



IFN e-bulletin

January/February 2017

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If you have items which you would like considered for inclusion in the next e-bulletin please email these to ifnet@interfaith.org.uk by **15 March** with 'e-bulletin' in the subject line. Submissions may be edited for length or style. The e-bulletin is designed primarily to flag up new developments and projects and future events. If your organisation distributes a programme, newsletter or e-bulletin, please add ifnet@interfaith.org.uk to your mailing list.

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

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

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

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FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE UPDATES

Report of the Casey Review into integration and opportunity

In 2015, at the request of the then Prime Minister and Home Secretary, Dame Louise Casey was asked to undertake a review into integration and opportunity in the UK’s most isolated and deprived communities. On 5 December a report setting out the findings of that review was published. This can be downloaded from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-casey-review-a-review-into-opportunity-and-integration>.

Although commissioned by government, the Review was an independent one. It makes a number of recommendations, including to Government.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has a lead on faith and integration issues for Government and its Secretary of State, Sajid Javid MP, was reported as having said he would study the report's findings and outline policies in response to it in the Spring. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/sajid-javid-integration-louse-casey-review-integration-immigration-a7459006.html>

The House of Commons Communities and Local Government Select Committee, ahead of its session on the report, summarised thus: “The report found that segregation and social exclusion are at worrying levels and fuelling inequality in some areas of the country. Public bodies were accused of ignoring and even condoning divisive religious practices for fear of being called racists. But critics said the review was too critical of Britain's Muslim communities, exaggerated the lack of loyalty and English language skills among migrants and did not focus enough on factors such as poverty, poor housing and limited access to good education and skills training.” The Select Committee examined some of Dame Casey’s conclusions and recommendations and sought her view of how the Government has responded to the findings so far and what more she would like to see happen. It also put to her some of the criticism of her review, including concerns that it focuses too much on Britain's Muslim communities and that it overlooked wider social problems. <http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/7eb156b3-e651-461f-b705-552221c4d341>

A number of IFN member bodies have offered initial responses to the report, such as the Muslim Council of Britain <http://www.mcb.org.uk/casey-integration-review-muslim-council-of-britains-initial-response/>; Board of Deputies of British Jews <https://www.bod.org.uk/board-of-deputies-welcomes-general-direction-of-casey-review/>; Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales [http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2016/Casey-Review/\(language\)/eng-GB](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2016/Casey-Review/(language)/eng-GB;); and Christian Muslim Forum <http://www.yorkshirepost.stfi.re/news/opinion/toby-howarth-and-qari-asim-it-is-the-duty-of-all-of-us-to-help-build-cohesive-society-1-8278844?sf=vwxayzv#aa>. Lord Singh of Wimbledon, Director of the Network of Sikh Organisations, made comments in the context of a Parliamentary debate, which can be read at <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2016-12-06/debates/A3DD98D0-7182-4810-9DA0-5467BC97F261/CaseyReport#contribution-070455D1-08B3-4E7F-B115-03749518B441>.

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Holocaust Memorial Day

Many faith and inter bodies around the UK have been taking part in Holocaust Memorial Day events and projects. This year’s theme is ‘How can life go on?’ The UK HMD event took place on 26 January in London with contributions from Holocaust and other genocide survivors, as well as others, including Communities Secretary, Sajid Javid.

Work on such events is a significant part of the year of many local groups such as Bedford Council of Faiths, Harrow Interfaith, Faiths in Lancaster and Interfaith Wolverhampton. In

Scotland, Interfaith Scotland worked in partnership with East Dunbartonshire Council to arrange the Scottish National Holocaust Memorial Day commemorative event and IFS's Director, Dr Maureen Sier, gave a special reflection. A recording of her presentation can be seen at http://www.scottishparliament.tv/20170117_reflection. Saleem Kidwai of the Interfaith Council of Wales laid a wreath at the Holocaust Memorial Day service at Llandaff Cathedral - <http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/llandaff-cathedral-marks-holocaust-memorial-10796960>. Members of the Northern Ireland Inter Forum attended the national Northern Ireland Commemorative event which this year took place in Armagh - <http://hmd.org.uk/events/2016/northern-ireland-commemorative-event-armagh/fri-06012017-1444>.

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Prince of Wales speaks on reaching across boundaries of faith

On 30 January the Prince of Wales spoke at the Annual Dinner of World Jewish Relief. He spoke of how people of faith had shaped his life and expressed concern that “the horrific lessons of the last War seem to be in increasing danger of being forgotten”. He said “I have always thought that our own particular Faith is something that empowers and liberates us, not something that constrains us. That is why, in my own life, I have always tried to reach across the boundaries of faith and community; to extend a helping hand wherever one might be needed.” The full text of his speech can be found at <http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/speeches/speech-hrh-the-prince-of-wales-the-world-jewish-relief-dinner>.

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US President Executive Order with repercussions globally

An Executive Order issued by US President Trump on 27 January halted the entire US refugee programme for 120 days, indefinitely banned Syrian refugees, and suspended entry into the United States for 90 days of those from countries of particular concern referred to in the Immigration and Nationality Act (section 217(a)(12)). There has been concern within the UK about the impact on those affected and there have been a number of demonstrations <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-38790629> and statements, nationally and locally, such as those of the Muslim Council of Britain, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and Birmingham Faith Leaders' Group: <http://www.mcb.org.uk/trumps-muslim-ban-time-for-our-government-to-stand-up-for-british-values/>; <https://www.bod.org.uk/board-of-deputies-president-condemns-trump-bans-on-refugees/>. The Order was issued on 27 January which is Holocaust Memorial Day and a number of genocide charities also made statements: <http://www.srebrenica.org.uk/news/genocide-charities-condemn-president-trumps-muslim-ban/>.

Text of a debate held on the issue in the House of Commons on 30 January can be seen at <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2017-01-30/debates/448738C3-927F-481B-8340-809810F30595/ChangesInUSImmigrationPolicy#contribution-AE0DB10F-98CC-4903-8CFF-3E74967DDAE2>.

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Equality and Human Rights Commission materials on Religion or Belief

As foreshadowed in the last issue, in December the Equality and Human Rights Commission published a report and guidance from its 3-year programme of work on religion or belief – ‘Shared understandings: a new EHRC strategy to strengthen understanding of religion or belief in public life’.

The report, ‘Religion or belief: is the law working?’ looks at how well the law in Great Britain protects individuals with a religion or belief, or lack of religion or belief. It focuses on four areas: definitions of religion or belief; exceptions in the Equality Act; the law protecting employees; and the law protecting service users and service providers. It can be found at <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/religion-or-belief-frequently-asked-questions>.

The religion or belief guidance material includes ‘Religion or Belief: A guide to the law’, which provides an overview of the protections offered by the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998 of people with or without a religion or belief. It answers commonly asked questions such as those about what is indirect discrimination and can it ever be justified, and how much employers are expected to know about religion or belief in order to fulfil their legal obligations. The guidance can be found at www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/religion-or-belief.

There is also a section on ‘Religion or belief: how do I handle employee requests?’ which provides a decision-making tool for employers; and a section on ‘Frequently asked questions’ which focuses on some of the common questions facing employers today.

