



# Annual Review 2011/2012

# The Inter Faith Network for the UK

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 of their common ground' and to promote good relations between people of different faiths in this country.

IFN links nearly 200 member bodies including: national representative bodies of the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian faiths; national, regional, local and other inter faith bodies; and educational and academic bodies with an interest in inter faith relations. It works with its member bodies and other agencies to help make the UK a place marked by mutual understanding and respect between people of different religions where all can practise their faith with integrity. It seeks to increase the opportunities for people of all ages to learn more about the importance of good inter faith relations. It:

- runs a helpline and publishes resources to help people working to promote good inter faith relations
- links, shares good practice between, and supports with advice and information the growing pattern of inter faith initiatives in the UK at national, regional and local levels
- provides a trusted neutral, non-denominational framework for people of different faiths to discuss issues of shared concern, reflecting on both the distinctive aspects and the common ground of their individual traditions
- in co-operation with the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish national inter faith linking bodies and Regional Faith Forums in England, fosters local inter faith co-operation and offers advice on patterns of local inter faith initiatives suitable to a particular local area as well as helpful contacts
- assists member organisations and other agencies, such as local authorities and other public bodies, to help strengthen their inter faith programmes and good practice
- fosters joint working by the faith communities on social issues
- arranges seminars and conferences and carries out research to pursue particular issues in greater depth, such as building good relations on campus, and developing bilateral dialogues

The Inter Faith Network's way of working is firmly based on the principle that dialogue and co-operation can only prosper if they are rooted in respectful relationships which do not blur or undermine the distinctiveness of different religious traditions. In its work, it proceeds by consensus wherever possible and not making statements on behalf of member bodies except after full consultation.

Further information about the Inter Faith Network can be found on its website: [www.interfaith.org.uk](http://www.interfaith.org.uk) or by writing to its office.

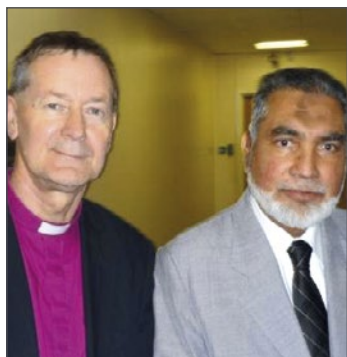


# Annual Review 2011/2012

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# Message from the Co-Chairs



2012 saw the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN) which continued to carry forward its vital work during the year under review. The Trustees believe that its work has made a significant contribution to the wellbeing of our society.

Messages of good will and congratulations linked to the 25th Anniversary were received from many quarters during the year and IFN's Anniversary and its work were noted warmly in speeches in the House of Lords by Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea and Lord Sacks of

Aldgate as well as in farewell reflections at a special Inter Faith Week event in November 2011 by Dr Rowan Williams, then Archbishop of Canterbury.

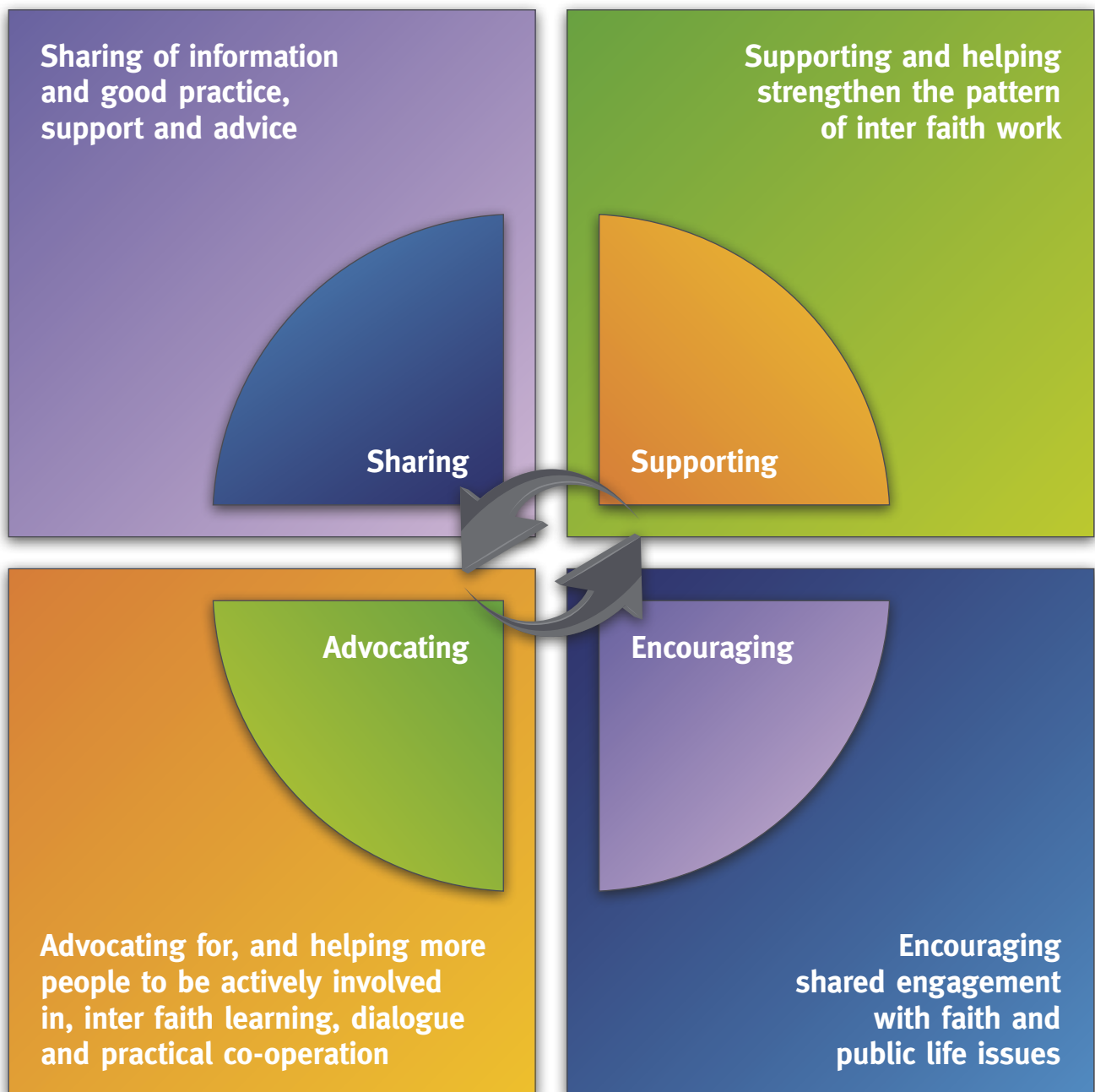
IFN's National Meeting in July 2012 provided the main opportunity to mark this milestone. In her opening words, keynote speaker Mrs Rosalind Preston OBE said: 'Across 25 years there has been a burgeoning of inter faith engagement in the UK – for example, where in 1987 there were only around 30 local inter faith bodies, today there are over 250. Many have played a part but I believe that the role of IFN has been paramount: encouraging and supporting development through its publications, meetings and visits, and advocating constantly for the importance of the work.' We, alongside Vice-Chairs Dr Girdari Bhan, Dr Natubhai Shah and Lord Singh of Wimbledon and the first Director of IFN, Brian Pearce, offered reflections on the milestones of IFN's work across this time.

