agenda have been topics such as planned exit from the European Union, climate change, organ donation, security of places of worship and safeguarding. This important Forum also enables faith communities to share news of their work on engagement with other faiths.

IFN has continued to support the work of national and regional inter faith and educational and academic member bodies, including through profiling their work and through meetings to share their good practice and news. Such meetings provide fertile ground for cooperative projects and help avoid duplication of efforts. At their meeting



Jatinder Singh Birdi and the Rt Revd Jonathan Clark, Co-Chairs, The Inter Faith Network for the UK

this year – as at meetings of other categories of our membership – there was special emphasis on the importance of good communications, including using social media well. Increasingly it is vital for organisations to be at ease with the 'virtual' world and to be able to use the tools needed for that.

The impact of terrorist attacks on places of worship in a number of countries this year has reverberated around the world, increasing anxiety and worries for security of faith communities. This has been the case in the UK and concerns about hate crime have also continued to be high. IFN has worked through its Faith Communities Forum on issues such as security of places of worship, with presentations from the Home Office and others, and it has gathered and shared stories of solidarity and amplified these through strong use of social media. It has also included special sessions on 'standing together to tackle prejudice and hatred' and 'responding together to terrorism and hate crime' at its two national meetings for local inter faith practitioners this year, with input from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Also important was the Co-Chairs' and Co-Moderators' statement in September about the importance of political parties 'modelling respectful engagement in the political sphere'. That was made in the context of growing concerns about Antisemitism, Islamophobia and about extremism and hate incidents which affect a number of faith communities. It is important to remember that Hindus, Sikhs and others are also affected by these.

Inter faith work goes on year round but Inter Faith Week, each November, has a special role in enabling people to highlight and celebrate the work, to draw in new people and build new partnerships. Inter Faith Week is IFN's largest programme and it makes an important contribution to neighbourly and integrated communities. The Week continues to reach out into more and more local communities, as well as to draw in national organisations such as employee networks. 2018 was the biggest Week so far. Thousands of people, young and old, took part in events and millions were reached through social media with its messages about the importance of inter faith and faith and belief engagement and of the contribution of faith communities to society. The Week begins each year on Remembrance Sunday to encourage the remembering together of the service at time of war of women and men of different backgrounds from many countries. 2018 was the centenary of the end of World War I and #Armistice100 was reflected in the marking of the Week. IFN also went on to work to support The Royal British Legion in holding a faith communities roundtable looking at Remembrance and inclusion. It is so important that we 'remember together'.

IFN has continued to work closely with its member bodies, across all four categories of membership, and their vital work across the country continues. Information about IFN member bodies can be found at www.interfaith.org.uk/members. IFN has also

continued to engage on a regular basis with relevant Government Departments and key agencies and with programmes such as Near Neighbours and Strengthening Faith Institutions.

We thank IFN's member bodies, Trustees, staff and volunteers for all of their hard work throughout the year which makes IFN's work possible. Bishop Jonathan came into role at the 2019 AGM and we would like to take this opportunity to thank most warmly the outgoing Co-Chair from the faith communities, the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson, who served IFN with distinction for four years.

We also express IFN's gratitude to those who have provided financial support to make possible the work described in this Review: the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government; trusts; faith communities; and individual donors. Without your farsighted support, the work described in this report could not have been achieved.



Jatinder Singh Birdi
The Rt Revd Jonathan Clark

Co-Chairs
The Inter Faith Network for the UK

ABOUT THE INTER FAITH NETWORK FOR THE UK



Local inter faith practitioners, Charanjit AjitSingh from Hounslow and Sonoo Malkani from Harrow, at IFN meeting

The Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN) was founded in 1987 to “advance public knowledge and mutual understanding of the teachings, traditions and practices of the different faith communities in Britain, including an awareness both of their distinctive features and their common ground and to promote good relations between persons of different faiths.”

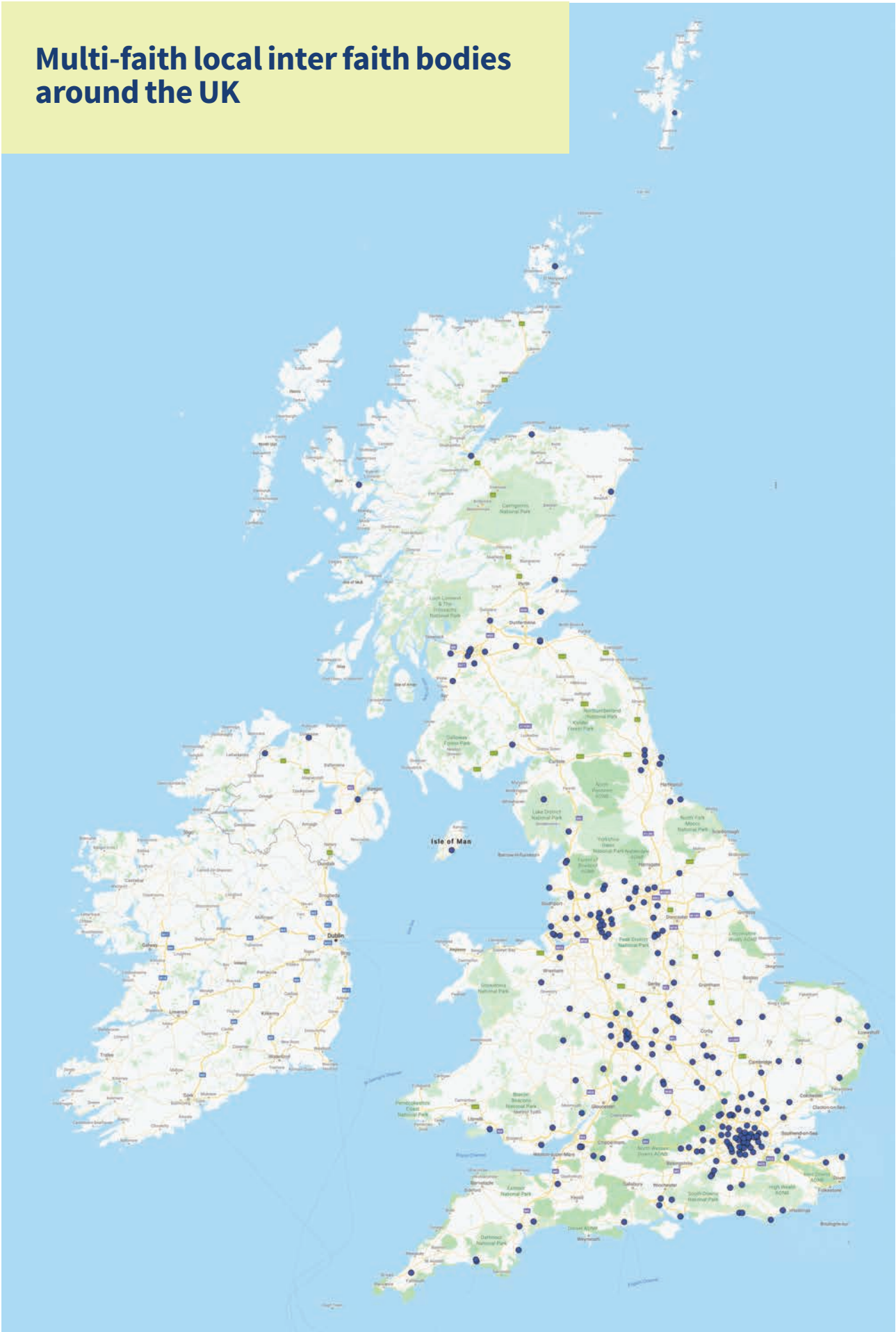
IFN’s role is unique – linking national faith community representative bodies, local, regional and national inter faith organisations and academic and educational bodies with a focus on inter faith or multi-faith issues. It works with them and with others to deepen inter faith understanding and cooperation as part of working towards its vision of “a society where there is understanding of the diversity and richness of the faith communities in the UK and the contribution that they make; and where we live and work together with mutual respect and shared commitment to the common good.”

The work of IFN, including Inter Faith Week, is wide-ranging, touching the lives of many thousands of people directly and through the organisations and initiatives with which it engages. The reach of its membership and its hundreds of informal links enable it to make a powerful difference to inter faith engagement and integration across the UK through sharing of good practice, provision of resources, and enabling coming together and mixing which promotes understanding and sparks cooperation for the wellbeing of all.

Each of IFN’s member bodies makes its own contribution to inter faith understanding and cooperation in the UK, which IFN supports by providing opportunities for sharing of good practice and raising awareness of their work.

A list of member bodies can be found at the back of this Review and more can be found out about these in the member body section of IFN’s website at www.interfaith.org.uk/members.

Multi-faith local inter faith bodies around the UK



THE CHANGING FACE OF LOCAL INTER FAITH DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION



Participants in dialogue at IFN's 2019 National Meeting in London

“An inspirational day – so many inter faith initiatives from around the country!”

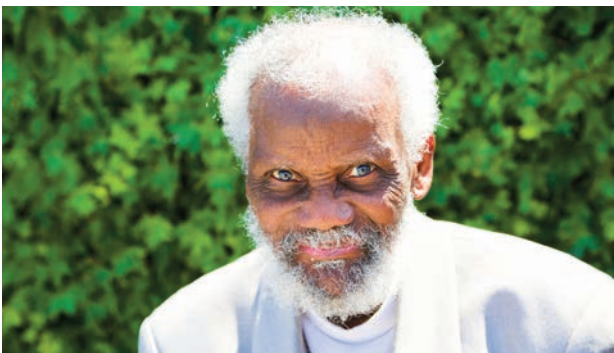
Each year, IFN's member bodies come together to explore a particular theme of importance to the development of inter faith understanding and cooperation in the UK today. The meetings are practically focused, with an emphasis on sharing of good practice.

The 2019 National Meeting took place on 4 July at the Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre in London, chaired by IFN Co-Chairs, the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE and Jatinder Singh Birdi. Nearly a hundred participants from many different backgrounds and types of organisations explored ‘The changing face of local inter faith dialogue and cooperation’. The focus was on the possibilities and challenges of

working locally for inter faith understanding and cooperation. The day also saw the official launch of the Inter Faith Week 2019 programme.

THE RT REVD RICHARD ATKINSON OBE

“Local inter faith engagement is a vital part of communities living well together and working to create understanding and friendship, sometimes in challenging circumstances. The Inter Faith Network for the UK has, since it was established in 1987, advocated strongly for the importance of local inter faith activity and worked to share good practice, as well as to offer support and advice. ... the agenda today is so important. It is to be real about some of the challenges that are out there but also hopeful and visionary about some of the opportunities.”



The Most Revd Father Olu Abiola OBE



Dr Katherine O'Lone



Dr Harriet Crabtree OBE



Rabbi Warren Elf MBE

JATINDER SINGH BIRDI

“Local inter faith organisations do a phenomenal amount of work at grassroots level, especially practical work in communities. Without them society would be much worse off. There are a lot of unsung heroes – people who don’t do it for glory, but just do it because they care about the environment and society. There are a number of factors in our current climate that are making it more and more difficult for small local voluntary organisations, such as local inter faith groups, to carry out all the work that they would wish. Despite this, they are still doing it. They are the backbone of society.”

LORD BOURNE OF ABERYSTWYTH

“The Inter Faith Network’s work to promote cooperation amongst our different faith and belief groups is vital to creating a more cohesive society. Particularly important is the way the Network helps to link initiatives and encourage mutual learning and the sharing of good practice to support and strengthen inter faith understanding.”

(Video message)

A full report on the day is at
<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/publications>.

“Fantastic to hear such wide-ranging presentations on the contribution of local inter faith groups across the whole of the UK. IFN did a great job in showcasing this work.”

“I particularly enjoyed networking with different faith leaders and hearing which projects had been conducted across the UK. The event helped me to brainstorm possible events that I could run or get involved with for Inter Faith Week.”



The Revd Charles Kwaku-Odoi



Geetha Maheshwaran

IN THE PLENARY SESSION:

- Dr Harriet Crabtree, IFN Executive Director, gave a short overview of grassroots inter faith engagement in the UK today.
- Rabbi Warren Elf MBE and the Revd Charles Kwaku-Odoi, Director and Co-Chair of Faith Network for Manchester (FN4M), spoke about its work and challenges and opportunities in a rapidly changing landscape.
- Geetha Maheshwaran, London Boroughs Faiths Network (LBFN), spoke about the work of LBFN and the importance of the involvement by local



Dr Maureen Sier



The Revd David Herbert



The Revd Liz Carnelley

faith groups in inter faith activity, drawing on the example of the Shree Ghanapathy Temple in Wimbledon.

- **Dr Maureen Sier, Director, Interfaith Scotland and IFN Trustee**, offered reflections in response to the morning's presentations and discussion, rooted in her experience and perspective as Director of Interfaith Scotland.
- **The Revd David Herbert, Chair, Newcastle Council of Faiths (NCoF)**, spoke about the work of NCoF and the importance of continuing to develop relationships of trust and mutuality, as

well as ingredients that help make for sustainability and connection.