The EHRC has also produced a training module for line managers, which can be found at <https://elearning.acas.org.uk/course/> and a training course for trade union representatives, which can be found at <https://www.tuceducation.org.uk/mod/page/view.php?id=51438>.

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Increasing support for anti-hatred and anti-prejudice work

On 26 January Communities Secretary Sajid Javid announced £375,000 of new funding to further encourage the reporting and prevention of hate crime. The extra support will build

upon work the government is already doing to reduce hate crime, increase reporting and improve support for victims.

The new package is targeted at a range of existing organisations, working with faith and minority communities that have historically faced challenges in reporting hate crime. This includes funding to True Vision, the police reporting portal for hate crime, which will help encourage groups that face challenges in reporting hate crime including Sikh and Hindu communities and recent arrivals from Eastern Europe; True Vision will also work with National Churchwatch, an organisation which works to counter hate crime against the Christian community. Additional funding will go to National Hate Crime Awareness Week that takes place each October to develop the scope and depth of the programme and to encourage collaboration between anti-hate crime charities across the country.

For further information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-hate-crime-package-to-target-groups-at-need>.

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Anti-Prejudice Interventions - Building Capability and Evaluating ‘What Works’

In July 2016, the Equality and Human Rights Commission published a report called ‘Prejudice and unlawful behaviour: exploring levers for change’, setting out how prejudice relates to unlawful discrimination, harassment and identity-based violence. The report (<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/cy/node/5696>) identified a need for better evaluation on which anti-prejudice interventions are effective and why.

In late 2016, the Commission asked the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER) to develop guidance and training which will focus on identifying a minimum or ‘good enough’ standard of evaluation that allows organisations to evaluate interventions in a way that is proportionate and realistic, taking into account the various barriers to evaluation that some organisations may encounter.

Capacity building sessions on evaluating anti-prejudice work will take place on 16 February in Glasgow, 21 February in London and 22 February in Cardiff. These sessions will focus on developing effective, proportionate approaches to evaluating anti-prejudice projects or interventions, and will be especially useful for organisations with more limited experience of evaluation. Feedback from participants will be used to inform the detailed content of the guidance. Booking is available through <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/coalition-for-racial-equality-and-rights-12665798278>.

To ensure that that the guidance and training is appropriately informed, CRER also wish to learn from organisations with experience of evaluating (including self-evaluating) interventions that are intended to tackle prejudice, discrimination, identity based harassment and violence. Anyone with experience of this should contact carol@crer.org.uk.

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Extra funding boost to community projects

Minister for Faith and Integration Lord Bourne announced on 24 January a £210,000 funding boost to be shared among Near Neighbours community projects in England.

Near Neighbours funding brings together diverse communities and different faiths, through a range of activities that improve their lives and the local community in which they live. The first projects to benefit from the new funding include those improving employability through basic literacy and numeracy classes, and those bring communities together in unique ways to build personal skills like sewing classes and hospitality training to improve local relationships. For further information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/210000-funding-boost-to-community-projects>.

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Faith leaders call on Government to make the Istanbul Convention law in the UK

On 5 December a number of leaders from Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh communities came together at the House of Lords to launch a public call for the UK Government to make the Istanbul Convention on violence against women law in the UK. As part of their statement, faith leaders also called on MPs to support a Private Members Bill which would require the Government to ratify the Convention. The event was organised by IC Change, Faith Action and Restored, and was hosted by Lord McColl. A copy of the statement made by faith leaders is at <http://icchange.co.uk/faithcall>.

The Bill had its second reading in the House of Commons on 16 December and will now go to Committee Stage in the House of Commons on 30 January. Information on the passage of the Bill can be found at <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/preventingandcombatingviolenceagainstwomenanddomesticviolenceratificationofconvention.html>.

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APPG on RE

The August/September 2016 e-bulletin included an article on a report published by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Religious Education entitled *Improving Religious Literacy: A Contribution to the Debate*. A copy of the report and an executive summary can be found at: [http://www.fionabruce.mp/resources/APPG-on-RE-%E2%80%93-Improving-Religious-Literacy-\(full-report\).pdf](http://www.fionabruce.mp/resources/APPG-on-RE-%E2%80%93-Improving-Religious-Literacy-(full-report).pdf) and <http://fionabruce.mp/resources/Executive-Summary---All-Party-Parliamentary-Group-on-Religious-Education---Improving-Religious-Literacy---A-Contribution-to-the-Debate.pdf>.

The APPG is holding a series of meetings exploring the recommendations set out in that report. The most recent of these took place on 31 January and explored three areas: religious literacy and post-Brexit security; religious literacy for those involved in health and social care, and religious literacy in the work place.

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ResPublica report - Beyond Belief: Defending religious liberty through the British Bill of Rights

ResPublica has published a report entitled *Beyond Belief: Defending religious liberty through the British Bill of Rights*. The report argues that the new British Bill of Rights offers ‘a rare opportunity’ to do more to protect the freedoms of people of faith and ‘freedom to express religious belief.’-0- Further information is at <http://www.respublica.org.uk/our-work/publications/beyond-belief-defending-religious-liberty-british-bill-rights/>.

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Preliminary findings of An Exploration of Knowledge about Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief

Preliminary findings of research entitled *An Exploration of Knowledge about Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief* have been published. The research was commissioned by the Government’s National Working Group on Child Abuse Linked to Faith and Belief and has been carried out by Manchester Metropolitan University in partnership with The Victoria Climbié Foundation UK and Churches Child Protection Advisory Service. Further information is at <https://vcf-uk.org/new-research-child-abuse-linked-to-faith-and-belief/>.

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British Religion in Numbers 2016 report

British Religion in Numbers is an online religious data resource hosted by the University of Manchester. The latest statistics can be found at <http://www.brin.ac.uk/2017/counting-religion-in-britain-december-2016/>.

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Lammy Review findings and recommendations

The findings and recommendations of the Lammy Review are due to be announced shortly. The Review, chaired by David Lammy MP, is an independent review of the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals in the Criminal Justice System. For further information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/lammy-review/about>.

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INTER FAITH NETWORK FOR THE UK NEWS

Inter Faith Week and Scottish Interfaith Week

2017 Dates: 12 to 19 November

Inter Faith Week 2017 will take place in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from **Sunday 12 November to Sunday 19 November**. This year, as in 2016, the Week begins on Remembrance Sunday and many people of different faiths and beliefs will be marking that in some way. It is hoped that the additional Sunday will provide the opportunity for other weekend events to take place.

Scottish Interfaith Week will again be taking place on the same dates as Inter Faith Week. For further information, contact admin@interfaithscotland.org.

2016 Snapshots

New to the Inter Faith Week website is a series of 'snapshots' of different types of events held during the 2016 Week: from dialogue, to youth events, arts and cultures, social action and more. These can be found at: <https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/2016-snapshots>.

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INTER FAITH PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES AND DEVELOPMENTS

Launch of Religions for Peace UK Interfaith Youth Network

In December the Religions for Peace European Interfaith Youth Network's annual summit took place in Buckinghamshire. The theme of the weekend was 'Welcoming the Other: Multi-religious Youth Unite Against Extremism'.