At the National Meeting, alongside the reflections on IFN's achievements of the last 25 years, there was discussion of the challenges and opportunities it faces as it moves forward in a changing landscape. These have been much discussed during the year, both within the Executive Committee and more widely, and at the 2012 AGM it was agreed to hold a Strategic Review to help IFN continue to develop across the coming years as a vital and valued resource for supporting the development of inter faith understanding and co-operation both locally and nationally in the UK today.

*Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern*

*Dr Manazir Ahsan MBE*

# How does the Inter Faith Network contribute to inter faith understanding and co-operation in the UK today?



The Inter Faith Network for the UK closed in 2024, with outward facing operations ceasing in April.

In order to ensure that the material in IFN's publications remained available to the public, to inter faith practitioners, and to scholars after IFN's closure, the copyright status of publications has been changed.

Except where otherwise noted, text content in this publication described as Copyright of the Inter Faith Network for the UK is now licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 4.0 International License](#). Unless noted otherwise, the text of guest speakers' presentations remains the copyright the speaker, and any non-textual content (eg photographs) remains copyright the Inter Faith Network for the UK or as stated.





# Sharing of information and good practice, support and advice



A very important aspect of IFN's work is helping member bodies and the general public through providing the kind of information and advice which can help new inter faith initiatives get off the ground and existing ones develop their work.

Its work therefore includes gathering and helping share information and good practice as part of supporting and strengthening inter faith understanding and good inter faith relations in the UK. It does this through:

- producing resources to help people working on inter faith projects
- helping enquirers
- responding to requests to speak about IFN's work and also specific issues such as the importance of the work of local inter faith bodies
- sending Circulars to member bodies
- responding to specific requests from member bodies for advice or engagement

Some examples of speaker visits in 2011/12 have been those to meetings of the North East Regional Faiths Network in Gateshead, North Staffordshire Forum of Faiths, the East of England Faiths Council; a range of Inter Faith Week events; events linked to A Year of Service; and some meetings specific to particular sectors, such as Higher Education.

IFN's office has provided, in consultation with its member bodies and others, information and advice to a wide range of organisations and individuals, ranging from local inter faith groups to chaplaincies, youth organisations and Government departments. They have included both grassroots initiatives and national and UK organisations. A number of requests for support and information this year related to the Diamond Jubilee and to the Olympics and Paralympics.

Some enquirers contacted IFN with one-off queries; others, such as Holocaust Memorial Day, contacted it as part of working on longer term projects to extend and deepen their pattern of engagement with faith communities. In a few cases there was more extensive involvement, such as with a Department for Communities and Local Government Diamond Jubilee related special programme called 'A Year of Service' and the Near Neighbours programme of the Church Urban Fund and Church of England.

## The UK and the wider world

The focus of IFN's work is on inter faith relations in the UK but it is interested to learn about relevant developments in inter faith work overseas and has a commitment to sharing the experiences of UK inter faith work with practitioners in other countries, particularly with Commonwealth and EU nations. There were a number of enquires and visits from these countries during the year. Notable examples included enquiries from Pakistan, Australia and France. A number of IFN's member bodies, such as UK branches of international inter faith organisations, have a particular focus on international issues and IFN draws attention to their work in these contexts.

During 2011-12 contribution to European learning on inter faith good practice included an IFN Project officer attending a seminar on religion and belief at the European Parliament in Brussels in May 2012 which was organised by the European Network on Religion and Belief (ENORB). An IFN Project Officer was invited to speak about Inter Faith Week and IFN at an Interreligiösen Konferenz in Frankfurt am Main in May hosted by the Interkultureller Rat in Deutschland (German Inter-cultural Council) and the Rat der Religionen Frankfurt (Council of Religions, Frankfurt).

# Supporting and helping strengthen the pattern of inter faith work in the UK



The Inter Faith Network helps existing faith and inter faith organisations to share information, learn from each other's good practice and to work towards effective complementary patterns of work and avoidance of duplication of effort. It does this through meetings for practitioners, publications and special focus meetings as well as through support and encouragement to other organisations to produce resources and develop programmes to increase inter faith understanding.

Another way in which IFN helps to promote and develop positive inter faith relations is by facilitating meetings about issues of common concern.

## National Meeting



John Caruana and Subi Shah



Joyce Sundram and Aliya Azam



Rosalind Preston and Dr Natubhai Shah



Delegates' workshop at the National Meeting



The 2012 National Meeting was on the theme of 'Working together for inter faith understanding and co-operation: the changing face of inter faith engagement'. The meeting explored how the face of inter faith dialogue and co-operation in the UK has changed across the last 25 years since IFN was founded, and addressed the present challenges and opportunities in the field. IFN's 25-year anniversary was celebrated at the meeting and a number of messages of support were displayed during the lunch hour.

There were workshops on 'Inter faith engagement in a changing world'; 'Resources for inter faith understanding and co-operation'; 'Tackling suspicion, prejudice and harassment'; 'Networking' – what is it?; 'Educating for inter faith understanding; Inclusion in inter faith contexts – aspirations and actualities'; and 'Religious/non-religious dialogue'.