- **The Revd Liz Carnelley, National Project Director, Near Neighbours**, spoke about the work of the Near Neighbours programme of the Church Urban Fund in supporting local projects and how such programmes and small grants could bring benefit and often bear long term fruit.
- **Julie Jones, Vice-Chair, Interfaith Council for Wales and IFN Trustee**, launched the 2019 Inter Faith Week programme, talking about the fantastic platform that the Week offers for increasing inter faith understanding and cooperation, and increasing religious literacy.
- *Inter Faith Week; Stories from 2018, Inspiration for 2019* was then launched by **Trupti Patel, President, Hindu Forum of Britain; Cllr Tom Aditya, Chair, Bristol Multi-Faith Forum; Sheikh Irfan Soni, teacher and member, North Kirklees Interfaith Council; and Dr Norman Richardson MBE, Secretary, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum.**

Discussion groups were held on the following topics:

- 'Tackling social problems – working together and with statutory agencies', with a presentation by **Penny Smith-Orr, Faiths Together in Croydon.**
- 'Creative collaborations – using arts and culture to stimulate inter faith understanding and build relationships', with a presentation by **Charlotte Gravestock, Brighton and Hove Interfaith Contact Group, and Sarah West, filmmaker.**
- 'Inter faith engagement as part of the community cohesion agenda', with a presentation by **Rauf Bashir, Project Director, with Shabaz Ahmed and Katie Nolan, Community Development Workers, Building Bridges Pendle.**
- 'Local inter faith engagement with environmental issues', with presentations by **John Marder, Interfaith Officer, Network of Buddhist Organisations (NBO) and member of Crawley Interfaith Network, and Kawther Akhtar, Chair, South East England Faiths Forum (SEEF).**
- 'Faith communities and local inter faith engagement', with a presentation by **Rajnish Kashyap, General Secretary, Hindu Council UK and member, Council of Dharmic Faiths and Faiths Forum for London.**



Dialogue on the spot session

- ‘Amplifying impact – maximising your local connections and highlighting your work’, with a presentation by **Sheikh Irfan Soni** and the **Revd Simon Cash**, North Kirklees Inter Faith Council.
- ‘Bilateral’ and ‘multi faith’ inter faith engagement at local level’, with a presentation by the **Revd Patrick Moriarty**, Trustee and Joint Hon Secretary, Council of Christians and Jews, and Headmaster, Jewish Community Secondary School, North London.

“Great to see so many people of different faiths at the meeting.”

“It was heartening to learn about all the good inter faith work being done around the UK.”

“A varied and interesting day which was well worth the journey.....”

The following facilitated and served as rapporteurs: Malcolm Deboo, President, Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe and Co-Moderator, IFN Faith Communities Forum; Patricia Stoa, Nottingham Inter Faith Council and IFN Trustee; Jo Backus, Network of Buddhist Organisations UK and IFN Trustee; Neil Pitchford, Druid Network; Mike Stygal, Vice-President, Pagan Federation and member, Canterbury and District Inter Faith Action, and IFN Trustee; Vinay Shah, Institute of Jainology; Minister David Bruton, President, Spiritualists’ National Union; Mohinder Singh Chana, Network of Sikh Organisations UK, Bradford Concord Interfaith Society and IFN Trustee; Anthony Silkoff, Interfaith and Social Action Officer, Board of Deputies of British Jews; Dr Katherine O’Lone, Woolf Institute; Katharina Smith-Muller, Interreligious Adviser, Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales; Charanjit AjitSingh, Hounslow Friends of Faith; Siriol Davies, Christian Muslim Forum; and Dr Iyadh Daoud, Crawley Interfaith Network.



John Dal Din and Nitin Palan MBE



The Pendle Building Bridges team



Discussion group participants at the National Meeting

RABBI WARREN ELF AND THE REVD CHARLES KWAKU-ODOI

“As faith communities, in order for us to keep our work relevant, there are so many initiatives with which we have to keep getting involved. One of the successes we have had is around homelessness and it’s one of the priorities of our Mayor. There have been numerous times that FN4M has been at the hub of community cohesion and developing programmes to bring people together in the face of terror and an increase in hate crimes.”

GEETHA MAHESHWARAN

“Our volunteers are incredible. They offer their service to humanity out of the goodness of their heart, as an offering to God. So we have a huge resource that can be offered to local government in times of emergency and it continues without funding. But we have to build in sustainability as well. Faith communities shouldn’t be regarded as

a cheap alternative to local government or to charities or others. We have to show that we provide a professional service – that we open our arms to the people who are suffering, but that there is sustainability and governance in the work that we do.”

DR MAUREEN SIER

“Looking at the impact of what you are doing is very important. The big question that funders are asking now is, ‘We know you are coming together for dialogue but, so what?’ So you have to be able to articulate why you are coming together and what impact your coming together has. For example, a small local group might say ‘We are making a difference to the 10 people that come together once a month and have a conversation about pilgrimage or sacred space or fasting.’ But how might that conversation be having an impact on the wider community? What else are you doing? ... How are you standing in solidarity with others when there are crises?”

THE REVD DAVID HERBERT

“[Newcastle] Council of Faiths has ... an overarching linking umbrella role and functions as a hub. Facilitating coordination and communication is becoming more and more important because we were better together and there is a strength in unity. Whilst there is a benefit to separate pieces of work, there is an importance to remaining connected.”



Discussion group participants at the National Meeting

THE REVD LIZ CARNELLEY

“I am aware that this work all sounds very soft, and very lovely and nice, but you know and I know, that this work is incredibly difficult. It takes an awfully long time and a lot of hard work to build trust. It is very important work because it is about building what the Government calls ‘resilient communities’, communities that can withstand testing times and come together. Creating these very strong networks across faith and across ethnicity can build trust and take communities forward.”

JULIE JONES

“Throughout Inter Faith Week people witness rooms filled like this at events held by many different organisations, where the good that we do unites more than divides, and new bridges of understanding are built. Thousands of people, many of whom have never had the opportunity for inter faith encounter, see the good works, join in and celebrate.”

TRUPTI PATEL

“Local inter faith celebration events are very important. Families and festivals are the means to organise those. As we all know, women play a large part in this and it is always good to invite along women and children to events. Creating inter-generational projects is a good idea, you can involve very young children all the way up to grandparents in their 70s and 80s.”

CLLR TOM ADITYA

“In Bristol we have had Diverse Doors Open Days every year for many years. We also have Faith Walks between different places of worship. We also carry out social action projects. During Inter Faith Week in 2018 we hosted the Love Your Neighbour Awards ceremony.”

SHEIKH IRFAN SONI

“The two main towns in North Kirklees are Batley and Dewsbury, so we decided to give out our roses for peace in these two towns. ... people asked us questions about why we were doing it so it gave us the opportunity to explain about Inter Faith Week. We also went into schools together to do assemblies and answer questions in the classrooms. ... We talked about our friendship and our commonalities and how important it is to bring people of different faiths together.”

DR NORMAN RICHARDSON MBE

“In Northern Ireland inter faith work is increasingly important for us, not least because still, for many people there, the concept of inter faith relationships beyond inter-Christian relationships is still quite new and tricky. Inter Faith Week has provided an important opportunity. We have focused on issues, such as human rights and the environment. This year we hope to focus on schools and education.”



Participants in dialogue at the National Meeting in London

SUPPORTING LOCAL INTER FAITH ACTIVITY



Participants in discussion at IFN local inter faith practitioner day, Bradford

The UK has become increasingly religiously diverse across the last decade. Today, many towns, cities and other areas are home to people of a number of different religious traditions. This is true not just of the big multi faith cities such as Birmingham or Glasgow but of towns such as Exeter and more counties such as Cornwall and Cumbria.

Local inter faith organisations play a very important role in developing inter faith understanding and cooperation in their areas. Their activities include:

- Promoting inter faith understanding through discussion/dialogue
- Joint social action projects
- Visits to places of worship
- Faith trails and multi faith walks or pilgrimages
- Educational events or exhibitions
- Assisting on multi faith civic ceremonies
- Shared meals
- Inter Faith Week events

- Providing speakers to help school children learn about different faiths from practitioners as part of Religious Education
- Working to prevent community tensions and also to respond to these when necessary
- Enabling and supporting joint responses to major events
- Diversity training
- Providing advice and assistance to public bodies

You can find your nearest local group at www.interfaith.org.uk/locator.

There are currently around 250 multi faith local inter faith organisations in the UK, as well as around 50 local branches and groups of bodies such as the Council of Christians and Jews, Nisa-Nashim and the Women's Interfaith Network.

IFN supports multi faith grassroots inter faith activity through an active programme which includes: providing resources such as publications and special focus sections on its website; helping local inter faith enquirers with contacts and advice



Visit of IFN's Assistant Director, Dr David Hampshire, to Greater Yarmouth Inter Faith and Belief Network

to strengthen their initiatives; visiting and speaking with groups; enabling local inter faith practitioners to share insights and practical learning through special meetings; highlighting to local authorities the important resource that local inter faith bodies provide; and using Facebook and Twitter to encourage more people to join their local inter faith organisation.

IFN also leads on Inter Faith Week as one of its key programmes (see page 35). Local inter faith initiatives play a key role in the Week, marking it in a wide variety of creative ways. IFN seeks to highlight these through its work to support the Week.

SHARING GOOD PRACTICE AND MEETING TOGETHER

An important part of IFN's programme in 2018–19 was the holding of two 'local inter faith practitioner days' where local inter faith practitioners from

anywhere in the UK could share experiences, discuss issues of common interest and have focused learning opportunities to look at practical aspects of developing successful inter faith programmes. The first of these was held in Bradford in October, and the second in Peterborough in March. These days followed similar ones held in Sheffield, London, Coventry, Bristol and Manchester in recent years.

IFN encouraged the use of social media throughout the events, with participants using the hashtag #IFNlocal.

Reports of the two events are available to download on the IFN website at www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/publications.

BRADFORD

At the event in Bradford, participants were welcomed by Mohinder Singh Chana, Chair, and Balu Lad, Vice-Chair, Bradford Concord Interfaith



Mufti Helal Mahmood MBE



Gabrielle Turner and Chan Parmar



Dr Ruth Richardson



Participants in Dialogue at IFN day event for local inter faith practitioners, Bradford



Jatinder Singh Birdi and the Rt Revd Dr Toby Howarth



Kaneez Khan, Dr Harriet Crabtree, and Amria Khatun

Society; and Denise Raby, Secretary, Keighley Interfaith Group.

IN THE PLENARY SESSION:

- The Rt Revd Dr Toby Howarth, Bishop of Bradford spoke on the importance of local inter faith engagement in our diverse society, in Bradford and beyond.



Discussion Group participants at day event for local practitioners, Bradford

- On the theme of 'Standing together to tackle prejudice and hatred', **Dr Harriet Crabtree OBE, Executive Director, IFN**, explored some of the ways in which prejudiced and hateful speech and actions are affecting communities and individuals and why local inter faith response is so important; and **Mufti Helal Mahmood MBE, Oldham Interfaith Forum**, and **Es Rosen, Barnet Multi Faith Forum**, inter faith organisations which have longstanding relationships with their local authorities, spoke about this vital area of work from the perspectives of their respective Forums and areas.
- **Amria Khatun, Integration Lead for the Bradford area, Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government**, spoke on the significance of local inter faith engagement in the Government's developing integration strategy.
- There was also general discussion on the future of local inter faith engagement, including the main challenges and opportunities and what that might mean for how organisations develop their work.



Denise Raby



Canon Andy Pratt

Concord Interfaith Fellowship and Wakefield Interfaith Network and Daryoush Mazloum, York Interfaith.

Discussion groups were facilitated by: Dr Harriet Crabtree, Executive Director, IFN; Chan Parmar, Development Officer, Bolton Interfaith Council and support, Bolton Interfaith Youth Ambassadors Forum; Patricia Stoa, Nottingham Inter Faith Council, IFN Trustee; and the Revd Mark Umpleby, North Kirklees Interfaith Council.

PETERBOROUGH

At the event in Peterborough, participants were welcomed by **Jaspal Singh, Chair**, and **Zahid Akbar, Peterborough Inter Faith Council**.

IN THE PLENARY SESSION:

- **Gillian Beasley, Chief Executive, Peterborough Council**, offered a local authority perspective on the importance of working with faith communities

Discussion groups were held on the following topics:

- 'Developing local inter faith organisation programmes with impact', with a presentation by **Philip Austin, Chair, Bolton Interfaith Council**.
- 'Engaging young people in local inter faith activity', with a presentation by **Gabrielle Turner, Sunderland University and Sunderland Interfaith Forum**.
- 'Funding and resources for local inter faith work', led by **David Hampshire, Assistant Director, IFN**.
- 'Dialogue about challenging issues', with a presentation by **Kaneez Khan, Near Neighbours, Bradford**.
- 'Twitter as a tool for local inter faith groups – a practical hands on 'how to' session', with a presentation by **Ashley Beck, Inter Faith Development Officer, IFN**.
- 'Inter Faith Week and other special Days/Weeks as a platform for developing local inter faith work', with presentations by **Cynthia Dickinson, Leeds**



Jatinder Singh Birdi and Gillian Beasley



Zahraa Ahmed speaking at IFN day event for local inter faith practitioners, Peterborough

Photographs on this page: Participants at IFN day event for local inter faith practitioners, Peterborough



and inter faith structures and **Es Rosen, Co-Chair, Barnet Multi Faith Forum**, offered a response.

- **Zahraa Ahmed, Visit My Mosque Project Coordinator, Muslim Council of Britain**, gave a taster of Visit My Mosque and reflected on the importance of 'opening doors', and of 'reciprocal visiting'.

- **Judith Bruni, Yogesh Joshi and Francoise Murphy, Watford Interfaith Association**, gave an illustrated presentation about its inter faith pilgrimage, held during Inter Faith Week each year.
- **Ashley Beck, Inter Faith Development Officer, IFN**, gave a presentation about the importance of developing good communication strategies.
- On the theme of 'Responding in solidarity to terrorism and hate crime', **Bishop Richard Atkinson OBE** spoke about the inter faith response at national and local level, and the importance of solidarity of response and common action; and **Chris Turner, Policy Adviser, Faith, Race and Integration, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government**, spoke about the Government's response, including additional security for places of worship and the relevance of the Government's Integrated Communities Action Plan.



Participants at IFN day event for local inter faith practitioners, Peterborough

Discussion groups were held on the following topics:

- ‘Developing local inter faith organisation programmes with impact’, with a presentation by **David Hampshire, Assistant Director, IFN.**
- ‘Open doors and faith trails: creating opportunities for inter faith learning’, with presentations by **Zahraa Ahmed, Muslim Council of Britain**, and **Judith Bruni, Yogesh Joshi and Francoise Murphy, Watford Inter Faith Association.**
- ‘Local inter faith groups connecting with young people (including through schools and colleges)’, with a presentation by **Jaspal Singh and Zahid Akbar, Peterborough Inter Faith Council.**

- ‘Dialogue amid division’, a facilitated discussion with the **Revd Canon Dr John Hall, Devon Faith and Belief Forum and IFN Trustee.**
- ‘Making the case for the importance of your work’, with a presentation by the **Revd Cassandra Howes, Bedford Council of Faiths.**
- ‘Working in partnership with other organisations towards shared social goals’, with a presentation by **Ruth Tetlow and Shenaz Sajan, Birmingham Council of Faiths.**

Discussion groups were facilitated by: **Jatinder Singh Birdi, IFN Co-Chair and Chair, Warwick District Faiths Forum**; **Dr Harriet Crabtree, Executive Director, IFN**; **Ashley Beck, Inter Faith Development Officer, IFN**; and **Mohinder Singh Chana, Bradford Concord Interfaith Society.**



Femi Olasako, Near Neighbours, at IFN day event for local inter faith practitioners, Peterborough



Participants in dialogue at IFN day event for local inter faith practitioners, Peterborough

FEEDBACK

100% of participants who gave feedback on both day events said that they found them to be interesting and worthwhile. Here are just a few of their comments:

“These events are wonderful for renewing and extending networks.”