A number of youth faith organisations from UK present at the Summit, including Soka Gakkai-UK, Coexister London, Focolare UK, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha, National Hindu Student Forum UK, Pandava Sena and UK Students Christian Movement, held two separate meetings during the Summit. During these they discussed the need for a country-based youth interfaith network in UK, building on some previous work on this. A strategic plan has been initiated and a core planning group and a UK Interfaith Youth Network was launched. For further information, visit <http://eiyn.eu/what-we-do/welcoming-the-other/38-rfp-eiyn-summit-and-training-multireligious-youth-against-religious-extremism>.

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Multi faith projects in Wales

The Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board aims to provide a comprehensive spiritual care service which encompasses those of different faiths as well as the spiritual needs of those of no faith. Pivotal to this service is the development of multi faith centres within its main hospitals. As part of this, a new development in its planning stage is the building of a multi faith centre as Ysbycy Glan Clwyd Hospital in partnership faith groups within the community. It is hoped that the new centre will be of pastoral and spiritual use to the diverse community.

The multi faith chaplaincy centre at Ysbycy Gwynedd in Bangor is working with a number of local schools in developing and understanding both the similarities and differences between world faiths. As part of this, the chaplaincy centre is running a series of visits for local schoolchildren to the chaplaincy, where they are welcomed by representatives of both the Christian and Muslim faiths. The children get to experience some of the main beliefs and practices of both faiths and develop an understanding of some of the common features which unite us on our particular faith journey. The project is also open to local community groups.

For more information about either project, contact the Rev Wynne Roberts at wynne.roberts@wales.nhs.uk.

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World Interfaith Harmony Week

World Interfaith Harmony Week is a UN recognised Week which takes place each year during the first week of February. The Week was proposed to the UN General Assembly by HM King Abdullah of Jordan, and the first UN World Interfaith Harmony Week took place in February 2011. Further information about the Week, including its aims and objectives, can be found on its website at <http://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com>.

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VisitMyMosque Day

VisitMyMosque is taking place on Sunday 5 February. It is a national initiative facilitated by the Muslim Council of Britain during which mosques across the UK organise open days, inviting in their neighbours and local community to share hospitality and to learn more about Islam and Muslims in the UK. This year the Day will be highlighting how ‘British Mosques are helping their Local Communities’ from supporting food banks and the economically vulnerable, to volunteers cleaning up local streets or visiting the elderly and sick in their neighbourhood. For further information and to find mosques taking part, visit <http://www.visitmymosque.org/>.

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3FF ParliaMentors Recruitment

Recruitment for the next cohort of 3FF’s UN award-winning leadership programme for students opens in 2 weeks. The programme provides the opportunity for university students to work in a diverse team, gain the skills to create social change and be mentored by an MP. For further information, visit www.3ff.org.uk/parliamentors.

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Stonewall Faith Role Models

Stonewall is running a Role Models Programme to give LGBT people of faith the opportunity to explore what it means to be an LGBT role model and the space to identify how they are going to create an inclusive environment for other LGBT people within their faith communities.

Stonewalls says: “The Role Models Programme is one of many empowerment programmes we have at Stonewall. We are striving to take these further and use them as a real force for social change. As part of that work, we are delighted to offer a free Role Models Programme specifically for people of faith.” For further information, visit <http://www.stonewall.org.uk/get-involved/get-involved-ind-and-comm/faith-role-models>.

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Faith communities and inter faith engagement

Across the coming months, IFN will be highlighting on social media some of the ways that national faith communities are working to increase inter faith understanding and cooperation. The first of the posts highlighted the Board of Deputies of British Jews Limmud Interfaith Tour which took participants to a number of places of worship in Birmingham - <https://www.bod.org.uk/interfaith-tour-provided-an-uplifting-end-to-the-year/>. The post features its visit to Guru Nanak Nishkam Sevak Jatha.

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RESOURCES AND STUDY/TRAINING

Inter Faith Learning, Dialogue and Cooperation: Next Steps

In November the Inter Faith Network for the UK published a new resource to help people to get involved in inter faith activity: *Inter Faith Learning, Dialogue and Cooperation: Next Steps*.

During Inter Faith Week, and at other times in the year, many people will have engaged with inter faith activity for the first time, either by meeting others of different faiths, or learning more about those with whom they share their communities. Some people's experiences prompt them to want to get further involved in inter faith learning, discussion and practical cooperation.

Next Steps is designed to help those wanting to get involved, or further involved, in inter faith learning, dialogue and cooperation. The booklet includes information and pointers about the different ways people can engage with those of other faiths and beliefs.

The resource can be downloaded from the Inter Faith Network and Inter Faith Week websites at www.interfaith.org.uk and www.interfaithweek.org respectively, and hard copies are available from the IFN office on request.

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Educational and Academic bodies in IFN membership

In November, as previously reported, IFN published a new resource: *Inter Faith Learning and Dialogue: Next Steps*. Further details are above. It can be downloaded at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/all-publications/all-publications/165-inter-faith-learning-dialogue-and-cooperation-next-steps/file>.

Next Steps includes information on how to get in touch with its member bodies. It also includes a chart showing some of the ways that our member bodies in the National and Regional Inter Faith and Educational and Academic categories of membership might be able to assist them.

In this issue of the e-bulletin we are profiling member Educational and Academic Bodies to give readers an idea of their work and the resource that they offer. Profiles for each body are included as a [supplement](#) at the end of this bulletin.

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Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource Library

The work of Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource (SIFRE) as a single body has come to an end after many years in which it has made a significant contribution to understanding about and between different faiths and beliefs in its area and beyond. The work will be continuing through a number of other organisations in the area.

SIFRE is keen to keep its library of books together and would be interested to know whether any IFN member bodies would be interested in acquiring it. There are 3,000 books in total, all of which are catalogued online at www.sifre.org.uk/lib/Library.htm, and shelving. Anyone interested should contact David Capey at office@eefa.net before 10 February.

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SPiRiT project materials on faith communities and energy

A project about faith communities and energy efficiency, co-funded by the European Union's Intelligent Energy Europe programme, has produced two summary sheets on the project in December: one sharing the key results of the project and another sharing the resources available to support others in engaging faith communities on energy efficiency. Both are available to view at <http://www.spirit-project.eu/spirit-summary-of-resources/>.

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Zutshi-Smith Symposium on The Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life

A year after the publication of the report of the Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life a symposium was held under the Zutshi-Smith benefaction at the

University of Bristol, which exists to advance discussion to promote peace and understanding amongst religions on the 15 and 16th December, 2016. At the symposium papers were presented on the themes of the report and reflecting on its findings and recommendations.

Public Spirit is publishing blogs based on some of the presentations. It has so far published blogs on legal themes and will shortly be publishing another set on education and on more general perspectives. They can be found at <http://www.publicspirit.org.uk/zutshi-smith-symposium-on-the-commission-on-religion-and-belief-in-british-public-life-introduction/>.

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Guide to insuring faith based organisations

CaSE Insurance was set up and remains part-owned by the charity NCVO and the charity lawyers, Bates Wells Braithwaite and an insurance specialist called aQmen Underwriting. It has been going for ten years and has over 4,000 charity, faith and not for profit clients.

It has developed its own Faith insurance policy in partnership with Aviva, and is offering a free guide on 'Insuring your faith based organisation' to members of the Inter Faith Network for the UK. For further information, visit <http://caseinsurance.co.uk/inter-faith-network-guide/>.