In the course of 2011-2, a number of religious groupings not in membership of IFN in the national faith community representative body category continued to express interest in membership in this category and this was reflected in the 'Inclusion in Inter Faith Contexts' workshop at the National Meeting, as well as in some of the plenary presentations and contributions.

A full report on the day was produced and can be downloaded from [www.interfaith.org.uk/publications](http://www.interfaith.org.uk/publications)



Dr Girdhari Lal Bhan and Mary Hale



Mark Graham and Rabbi Alan Plancey

The 2012 AGM, held later the same day, also agreed a Strategic Review of IFN. This stemmed from preliminary discussions by the Executive Committee at its Autumn 2011 and Spring 2012 meetings, and discussion at the AGM of a Review. The Review is addressing: the place of IFN in the wider context of inter faith engagement and UK society; IFN's membership and patterns of engagement and consultation; programmes of work undertaken by IFN; the place and continued relevance of Inter Faith Week; the sustainability of IFN; medium term views on the future work of IFN; and governance and operational issues.

## Meeting of the national inter faith linking bodies

A meeting for the national inter faith linking bodies of the devolved nations and the UK, took place in Glasgow at the St Mungo Museum in May, organised by the IFN office and hosted by the Scottish Inter Faith Council. Participants exchanged updates on their programmes of work and discussed Inter Faith Week and Scottish Inter Faith Week; issues of membership and structure; and funding.



Meeting in Glasgow of the national inter faith linking bodies

## Faith Communities Forum

The Faith Communities Forum is a forum for member bodies of IFN in the category of national faith community representative body. It meets three or four times a year and provides a chance for discussion of current issues of interest and concern. External presenters are invited on issues of particular interest and concern, for example pending Parliamentary legislation. In this way it also operates as a route through which Government can consult faith communities multi-laterally. The work of the Forum in 2011-12 is described later in the section on Faith and Public Life.



**Dr Mananzir Ahsan and Mohinder Singh Chana at a Faith Communities Forum meeting**

## Local Inter Faith organisations

During 2011/12, the focus in terms of IFN's engagement with, and support of, local inter faith bodies has been phone support, visits to individual groups, circulation of information, and, in particular, Inter Faith Week. Local groups have continued to say that they find Inter Faith Week a very effective tool for raising the profile of their work.

Local inter faith bodies have for a number of years said that a key issue for them is how to get more people aware of their work and actively involved. This was one of the key reasons for the initiation of Inter Faith Week in 2009 and it is why Inter Faith Week has been developed with such a strong local focus.

Some preliminary work began in May 2012 to look at patterns of local inter body engagement with faith groups and of their funding. A very significant challenge noted by many member local groups has been the absence of funding to help keep aspects of their work going. Although they are largely volunteer driven, small grants are often vital to the holding of particular events or programmes and to having some administrative or development support.

## Meeting of the English Regional Faith Forums

A meeting of English Regional Faith Forums (RFF) in membership of IFN was held in June. In addition to sharing of news and good practice, items on the agenda included mutually reinforcing work at regional and national level to support local inter faith activity; 'A Year of Service'; Inter Faith Week; and relevant IFN governance; engagement with the Government's new 'integration' approach; and funding for inter faith work.

Government funding to English RFFs ceased from 1 April. Yorkshire and Humber RFF and East Midlands RFF ceased to operate by the end of the year.

## National and special focus inter faith bodies

Among the member bodies of IFN are inter faith organisations whose work is carried out at UK or national level or which, while holding programmes in a more limited geographical area, are used as a resource by people across the UK. Keeping national inter faith organisations in touch with each other and raising awareness about their work is an important part of the work of IFN. A meeting of these was held on 17 October. As well as the usual sharing of news of their work, the bodies discussed their plans for Inter Faith Week.

## Educational and Academic Bodies

IFN keeps in touch with developments through its participation in the Religious Education Council for England and Wales (REC) and the Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education and its links with the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE), which covers SACREs in England, and with the Wales Association of SACREs in Wales.

# Advocating for, and enabling more people to be actively involved in, inter faith learning, dialogue and practical co-operation

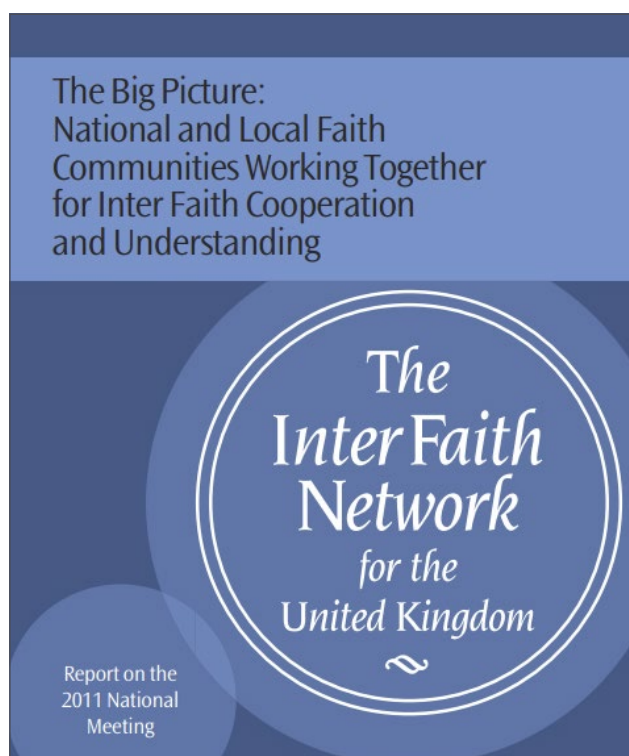


Recognition of the importance of inter faith understanding and inter faith co-operation continues to grow in our increasingly diverse society and IFN and its member bodies continue to make an important contribution to this. During the year in review IFN continued to advocate for greater involvement in, and support of, programmes to develop positive inter faith understanding and engagement and to help draw more people of all ages into this vital work. It also worked to increase opportunities for involvement and to help those working to put inter faith engagement at the heart of local communities and national society.