“A very useful event, plenty to digest and feedback to my local inter faith organisation and local authority.”

“A great introduction to the work of local interfaith groups and what can be achieved.”

“There was a good range of themes and input, with much to reflect on.”

“It is just so uplifting to meet with others on the same road to peace and understanding.”

“It is about learning from others, meeting like minded people, chance to see the good work and opportunities for improving your own work.”

VISITS TO LOCAL GROUPS

During the year, IFN staff visited and met with a number of local inter faith groups as part of a planned pattern of engagement with local groups to learn more about their current work and support this, strengthen links, and encourage applications for membership from non-member groups.

The visits included meeting with staff and volunteers from Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Forum, Building Bridges in Burnley and Building Bridges in Pendle – Interfaith Community Project, Cornwall Faith Forum, County Durham Faiths Network, Devon Faith and Belief Forum, Exeter Faith and Belief Group, Middlesbrough Interfaith Network, North East Regional Faith Network, Plymouth Council of Faiths, Sunderland Interfaith Forum, South East England Faiths Forum and Torbay Interfaith Forum. There were also meetings with the Rector of Liverpool to learn about the development of the Liverpool Faith Leaders’ Group and Faiths4Change and with the Chaplaincy Team at Swansea University to discuss the newly established Swansea Interfaith Forum.

Local inter faith groups in Scotland are linked in membership by Interfaith Scotland. In August, IFN’s

Inter Faith Development Officer, Ashley Beck, spoke at Interfaith Scotland’s Annual Networking Seminar for local inter faith groups, which IFN Intern Bashir Ali also attended.

SUPPORTING LOCAL ACTIVITY IN ‘INTEGRATION AREAS’

As part of its Integrated Communities Strategy, the Government is working with local authorities in 5 ‘Integration Areas’: Blackburn with Darwen, Bradford, Peterborough, Walsall, and Waltham Forest. As noted above, IFN held this year’s local inter faith practitioner day events in Bradford and Peterborough (which were attended by the Integration Leads for those areas). The Assistant Director visited groups in Blackburn with Darwen and met with staff from the Community, Equality and Cohesion team at Walsall Council and there was contact during the year with the Waltham Forest Lead and other Leads.

In April the Executive Director and Assistant Director of IFN attended a meeting at MHCLG for its Integration Area leads and the bodies and programmes such as IFN which receive MHCLG support towards their work. The meeting was an opportunity for the leads to hear about this work. As well as speaking at the meeting, IFN staff distributed a number of publications and encouraged involvement in Inter Faith Week from each of the Areas.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE INTER FAITH NETWORK

Your gift can help to make a positive difference to inter faith relations, enabling more people of different backgrounds, young and old, to mix, learn about each other’s beliefs and views and work together for the common good.

Donations at all levels are welcomed and will be used with care for the greatest impact.

You can donate online at www.interfaith.org.uk/donate, by PayPal at www.paypal.me/ifnetuk or by cheque to

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

Thank you!

NATIONAL FAITH COMMUNITIES AND PUBLIC LIFE



A meeting of IFN's Faith Communities Forum, hosted by the Islamic Cultural Centre, London

National Faith Community Representative Bodies in membership of IFN span a wide range of faiths and communities. They share a commitment to working for the wellbeing of wider society and to developing inter faith understanding and cooperation.



All such bodies have their own programmes of work and patterns of engagement with other communities, as well as with Government and other agencies. Multi faith engagement is not a substitute for those. At the same time, there is great value in the faith communities discussing collectively, on a regular basis, issues of common concern and exchanging information about their programmes of work. The Faith Communities Forum (FCF) is the IFN framework which provides the opportunity for this form of engagement on inter faith and public life issues.

Meetings of the Forum took place in October, February and May. Each meeting included sharing of news and information about National Faith Community Representative Bodies' own inter faith work and about particular issues of interest and concern. On the agenda, additionally, were a wide range of issues including:

- Faith communities and the UK's Exit from the European Union, with a presentation from officials from the Department for Exiting the European Union and input from MHCLG
- Faith communities and climate change, with a presentation from Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, Quakers in Britain



Paul Parker speaking at IFN FCF meeting



FCF participants, Ven Bogoda Seelawimala speaking

- Organ Donation and faith communities, with a presentation from Claire Williment, Head of Transplant Development, NHS Blood and Transplant, and Andrea Ttofa, Head of Organ Donation Marketing, NHSBT
- Sharing good practice – faith communities learning from each other on safeguarding and

sexual abuse, with a presentation from Mustafa Field, Strengthening Faith Institutions

- Faith communities and security of places of worship, with a presentation from officials from the Home Office Hate Crime Team
- Faith communities and the need for informed and respectful engagement by bodies such as political parties and by the media



Canon John O'Toole and Vinaya Sharma

The meetings also give a chance for participants to learn about each other's traditions. At each meeting a short reflection, relating to the main agenda theme, is given by a representative of a different faith community member body about its bases for engaging with that. This year's reflections were from Derek McAuley, then Chief Officer, General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, about his tradition's bases for encouraging informed dialogue and fair treatment of different groups in society; from Dr Natubhai Shah MBE on the theme of blood and organ donation and saving life in the Jain tradition; and from Mohinder Singh Chana, Network



A meeting of IFN's Faith Communities Forum, hosted by the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, St John's Wood



A meeting of IFN's Faith Communities Forum, Hassan Joudi speaking

of Sikh Organisations, on the theme of care for the planet in the Sikh tradition.

The Forum is for exchange of views and information. Members sometimes build on discussions by using the new connections to create helpful alliances, for example to make common cause on tackling climate change.

The modelling of inter faith engagement by senior figures within the national faith community organisations is also a helpful dimension of the Forum.

“It is important that national faith leaders meet and engage and it is very good that the Inter Faith Network for the UK provides a space for this. It gives encouragement to the local level.”

THE RT REVD DR TOBY HOWARTH, BISHOP OF BRADFORD

Some reflections from members of the Forum who attended its meetings in the course of the year:



Karl Wightman and Rabbi David Mason

“This was my first Forum Meeting and it was an excellent experience. I felt welcomed and included. I was impressed with the careful preparation of the agenda which addressed difficult issues and the time management which made it possible to address and move on.”

“I found the agenda to be both informative, thought provoking and useful in broadening my understanding of the work of faith communities across the UK.”

The Faith Communities Forum has 10 Moderators – 2 Co-Moderators, who jointly chair the Forum, and 8 Vice-Moderators. 6 Moderator places are held by the largest communities: Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Jewish, and Buddhist. The other places are held in a rotation agreed by the other groups. The Moderators have a particular role in relation to statement-making (see page 22).

In this period, the Co-Moderators were:

The Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE [Christian]
Mr Malcolm Deboo [Zoroastrian]

The Vice-Moderators were:

Mr Mohinder Singh Chana [Sikh]
Rabbi David Mason [Jewish]
Mr Satya Minhas [Hindu]
Ms Tracey Prior [Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints]
Maulana Shahid Raza OBE [Muslim]
Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala [Buddhist]
Dr Natubhai Shah MBE [Jain]
Mr Karl Wightman [Baha'i]

STANDING TOGETHER

The period covered by this Annual Review saw a continued overall rise in hate crime. The Police in England and Wales recorded 103,379 hate crimes; an increase of 10 per cent compared with 2017/18. They noted that while increases in hate crime over the last five years had been mainly driven by improvements in crime recording by the police, there had been spikes in hate crime following certain events such as the EU Referendum and the terrorist attacks in 2017. Of the hate crimes in 2017/18 in England and Wales, Religious hate crimes increased by three per cent (to 8,566 offences). In Northern Ireland the number of cases involving a hate crime reported by the PSNI to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) rose from 335 in the previous year to 355 in 2018/19. 8.2% of those were cases involving faith/religion.



The human face of these statistics continues to be painful and disturbing,

In August, following a succession of worrying events, IFN's Co-Chairs sent a message to member bodies that included the following:

“... The issue of hate crime continues to be of great concern. The report on the horrific torture/attack on a Muslim convert in Guisborough, for which two women were jailed last week, stands out. However, many people of different backgrounds continue to experience abuse and sometimes physical attack. Places of

worship, too, are vulnerable as the attacks on adjacent Sikh and Muslim places of worship in Leeds and on the synagogue in Exeter remind us. Faith communities and inter faith bodies play an important role in standing up to hatred – both in support of each other, as reflected in responses in Exeter and Leeds, and more widely. ...”

STANDING TOGETHER IN THE FACE OF TERRORISM

During the year there were terrorist attacks on the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh USA in October, on two mosques in Christchurch New Zealand in March, and on churches and other properties in Sri Lanka on Easter Day. The impact of these reverberated around the world.

Given the impact of the terrorist attacks on inter faith relations in the UK, statements were issued by



IFN guidance on responding jointly to attacks on places of worship; working for calm at times of tension; and working to build on and strengthen existing good inter faith

relations. It contains material about how and where to report hate incidents, cyber-attacks, and actual or suspected terrorist activity; where to find information on strengthening the security of buildings; and where to find information about working to build – and strengthen – good inter faith relations locally. It was published in partnership with the then Department for Communities and Local Government, the Home Office, the Crown Prosecution Service, the National Police Chiefs' Council and the National Fire Chiefs' Council.

the Co-Chairs and by the Co-Chairs together with the Moderators of IFN's Faith Communities Forum¹.

The statements were widely shared and used. They are reproduced below.

28 October 2018

Yesterday's terrible Antisemitic attack on the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh USA has been responded to here in the UK with prayers and with words of condemnation and strong messages of solidarity with the Jewish community from across the UK's faith communities.

Like attacks on churches, gurdwaras, mosques, temples and other places of worship of different faiths here and around the world, it is a reminder of the need to condemn extremist violence in the strongest terms and to stand together and to continue to work together with ever greater urgency against ignorance, prejudice and hatred.

There is no place in civilised society for Antisemitism.

Nor is there a place for Islamophobia and hatreds targeting communities of other faiths and beliefs.

All communities must be able to exist in safety and to practise their faith freely and without fear.

5 March 2019

Today's appalling terrorist attacks on two mosques in Christchurch New Zealand have been responded to here in the UK with prayers, condemnation and demonstrations of solidarity with the Muslim community, including at the Friday prayer.

As we said after the murderous attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh USA last year, attacks on churches, gurdwaras, mosques, temples and other places of worship of different faiths here and around the world are a reminder of the need to condemn extremist violence in the strongest terms and to stand together and to continue to work together with ever greater urgency against ignorance, prejudice and hatred.

Hatred targeting any community because of its faith and belief is a scourge that cannot be tolerated. There must be freedom to worship and practise our faith freely and without fear.

22 April 2019

Following the barbaric Easter Day terrorist attacks on churches and other properties in Sri Lanka, many people in the UK have been coming together to express their condolences and stand in solidarity.

As we said after the terrorist attacks in Pittsburgh USA and Christchurch New Zealand – such attacks on places of worship are a reminder of the need to condemn extremist violence in the strongest terms and to stand together and to continue to work together with ever greater urgency against ignorance, prejudice and hatred. Hatred targeting any community because of its faith and belief is a scourge that cannot be tolerated. There must be freedom for all communities to worship and practise their faith freely and without fear.

¹ Note: In urgent situations, the Co-Chairs and the Moderators of the Faith Communities Forum may make a joint statement in their capacities as Officers of IFN and representatives of the Faith Communities Forum respectively, and on their own behalf, which does not then commit member bodies. Statements can be made on events that affect inter faith relations in the UK, or on overseas events when these directly affect relations between faith communities in this country.

The IFN office also collated lists of the responses by faith and inter faith bodies in the UK to the attacks in Christchurch and Sri Lanka. They can be seen at

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/christchurch-mosque-attacks-responses-by-faith-and-inter-faith-bodies> and <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/sri-lanka-easter-day-terrorist-attacks-responses-by-faith-and-inter-faith-bodies>.