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Global NGO Online Technology report

The 2017 Global NGO Online Technology Report is a research project that seeks to gain a better understanding of how non-governmental organisations (NGOs) worldwide use online technology to engage their supporters and donors.

Sponsored by the Public Interest Registry and researched by Nonprofit Tech for Good, the report summarises how NGOs worldwide use web and email communications, online and mobile fundraising tools, and social and mobile media. The report can be downloaded from <http://techreport.ngo/english.html>.

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Religious Diversity and Anti-Discrimination workshops

The Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby is offering a range of tailor-made workshops to address issues surrounding diversity and discrimination related to religion,

gender and sexuality. Programmes include: Religious Diversity and Ant-Discrimination; Religious Literacy; Islamophobia; Anti-Semitism; and Religion, Gender and Sexual Orientation.

For further information, visit <http://multifaithcentre.org/training/> or contact the Centre on 01332 591285 or at mfc@derby.ac.uk.

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Registering, managing and accessing funding for faith charities

The Charity Commission and the Strengthening Faith Institutions Network is hosting a seminar on 'Registering, Managing, and Accessing Funding for Your Faith Charity' in London at 6pm on 9 February at Al Medina Mosque in Barking.

Charity Commission trainers will cover the essential elements concerning the registration and management of your faith organisation. In addition, an expert fundraiser will provide a short workshop covering: 1) Basic guidance on how to register your faith organisation as a charity; 2) effective charity management in different areas: such as governance, trustee duties, and financial reporting; and 3) practical methods of accessing mainstream funding for faith based projects and institutions.

Entry is free with advance registration only. To register, visit barking-dagenham.eventbrite.co.uk, or for further information, contact Rabbi Natan Levy, Head of Operations, Strengthening Faith Institutions, on 07590 028 823 or at natan@sfitogether.org.

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CALLS FOR INFORMATION, COMPETITIONS, AND NOMINATIONS

2016 Inter Faith Week overview

An overview report on Inter Faith Week 2016 is being put together. This will draw on survey responses, information on registered events and photographs of events.

Thank you to all event holders who have responded to the survey. If you have not yet responded and would like to do so this will remain open until Friday 3 February and can be found at <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Y3TC3>.

We would also welcome jpegs of photographs of events and copies of any reports on events that member bodies have held. These can be sent to Zac.Intern@interfaith.org.uk.

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Inter faith work of faith communities

The IFN office is always glad to receive information about faith communities' inter faith work – locally, regionally and nationally. If you have examples of work which you think might be a helpful template for others, email details to ifnet@interfaith.org.uk.

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Modern Places of Worship survey

The Baroness Warsi Foundation's 'Modern Places of Worship' project, explores the interplay between architecture, faith and identity from both an historic and a modern perspective. Empowering Design Practices is a research project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and explores how community-led design can help empower those who look after historic places of worship to create more open, vibrant and sustainable places that respect and enhance their heritage.

As part of these projects, a survey is being undertaken to inform understanding of how individuals and communities view the future of places of worship in the UK and their place in society. The survey is available at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/designpow.

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Welcoming the Stranger short story competition

A reminder that the Multi Faith Centre at the University of Derby is running a Short Story Competition entitled 'Welcoming the Stranger'.

Participants are invited to submit a short story, which is a work of fiction, on the theme of the stranger being welcomed. The competition is open to all. For those under 18 years of age, the story should be 1,000 to 1,500 words; for those over 18 years, it should be between 2,000 and 2,500 words. Winning and highly recommended stories will be read aloud at a Prize Evening in May at the Multi Faith Centre in Derby. Entries must be submitted between 1 January and 3 March. For further information, including terms and conditions, visit www.multifaithcentre.org.

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Sandford St Martin Trust Awards

The 2017 Sandford St Martin Trust Awards is still open for entries. The awards are for radio, TV and online content exploring religious, spiritual or ethical themes.

Applications are encouraged from news, current affairs, drama, music, arts, children's and comedy genres, as well as from specifically 'religious' commissions. Programmes that challenge as well as support faith are among those that have been previously recognised by the Awards.

The 2017 Awards will be presented at Lambeth Palace in June. The closing date for entries is 3 February. For details on how to apply, visit www.sandfordawards.org.uk and for further information, contact Anna McNamee on 07899 800758 or at anna.mcnamee@sandfordawards.org.uk.

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Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

The Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies is taking place from 15 to 17 March in the Oxford University Church of St Mary. Papers on any aspect of religious studies are invited. The deadline for proposals is 20 February. For further information, visit <https://www.oxfordsymposiumonreligiousstudies.com/>.

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JOBS, INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING

Inter Faith Network for the UK - Volunteers and interns

The Inter Faith Network for the UK has regular volunteering opportunities and occasional internships. Further information about these can be found on IFN's website.

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Interfaith Glasgow – Volunteers

Female volunteers

Interfaith Glasgow is looking to recruit a small group of female volunteers from diverse traditions to share their stories on head coverings. Sharing Stories volunteers will participate in 4 free storytelling workshops during February and March 2017 and will have the opportunity to share their story at a special event during Islam Awareness week (27 March to 2 April). Any females interested, should visit www.interfaithglasgow.org/get-

[involved](#) or contact Magdalen at magdalen.lambkin@interfaithglasgow.org or on 0141 5580778.

Weekend Club

Interfaith Glasgow's Weekend Club for refugees and asylum seekers continues to grow and is looking for volunteers to join its team delivering fun and engaging activities for people new to the city and in need of a warm welcome. For further information, contact Mohamed at weekendclub@interfaithglasgow.org.

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St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace – IT consultant and Digital Design and Communications Intern

The St Ethelburga's Centre will shortly be recruiting an IT consultant to maintain and update its IT systems. For further information and a job description, email adam@stethelburgas.org. It is also seeking to recruit an Intern to help with work including publicity design, website, social media and images and written publications; and to support the Director with research, logistics and administration. For a full role outline and details on how to apply, visit <https://www.stethelburgas.org/digital-design-and-communications-4-month-internship>. The Centre also has volunteer opportunities for a Health and Safety Advisor and for Fundraising support. For further information, visit <https://www.stethelburgas.org/current-opportunities>.

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INFORM - Researcher

Inform is a small educational charity housed at the London School of Economics, which “collects, evaluates and disseminates information about minority religions”. It is seeking a Researcher on a full-time or part-time basis.

The Researcher will be responsible for contributing to particular research projects and for helping to enhance Inform's capacity to monitor and analyse minority religions and public responses to them. For more information, including how to apply, visit www.inform.ac. The closing date for applications is Friday 24 February.

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Beyond the Ordinary RE Teacher recruitment campaign

The Religious Education Council of England and Wales is now into the third year of its Beyond the Ordinary RE Teacher recruitment campaign.

It has posted on its website five ways that people can get involved in supporting RE teacher recruitment <http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/public-engagement/news/2017-01-18/five-ways-you-can-support-re-teacher-recruitment>; and also created a YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzvZTFmp6qc>. The Teach RE website gives more information about the campaign and about RE teaching as a career - <http://www.teachre.co.uk/beyondtheordinary/>.