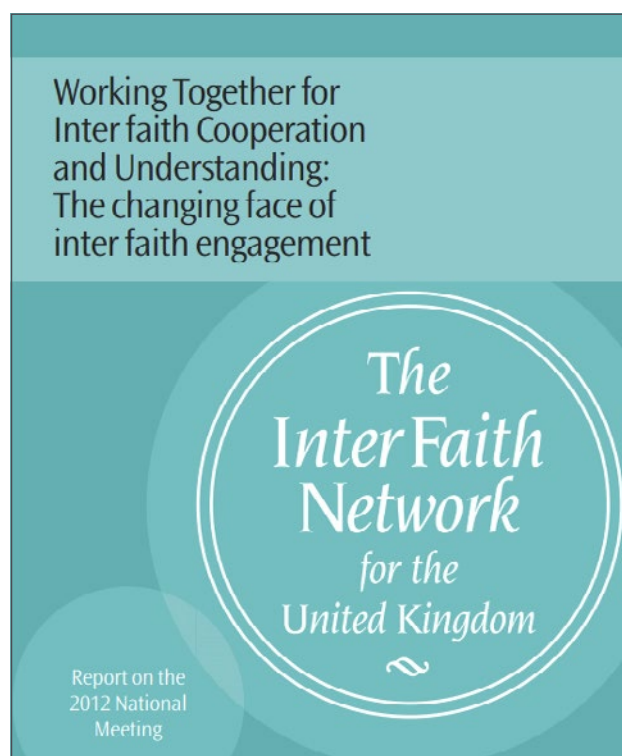
The Diamond Jubilee year of Her Majesty The Queen provided a special opportunity for this. The Queen has been, across Her reign, an encourager of inter faith understanding and engagement and of service to others and this was reflected in plans to mark the Jubilee. The Trustees of IFN wrote to offer their loyal greetings and their profound appreciation for her Majesty's continued service to the country and the Commonwealth, as well as her recognition of the significance of the contribution of faith communities to society.

As noted elsewhere, IFN contributed to the Diamond Jubilee linked project 'A Year of Service' (AYOS) initiated by the Department for Communities and Local Government in consultation with the faith communities. This programme was designed to highlight the voluntary service that people of faith carry out in their local communities, and forge links between volunteers. IFN had a particular role in keeping inter faith bodies in touch with the programme and encouraging engagement but also contributed more widely.

As one of the 'Key Supporting Organisations' of the Big Jubilee Lunch, IFN continued engagement with this body over outreach to faith communities and inter faith groups in the run up to the Big Jubilee Lunch on 3 June which formed part of the official Diamond Jubilee weekend celebrations. It was estimated that over 6 million people participated in the event, including many faith groups.



**The Big Picture: National and Local Faith Communities Working Together for Greater Inter Faith Co-operation and Understanding.**



**Working Together for Interfaith Co-operation and Understanding: The changing face of Inter faith engagement**



## Inter Faith Week

A key route through which IFN helps expand engagement with dialogue, learning and practical co-operation is Inter Faith Week. In 2009 it was decided by the Trustees of IFN to launch, in partnership with the Government for the first year, a national Inter Faith Week in England and Wales to help to broaden knowledge about, and involvement in, inter faith activity and co-operation as well as to increase knowledge about the different faith communities and their contribution to society. Northern Ireland joined in the Week in 2010. A separate, very successful, Inter Faith Week has run in Scotland since 2004, and was the inspiration for the Week in the other nations.



Story telling from different faith traditions at Dudley Borough Inter Faith Network's AGM event (Photo: Dudley CVS)



Liverpool Community Spirit Youth Council member leads a mehndi workshop (Photo: Joshua Terry, Liverpool Community Spirit)



The mayor of Preston at opening of a 'Multifaith Exhibition' with displays produced by students at Borough Business and Enterprise College at the Harris Museum Library. Organised by Preston Faiths Forum, Lancashire Forum of Faiths, Preston City Council, Lancashire County Council and the Harris Museum Library (Photo: PFF)



Archbishop Vincent Nichols and leading figures of the Zoroastrian community at the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe sesquicentennial celebrations in Inter Faith Week (Photo: Mazur/catholicnews.org.uk)

### The aims of Inter Faith Week are:

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



The Lord Singh of Wimbledon, Vivian Wineman and then Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams at IFN's national faith communities' conversation event



Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks and Communities Secretary Eric Pickles MP at the national faith communities' conversation event

Inter Faith Week has become perhaps the best known dimension of IFN's work and it helps groups around the country to profile their work and further widen participation in inter faith dialogue and co-operation.

Inter Faith Week 2011 took place from 20-26 November. The English Regional Faith Forums (RFFs) played an important role in relation to their respective regions, helping to encourage events and, in a number of cases, to hold regional launches or other events for the Week.

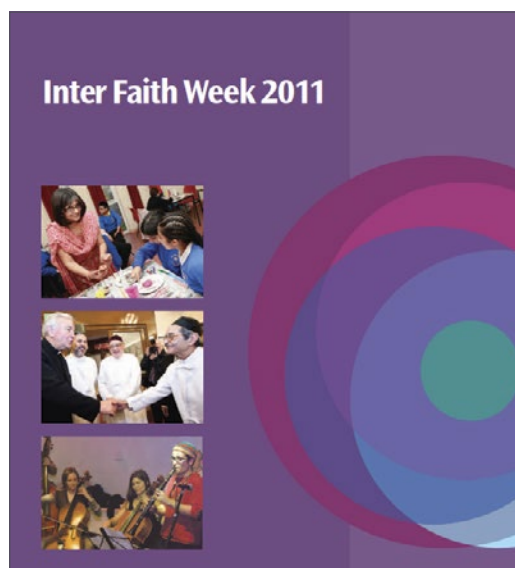


Participants in the national faith communities conversation event at Westminster Central Hall

Over 500 events, organised by 450 organisations, took place to mark the Week, bringing together thousands of people from all ages and backgrounds. This was an increase of 44% on the first Week in 2009. A wide range of organisations held events. Many did so in partnership with other groups – often working together for the first time. The different types of organisations which marked the Week, included: national and local faith communities; local, regional and national inter faith organisations; businesses and professional bodies;



local authorities; schools and SACREs; police, fire services and hospitals; libraries and museums; Higher and Further Education institutions; student unions and societies; youth organisations; community organisations; charities; and academic institutions, among others. Quite a number of events were run in partnership by different kinds of organisation.