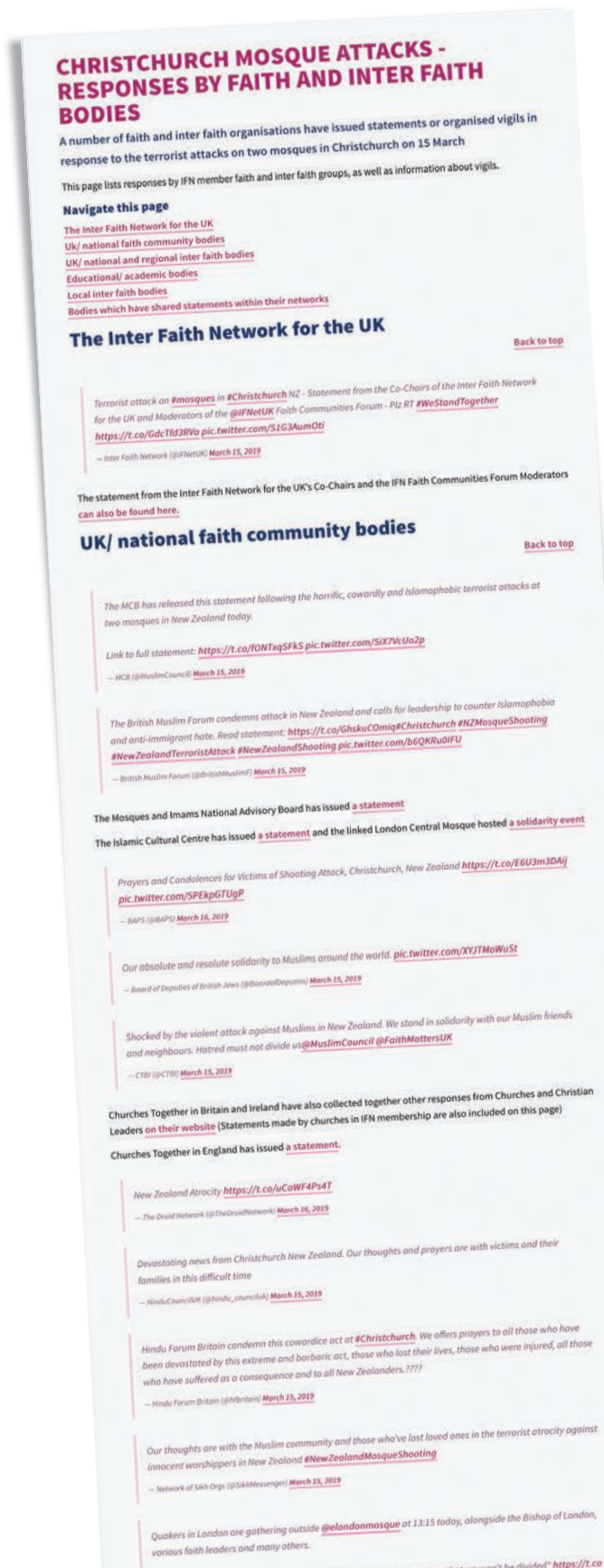
IFN's Co-Chairs also issued a message a few days after the Christchurch attack when there had been a number of incidents in the UK, including an extreme right wing 'terror attack' in Surrey and extreme right wing graffiti on an Oxford school, as well as news of an attack from a gunman in Utrecht in the Netherlands, thought at the time possibly to be a terrorist attack. They issued a message as well after the murderous attack at the Chabad of Poway Synagogue in California in April.

All statements and messages can be seen at www.interfaith.org.uk/news/statements-and-messages.

IFN's Executive Director attended a number of vigils and solidarity events organised following the terrorist attacks. At the day event for local inter faith practitioners held in Bradford in October, under the topic 'Standing together to tackle prejudice and hatred' she explored some of the ways in which prejudiced and hateful speech and actions are affecting communities and individuals and why local inter faith response is so important. Mufti Helal Mahmood MBE of Oldham Interfaith Forum and Es Rosen of Barnet Multi Faith Forum, spoke about this vital area of work from the perspectives of their respective Forums and areas. Their presentations are all included in the full report of that event at https://www.interfaith.org.uk/uploads/IFN_Day_Bradford_2019_MedRes_220319.pdf

At a similar event for local inter faith practitioners held by IFN in Peterborough in March, under the theme 'Responding in solidarity to terrorism and hate crime', Bishop Richard Atkinson OBE spoke about the inter faith response at national and local level, including from the Inter Faith Network for the UK, to the Christchurch attacks and also more generally about the importance of solidarity of response and common action; and Chris Turner, Policy Adviser, Faith, Race and Integration, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, spoke about the Government's response, including the announcement of additional security for places of worship as well as the relevance of the Government's Integrated Communities Action Plan. Their presentations are both included in the event report at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/ifn-day-event-for-local-inter-faith-practitioners-a-report-peterborough-march-2019>.

Further information about both local inter faith practitioner events begins on page 12 of this Review.



MODELLING RESPECTFUL ENGAGEMENT IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE

The importance of respectful and fair engagement of political parties with people of all backgrounds has relevance to good inter faith relations in the UK. The year saw continuing concerns about Antisemitism and Islamophobia and about extremism and hate incidents which affected,

among others, a number of faith communities. In this context, IFN's Co-Chairs and Faith Communities Forum Moderators issued the following statement on 'Political parties – modelling respectful engagement'.

7 September 2018

As the party conference season approaches, we call on all political parties to model and encourage through their words and actions an open, fair and respectful engagement with people of different faiths and beliefs.

The last few months have seen concerns expressed in relation to the processes of political parties about Antisemitism and Islamophobia and perceived slow or limited response to handling allegations about this.

This comes in the context of concerns within wider society about extremism and hate incidents which have affected, among others, a number of faith communities.

Freedom of speech and the parameters of UK law permit a wide spectrum of views to be voiced. At the same time, principles of respect and tolerance are vital, as is finding ways to deal well with disagreement.

We commend the principles in the Inter Faith Network's guidelines Building Good Relations with People of Different Faiths and Beliefs.

Religious literacy is also vital, in relation to all faiths. We hope that it will be the case that the coming months will see informed and helpful engagement reflecting the best of all the parties' visions of an integrated and harmonious society.

From 11–18 November, national Inter Faith Week will be marked. We hope that all parties will find ways to mark Inter Faith Week, highlighting their commitment to engaging well with those of all faiths and beliefs and to serving well the needs of all faiths and none at national, regional and local levels.

This statement can be found at www.interfaith.org.uk/news/statements-and-messages.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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www.interfaith.org.uk

www.twitter.com/IFNetUK

www.facebook.com/IFNetUK

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL INTER FAITH ORGANISATIONS



Among IFN's member bodies are 32 inter faith organisations and programmes whose work is carried out at UK or national level or which, while regionally focused, are used by people across the country. They are important resources for people who want to get involved in inter faith – and in some cases intercultural – activity.

IFN helps these organisations to increase the impact of their inter faith activity through raising the profile of their work; enabling them to share information

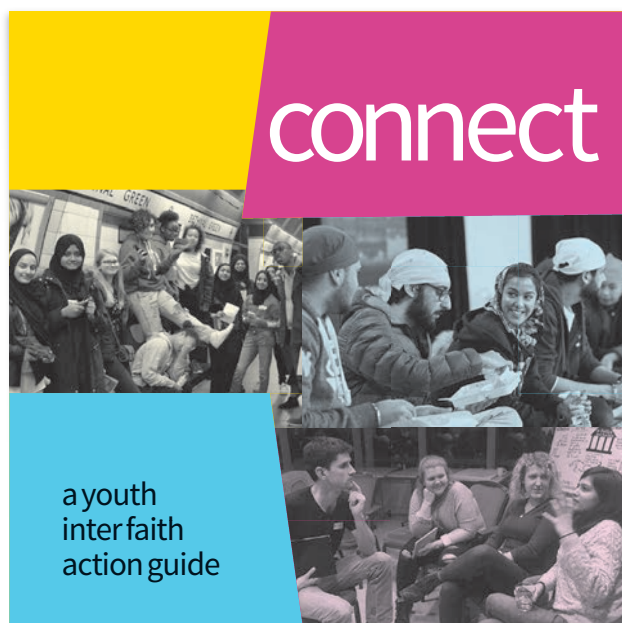
and ideas through its meetings; and through publications, e-bulletins and social media.

A meeting for member National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations took place in London in March. This was for both these bodies and IFN member bodies in the Educational and Academic Bodies category.

A key focus of this meeting was communication: What methods work best to get messages across?



Participants in the IFN link meeting for member bodies in the National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations and Educational and Academic Bodies categories



CONNECT: A YOUTH INTER FAITH ACTION GUIDE

An action guide for young people, including information on the different kinds of inter faith activity, ways to get involved, planning tips and practicalities, and links to further information.

This action guide was launched at the 2018 National Meeting of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, which had a special youth focus. The guide was developed with the help of an Advisory Group, which included young people, IFN Trustees, and people drawn from organisations running inter faith programmes with young people.

www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/connect

How can traditional and new methods of social media be used effectively, side by side? Ashley Beck, Inter Faith Development Officer at IFN gave an opening presentation, and Catriona Robertson, Director of the Christian Muslim Forum shared some of the ways that it uses different communications for maximum impact.

There was also conversation about youth inter faith engagement. This included discussion on member bodies' current work and issues of common concern.

IFN last year launched Connect: a youth inter faith action guide. Members discussed how they were using this important new resource.



Some participants in the meeting for IFN and the national inter faith linking bodies of the devolved nations

NATIONAL INTER FAITH LINKING BODIES

The Inter Faith Network links in membership the national inter faith linking bodies of the devolved nations: Interfaith Scotland, Cyngor Rhyngffydd Cymru / the Inter-Faith Council for Wales, and the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum, each of which appoints a Trustee to IFN's Board. IFN works closely with these bodies and each year convenes a meeting with them to enable sharing of news and good practice.

The annual meetings rotate between Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The 2019 meeting took place in May, hosted by the Cyngor Rhyngffydd Cymru/Inter-faith Council for Wales in Cardiff at South Wales Baptist College.

Issues on the agenda included: Inter Faith Week and Scottish Interfaith Week, including encouraging even wider engagement and promoting the Weeks through networks and social media; matters of interest and concern, such as responding to terrorist/extremist attacks, hate crime, climate change and youth engagement; and a brief round-up of key developments within each organisation since the last meeting.

WEBSITE PROFILES

Website profiles for National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations were updated during the course of October and the updated material is on the IFN website at

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/members/list>. The chart showing the areas of work of these member bodies was also updated at

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/find-a-national-initiative>.

EDUCATIONAL AND ACADEMIC BODIES

Religious literacy is a vital part of a harmonious society. It helps people to understand better what people of different faiths and beliefs hold most dear and – together with opportunities for positive encounter – it can help prevent prejudice and suspicion.

IFN's member bodies include a number of educational and academic bodies which, in different ways, work to promote inter faith understanding and cooperation in the UK. Some are specialist academic institutions, or a part of these, researching aspects of inter faith relations and others are educational bodies with a focus on particular areas, such as Religious Education in schools.

IFN helps raise the profile of the work of these bodies in a number of different ways such as through website profiles and social media posts.

[illegible]

One way that IFN promotes the work of its member bodies is to ensure that up to date and accessible information about them is available on IFN's website. Website profiles for Educational and Academic Bodies were updated in the Autumn. So too was a handy chart showing their areas of work: <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/find-a-national-initiative>.

IFN also contributes to strengthening the work of these organisations through opportunities to share news and good practice. A meeting for member Educational and Academic Bodies and National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations was held in London in March. As noted in the preceding section, a key focus was effective communication. There was also discussion about youth inter faith engagement.

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCIES

IFN keeps in touch with university and FE chaplaincies through periodic mailings – and in particular through encouraging involvement in Inter Faith Week.

At the 2019 AGM the University of Lincoln Multi-Faith Chaplaincy became the first multi faith chaplaincy to become a member body of IFN. This followed an agreement at IFN's 2018 AGM that Membership Policy eligibility criteria for Educational and Academic Bodies make explicit that multi-faith chaplaincies within higher education institutions could be considered to be a 'part' of the higher education institution and are therefore eligible for IFN membership in this category.

The Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education was a founder member of IFN, and its work across many years has made a vital contribution to the development of multi-faith religious education in schools, and religious literacy more widely. It formally drew to a close in April, with a special jubilee event at Shap in Cumbria. Ashley Beck, Inter Faith Development Officer at IFN, and IFN's former Director, Brian Pearce OBE, both attended on behalf of IFN. Shap's widely regarded calendar of religious festivals will continue to be produced, and IFN is grateful to Shap and the Calendar Group for its continuing permission to use its material on the IFN website.



Clive Lawton, President of the Shap Working Party, speaking at its Jubilee event

OPENING THE DOOR TO LEARNING AND COOPERATION

INCREASING RELIGIOUS LITERACY AT LOCAL LEVEL

Around the UK many inter faith walks and pilgrimages take place. They provide a visible public witness to positive relations and also afford a valuable opportunity for people to visit and learn more about the places of worship of their neighbours. There are, as well, separate 'Open Door' opportunities which are also ways for encouraging learning and positive interaction. At the day event for local inter faith practitioners held in Peterborough in March there were plenary and discussion group presentations on this theme. The presentations are included in the event report at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/ifn-day-event-for-local-inter-faith-practitioners-a-report-peterborough-march-2019>. Further information about the event is on page 14.

New sections on 'Open Door Days' and Friendship links between places of worship were also created and added to the local resources section of the IFN website at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/open-door-days> and <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/friendship-links-between-places-of-worship>.

A NEW RESOURCE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

During Inter Faith Week 2019 IFN will be launching a special new resource for primary schools, designed to help increase pupils' understanding of, and skills for, inter faith encounter, dialogue and action. It will focus on learning about real examples of inter faith engagement, including in their areas. Work on the resource took place from the end of the period covered by the report. Further information will be included in the 2019–20 Annual Review.



REMEMBRANCE



11 November 2018 marked the centenary of the Armistice that drew the First World War to a close.

Soldiers and civilians from many countries and religious backgrounds contributed to the war efforts and in the months running up to Armistice 100, IFN highlighted that through social media posts. It also

created a short resource on marking both Armistice 100 and Inter Faith Week:

<https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/armistice-100>.

The Executive Director attended an Indian Soldiers event at Diwali in the Square at which the recently launched Khadi poppy was distributed. She then attended an event at the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha in Neasden honouring the contribution of India and The Commonwealth during World War 1. Arising from this, the Royal British Legion (RBL) was in touch with IFN about holding a roundtable for faith communities exploring aspects of Remembrance and IFN worked with it to bring this together. This was part of the RBL's Remembering Together programme "asking communities across Britain to come together, join together and remember together the service and sacrifice, friendship and collaboration of the men and women of Britain, the Commonwealth and Allied nations who fought together 75 years ago".

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/remember-together>

The roundtable took place in London on 25 June. Participants were welcomed by Ms Catherine Davies,





Participants in The Royal British Legion's roundtable event on Remembrance



Karl Wightman



The Revd Bob Fyffe



Satya Minhas



Head of Remembrance at RBL and IFN Co-Chair, Mr Jatinder Singh Birdi. Invitations to the event were sent to all National Faith Community Representative Bodies in IFN membership and many of them were represented at it. IFN's Executive Director and Assistant Director also attended and facilitated discussion groups.

As well as considering remembrance of those who fought, the roundtable heard a pacifist perspective, articulated by the Religious Society of Friends.