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Common Good funding programme

The Department for Communities and Local Government is providing £250,000 of ‘small grants funding’ through its ‘Common Good’ programme, managed by the Church Urban Fund. The programme is offering grants between £250 and £5,000.

The Church Urban Fund notes that the purpose of grants is to “address recent and long entrenched tensions in local areas between faith and ethnic communities, where there are reported incidents of intolerance, to build connections and increase levels of trust and mutual support, as well as encouraging people to develop practical activities to bring about change. Applications are particularly encouraged “from areas where there has been significant migration from European countries and settlement of asylum seekers and refugees, and areas where our networks and/or news reports have indicated that there are tensions.”

Grants from the Common Good Fund are available across England, except for the areas where Near Neighbours Small Grants are available. The deadline for applications is Monday 27 February. For further information, visit <https://www.cuf.org.uk/common-good-fund>.

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Building a Stronger Britain Together programme

The Home Office has recently announced the second release of grants from its Building a Stronger Britain Together programme, which provides “funding and support for groups involved in counter-extremism projects in their communities”. The programme is offering two kinds of support:

- in-kind support (such as social media training, technical assistance to help a group improve their website, or capacity building work to help a group protect more vulnerable individuals)
- grants: targeted funding for specific projects with demonstrable outcomes which provide a positive alternative to extremist voices

The deadline for grants is 5pm on 6 February. It is open to bodies in England and Wales. There is a fixed amount of funding available and bids will be considered on a first-come-first-served basis. The call for in-kind support will remain open all year.

Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/building-a-stronger-britain-together>.

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Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund

Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund awards grants to support Scotland's most fragile urban and rural communities. Its first grants in 2017 will focus exclusively on projects focusing on work with children and young adults and it is calling for applications from faith-based registered charities, which either work with, or aim to begin working with people under the age of 18. It is offering awards for one year of up to £5,000 and all funds must be spent within 12 months of the Award Date.

The deadline for applications is 10 February. It is open to all charities which meet its criteria and have never received funding from the STV Children's Appeal. For more information call Chris on 0141 221 4544 or visit

<http://www.faithincommunityscotland.org/faith-in-community-scotland-action-fund/>.

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Tesco Bags of Help

Bags of Help is Tesco's local community grant scheme where the money raised from the 5p bag levy in Tesco stores is being used to fund community projects across the UK. The projects must meet the criteria of promoting community participation in the development and use of outdoor spaces. Bags of Help is administered by Groundwork in England and Wales and supported in Scotland by Greenspace Scotland. (It is not available in Northern Ireland where carrier bag money is managed centrally.)

Three local community projects will be voted on in Tesco stores each month across Tesco regions throughout England, Scotland and Wales. In each region, the project that received the most votes from all stores in their region will receive a grant of up to £5,000. The second placed project receives up to £2,000 and third placed up to £1,000. Every year, over 7,000 projects will receive funding through this scheme.

Grants are awarded to voluntary or community organisations (including registered charities/companies), schools, health bodies (eg Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS Hospital Trust, Foundation Trust), Parish/Town Councils, local authorities and social housing providers. For detailed information on criteria and how to apply, visit

<http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/tescocommunityscheme/pages/Category/the-tesco-bags-of-help-programme-tes2>.

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Funding websites

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

Similar websites for funding in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found at Funding Scotland - <http://www.fundingscotland.com/> - Wales Council for Voluntary Action - <http://www.wcva.org.uk/funding/search> - and Grant Tracker for Northern Ireland - <https://www.grant-tracker.org/>.

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Heritage Lottery Fund grants to commemorate First World War

The Heritage Lottery Fund has made an additional £4million of funding available so that more communities can get involved in projects marking the Centenary of the First World War. Projects applying for funding must be able to meet one of a number of successful outcomes based on heritage, people and communities. Grants can be given between £3,000 and £10,000. There is no current deadline for applications.

Further information can be found at <https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes/first-world-war-then-and-now>.

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Community foundations

Community foundations are local, grant-making organisations to which local community organisations can apply for funding. There are 48 community foundations in the UK, covering Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England. They provide donors with information about local needs, what groups are tackling which issues, and how donations can be strategic and best support the community. A map of community foundations across the UK and how to contact them, can be found at http://ukcommunityfoundations.org/community_foundations/map.

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Comic Relief Stronger Communities grants

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

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Transform Foundation

The Transform Foundation is offering funding to charities to help with new website builds. Grants of £18,000 are available. For further information and to apply, visit www.transformfoundation.org.uk.

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Google, Microsoft and charities

The internet search engine Google is offering a service to registered charities which brings: Google Ad Grants: Free AdWords advertising to promote your website on Google through keyword targeting; YouTube Nonprofit Programme: Access exclusive resources, features and programs designed to maximise your organisation's impact on YouTube; and Google Apps for Non-profit: Free version of the Google Apps business productivity suite, including Gmail, Docs, Calendar and more. For further information, visit www.google.co.uk/intl/en/nonprofits/join.

Google is one among a number of companies and some others also have programmes to work with charities. See, for example, <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/about/charities-communities/charity-support/>.

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SUPPORT THE INTER FAITH NETWORK'S WORK TO INCREASE INTER FAITH UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION

THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR SUPPORT

We need your help to ensure that the Inter Faith Network for the UK's work to promote inter faith understanding and cooperation continues and grows, helping people of all backgrounds to live and work together with mutual respect and shared commitment to the common good.

Please consider making a gift today to support the work of the Inter Faith Network. Gifts at all levels are valued and make a difference. You can donate by credit card or PayPal online at www.interfaith.org.uk/donate or by sending a cheque to The Inter Faith Network for the UK, 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH.

REMEMBERING A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND

From time to time we receive an 'in memoriam' gift after an individual has passed away, funded 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, please get in touch by emailing remember@interfaith.org.uk or call us on 0207 730 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 0207 730 0410 or contact us at remember@interfaith.org.uk.

Every gift, however large or small, makes a difference.

Thank you!

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SPECIAL WEEKS/DAYS

VisitMyMosque Day takes place on 5 February www.visitmymosque.org

World Interfaith Harmony Week takes place in the first week of February <http://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com>

Sadaqa Day will take place on 26 March <http://mysadaqaday.org>

Islam Awareness Week will take place from 27 March to 2 April www.iaw.org.uk

Srebrenica Memorial Day will take place on 11 July www.srebrenica.org.uk

Peace One Day takes place on 21 September www.peaceoneday.org

Sewa Day will take place on 1 October www.sewaday.org

One World Week will take place from 22 to 29 October www.oneworldweek.org

National Inter Faith Week in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will be an ‘8 day week’ this year taking place from 12 to 19 November. www.interfaithweek.org

Scottish Interfaith Week will also take place from 12 to 19 November www.interfaithscotland.org/scottish-interfaith-week/

See more [above](#).

Mitzvah Day will take place on 19 November www.mitzvahday.org.uk/

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DIARY DATES

This section includes some of the events taking place around the UK. IFN includes information on diary dates between e-bulletins on its website at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/take-part/events>.