IFN organised a national faith communities' conversation on 'Living well together in Britain today'. This event was held on 21 November at Central Hall Westminster. It drew together senior leaders and included opening reflections from the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams; Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks; and Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Eric Pickles. Videos of the three presentations can be found at [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org). Participants from the faith communities represented shared their reflections on a number of aspects of living well together as people of faith in the UK today, as well as engaging with wider society for the common good.

Part of the planning process for this event included the development of a set of questions on the theme 'Living well together in Britain today'. These were widely distributed to local and national faith and inter faith bodies, and are available on the Inter Faith Week website at [www.interfaithweek.org/resources/living-welltogether](http://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/living-welltogether).

Support of Inter Faith Week 2011, and preparation for Inter Faith Week 2012, including development of the website ([www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)), was a major part of IFN's work during the year. New online resources were developed to assist particular types of organisation which might want to take part. Online resources are available at [www.interfaithweek.org/resources](http://www.interfaithweek.org/resources). The online listing process was enhanced to include a searchable map; searchable categories, including ones for venue accessibility; and a facility enabling event organisers to submit event details directly through the national website. 54% of events known to have taken place were registered online. This increased the chances that members of the public could find events to attend and that journalists would pick up on the Week. 2011 saw a considerable increase in media coverage of the Week compared to previous years and Inter Faith Week made use of Twitter for the first time in 2011, tweeting as @IFWeek and encouraging the use of the hashtag #IFWeek.

After Inter Faith Week, organisations which had registered their event online at [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org) were invited to take part in a survey gauging reactions to it. Survey responses helped inform the illustrated report on the Week which was subsequently produced by IFN. This can be downloaded at [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org), together with a list of all events known to have taken place to mark the Week.

## 'LIVING WELL TOGETHER' IN BRITAIN TODAY

In Britain today, people of many different backgrounds live side by side as part of a shared society. Inter Faith Week 2011 is an opportunity to discuss and debate how we 'live well together'. The following questions have been developed in connection with a national faith communities' conversation happening during the Week and are offered for others who would like to draw on them to do so.

- a) What does it mean to live well together?
- b) What are the distinctive contributions that faith communities bring to the wellbeing of our shared society, both in Britain and globally?
- c) How do we discern and agree values held in common that underpin our shared society?
- d) How do we live out, with commitment and integrity, our faith/beliefs in a diverse society and in a society where religion is often misunderstood?
- e) How do we negotiate our differences effectively and courteously?
- f) Where best can religious communities work together for the good of our wider society?
- g) How can people of religious beliefs and non-religious beliefs engage constructively on issues of common concern and work for greater mutual understanding?
- h) What resources can we draw on from our religious traditions for positive engagement with our wider society, and how can these resources be more widely shared both within our own communities and more widely?
- i) What are the teachings in our faith community which inspire service to others? How can such service by faith communities – singly and working with others – benefit our society?
- j) How do faith communities' responses to events such as the August riots demonstrate their role at the heart of local communities?
- k) How can faith communities and Government engage effectively, respectfully and yet critically for the common good?
- l) How can we engage with those from within our communities who do not wish to work positively with other communities or our wider society?
- m) As part of strengthening the fabric of our society, how can faith groups, educators and others work to help increase understanding about beliefs and practices of different faiths and tackle misunderstandings of their teachings – both within and outside of their own communities?
- n) How does education within faith communities, Religious Education and Citizenship Education help strengthen inter faith understanding and cooperation?
- o) How can Inter Faith Week, and other special days and weeks related to inter faith engagement help raise the profile of inter faith dialogue and action for the common good?

**WWW.INTERFAITHWEEK.ORG**

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Questions on 'living well together' developed as part of the planning for the national faith communities' conversation event for Inter Faith Week 2011



# Encouraging shared engagement with faith and public life issues



IFN has an ongoing 'Faith and Public Life' programme. This includes work with its members to engage with Government and other agencies on relevant areas of their work. Good inter faith relations and co-operation across faiths is more likely where people of different faiths feel valued and active members of society.

The IFN office has worked through the year to keep its member bodies in touch on relevant issues. It supports the work of faith communities in the sphere of shared engagement with public life issues through regular updates to its Faith Communities Forum (FCF) to which its faith community representative body members can send delegates. The significance of FCF as a platform for faith communities to share and discuss issues is particularly important after the Government's decision to draw to a close the work of the Faith Communities and Consultative Council (FCCC) in 2011.

During 2011-12 the areas of public policy development which received particular attention were the launch of the Government's new integration policy in February (which was discussed with a DCLG representative at the meeting of the Faith Communities Forum in March); changes relating to the Equality and Human Rights Commission and its work; policy in relation to Public Sector Equality Duties; rulings by the European Court of Human Rights on various 'freedom of religion' cases brought on behalf of individuals in the UK; and developments in the field of Religious Education, including the launch of a national RE Subject Review and the setting up of an All Party Parliamentary Group on RE.

Other matters covered in briefing of member bodies and IFN's e-bulletins included the report of the Riots, Communities and Victims Panel on the riots of Summer 2011; the role of faith groups in the 'Big Society'; Government proposals for faith representation in a reformed House of Lords; the Government's consultation on 'equal civil marriage'; the Voluntary Sector Compact; the dissemination of results from the 2011 Census; the work of the Commission on a Bill of Rights; prayers at local authority council meetings; and chaplaincy arrangements for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Engagement, facilitated by IFN, between the Government and representatives of faith community representative bodies on a specific issue which had arisen in 2011 in relation to the holding of civil marriages in faith community centres was resolved as a result of Government decisions announced in May.

A Faith Communities Forum Working Group looking at faith, catering and dietary practice, particularly in light of debate over 'halal only provision', but with a broader focus, met for the first time in October.