Maulana M Shahid Raza OBE



Catherine Davies



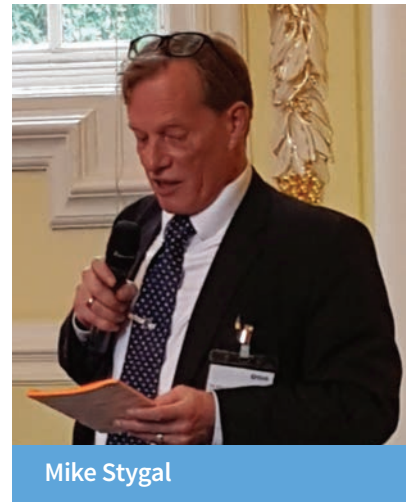
Trupti Patel



Rachel Century



Minister David Bruton



Mike Stygal

Inter Faith Network for the UK
9 November 2018 · 🌐

Many events are taking place in the coming days where people will gather to remember together the service of soldiers and civilians of different faiths and beliefs in #WW1 and reflect on peace. #Armistice100

www.interfaithweek.org/events <https://armistice100.org.uk/events/>
<https://bit.ly/2OUKVqp>

Royal British Legion British Future MHCLG DCMS

#InterFaithWeek
#Armistice100

Remembering
Together
@IFWeek

Inter Faith Network
@IFNetUK

A week today it is **#Armistice100**. **#Interfaithweek** begins each year on **#RemembranceSunday** to encourage remembering together of the service of soldiers + civilians of all faiths + beliefs from Britain + the **#commonwealth** + reflection on peace

expressandstar.com/news/local-hub...
[@britishfuture](https://twitter.com/britishfuture)

THEMES IN INTER FAITH ACTIVITY

YOUTH INTER FAITH ENGAGEMENT

Since October 2017 IFN has carried out a programme of work called *Connect: Inter Faith Engagement of Young People*.

As was noted in the 2017–18 Annual Review, *Connect: a youth inter faith action guide* was launched at the 2018 National Meeting. It can be downloaded from <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/connect> and printed copies are available from the IFN office. IFN has been continuing to make people aware of the guide during the year. In particular, sending copies to FE and HE chaplains and to Students Unions.

A meeting of the Youth Inter Faith Engagement Advisory Group took place in November to discuss a possible youth strand to IFN's work. Their reflections were incorporated into IFN's Strategic Plan 2019–22 (see page 51).

INTER FAITH SPORT

During the year IFN has continued to engage with bodies involved with inter faith sport and to promote their activities. IFN's Assistant Director, David Hampshire, attended a number of events relating to inter faith cricket, including the Peace at the Crease Initiative of the Vatican and the Archbishop of Canterbury's XI Festival of Unity, a schools' inter faith day organised by Arsenal in the Community and a 'Pitch for Hope' event, jointly organised by Chelsea Football Club and the World Jewish Congress. He also met with staff from Sporting England.

In addition, IFN worked with Sport England, the Sport and Recreation Alliance, Sporting Equals, and the FA to promote Inter Faith Week events among their member bodies.



Dr David Hampshire, IFN Assistant Director, meeting participants at the Peace at the Crease initiative

RAISING AWARENESS AND SHARING GOOD PRACTICE AND INFORMATION

The Inter Faith Network for the UK is a key source of advice and information on inter faith issues in the UK. It provides contact details to assist in connecting enquirers with those who may be best able to help them.

As well as individual members of the public, organisations that IFN assisted during the period included Government Departments, local authorities, emergency services, voluntary organisations, schools, hospitals, the media and others.

In some cases, IFN staff are involved with projects on a longer term basis, where this is seen as fitting with IFN's aims and helping to carry these out. For example, this year has seen continued engagement with the Civil Contingencies Secretariat (Community Resilience) of the Cabinet Office, Equally Ours, the Near Neighbours Programme of the Church Urban Fund and the Church of England, the Office for National Statistics, the Religious Education Council of England and Wales and the Taylor Review Pilot, managed by Historic England and funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Staff visits and attending and speaking at events are also an important part of this work of keeping people in touch and sharing good practice. Some of this year's examples: speaking at the AGM of the Great Yarmouth Inter Faith and Belief Network; attending an event organised by the Grand Trunk Project, in conjunction with others, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre; attending the Jubilee of the Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education; speaking at a dinner hosted by the Islamic Cultural Centre as part of the Vatican's Light of Faith cricket tour; attending the Council of Christians and Jews' Campus Leadership programme celebration; speaking at Interfaith Scotland's day event for Scottish local inter faith groups; attending a Grenfell Together event held by the Grenfell Muslim Response Unit and faith community festivals such as Diwali in the Square.

ENQUIRIES

Just a few of the enquiries to which IFN has responded this year...

- Our school would like to invite local faith leaders to take part in some assemblies. Please could you let me know how to contact the local inter faith group about this?
- There does not seem to be a local inter faith organisation near me. Can you offer some advice on how to set one up?
- Can you give me some information about inter faith sports projects for a television documentary?
- How can we obtain wallcharts of religious festivals for our hospital?
- Where can I find a template for a safeguarding policy?
- Our arts organisation would like to diversify its Board of Trustees. How can I let faith communities know about this?
- Who can I contact about inter faith relationships?

E-BULLETIN

IFN produces a bi-monthly e-bulletin packed with news about inter faith projects and resources and with updates about key faith and public life developments. It is sent to subscribers and is also available on the IFN website in both PDF and web page formats. Members of the public can subscribe to the E-Bulletin on the IFN website at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/ifn-e-bulletin>.

CIRCULARS

IFN issued Circulars throughout the year to draw member bodies' attention to a wide range of issues and opportunities. They helped to keep members in touch with relevant faith and public life issues, such as the Government's response to its Integrated Communities Strategy green paper and highlighted IFN news and publications. They also highlighted particular themes, such as responding to hate crime and use of social media. 33 Circulars were sent to member bodies during the period covered by this review.

WEBSITES

IFN's websites provide information, advice and sharing good practice. IFN has two websites: www.interfaith.org.uk, which is its main organisational website, and www.interfaithweek.org for its Inter Faith Week programme.

TWITTER, FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are increasingly important channels for information about faith and inter faith activity and they are also very useful tools for encouraging wider involvement. IFN runs separate Facebook and Twitter accounts for the Inter Faith Network and Inter Faith Week. During this period, IFN continued to use these platforms extensively and also encouraged its member bodies to do so.

Faith and the environment

In February, IFN highlighted on social media a range of different ways that faith communities in the UK, with others around the world, are working to combat climate change and on other environmental issues. See, for example, <https://twitter.com/IFNetUK/status/1096083884251533312>

The Faith for the Climate Network, an inter faith network of 130 faith-based organisations and individuals working on climate change, was among those which joined the Climate Coalition's 'Share the Love' campaign.

Inter Faith Network for the UK

17 June 2019 · 6

REFUGEE WEEK

The well being of refugees is of great concern to faith communities. Faith based bodies are working independently and together on many projects to help respond to the needs of refugees - as well as to learn from their experiences and appreciate what they bring to society in the UK.

For more examples of multi faith engagement see: <https://www.sfar.org.uk/>

Initiatives such as Citizens UK



ifnetuk



The Inter Faith Network

HOME ABOUT US MEMBERS UK ACTIVITY GET INVOLVED RESOURCES NEWS



Inter Faith Network @IFNetUK · May 13, 2019
One of a number of #interfaith #tree plantings for this project, reflecting faith communities' care for the planet and for improving the #environment for local communities. @gurseva_London @LondonFaiths @MayorofLondon @TowerHamletsNow

Faiths Forum @LondonFaiths · May 13, 2019
Last Friday 10 Trees were planted in Tower Hamlets with @Gurseva_London an organisation based on selfless services within the community and is part of our ongoing #InterfaithTreePlanting project with @MayorofLondon @TowerHamletsNow



Inter Faith Network @IFNetUK · Sep 4, 2018
The UK's #faithcommunities work together in a number of contexts from special projects such as this one to provide a meal for the homeless + @MitzvahDay @sewaday + @MySadaqaDay #socialaction, to longer term engagement on issues like #Refugees support + #foodpoverty. @mhclg

Board of Deputies of British Jews @BoardofDeputies · Sep 3, 2018
Last night we volunteered with @SikhCouncilUK and @NishkamSWAT, to provide a hot meal for London's homeless community. BoD Vice-Pres @EdwinShuker and our staff team gave a donation of food, and joined members of the Sikh community to serve meals. Real interfaith work in action!



INTER FAITH WEEK

ABOUT INTER FAITH WEEK

Inter Faith Week takes place each November, beginning on Remembrance Sunday and running until the following Sunday. It begins on Remembrance Sunday to encourage the



remembering together of the service of soldiers and civilians of different faiths and also to think about peace.

Inter Faith Week 2018 took place from Sunday 11 to Sunday 18 November. It was the tenth such Week and the report on it also looks back across the Weeks since it began:

<https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/inter-faith-week-stories-from-2018-inspiration-for-2019>

MARKING THE 10TH INTER FAITH WEEK



Top left: National faith leaders' event at Lambeth Palace as part of the launch of Inter Faith Week in 2009
 Top right: Boris Johnson, then Mayor of London, with Venerable Nagase of the London Peace Pagoda at an Inter Faith Week reception hosted by the Mayor and the Faiths Forum for London during Inter Faith Week 2013
 Above: The launch of the Inter Faith Week Toolkit in 2016



Panellists and chairs at the "Unity Diversity and Identity -- Who am I?" event organised by Belfast branch of the Council of Christians and Jews and the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum during Inter Faith Week 2016

THE AIMS OF INTER FAITH WEEK ARE TO:

- Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- Increase 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
- Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

WWW.INTERFAITHWEEK.ORG

Inter Faith Week has run since 2009, held in partnership the first year between IFN and Government and led by IFN with the support of Government in subsequent years. It drew its inspiration from the very successful Scottish Interfaith Week (SIFW), led by Interfaith Scotland.



Launch of the new Multi-Faith Centre and Library in Ipswich



Civil Service Inter Faith Week launch event at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office



Santosh Kundi with the Lord Lieutenant and one of the Deputy Lords Lieutenant of Warwickshire



Bharti Tailor and Charanjit Ajit Singh at the Hounslow Friends of Faith event



Contents of the Inter Faith Week packs for activity organisers

IFN works closely with the national inter faith linking bodies of Wales and Northern Ireland on plans related to Inter Faith Week and with Interfaith Scotland over SIFW.

CONTRIBUTING TO NEIGHBOURLY, INTEGRATED COMMUNITIES

The Week makes an important contribution to neighbourly and integrated communities. It acts as a focal point for celebration and demonstration of year-round activity to build inter faith understanding and cooperation. It provides a fantastic platform for trying new types of activity and partnerships and for members of the public to learn about and mix with people of other faiths and beliefs. The Week is also often used as a launchpad for new initiatives to get started.

“As we mark Inter Faith Week, there is no better time to celebrate faith groups around the country who are making a profound impact on their communities, and to encourage people of all faiths to support and lead inter faith activity in their area.”

LORD BOURNE OF ABERYSTWYTH



Members of the Tooting Christian Muslim Women's Group promoting the Week

The Week is increasingly used by organisations, from local authorities to businesses and sports clubs, to boost their engagement with faith and belief groups and to highlight the importance of respectful and inclusive relationships in the workplace and in their work more generally.

The Week is also about national inter faith engagement and sharing positive messages that encourage and support local activity.

Social media during the Week helps amplify positive stories about inter faith activity and engagement in the UK.

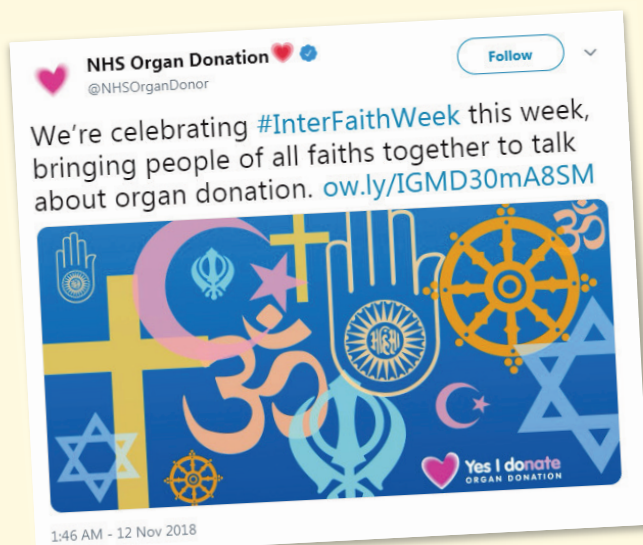


Event hosted at County Hall in Maidstone by Kent County Council and Kent Equality Cohesion Council

IFN'S LEAD ROLE ON INTER FAITH WEEK

The Inter Faith Network leads on Inter Faith Week: managing a dedicated website with activity listings; contacting a continually widening range of organisations and individuals encouraging involvement in the Week; helping provide information, advice and publicity materials; raising

the profile of events; and reporting on it. Preparation and support is a year-round part of IFN's work and key to making the Week a success.



Members of the Batley Poets with a special cake as part of 'Anything Goes', an evening of poetry



Jaffor Bhuiya, IFN Project Assistant, and Natasha Raspudic, IFN Volunteer



Joseph Kilsby, IFN Intern

In the months leading up to Inter Faith Week itself, this work intensifies, and also includes adding activities to the interactive map and calendar on the website; researching details of activities where information is not provided and contacting relevant organisations; and increased social media activity.

In 2018, for the first time, IFN made available special 'registration packs' for those who entered details of

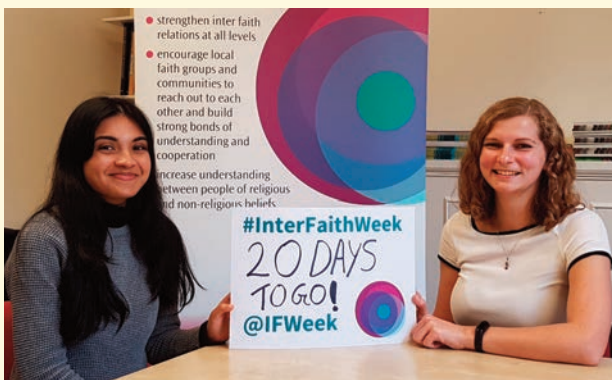
their own activities to the website. These included additional flyers, a poster, a copy of the publication 'Next Steps', badges, stickers, balloons, a pen, and information about how to increase participation, media attention and evaluate activities.