The **Southbank Centre** in London is running a festival throughout 2017 entitled ‘Belief and Beyond Belief’. The festival asks “what it means to be human by exploring the outpouring of music, art, science, philosophy and ritual stimulated by religion”. The second section of the festival, running from 1 to 25 February, focuses on ‘Science versus Religion: Do We Need to Choose?’. For further information, visit <http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/belief-and-beyond-belief>.

InterFaith MK is holding an event on Thursday 2 February on “Opportunity, Integration and Combatting Hatred” (breaking down the barriers of suspicion and ignorance). There will be a presentation and discussion led by Bulraj Bassral,

Project Director of the Equalities Council MK, which, in the light of the Casey Review on Integration and the Government's Anti-Hatred Strategy, will consider what can be done to create a more cohesive and compassionate community in Milton Keynes. The event is being held at 7.30pm at Gurdwara Baba Zorawar Singh ji Baba Fateh Singh ji, Phoenix Drive, Leadenhall, Milton Keynes MK6 5LU. Those wanting a guided tour of the Gurdwara should arrive 15 minutes early. For further information, contact interfaithmk@gmail.com.

Burngreave Ashram Multifaith Chapel & Library is hosting a Meditation/Prayer lunch and seminar on Monday 6 February from 12pm to 2.30pm. This will be led by Sara Clayton and Ruth Bird. It is being held at 86 Spital Hill, Sheffield S4 7LG. For further information, contact on BAMCL@outlook.com or call on 07932017929 or 01142436688.

York Interfaith Group is organising a visit on Tuesday 7 February to the Samye Dzong Buddhist Centre. The Centre is based at Londesborough Lodge, The Crescent, Scarborough YO11 2PW. Transport will be co-ordinated. For further information, contact yorkinterfaithgroup@gmail.com.

The **Northern Ireland Inter Faith Forum** is holding an event on Tuesday 7 February as part of the 4 Corners Festival Belfast and World Interfaith Harmony Week. The festival seeks to 'inspire people from across the city to transform it for the peace and prosperity of all'. The event is an evening of encounter in music, song and story on the theme of 'Harmony and Healing' and will bring together people of different faiths, including representatives from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim faiths from Belfast and beyond. The event is being held at 7.30pm at Grosvenor Hall, 5 Glengall Street, BT12 5AD. For more information, visit www.4cornersfestival.com or www.niinterfaithforum.org or email info@4cornersfestival.com.

Building Bridges in Burnley is holding its next 'Share Faith Share Food' event for women on Tuesday 7 February. The programme for the evening is a sharing of skills by various women. Anyone interested in sharing a skill or seeking further information, should contact bea_foster@hotmail.com or call 07875 517043. Participants are invited to bring food to share. This event is for women only. It takes place from 7pm to 9pm at the Faith Centre, Barden Lane Campus, Barden Lane, Burnley.

St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace is holding an event entitled 'Tales of Refugees' on Tuesday 7 February at 6.30pm. Writer and traveller along the migrant trail, Bruna Kadletz will talk about her experiences and of building relationships with Syrian refugees in her home-town in Brazil. There will also be a screening of a new film from the Global Oneness Project about the arrival of Syrian refugees in Canada, with the Executive Director, Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee. There is a fee to attend. The event is being held at St Ethelburga's Centre, 78 Bishopsgate, London, EC2N 4AG. For further information, contact Jo Winsloe Slater on jowinsloe@stethelburgas.org or call on 07725954005.

Northampton Inter Faith Forum is holding a 'Cake and Debate' event on Saturday 11 February. The event, on the theme 'Brexit and uncertainty; faith and the future', is being held from 3 to 4pm as part of an event to mark the opening of the new Meditation Centre.

It will include debate, art, music and henna painting. It is being held at The Market Sanctuary, Simon de Senlis Court, Northampton, NN1 3AE. For further information, email contact@niff.org.uk.

Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum is holding a series of inter faith dialogue events across the coming months. The next one takes place on Tuesday 14 February and will be asking ‘What advice would we give to our younger self?’ It is being held from 7pm to 9pm at St Mark’s Catholic Church, Dedworth Road, Dedworth, SL4 4JS. For more information, visit www.wamcf.org.

The Women’s Federation for World Peace is hosting an ‘Interfaith Peace Blessing’ on Saturday 18 February. The theme will be ‘Renewing our families and nation’ and there will be talks and prayers from different faith traditions, as well as music and refreshments. It takes place at 2.30pm for 3pm until 6pm at Arya Samaj, 178 Inkerman Street, Nechells, Birmingham B7 4SA. For further information contact Patricia Earle on 07540 998 724.

The London Inter Faith Centre and **Christian-Muslim Forum** are holding an afternoon seminar on Sunday 19 February on ‘Can we call ourselves one faith?’ Lunch will be provided. It takes place from 1pm to 4pm at the London Inter Faith Centre, 125 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6RG. For further information, visit <http://londoninterfaith.org.uk>.

Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship is holding a talk on Tuesday 21 February on ‘Brahma Kumari Ethics in Contemporary Society’. The speaker will be Dr David Goodman. This is being held at 7.30pm at the Brahma Kumari Centre, 241 Otley Road, Leeds LS16 5LQ. For further information, contact John Summerwill on 0113 2697895 or email membership@concord-leeds.org.uk.

Interfaith Wolverhampton is holding a ‘Bring and Share Lunch’ event on Tuesday 21 February. The speaker will be Will Foster, Minister, and Dean of Staffordshire at Wolverhampton University. This is being held from 12.45pm to 2pm at Darlington Street Methodist Centre, 24 School Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 4LF. For further information, contact admin@ifwton.org.uk or call 01902 427601.

Norwich InterFaith Link is holding a discussion on Tuesday 21 February entitled ‘Cover Up – Modesty, the Body and Show’. This is being held at 7.30pm at the Martineau Memorial Hall, 21 Colegate, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 1BN. There is a fee to attend. For further information, contact Chris on 01603 667314 or visit <http://norwichinterfaith.co.uk/contact.php>.

Crawley Interfaith Network is holding a talk on Thursday 23 February entitled ‘Britishness Today’. The speaker will be Henry Smith, MP for Crawley and member of the Conservative Party. The event is being held from 7pm to 9pm at the Crawley Library, Southgate Avenue, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 6HG. For further information, contact Iyad Daoud on contact@crawleyinterfaith.net or call on 01293 883372.

Bedford Council of Faiths is holding its AGM on Thursday 23rd February. The evening begins at 7pm with a finger buffet followed by a talk by Ben Salmonds, Break the Stigma Lead, Bedfordshire and Luton East London HNS Trust. The talk will be followed by the EGM where the new Constitution will be voted upon, and then the AGM. The meeting will be held at First Church of Christ, Scientist, Bedford, 84 Kimbolton Road, Bedford MK40 2PD. For further information, contact secretary.bcof@gmail.com.

Bristol Multi-Faith Forum is organising Bristol Diverse Doors Open Day on Sunday 26 February from 10.30am to 4pm. This annual event offers the opportunity to visit a range of places of worship in order to give the flavour of the many faiths in the city of Bristol. For those who do not want to do the trail on their own, there will be the option of joining a mini-bus tour of a few key places of worship. To book a seat on the mini-bus or for further information, contact Lily Khandker on 07789040267 (Available Tue, Thur and Fri) or email on info@bristolmultifaithforum.org.uk.