IFN has continued to encourage Government and other agencies, at UK, regional and local level, to involve the faith communities in discussion about policy and service delivery. In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland the member national linking inter faith bodies carry this work forward independently.

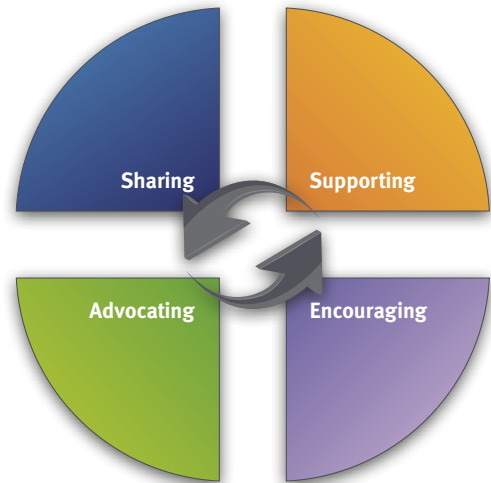
IFN's relationships with Government departments and other public bodies are important in its work of building good inter faith relations. Its main link with the Government has been through the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). It has also kept in touch with other Government Departments, including the Cabinet Office, the Department for Education, the Government Equalities Office and the Ministry of Justice. The inter faith linking bodies of the devolved nations engage with their governments/administrations over public life issues and there is sharing of information on some of these.

During 2011-12 IFN's Adviser on Faith and Public Life continued to serve as a member of the Steering Group overseeing the Religion and Society programme of the Arts and Humanities Research Council/Economic and Social Research Council and contributed a 'case study' on IFN to the book linked to the project, *Religion and Change in Modern Britain*.

# Membership

At IFN's Annual General Meeting, held in London on 12 July, seven organisations were accepted into membership:

- Faiths Forum for London
- Hindu Christian Forum
- Inter Faith Forum for Leicestershire
- Jain Network
- Maimonides Foundation
- Methodist Church in Britain
- Staffordshire and District Friends of Faith



IFN's 2007 AGM decided, following a review of membership, that "The range of religious traditions from which faith community representative bodies in membership of the Network are drawn (ie Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian) should remain as it is for the present". This remains current policy. In April 2012, IFN received an application for membership in the faith community representative body category from the Druid Network. In line with the recommendation given to it by the Executive Committee, the AGM decided that the Druid Network did not meet the relevant membership criteria and that it should not be admitted to membership. The AGM also decided not to admit the Christian Muslim Council into membership.

Ahead of the AGM and following allegations which had been made about its membership policy, IFN took advice on the legality of this and made a paper available to members at the AGM which explained why, in the view of IFN and its solicitors, the policy was consonant with the provisions of current equality law. A background note is available on IFN's website at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/membership.htm>

As noted on page 5, the Strategic Review set up following the AGM is addressing membership matters along with other issues.

The AGM noted the withdrawal from membership of five bodies which had ceased to operate: Alif Aleph UK, Clapham and Stockwell Faith Forum, Sharing of Faiths (Dacorum), Sheffield Faiths Forum and Yorkshire and Humber Faith Forum; and also the withdrawal from membership of the Triratna Buddhist Community.

The AGM also noted the redesignation of the Committee for Relations with Other Religions of the Catholic Bishops' Conference for England and Wales to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales as the Committee which was part of CBCEW itself had ceased to exist.

Note: The Centre for Interreligious Dialogue at the University of Birmingham withdrew from IFN membership in 2011 but this was, in error, not notified to the 2011 AGM, and it was noted by the 2012 AGM.

# Trustees and staff

At the 2012 AGM, held in London on 12 July, the following were elected to serve as Committee members for 2012-13:

## Co-Chairs

Dr Manazir Ahsan MBE

The Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern\*

## Vice-Chairs

Dr Girdari L Bhan  
Mr Dorab Mistry

Mr Mohinder Singh Chana  
Mr Vivian Wineman

## Treasurer

Mr Ramesh Shah

Mrs Neelam Aggarwal-Singh  
The Revd Alan Bayes  
The Revd Peter Colwell  
The Revd David Gifford  
Mr John Keast OBE  
Mr Shabbir Lakha  
Ms Jyoti Mehta  
Ms Katharina Smith-Müller  
The Revd Daniel Otieno-Ndale  
Maulana M Shahid Raza OBE  
Mr Resham Singh Sandhu MBE  
Dr Natubhai Shah MBE  
Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE  
Ms Bharti Tailor

Ms Sughra Ahmed  
Mr Alistair Beattie  
Acharya Modgala Duguid  
The Revd Dr Toby Howarth  
Mr Ayub Laher  
Dr Kishan Manocha  
Rabbi Maurice Michaels  
Mrs Ravinder Kaur Nijjar  
Rabbi Alan Plancey  
Mr Norman Richardson MBE  
Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala  
Dr Jagdish Sharma  
Sister Isabel Smyth OBE  
Ms Bessie White

*\*To serve until the close of 2012, when another nominee from within the Churches would take up the roles of Trustee and Co-Chair.*

## Staff

Dr Harriet Crabtree OBE, *Director*

Mr Paresh Solanki, *Assistant Director* (Communications and Development)

Mr Ziya Adilov, *Bookkeeper / Administrative Assistant*

Mr Ashley Beck, *Project Officer*

Mr Augustine Booth-Clibborn, *Project Officer*

Ms Hannah Mercer, *PA/Administrator*

Mr Brian Pearce OBE, *Adviser on Faith and Public Life* (P/T voluntary basis)

Mr Michael Asiedu, *Clerical Assistant* (P/T one day per week, September to July)

Ms Salina Hoang, *Clerical Assistant* (P/T one day per week, September to July)

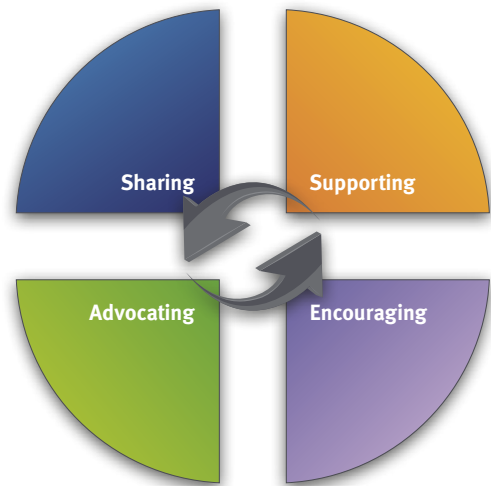
# Looking ahead

In 2012-13, the Inter Faith Network will be continuing its work to promote good inter faith relations, structuring its work around its current key strategic priorities. These are to:

- raise awareness about the importance of inter faith engagement, co-operation and dialogue and empower people of all ages to take forward inter faith work and to gain understanding and skills in this area;
- maximise opportunities for inter faith interaction and dialogue at every level within the UK;
- increase faith communities' engagement in public square discussion about issues such as citizenship and strengthen links with civil society;
- remain clearly focused on inter faith relations in the UK but enable sharing of good practice between the UK and other countries, particularly those in the EU and the Commonwealth on inter faith issues;
- consolidate and demarcate IFN's unique UK linking role and its role as 'voice' and 'advocate' on inter faith issues; and
- give IFN a secure operational basis.

A key issue will be securing sufficient financial resources to continue the work of IFN. Major areas of work which are planned, subject to the Committee's consideration of the outcomes of the Strategic Review and the availability of the necessary resources, include:

- **IFN's Strategic Review**
- **further development of Inter Faith Week;**
- **exploration with national faith communities of their patterns of inter faith work;**
- **continued support for, and development of, resources for local inter faith work;**
- **boosting of multimedia resources for those working to build good inter faith relations, including an update of the IFN website and of the Inter Faith Week website;**
- **continued assistance on projects and programmes planned for the Diamond Jubilee Year, including A Year of Service.**



# Supporters in 2011

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

The Trustees of the Inter Faith Network thank most warmly all those who have given financial support during the calendar year 2011 and also those who have given the gift of time to help it work for good relations between the faiths in the UK.

## Trusts, Foundations and Companies

ICIC Foundation  
Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust

M E Pearce Trust  
P H Holt Charitable Trust

## Government Funding

During 2011 IFN received strategy and project grants from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

## Faith Community Organisations

Baha'i Community of the UK  
Board of Deputies of British Jews  
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales  
Church in Wales  
Church of England  
Coptic Orthodox Church Centre  
Da'watul Islam UK  
East London Mosque Trust  
Hindu Council (UK)  
Institute of Jainology  
Islamic Cultural Centre  
Islamic Forum Europe  
Jain Network

Jain Samaj Europe  
Mar Thoma Church  
Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board  
Presbyterian Church of Wales  
Scottish Episcopal Church  
Sikh communities in Scotland  
Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha of GB  
UK Islamic Mission  
United Reformed Church  
World Islamic Mission  
Yorkshire Jain Foundation  
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

## Other Donors

Mrs Elizabeth Crabtree  
Mr John Dodwell  
Mr J A Ewan  
Mr Paul and Mrs Yvonne Griffiths  
Mr William Hopkinson  
Dr Dermot Killingley  
Ms Reyhana Laher  
Mrs Jenny Nicholson  
Dr Ahmed Al Rawi  
Mr Aubrey Rose CBE

Ms Clare Salters  
Mr Praful Shah  
Mr Rashid Siddiqui  
Cllr Manjula Sood MBE  
Mr David Stevens  
The Revd Richard Tetlow  
Rt Revd Roy Williamson  
The Revd Canon Michael Wolfe  
Mrs Elizabeth Young

## And others who kindly gave donations but prefer not to be listed...



# Statement of Financial Activities

## Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account

### For the year ended 31 December 2011

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2011 Total £	2010 Total £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>					
Voluntary Income	2	72,959	358,575	431,534	400,867
Investment Income	3	-	1,307	1,307	908
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>	4	-	9,248	9,248	8,911
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>72,959</u>	<u>369,130</u>	<u>442,089</u>	<u>410,686</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Cost of Generating Voluntary Income		-	18,780	18,780	36,873
Charitable Activities					
Consultation, Information and Advice		41,642	90,703	132,345	118,204
Meetings and Conferences		22,306	105,054	127,360	138,004
Publications		-	40,982	40,982	34,549
Research		7,211	32,295	39,506	36,379
Governance Costs		-	63,041	63,041	39,796
<b>Total resources expended</b>	8	<u>71,159</u>	<u>350,855</u>	<u>422,014</u>	<u>403,805</u>
<b>Net incoming resources being net income for the year</b>		1,800	18,275	20,075	6,881
Funds brought forward		-	130,802	130,802	123,921
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>1,800</u>	<u>149,077</u>	<u>150,877</u>	<u>130,802</u>

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 2011

	Note	£	£	2011 £	2010 £
<b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>	10		10,801		4,279
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Debtors and prepayments	11	13,421		23,543	
Cash at bank		<u>227,396</u>		<u>267,753</u>	
		240,817		291,296	
<b>Creditors: amounts due within one year</b>	12	<u>100,741</u>		<u>164,773</u>	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			<u>140,076</u>		<u>126,523</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>			<u>150,877</u>		<u>130,802</u>
<b>Funds</b>					
Restricted Funds			1,800		-
Unrestricted Funds			<u>149,077</u>		<u>130,802</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	13		<u>150,877</u>		<u>130,802</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to Small Companies.

They were approved by the Executive Committee on 14 June 2012 and signed on their behalf by Mr Ramesh Shah, Treasurer

The Report and Financial Statement of IFN can be viewed on the website of the Charity Commission.