During the Week itself, IFN's activity to support the Week continues, with activities being added to the website daily. Social media activity increases further, including selective sharing/retweeting/liking of posts about the Week; creation of regular posts about different types of activity and topics; and the creation on Twitter of daily 'moments' highlighting some of the tweets about the Week featuring photographs and videos. Members of the IFN staff team and some trustees also visit and speak at a range of activities, for example Co-Chair Jatinder Singh Birdi spoke at a Kent County Council Kent, Kent SACRE and Kent Equality Cohesion Council Inter Faith Week event at County Hall in Maidstone.



Ashley Beck, IFN Inter Faith Development Officer and Bashir Ali, IFN Intern

Year-round, and especially in the run up to the Week, IFN works to ensure strong social media impact via Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. It encourages the use of the hashtag #InterFaithWeek across all three platforms. The Week has by far the largest reach on Twitter, which is a platform particularly well suited to posting from/ about events that are currently taking place.



Mehleen Rahman and Alice Bennington, IFN Clerical Assistants

Interns and volunteers form part of the Inter Faith Network's Inter Faith Week team and it is a great opportunity for them to learn new skills and develop greater understanding about the importance of Inter Faith Week, and inter faith activity more widely.

Top row, left to right:

The Kol Echad Jewish choir performing at a Wisbech Interfaith Forum event

A speaker at the Surrey Police round-table

Participants in 'Speed Faithing' at Leeds University Union

Young people from Ephrata Church in Bolton taking part in Bolton Interfaith Council's Multicultural Music Concert, part of the Bolton Light Festival and Inter Faith Week

Second row, left to right:

Participants in the Roses for Peace activity organised by North Kirklees Interfaith Council

Participants, including Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, at an Indian Jewish Association event on the lessons that Brits can learn from Indian and Jewish Communities

Panellists at the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum and CCJ Belfast Branch event 'Religious perspectives on culture, community and censorship'

Third row, left to right:

West Herts NHS staff promoting organ donation during Inter Faith Week

Participants at the Inter Faith Week Celebration in Nature organised by the London Wildlife Trust at Walthamstow Wetlands

Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP (speaking) and Toaha Qureshi MBE at the FIRD/ APPG on Faith and Society event

Fourth row, left to right:

Musicians playing as part of Light for Leeds, an event held by Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship, local faith communities and Kirkstall Abbey

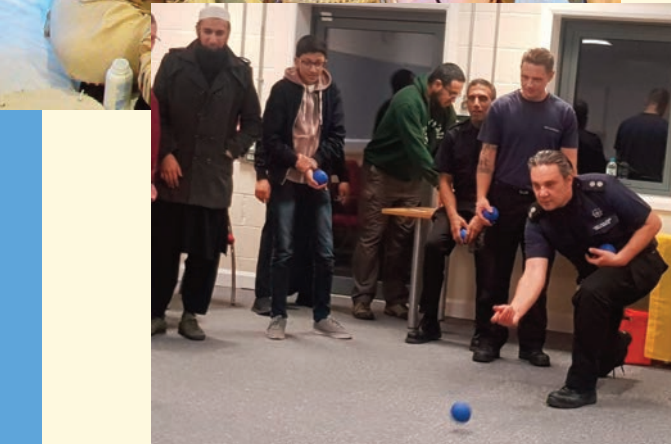
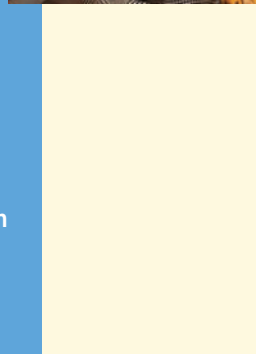
An LGBTQ+ evening of celebration, sharing a meal, and reflections on the theme 'Celebrating Our Stories' organised by the Faith and Belief Forum

Rotherham Interfaith Group and The Unity Centre litter pick in the town centre

Bottom row, left to right:

A Bocchia competition organised by Kumon Y'all in Dewsbury, with participation from local imams, priests, the Fire and Rescue Service and Police

Participants in a lantern-lit walk, part of the Walking Alongside Our Community/ Cyd-gerdded gyda'n cymuned event held by the Inter-faith Council for Wales/ Cyngor Rhyngffydd Cymru





Below: Gorsey Bank Primary School; IFN Trustees Mohinder Singh Chana, Julie Jones and Pejman Khojasteh; Dr Lakshmi Vyas and Derek McAuley; National Hindu Students Forum members; and Rabbi David Mason.



2018: THE BIGGEST WEEK YET!

This was the largest Inter Faith Week yet, with over 760 activities taking place to mark Inter Faith Week 2018 in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. Through these, thousands of people of different backgrounds, young and old, took part in the Week. It enabled mixing, learning and development of new ideas to strengthen relationships and increase religious literacy and practical cooperation on social issues.

There was an approximately 125% increase in social action activities (150) and also 127 inter faith Mitzvah Day activities linked to Inter Faith Week. Mitzvah Day is a Jewish led day of social action and volunteering with which IFN has a close working relationship.

A number of organisations and programmes supported and encouraged the holding of events in their areas. The Near Neighbours Programme of the Church of England and Church Urban Fund, for example, encouraged grant recipients and others to hold events.

In November 2018, tweets about the Week appeared on the feeds of 7.7million Twitter users a total of 27.9million times.

The Week was also featured in a number of local newspapers, radio shows and on websites and blogs.

The packs IFN sent to activity organisers meant that groups had access to more Inter Faith Week branded materials than in previous years, and this was reflected in many of the photos posted online during and after the Week. The packs included flyers and posters, and many event organisers also produced their own publicity materials with specific details about their activities. A selection of these is shown on page 22 of the report on the Week.



JUST A FEW OF THE KINDS OF EVENTS HELD FOR INTER FAITH WEEK:

- Remembrance events
- Celebrations, festivals, exhibitions and cultural activities
- Charity fundraisers and social action projects
- School events
- Competitions
- Civic receptions
- Sporting activities
- Conferences and seminars
- Discussions ranging from formal debates to chats over coffee
- Youth events – including campus activities
- Faith trails and open door days
- Inter faith sports
- Women's activities
- Radio broadcasts
- Inter faith concerts
- Activities featuring cooking and food



INTER FAITH WEEK 2018 AND #ARMISTICE 100

“The Armistice Centenary presents another opportunity for everyone to recognise the sacrifices of people from all backgrounds who lived, fought and died in the Great War.”

LORD BOURNE OF ABERYSTWYTH, MINISTER FOR FAITH

Remembrance Sunday 2018 was also the centenary of Armistice Day. IFN's social media campaign across the first weekend of Inter Faith Week had a particular focus on the national #Armistice100 campaign and on events being held to mark that and also Inter Faith Week. A special resource was

also published by IFN aimed at encouraging multi-faith remembrance activities.



Malcolm Deboo, President of Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe, addressing the event at BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha



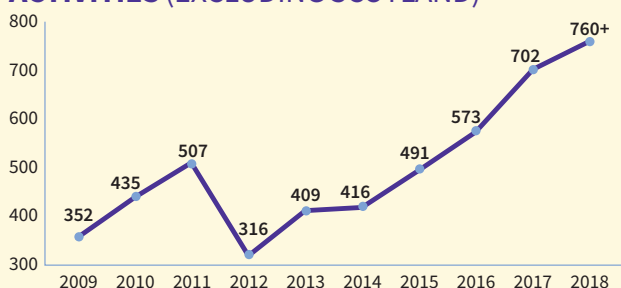
An event held by BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha in Neasden honouring the contribution of India and The Commonwealth during World War One

INTER FAITH WEEK 2018 IN NUMBERS

Over 760 activities are known to have taken place.

The chart at the top of the next page shows a breakdown of the events held during Inter Faith Week 2018 by type. These types were also used on the website to help people filter and find events which suit their interests, although in the reporting phases some activities are re-categorised to ensure a standard approach. Note: Many activities include aspects which fit into multiple categories, and so the numbers in the chart add up to more than the total number of events.

GROWTH IN NUMBER OF INTER FAITH ACTIVITIES (EXCLUDING SCOTLAND)



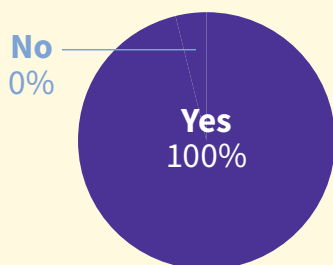
A full list of the activities known to have taken place to mark Inter Faith Week 2018 can be found at <https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/list-of-all-2018-inter-faith-week-activities>

785 organisations are known to have taken part in Inter Faith Week 2018

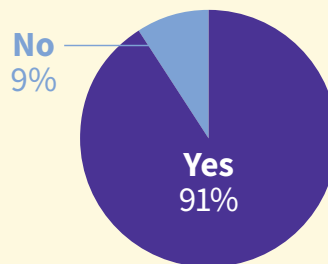
Many different types of organisation got involved with marking Inter Faith Week 2018. This is shown on the chart on the page opposite. The numbers given include all named organisations that IFN is certain took part in the Week. Each organisation has been categorised into one type only.

CHARTS FROM SURVEY:

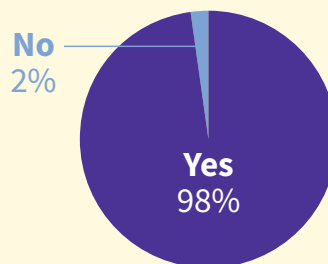
100% of survey respondents said Inter Faith Week should continue to take place each year.



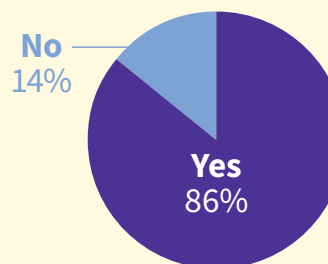
91% of activity organisers said they already were – or were likely to – plan an event to mark 2019



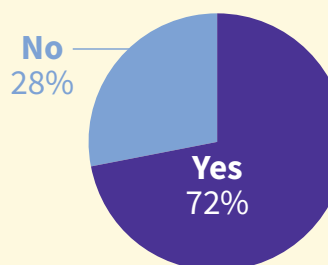
98% of survey respondents said that taking part in Inter Faith Week added value to their work



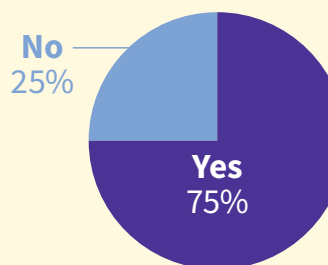
86% of survey respondents said their activity met or exceeded their expectations



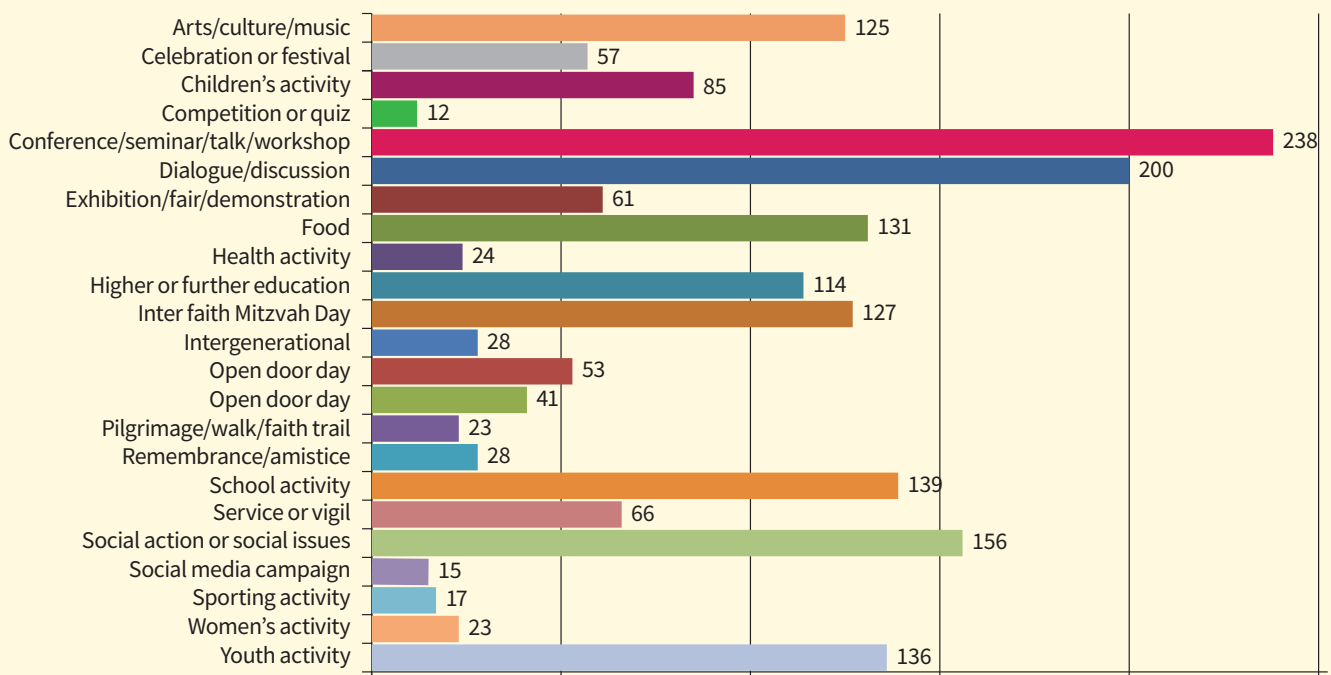
72% said that they did something they had not done before as part of Inter Faith Week