Faith in Lancaster is holding its next Faithshare meeting on Monday 27 February. The theme will be 'Fasting and Faith' because on the day after the Faithshare meeting, the Christian period of Lent begins. The event is being held at 7.30pm in Room 2, Quaker Meeting House, Lancaster, LA1 1TX. For further information, email info@faithinlancaster.org.uk or visit www.faithinlancaster.org.uk.

Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum is holding a series of inter faith dialogue events across the coming months. The next one takes place on Tuesday 28 February and will be asking 'How can we be happy?' It is being held from 7pm to 9pm at Maidenhead Synagogue, Grenfell Lodge, Ray Park Rd, Maidenhead SL6 8QX. For more information, visit www.wamcf.org.

The **Southbank Centre, London** is running a festival throughout 2017 entitled 'Belief and Beyond Belief'. The festival aims to question "what it means to be human by exploring the outpouring of music, art, science, philosophy and ritual stimulated by religion". The third section of the festival, running from 4 to 25 March, focuses on 'How Do We Live with Death'. For further information, visit <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/belief-and-beyond-belief>.

Nisa-Nashim is holding its Inaugural Conference entitled 'Challenging the Narrative' on Sunday 5 March from 9am to 5pm. The event will bring together Jewish and Muslim women of all ages from across the UK. The speakers will be the National Co-Chairs Laura Marks and Julie Siddiqi, as well as Members of Parliament, academics, and representatives of the media, business, and charity and community organisations. There is a fee to attend. The conference is being held at the University of Westminster, 101 New Cavendish Street, London, W1W 6XH. To register for the event, visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/register-to-attend-inaugural-nisa-nashim-conference-challenging-the-narrative-tickets-30552630741>. For further information, contact info@nisanashim.org.

Burngreave Ashram Multifaith Chapel & Library is hosting its next Meditation/Prayer lunch and seminar on Monday 6 March from 12pm to 2.30pm. The meditation and prayer

will be led by Sandra Dutson and Shelly Hinson. It is being held at 86 Spital Hill, Sheffield S4 7LG. For further information, email BAMCL@outlook.com or call 07932017929 or 01142436688.

Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship is holding a talk on 'The Workplace, Spirituality and Interfaith Dialogue' on Tuesday 7 March at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Revd Dr David Randolph-Horn. This is being held at the All Hallows Church, 24 Regent Terrace, Leeds, LS6 1NP. For further information, contact John Summerwill on 01132697895 or email membership@concord-leeds.org.uk.

The **Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter** is running a Study Day on Wednesday 8 March entitled 'I have forgiven according to your word (Numbers 14:20) Repentance in the Bible and in Jewish Tradition'. The day runs from 11am to 3.15pm and the speaker will be Rabbi Rachel Montagu. There is a suggested donation. This is being held at the Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter, 34 Chepstow Villas, London, W11 2QZ. For further information, visit <https://sioncentre.org/> or email sioncentrefordialogue@gmail.com.

York Interfaith Group is holding an event on Tuesday 14 March. It will begin with a 'Bring and Share' Meal with Music from 5.30pm to 7.30pm and will then be followed at 7.30pm by its Monthly Meeting, for which the theme is 'Six Interfaith Principles from the Bhagavad-Gita'. It is being held from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at the York Medical Society Rooms, 23 Stonegate, York YO1 8AW. For further information, contact yorkinterfaithgroup@gmail.com.

Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum is holding a series of inter faith dialogue events across the coming months. The next one takes place on Tuesday 14 March and will be asking 'What makes life meaningful?' It is being held from 7pm to 9pm at Maidenhead Mosque, Holmanleaze, Maidenhead SL6 8AW. For more information, visit www.wamcf.org.

Norwich InterFaith Link is holding a talk entitled 'Pocahontas: Propaganda, Legend, Hope' on Tuesday 21 March at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Chris Wood and the event will mark the 400th anniversary of Pocahontas' death. There is a fee to attend. This is being held at the Martineau Memorial Hall, 21 Colegate, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 1BN. For further information, contact Chris on 01603 667314 or visit <http://norwichinterfaith.co.uk/contact.php>.

Faith in Lancaster is holding its next Faithshare on Tuesday 21 March at 7.30pm. The theme for the meeting will be 'Life Beyond Death'. The meeting provides an opportunity to meet together in a safe and respectful space in which to share and learn about each other's beliefs, understandings, experiences, traditions and practices. This is being held in the William Stout Room, Quaker Meeting House, Lancaster, LA1 1TX. For further information, email info@faithinlancaster.org.uk or visit www.faithinlancaster.org.uk.

Crawley Interfaith Network is holding a talk entitled 'Spirituality and Religion' on Thursday 23 March from 7pm to 9pm. The speaker will be Dr Roger Prentice, founder of 'One Garden: Living Inter-Spirituality, realising oneness'. This is being held at the Civic Hall

Crawley, The Boulevard, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1UZ. For further information, contact Iyad Daoud at contact@crawleyinterfaith.net or call on 01293 883372.

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

Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum: www.niinterfaithforum.org

Interfaith Scotland: www.interfaithscotland.org

Inter-faith Council for Wales: www.interfaithwales.org.uk

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

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

Inter Faith Network for the UK, 2 Grosvenor Gardens London SW1W 0DH
www.interfaith.org.uk www.facebook.com/IFNetUK www.twitter.com/IFNetUK
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EDUCATIONAL AND ACADEMIC BODIES IN IFN MEMBERSHIP

Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme (CIP)

CIP was founded in 2002 to explore the relationship between Jews, Christians and Muslims and to pursue research and public education projects that would:

- bring together Jewish, Christian and Muslim participants, and others;
- be responsible to the religious communities, to society more generally, and to the academic disciplines;
- embed long-term inter-faith learning, collaboration and collegiality into Cambridge University and other institutions; and
- emphasise face to face discussion and joint study and research, including study of each other's scriptures.

Its four priorities are described as: Scriptural Reasoning, Public Education, Research and Resources. Key to its work is enabling the development of participants 'critical love for their own traditions'. Part of its work is drawing together and initiating academic research in relevant fields and making resources available to other academics and the wider public.

It works closely with Coexist House, is describes as a sister project. For further details see: <http://www.interfaith.cam.ac.uk/>

Community Religions Project (CRP) University of Leeds

CRP was established in 1976 with a remit to conduct research into religion in locality in Leeds and beyond. Since 2014 it has moved its emphasis to learning and teaching, supporting undergraduate courses and postgraduate programmes at the University. This includes engaging undergraduate students in research, as can be seen from the Religious Mapping of Leeds project, the reports of which can be found on the Project's website.

CRP retains a research archive that can be accessed through its website. An interesting part of this is a photographic archive which was started in the 1970s, with a focus on five prominent traditions within the city of Leeds: Sikhism, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Christianity. Photographs from the 1970s and updated in 2011 show the changes that have occurred over nearly half a century in Leeds.

For further details see: <http://arts.leeds.ac.uk/crp/>

Institute of Jainology (IoJ)

The IoJ has its origins in the 1980s when it became apparent that there was a need to coordinate Jain affairs across the Jain diaspora. Its objects are described as to:

- Provide a platform for interaction between different Jain communities and organisations, where all traditions jointly promote the faith and engage in discussions amongst themselves.