# Member organisations of the Inter Faith Network for the UK 2012-13

## **Faith Community Representative Bodies**

Baha'i Community of the UK  
BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha  
Board of Deputies of British Jews  
British Muslim Forum  
Buddhist Society  
Churches' Agency for Inter Faith Relations  
in Scotland  
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)  
General Assembly of Unitarian  
and Free Christian Churches  
Hindu Council (UK)  
Hindu Forum of Britain  
Islamic Cultural Centre  
Jain Network  
Jain Samaj Europe  
Jamiat-e-Ulama Britain  
(Association of Muslim Scholars)  
Methodist Church in Britain  
Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board  
Muslim Council of Britain  
National Council of Hindu Temples (UK)  
Network of Buddhist Organisations (UK)  
Network of Sikh Organisations (UK)  
Quaker Committee for Christian  
and Inter Faith Relations  
Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha of GB  
Vishwa Hindu Parishad (UK)  
World Ahlul-Bayt Islamic League  
World Islamic Mission (UK)  
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

## **Educational and Academic Bodies**

Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme  
Centre for Christianity and Interreligious Dialogue,  
Heythrop College  
Community Religions Project, University of Leeds  
Institute of Jainology  
Islamic Foundation  
National Association of SACREs  
Religious Education Council of England and Wales  
Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education  
Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter  
Wales Association of SACREs  
Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths

## **Inter Faith Organisations**

Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum  
Scottish Inter Faith Council  
Inter-faith Council for Wales/Cyngor Cyd-Ffydd Cymru

East of England Faiths Council  
Faithnetsouthwest  
Faiths Forum for the East Midlands  
Faiths Forum for London  
North East Regional Faiths Network  
Northwest Forum of Faiths  
South East England Faith Forum  
West Midlands Faiths Forum

Children of Abraham (Imams and Rabbis Council  
of the United Kingdom)  
Christian Muslim Forum  
Christians Aware Inter Faith Programme  
Coexist Foundation  
Coexistence Trust  
Council of Christians and Jews  
Council of Dharmic Faiths  
East of England Faiths Agency  
Hindu Christian Forum  
Inter Faith Action (INTERACT)  
Inter Faith Alliance UK  
International Association for Religious Freedom  
(British Chapter)  
International Inter Faith Centre  
Joseph Inter Faith Foundation  
Lokahi Foundation  
London Society of Jews and Christians  
Maimonides Foundation  
Minorities of Europe Inter Faith Action Programme  
Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby  
Religions for Peace (UK)  
Scriptural Reasoning  
Society for Dialogue and Action  
St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace  
St Philip's Centre for Study and Engagement  
in a Multi Faith Society  
Three Faiths Forum  
Tony Blair Faith Foundation  
United Religions Initiative (UK)  
Westminster Interfaith  
Women's Inter Faith 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  
Blackburn with Darwen Inter Faith Forum  
Blackpool Faith Forum  
Bolton Inter Faith Council



Bradford Concord Inter Faith Society	Moseley Inter Faith Group
Bradford District Faiths Forum	Newcastle Council of Faiths
Brent Interfaith	Newham Association of Faiths
Brent Multi-Faith Forum	Newham Faith Sector Forum
Brighton and Hove Inter-Faith Contact Group	North Herts Faith Forum
Bristol Inter Faith Group	North Kirklees Inter-Faith Council
Bristol Multi-Faith Forum	North Staffordshire Forum of Faiths
Buckinghamshire Forum of Faiths	Northampton Inter Faith Forum
Building Bridges in Burnley	Norwich Inter Faith Link
Muslim-Christian Forum (Bury)	Nottingham Inter Faith Council
Calderdale Inter Faith Council	Oldham Inter Faith Forum
Cambridge Inter-Faith Group	Oxford Round Table of Religions
Camden Faith Communities Partnership	Building Bridges Pendle - Inter Faith Community Project
Canterbury and District Inter Faith Action	Peterborough Inter-Faith Council
Cardiff Inter Faith Association	Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity
Cheltenham Inter Faith	Portsmouth Inter Faith Forum
Cleveland and Tees Valley Inter Faith Group	Preston Faith Forum
Coventry Multi-Faith Forum	Reading Inter-Faith Group
Crawley Inter Faith Network	Redbridge Faith Forum
Faiths Together in Croydon	Rochdale Multi Faith Partnership
Cumbria Inter Faith Forum	Rossendale Faith Partnership
Forum of Faiths for Derby	Rugby Inter Faith Forum
Devon Faith and Belief Forum	Sandwell Multi-Faith Network
Doncaster Interfaith	Sheffield Inter Faith
Dudley Borough Inter Faith Network	South London Inter Faith Group
Eastbourne Faiths Forum	South Shropshire Inter Faith Forum
Elmbridge Multi-Faith Forum	Southampton Council of Faiths
Exeter Faith and Belief Group	Southwark Multi Faith Forum
Gateshead Inter Faith Forum	Stafford and District Friends of Faith
Greenwich Multi-Faith Forum	Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource
Hampshire Inter Faith Network	Faiths United (Tameside)
Harrow Inter Faith Council	Telford and Wrekin Inter Faith Group
Hastings and District Inter Faith Forum	Torbay Inter Faith Forum
Hillingdon Inter Faith Network	Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum
Horsham Inter Faith Forum	Valleys Faith Forum
Hounslow Friends of Faith	Waltham Forest Faith Communities Forum
Huddersfield Inter Faith Council	Wandsworth Multi-Faith Network
Hull and East Riding Interfaith	Warrington Council of Faiths
Inter Faith Isle of Man	Warwick District Faiths Forum
Inter-faith North/West (Northern Ireland)	Watford Inter Faith Association
Islington Faiths Forum	Wellingborough Inter Faith Group
Keighley Inter Faith Group	Welwyn Hatfield Inter Faith Group
Kingston Inter Faith Forum	Westminster Faith Exchange
Kirklees Faiths Forum	Whalley Range (Manchester) Inter Faith Group
Faiths Together in Lambeth	Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum
Lancashire Forum of Faiths	Wisbech Inter Faith Forum
Faith in Lancaster	Wolverhampton Inter Faith and Regeneration Network
Leeds Concord Inter Faith Fellowship	Worcestershire Inter-Faith Forum
Leeds Faiths Forum	Wycombe Sharing of Faiths
Leicester Council of Faiths	York Inter Faith Group
Inter Faith Forum for Leicestershire	
Liverpool Faith Network	
Loughborough Council of Faiths	
Luton Council of Faiths	
Faith Network for Manchester	
Medway Inter Faith Action Forum	
Merseyside Council of Faiths	
Middlesbrough Council of Faiths	
Inter Faith MK (Milton Keynes)	
Milton Keynes Council of Faiths	

*Note: List of member bodies following 12 July 2012 AGM*

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