75% said the link with Remembrance Sunday should continue for the time being

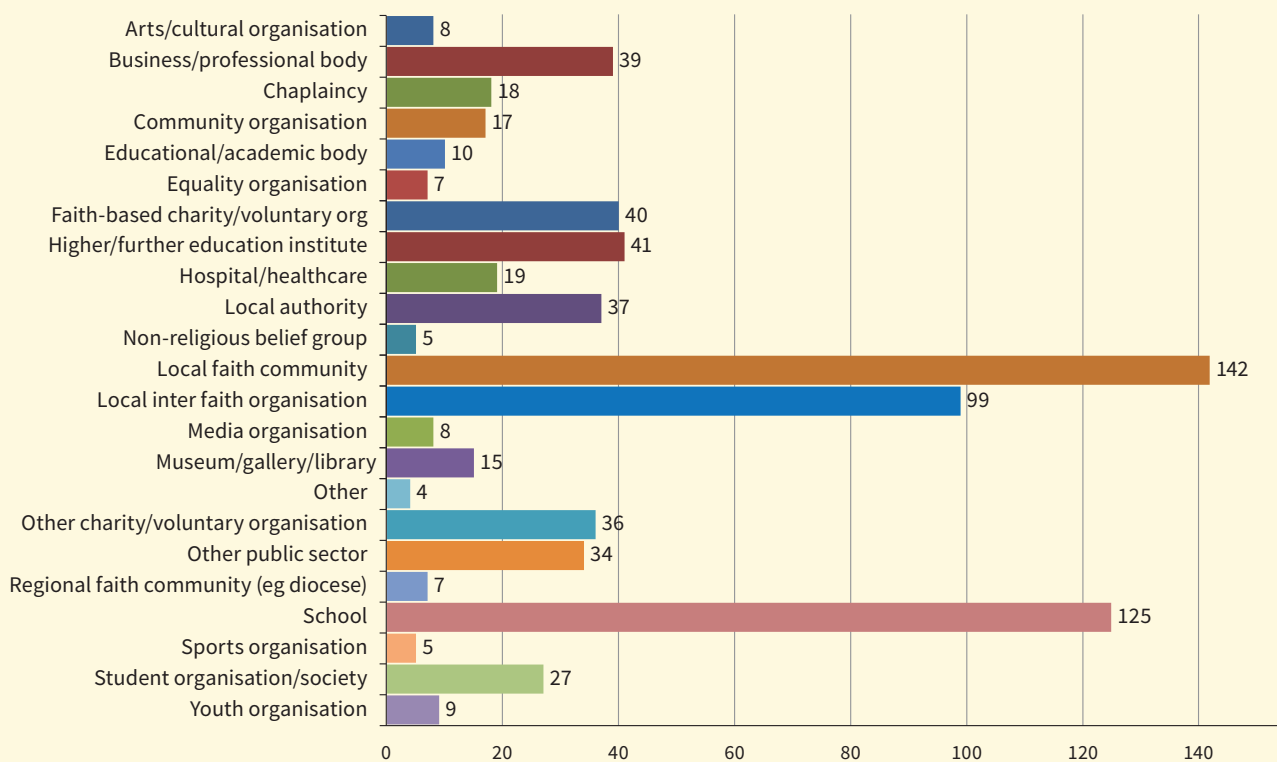


INTER FAITH WEEK 2018: ACTIVITY BY TYPE



Footnote: Except those marked 'Interfaith Mitzvah Day', activities can be assigned to multiple topic categories, reflecting the fact that many activities touch on multiple themes. There is significant overlap between the categories 'School activity' and 'children's activity'; and, 'Higher and further education activity' and 'youth activity.' The total number of activities with a youth/ children's dimension was 285.

INTER FAITH WEEK 2018: ORGANISATIONS BY TYPE





Poster advertising Inter Faith Week 2019

INTER FAITH WEEK 2019

The report on the Week, published in June, included a forward-facing section with planning tips for the 2019 Week.

A flyer about the 2019 Week was circulated in May 2019 and the Inter Faith Week 2019 programme was formally launched at IFN's 2019 National Meeting. Posters advertising the Week were available at the National Meeting, and were sent – along with flyers – to all university chaplaincies in England, Northern Ireland and Wales in July.



The Revd Liz Carnelley, Near Neighbours and Rabbi Maurice Michaels, IFN's Hon Treasurer



Inter Faith Week: Stories from 2018, Inspiration for 2019 being launched

THE UK AND THE WIDER WORLD

Some of IFN's member bodies, such as UK branches of international inter faith organisations, have a particular focus on inter faith activity and cross-faith work globally. These include the International Association for Religious Freedom (British Chapter), the International Interfaith Centre, Religions for Peace (UK) and the World Congress of Faiths.

The focus of IFN's own work is the UK. However, IFN's work – and inter faith work in the UK more generally – is of interest to governments, researchers, students and inter faith practitioners in other countries. Many make contact as part of exploring good practice around the world. This year there was discussion and sharing of good practice with enquirers from Dubai, Georgia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland and the USA. There was also input to a meeting of the Faith Communities Forum from Canada.

In December, a group from Singapore came to discuss with the IFN office its plans for what became the International Conference on Cohesive Societies which took place in June. IFN's Co-Chair Jatinder



Jatinder Singh Birdi, IFN Co-Chair and Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, Singapore

Singh Birdi attended the conference, sharing UK local inter faith experience with participants from many countries.



IFN produces publications on a wide range of topics linked to inter faith activity. These are all available to download free of charge from the website at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/publications>. Hard copies of most publications are also available on request from the IFN office.

TRUSTEES

At the 2019 AGM the Rt Revd Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Croydon, was elected as Co-Chair drawn from the National Faith Community Representative Bodies category of membership. His nomination came forward following advertisement of the role the previous Autumn throughout IFN's membership and consideration of expressions of interest by a panel appointed by the Board.

The Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE stood down after 5 years as Co-Chair. The following other Trustees also retired at the 2019 AGM: Dr Sandra Baillie; Mr Manjit Singh Bhogal; the Revd Canon Dr John Hall; Minister David Hopkins; Ms Lina Mar; Mr Nitin Palan MBE; and Mr Mike Stygal.

All retiring Trustees were warmly thanked for their contribution to IFN. Particular thanks were offered to Bishop Atkinson who had served as IFN Co-Chair since 2014 and to Mr Mike Stygal for his service as Chair of the Membership Subcommittee across the last year.

Among those elected as ordinary members of the Board for 2019–20 were eight people newly elected to the Board: Ms Jay Anderson; the Rt Revd Jonathan Clark; Mr Malcolm Deboo; Mrs Edit McCathie; Mrs Trupti Patel (who had served in the past); Mr Ed Petersen; Mr Es Rosen; and Dr Natubhai Shah MBE (who had served in the past).

IFN's Bye-law on Nomination and Appointment of Trustees notes at paragraph 3.1 that "It is an aspiration that the Board shall have equal

representation of men and women. Where there are fewer than eight Trustees of any one gender, the Board shall propose measures for increasing representation at the next following election." Following the 2019 AGM, there were 10 women and 12 men on the Board.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS ELECTED AT 2019 AGM

CO-CHAIRS

Mr Jatinder Singh Birdi
The Rt Revd Jonathan Clark

HONORARY TREASURER

Rabbi Maurice Michaels

TRUSTEES

Ms Jay Anderson
Mrs Josephine Backus
Mr John Keith Bishop
The Revd James Breslin
Mr Mohinder Singh Chana
Mr Malcolm Deboo
Professor Brian Gates MBE
Ms Julie Jones
Mr Pejman Khojasteh
Ms Sabira Lakha
Mrs Miriam Levene
Mrs Edit McCathie
Mrs Trupti Patel
Mr Ed Petersen
Mr Es Rosen
Dr Natubhai Shah MBE
Dr Maureen Sier
Ms Patricia Stoa
Ms Marie van der Zyl



Thank you presentation to the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE

HOW TO CONTACT US

ifnet@interfaith.org.uk
www.interfaith.org.uk
[www.twitter.com/IFNetUK](https://twitter.com/IFNetUK)
www.facebook.com/IFNetUK

MEMBERSHIP

The 2019 AGM accepted into provisional membership the following organisations:

National faith community representative bodies

- Institute of Jainology¹

Educational and Academic bodies

- The University of Lincoln Multi-Faith Chaplaincy
- The Faculty of Humanities and Performing Arts at the University of Wales Trinity St David
- OneSpirit Interfaith Foundation

Local inter faith organisations

- Hertsmere Forum of Faiths
- Kettering Interfaith Forum

The AGM also affirmed the full membership of the bodies which had been admitted into provisional

membership in 2017: Hull and East Riding Interfaith and Salford Interfaith Network.

The AGM noted that the following organisations had ceased to operate and were therefore withdrawn from IFN membership: Cherwell Faiths Forum, Coexist Foundation, Merseyside Council of Faiths, Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education, the World Islamic Mission and Wycombe Sharing of Faiths. It also noted that, in addition, the National Council of Hindu Temples (UK) was deemed to have withdrawn from membership in accordance with Article 10 of IFN's Articles of Association; and the following organisations had withdrawn from IFN membership due to significant financial or other operational difficulties; change of direction of their work; or other reasons: Eastbourne's Faiths Forum, Lokahi Foundation, Faith in Lancaster, Huddersfield Inter Faith Council and Inter Faith North/West [Northern Ireland].

The AGM agreed membership fee levels for 2020 and noted how IFN's pattern of membership was being kept under review.

¹ The Institute of Jainology has been a member body of IFN within the Educational and Academic bodies category since 1992. The nature of its work has evolved over time, and it now plays a linking role within its community. It therefore applied to the national faith community representative body category, and its acceptance into that category means that its membership as an educational body has ceased.

BECOMING A MEMBER BODY OF THE INTER FAITH NETWORK

Membership of the Inter Faith Network provides members with an important route for learning about and sharing good practice from a wide spectrum of other bodies which share a commitment to developing inter faith understanding and cooperation in the UK.

The participation and support of its member bodies are the foundation for IFN's work of building good inter faith relations.

IFN has four categories of membership: National faith community representative bodies; Local inter faith organisations; National and regional inter faith organisations; and Educational/academic bodies. IFN's member bodies share a commitment to the development of inter faith understanding and co-operation and to working together for this.

IFN welcomes applications from eligible bodies which share this commitment. The current Membership Admission Policy can be found at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/members/about-membership>. It explains the eligibility criteria, the application process, and links to guidance for applicants.

The IFN office will be happy to assist with any queries

IFN STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

STAFF

Mr Ashley Beck, Inter Faith Development Officer
 Mrs Hannah Cassidy, PA/ Senior Administrator p/t [0.9 FTE]
 Dr Harriet Crabtree OBE, Executive Director
 Mr David Hampshire, Assistant Director p/t [0.8 FTE]
 Mrs Keetha Singam, Bookkeeper p/t [0.3 FTE]
 Ms Alice Bennington, Clerical Assistant p/t [0.2 FTE] (to October 2018)
 Ms Isabelle Mischke, Clerical Assistant p/t [0.2 FTE] (October 2018 to March 2019)
 Ms Mehleen Rahman, Clerical Assistant p/t [0.2 FTE] (October 2018 to July 2019)
 Ms Meriem ben Ahmed, Clerical Assistant p/t [0.2 FTE] (June 2019 to July 2019)
 Mr Zac Lloyd, Project Assistant (until July 2018)

Mr Jaffor Bhuiya, Project Assistant (October 2018 to March 2019)
 Mr Bashir Ali, Intern p/t [0.6 FTE] (July 2018 to September 2018)
 Mr Joseph Kilsby, Intern p/t [0.4 FTE] (July 2018 to September 2018)
 Ms Tanya Bhanaut, Intern p/t [0.8 FTE] (January 2019 to March 2019)

IFN's internships add great value to its work. They also help interns gain skills for inter faith engagement. During this period it offered two short summer internships which were held by Bashir Ali, at that time a student at LSE, Joseph Kilsby, at that time studying at St Mary's Twickenham, and a longer internship to Tanya Bhanaut from Wales who had recently completed her studies at Birmingham University.



Keetha Singam, IFN Bookkeeper and Hannah Cassidy, IFN PA/Senior Administrator

VOLUNTEERS

Ms Natasha Blank
 Ms Caroline Elliker
 Mr Joseph Kilsby (to July 2018)
 Ms Natasha Raspudic (to October 2018)
 Mr Bashir Ali (June 2019)

Volunteers make a very important contribution to IFN's work. Some help on a one-off basis, others have volunteered for longer periods. IFN is grateful to them all for their contribution. If you are interested in volunteering, see Get Involved (page 55).



David Hampshire and Jaffor Bhuiya with Trustee Mohinder Singh Chana

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019–20

In September 2018, the Board agreed that the Strategic Plan time period should change from the calendar year to the fiscal year and extended the 2015–18 Strategic Plan to run to 31 March 2019. A Strategic Plan Working Group was set up by the Board at the same meeting to develop a new Strategic Plan to run from April 2019 to March 2022. Reflections were invited from member bodies and input was given by the Finance and General Purposes Subcommittee, the Membership Subcommittee and the Youth Inter Faith Engagement Advisory Group. A number of external stakeholders were also consulted.

The 2019–22 Strategic Plan was agreed by the Board in February and is structured around the following aims:

- 1 Raise awareness about and advocate for the importance of inter faith engagement, cooperation and dialogue and be a trusted source of information about this
- 2 Strengthen and increase opportunities for inter faith engagement at every level and widen participation in this
- 3 Continue to develop the Inter Faith Network for the UK's unique linking role and work towards new ways of engaging, including across the nations of the UK

- 4 Work with faith communities' and their members towards a society marked by mutual respect and shared commitment to the common good
- 5 Contribute to greater understanding about and between the different faith communities in the UK and to greater knowledge about, and skills for, inter faith engagement
- 6 Ensure that IFN is sustainable, effective, and able to respond quickly to challenges and change

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019–20

The Work Plan adopted for the coming year is based on the Strategic Plan. It includes: developing and publishing an inter faith resource for primary schools; holding local link meetings and a day event for local inter faith practitioners; holding meetings of IFN's Faith Communities Forum for representatives of member National Faith Community Representative bodies to discuss faith and public life issues; creating online resources for local inter faith organisations; holding meetings for national and regional inter faith organisations and educational and academic bodies, as well as the national inter faith linking bodies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; continuing to produce bi-monthly issues of IFN's e-bulletin; and leading on Inter Faith Week.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IFN'S WORK

The Inter Faith Network for the UK works in many different ways to support and encourage inter faith cooperation and understanding across the UK.