- Promote inter faith relationships to create a better understanding of the Jain faith and to acquaint the Jain community with other faiths.
- Create an awareness of the history, art, philosophy, and practices of Jain faith, including its relevance to today's world, particularly with regard to the respect for all living beings and environment.
- Provide opportunities for study of the faith, both at the community level and at institutions of higher learning. Offer lectures in Jainism, on request.
- Facilitate scholarly research on Jainism through the establishment of scholarships.
- Undertake the cataloguing and digitisation of Jain manuscripts and artefacts

Companies House recognises the organisation formally as an 'Institute'.

The Institute has a number of projects, of which two are Ahimsa Day and Jainpedia <http://www.jainpedia.org/>.

For further details see: <http://www.jainology.org/>

Islamic Foundation (IF)

The Islamic Foundation established in 1973, specialises in research, education and publications on different aspects of Islam, including contemporary issues. In the year 2000, the Islamic Foundation established The Markfield Institute of Higher Education specialising in graduate and post-graduate education, operating as an independent entity. (www.mihe.org.uk)

Part of the Foundation's mission is 'to act as a bridge between Muslim communities and non-Muslims' and it has regularly engaged in inter-faith dialogue. Its inter-faith work involves hosting conferences and seminars on inter-faith relations and dialogue including topics, such as, Islam and religious pluralism.

The IF has a policy research centre and conference centre at Markfield, Leicestershire. It runs courses for those who want to learn more about Islam, especially Islam in Britain. It has previously published the peer reviewed journal: *Encounters: Journal of Inter-Cultural Perspectives* which 'promotes a spirit of dialogue and mutual understanding between people of different religions and persuasions.'

For the last thirty-seven years IF has regularly published a quarterly journal entitled *The Muslim World Book Review*. The Foundation's unique library of 40,000 plus books and journals also provide facilities to access e-resources.

For further details see: <http://www.islamic-foundation.org.uk/>

The National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (NASACRE)

NASACRE was founded in March 1993 in the context of the changes to SACREs brought about by the 1988 Education Reform Act. It exists to support and strengthen SACREs and to represent SACREs on bodies such as the RE Council of England and Wales, as well as liaising directly with parliamentarians through the All Party Parliamentary Group on Religious Education, Department for Education and others.

Membership is open to SACREs in England (Wales having its own body and Scotland and Northern Ireland not having SACREs). It has a website with an area accessible to the public but many of its resources are restricted to paid-up member SACREs. NASACRE has an annual conference in May for SACREs.

NASACRE also collaborates with the Westhill Trust in mounting an annual programme of Awards to SACREs for projects educating pupils into diversity, as can be seen on its website. Projects should promote the skills needed to live in an increasingly diverse society, and help young people “to be able to encounter and talk with those who have beliefs and views different from their own, to break down barriers constructed through ignorance and fear of the unknown, and to challenge the resulting stereotypes which emerge in popular culture.”

For further details see: <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/>

Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC)

The REC was established in 1973 to represent the collective interests of a wide variety of professional associations and faith and belief communities in deepening and strengthening provision for Religious Education in England and Wales. It provides a forum where national organisations with an interest in supporting and promoting Religious Education in schools and colleges can share matters of common concern. As such it does not have individual members.

The RE Council has a programme of political engagement and develops resources to support religious educators. It also seeks to be an advocate for religious education and engages with the media to promote the subject.

One of the REC’s projects is its Young Ambassadors Scheme, which ‘gives students aged 11 - 18 opportunities to share their enthusiasm and interest for RE’.

In 2016 the REC established an independent Commission on RE, which aims to review the legal, education and policy frameworks for RE in English schools and colleges. The Commission will report in 2018 on its findings and make recommendations to Government about the future of RE.

For further details see: <http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/>

Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education (Shap)

In the spring of 1969 a conference on 'Comparative Religion in Education' was held at a hotel in the Cumbrian village of Shap. From that meeting the Shap Working Party of World Religions in Education developed. Of particular concern to it is accurate representation of beliefs and practices and how these relate to the lives of people of faith.

Shap is committed to:

- promoting excellence in the study of religions at all levels and in all types of education
- bringing together people who have expertise in both religious studies and religious education
- working with all in education
- supporting those in other spheres of professional life who work with different religious communities

Shap's best known contribution to supporting religious educators and others is through the eighteen month Shap Calendar of Religious Festivals. This can be purchased through its website.

The Working Party also offers an Advisory Service through its website and works with its contacts to provide answers.

Until 2009 Shap published a journal, all editions of which are freely available through its website.

For further details see: <http://www.shapworkingparty.org.uk/>

Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter (SCDE)

SCDE, located in the heart of London, provides a setting for study and growth in mutual understanding between Christians and Jews, as well as between other faiths and cultures. It is a place to listen to 'the other', to learn, reflect and respect. We offer a wide range of courses and lectures, as well as times for reflection and prayer. There is the opportunity to read and do research in our specialist library. We are also pleased to welcome outside groups who can use our conference facilities for their own seminars, training and meetings. SCDE is run by the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion, a Roman Catholic Congregation whose main task is to foster good relations between Christians and Jews as well as those of other faiths.

For further details see: www.sioncentre.org

The Woolf Institute (WI)

The WI was established in 1998 and is located in Cambridge.

The Institute studies how relations between Jews, Christians and Muslims can ‘enhance understanding of concepts of public life: community and identity, mutual respect, personal responsibility, and social solidarity. Combining theology with the social sciences and the humanities, it seeks to strengthen the ethical framework that is needed for political, economic and social life.’

The Institute engages in research with practical implications, post-graduate teaching and study, and offers a wide variety of tailored public education programmes, including leadership training, end-of-life courses (specifically for healthcare sector) and faith literacy programmes. It also offers e-learning packages, details of which are on its website. WI has recently engaged in the area of policy, including convening and supporting the independent Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life, chaired by Lady Butler-Sloss (see: <http://www.corab.org.uk/>) which produced the report: *Living with difference: community, diversity and the common good*. Students are culturally, religiously diverse and international.

The WI has a staff team of 15 as well as a number of affiliated tutors, lecturers, researchers and professors.

For further details see: <http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/>

Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE)

WASACRE was founded in 1995 to support the twenty-two SACREs in Wales in helping them fulfil their role as a result of the Education Reform Act 1988 and the *Circular for Religious Education and Collective Worship* in 1994 (published in Wales as Circular 10/94). It fulfils its remit by:

- member SACREs sending representation to the termly meetings of WASACRE
- organising relevant national initiatives and projects in the areas of religious education and collective worship
- speaking on behalf of all SACREs in Wales through engaging with relevant bodies and agencies, including the Welsh Government
- collating relevant key SACRE documents
- maintaining working relationships with equivalent bodies in England

WASACRE undertakes a number of projects and has contributed to the development of the curriculum by engaging with the Welsh Assembly Government. It provides a single point of reference for SACREs.

WASACRE also provides support for individual SACRE members through resources that it publishes. All of WASACREs publications and minutes are freely available through the website, as is relevant guidance that has been developed over the years by the Welsh government. Also available through its website are individual SACREs’ annual reports

For further details see: <http://www.wasacre.org.uk/index.html>