You can find out more about these at www.interfaith.org.uk, where you can also download a range of practical resources for building good inter faith relations.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to keep in touch with news and stories:

www.facebook.com/ifnetuk

www.twitter.com/IFNetUK

www.instagram.com/ifnetuk

Sign up to receive IFN's e-bulletin at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/ifn-e-bulletin>.

For more ways to engage with IFN and with other inter faith initiatives see page 55.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2017</i>
			<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and Legacies	43,082	422,508	465,590	416,649
Charitable Activities	—	60	60	280
Investment Income	—	24	24	19
Total income	43,082	422,592	465,674	416,948
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds	(8,634)	(27,750)	(36,384)	(40,479)
Charitable Activities				
Information, Advice and Comms	—	(79,857)	(79,857)	(61,567)
Meetings and Events	(13,636)	(118,134)	(131,770)	(110,333)
Publications and Research	(12,236)	(72,236)	(84,472)	(87,240)
Increasing Awareness & Engagement	(5,685)	(95,835)	(101,520)	(74,479)
Total expenditure	(40,191)	(393,812)	(434,003)	(374,098)
Net income (expenditure)/				
Net surplus (deficit) for the year	2,891	28,780	31,671	42,850
Reconciliation of funds:				
Funds at beginning of the year	1,299	97,374	98,673	55,823
Funds at the end of the year	4,190	126,154	130,344	98,673

All the charitable company's operations are classed as continuing.

All the charitable company's recognised gains and losses are shown above.

The movement on reserves is shown above.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

	2018		2017	
	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets		4,836		7,254
Current Assets				
Debtors and prepayments	29,685		15,036	
Cash at bank	112,251		109,774	
	141,936		124,810	
Creditors: amounts due within one year	(16,428)		(33,391)	
Net Current Assets		125,508		91,419
Net Assets		130,344		98,673
Funds				
Restricted Funds		4,190		1,299
Unrestricted Funds		126,154		97,374
Total Funds		130,344		98,673

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime. They were approved by the Board of Trustees on 11 June 2019 and signed on its behalf by Rabbi Maurice Michaels, Honorary Treasurer.

Note: The full Accounts and Trustees' Annual Report for 2018 can be accessed on the Charity Commission website.

Note: IFN received support on a fiscal year calendar from MHCLG and some funds carried forward relate to work due in the first Quarter of 2019.

SUPPORTERS IN 2018

The Inter Faith Network for the UK's programme of building good relations between the different faith communities in the UK is funded through support from faith communities, Government, trusts and individuals supportive of its work, as well as through the subscription fees of member bodies.

The Trustees of IFN thank most warmly all those who have given financial support during the calendar year 2018 and also those who have given the gifts of time, skills, and other in-kind support.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

The Inter Faith Network received support towards its work in 2018 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

TRUSTS, FOUNDATIONS AND COMPANIES

Alma Royalton Kisch Trust / Inter Faith Youth Trust
Lionel Wigram Trust
Westhill Endowment
Westminster Foundation

FAITH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Archbishops' Council of the Church of England
Quakers British Yearly Meeting
Yorkshire Jain Foundation

OTHER DONORS

Wisbech Interfaith Forum
Mr Jatinder Singh Birdi
Mr Keith Bishop
Canon John D Brown
Ms Deborah Cassidi
The late Mrs Elizabeth Crabtree
Miss Mehru Fitter
The Rt Revd Colin Fletcher OBE
Mr Henry Grunwald QC, OBE
Dr Elizabeth Harris
The late Mr Richard Hawthorne
Ms Salina Hoang
Mr William Hopkinson
Major (Retd) Rashid Laher
Mr Neville Nagler OBE
Mr Brian Pearce OBE
Mr Aubrey Rose CBE
Ms Clare Salters
Mr Rashid Siddiqui
The Revd Richard Tetlow
The Revd Kevin Tingay
The late Rt Revd Roy Williamson
The Revd Canon Michael Wolfe

As well as those who have given but prefer to remain anonymous.

Note: IFN's accounts are on a calendar year basis and the support of those who have kindly given in 2019 will be noted in the 2019–20 Annual Review.

GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

There are many different ways to find out more, keep in touch, and get involved in helping create inter faith cooperation and understanding:

KEEP IN TOUCH

- sign up to receive IFN's E-bulletin (www.interfaith.org.uk/news/ifn-e-bulletin/)
- 'like' us at www.facebook.com/IFNetUK
- follow us at www.twitter.com/IFNetUK and www.instagram.com/IFNetUK
- keep an eye on our regularly updated website at www.interfaith.org.uk

TAKE PART IN INTER FAITH WEEK

- take part in – or organise – an Inter Faith Week activity in your local area, workplace or place of study (www.interfaithweek.org)

GIFT YOUR TIME AND SKILLS

- volunteer at the Inter Faith Network office – find out more at www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/vacancies/volunteering
- volunteer your services and skills to help a national or local inter faith initiative. IFN's e-bulletin includes information on volunteering opportunities. More information can also be found at www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/vacancies/volunteering

MAKE A DONATION

- make a donation to support the work of your local inter faith organisation, a national inter faith initiative or other inter faith project or to support the work of the Inter Faith Network (details on how to do so are on page 56)

JOIN AN INTER FAITH GROUP OR INITIATIVE

- get involved through your own faith community if you belong to one (those in membership of IFN can be found at www.interfaith.org.uk/members/list)
- find out about the nearest local inter faith organisation to you and take part in its activities (www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/groups)
- join a national inter faith initiative which promotes inter faith understanding between particular faiths or works for a goal such as peace or social justice. You can find details at www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/find-a-national-initiative
- get involved in school or youth inter faith initiatives – take a look at www.interfaith.org.uk/activity/youth
- get involved in an inter faith society on campus – your Students' Union will be able to tell you if there is one. If there is not, you might like to help set one up. Helpful pointers can be found in the NUS resource Good Inter Faith Relations on Campus: A Toolkit at www.interfaithweek.org/uploads/Good_inter_faith_relations_on_campus_toolkit.pdf and IFN's Connect: A youth inter faith action guide at www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/connect

START AN INITIATIVE

- start a local inter faith initiative by reaching out to others in your local community. You might find the IFN/Near Neighbours Faiths Working Together Toolkit and the Local Inter Faith Guide helpful – both can be downloaded from www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/publications

SUPPORT OUR WORK TO INCREASE INTER FAITH UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION

THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR SUPPORT

Please help us to continue and extend our work to promote inter faith understanding and cooperation and help people of all backgrounds to live and work together with mutual respect and shared commitment to the common good.

EVERY GIFT, HOWEVER LARGE OR SMALL, IS VALUED AND CAREFULLY USED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

MAKE A GIFT

Please consider making a donation today to support the work of the Inter Faith Network. Gifts at all levels are valued and are used for maximum impact. You can donate using a debit or credit card through our website at www.interfaith.org.uk/donate, by PayPal at www.paypal.me/ifnetuk or by sending a cheque to The Inter Faith Network for the UK, 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH.

Thank You!

REMEMBERING A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND

From time to time we receive an 'in memoriam' gift after an individual has passed away, from a collection following their death or through a donation from their heirs. Such gifts provide a living memorial to a loved one, supporting inter faith understanding in this country – for now and for the future. If you would like to make a gift in memory of a loved one, you can contact us at remember@interfaith.org.uk or call us on 020 7730 0410.

A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

By leaving a gift in your will to the Inter Faith Network for the UK, you can leave a living inheritance to help deepen and strengthen inter faith understanding and cooperation in this country – for now and for the future.

If you are thinking about making a will, the best thing to do is to get in touch with a professional will writer, such as a solicitor or advocate; they can help to ensure it is legally correct and that your wishes are met. If you have already made a will, you can still make an addition or amendment in the form of a codicil. If you would like to pledge a gift, please provide our name and address, along with our registered charity number 1068934.

Please get in touch with us if you have any queries. You can call Hannah Cassidy, on 020 7730 0410 or contact us at remember@interfaith.org.uk.

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS OF THE INTER FAITH NETWORK FOR THE UK

FAITH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE BODIES

Baha'i Community of the UK
BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha
Board of Deputies of British Jews
British Muslim Forum
Buddhist Society
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
Churches Together in England
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
Council of African and Afro-Caribbean Churches (UK)
Druid Network
General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches
Hindu Council (UK)
Hindu Forum of Britain
Inter Faith Working Group of the Baptist Union of Great Britain
Institute of Jainology
Islamic Cultural Centre
Jain Network
Jamiat-e-Ulama Britain (Association of Muslim Scholars)
Methodist Church in Britain
Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board
Muslim Council of Britain
Network of Buddhist Organisations (UK)
Network of Sikh Organisations (UK)
Pagan Federation
Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations
Salvation Army United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland
Spiritualists' National Union
Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha of GB
United Reformed Church in the UK
Vishwa Hindu Parishad (UK)
World Ahlul-Bayt Islamic League
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

EDUCATIONAL AND ACADEMIC BODIES

Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme
Community Religions Project, University of Leeds
The Faculty of Humanities and Performing Arts at the University of Wales Trinity St David
Islamic Foundation
National Association of SACRES
OneSpirit Interfaith Foundation

Religious Education Council of England and Wales
Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter
The University of Lincoln Multi-Faith Chaplaincy
Wales Association of SACRES
Woolf Institute

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL INTER FAITH ORGANISATIONS

Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum
Interfaith Scotland
Inter-faith Council for Wales/Cyngor Rhyngffydd Cymru
Faiths Forum for London
North East Regional Faiths Network
South East England Faith Forum
All Faiths Network for the UK
Children of Abraham (Imams and Rabbis Council of the United Kingdom)
Christian Muslim Forum
Christians Aware Interfaith Programme
Council of Christians and Jews
Council of Dharmic Faiths
East of England Faiths Agency
Hindu Christian Forum
Interfaith Alliance UK
International Association for Religious Freedom (British Chapter)
International Interfaith Centre
Joseph Interfaith Foundation
London Boroughs Faiths Network
London Inter Faith Centre
London Society of Jews and Christians
Maimonides Interfaith Foundation
Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby
Religions for Peace (UK)
Scriptural Reasoning
St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace
St Philip's Centre for Study and Engagement in a Multi Faith Society
Three Faiths Forum
United Religions Initiative (UK)
Westminster Interfaith
Women's Interfaith Network
World Congress of Faiths

LOCAL INTER FAITH GROUPS

Altrincham Inter Faith Group
Learning Together, Living in Harmony (Aylesbury)
Barking and Dagenham Faith Forum
Barnet Multi-Faith Forum
Bedford Council of Faiths
Birmingham Council of Faiths
Blackpool Faith Forum

Bolton Interfaith Council
Faith Links (Bournemouth and Poole)
Bradford Concord Interfaith Society
Brent Multi-Faith Forum
Brighton and Hove Inter-Faith Contact Group
Bristol Inter Faith Group
Bristol Multi-Faith Forum
Building Bridges in Burnley
Calderdale Interfaith Council
Cambridge Inter-Faith Group
Canterbury and District Inter Faith Action
Cheltenham Inter Faith
Cleveland and Tees Valley Inter Faith Group
Cornwall Faiths Forum
Coventry Multi-Faith Forum
Crawley Interfaith Network
Faiths Together in Croydon
Cumbria Interfaith Forum
Devon Faith and Belief Forum
Dudley Borough Interfaith Network
Elmbridge Multi-Faith Forum
Exeter Faith and Belief Group
Gateshead Inter Faith Forum
Greater Yarmouth Inter Faith and Belief Network
Harrow Interfaith
Hastings and District Interfaith Forum
Hertsmere Forum of Faiths
Hillingdon Inter Faith Network
Horsham Interfaith Forum
Hounslow Friends of Faith
Hull and East Riding Interfaith
Inter Faith Isle of Man
Islington Faiths Forum
Keighley Interfaith Group
Kettering Interfaith Forum
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames Inter-Faith Forum
Faiths Together in Lambeth
Lancashire Forum of Faiths
Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship
Leeds Faiths Forum
Leicester Council of Faiths
Interfaith Forum for Leicestershire
Loughborough Council of Faiths
Luton Council of Faiths
Faith Network for Manchester
Mansfield Interfaith Group
Medway Inter Faith Action Forum
Interfaith MK (Milton Keynes)
Milton Keynes Council of Faiths
Newcastle Council of Faiths
Newham Association of Faiths
North Herts Faith Forum
North Kent Council for Inter Faith Relations – Kent
Thameside
North Kirklees Inter-Faith Council

North Lincolnshire Multi Faith Partnership
North Staffordshire Forum of Faiths
Northampton Inter Faith Forum
Norwich InterFaith Link
Nottingham Inter Faith Council
Oldham Inter Faith Forum
Building Bridges Pendle – Interfaith Community Project
Peterborough Inter-Faith Council
Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity
Portsmouth Inter Faith Forum
Preston Faith Forum
Redbridge Faith Forum
Rochdale Multi Faith Partnership
Rugby Inter Faith Forum
Salford Interfaith Network
Sheffield Inter Faith
Solihull Faiths Forum
South London Inter Faith Group
South Shropshire Interfaith Forum
Southampton Council of Faiths
Southwark Multi Faith Forum
Stafford and District Friends of Faith
Stratford-on-Avon Interfaith Forum
Swindon Inter Faith Group
Faiths United (Tameside)
Torbay Interfaith Forum
Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum
Wakefield Interfaith Network
Waltham Forest Faith Communities Forum
Warwick District Faiths Forum
Watford Inter Faith Association
Wellingborough Inter Faith Group
Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith Group
Westminster Faith Exchange
William Campbell-Taylor (City of London Interfaith)
Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum
Wisbech Interfaith Forum
Interfaith Wolverhampton
Worcestershire Inter-Faith Forum
York Interfaith Group

As at AGM July 2019



ANNUAL REVIEW 2018/2019



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