



# IFN e-bulletin

December 2015/January 2016

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If you have items which you would like considered for inclusion in the next e-bulletin please email these to [ifnet@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk) by **20 January** with 'e-bulletin' in the subject line. Submissions may be edited for length or style. The e-bulletin is designed primarily to flag up new developments and projects and future events. If your organisation distributes a programme, newsletter or e-bulletin, please add [ifnet@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk) to your mailing list.

Disclaimer: Information in this 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](http://www.twitter.com/IFNetUK)) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/IFNetUK](http://www.facebook.com/IFNetUK)).

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

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## FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE UPDATES

### Refugees and migrants – faith and inter faith responses

With Syrian refugees arriving in a number of areas of the UK, faith groups and inter faith bodies are continuing to respond to assist. In Nottingham, for example, the Nottingham Post reports that refugees were warmly welcomed, with faith leaders in the city leading the way. A statement from Christian, Muslim, Jewish, orthodox and liberal groups was released. It begins: "We, the leaders of the faith communities in Nottinghamshire, wish to add our voices, and the voices of the people we serve, to those of good will everywhere who seek to provide compassion and practical help to those most affected by the current refugee crisis. We urge people of faith, and none, to come together to show the best of Nottinghamshire's proud heritage of welcome and care for those who have faced persecution and loss. We welcome those refugees and asylum seekers arriving in our county and pledge to continue to offer them our hospitality and support."

Read more: <http://www.nottinghampost.com/Faith-leaders-welcome-Syrian-refugees/story-28363341-detail/story.html#ixzz3v2hROYiX>

In many other areas help is being given or has been pledged. For example Fife Interfaith Group has written to the Chief Executive of Fife Council to state that its members stand ready to assist with this process in any way they can and that representatives from its various faiths have offered to convene at reception centres to welcome refugees and signpost them to their various faith communities, saying " In doing so we will not only make them feel welcome but will demonstrate to them that religious faiths can live in harmony and offer each other support as we have done since our group was founded ten years ago. There can be no better way of letting these families know that they have truly arrived at a safe haven."

The City of Sanctuary movement, involving people of many different faiths and none, continues to respond and has been chosen as an Observer/Guardian Christmas appeal charity <https://cityofsanctuary.org/2015/12/03/city-of-sanctuary-included-in-the-guardian-observer-christmas-charity-appeal/>

Citizens UK has launched an inter faith initiative to sponsor Syrian refugees to help them settle in the UK <http://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/151238/jewish-groups-join-call-sponsorship-scheme-syrian-refugees>  
[http://www.citizensuk.org/save\\_lives\\_by\\_helping\\_resettle\\_refugees](http://www.citizensuk.org/save_lives_by_helping_resettle_refugees)

Faith and inter faith groups in a number of towns and cities have also been arranging or providing support for refugees and migrants in Calais. The London Churches Group and Faiths Forum for London arranged a delegation to Calais to see the conditions at the migrant camp on the outskirts of the city. The visit aimed to see how communities in the capital can provide support or assistance for the migrant crisis in Europe.  
<http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/jasvir-singh/the-migrant-crisis-wont->

[disappear\\_b\\_8718420.html](#) There has also been assistance offered elsewhere by bodies such as the St Ethelburga's Centre, whose team recently went out to Lesbos to volunteer.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland reports that Churches, Church leaders and aid organisations across Britain and Ireland are responding to the refugee crisis by calling on their governments to take action, encouraging donations from church members and providing support where possible, often through partner organisations.

<https://ctbi.org.uk/how-the-churches-are-responding-to-the-refugee-crisis/> During Advent and Christmas this is a special focus for many, with the Churches' Refugee Network holding a special Advent Vigil at St Margaret's Westminster.

The Joint Public Affairs Team has issued an FAQ sheet:

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/FAQs.pdf>

Many faith based international aid initiatives are involved in response to the crisis on the international front, such as Christian Aid; Islamic Relief; Muslim Aid; Khalsa Aid; and World Jewish Relief, the UK Jewish community's international humanitarian agency. There are, of course, refugee crises in a number of parts of the world and these and other faith and non-faith based agencies such as Sewa International also work to assist in many areas with these and other humanitarian causes.

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## **Faith and inter faith response to terrorist attacks in Paris**

On the evening of 13 November a series of coordinated terrorist attacks occurred in Paris, France. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) claimed responsibility for these.

In the UK faith and inter faith groups responded with prayers, vigils and statements. Many used already planned Inter Faith Week events to stand together in solidarity and remembrance. 'The terrorist attacks in Paris and inter faith relations in the UK: Statement from the Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Inter Faith Network for the UK' was issued on 14 November. <http://interfaith.org.uk/resources/statements-and-messages> Links to a number of responses can be found on the website of IFN at: <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/news>.

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## **Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life - report**

The Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life, chaired by Baroness Butler-Sloss, published its report on 7 December. The report is entitled 'Living with Difference: Community, Diversity and the Common Good'.

The Commission was convened in 2013 by the Woolf Institute to consider the place and role of religion and belief in contemporary Britain; to consider the significance of emerging trends; and to make recommendations for public life and policy. The report draws on a public consultation process including over 200 submissions, as well as research evidence. It describes the changing religion and belief landscape, before exploring six broad themes. It makes 12 detailed recommendations covering such issues as religion and belief literacy; a curriculum about religion, philosophy and ethics in schools; admissions and employment policies in schools with a religious character; the promotion of opportunities for interreligious and inter-worldview encounter and dialogue; compliance by religious and cultural tribunals with UK standards of gender equality and judicial independence; and counter-terrorism legislation.

The report is available at [www.corab.org.uk](http://www.corab.org.uk). The Commission has also published a selection of the submissions it received during its national consultation, 2013-15. These can be accessed from <http://corablivingwithdifference.com>.

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## **Government review of the Muslim Brotherhood**

In April 2014 the Prime Minister commissioned an internal review of the Muslim Brotherhood. The main findings were published on 17 October and can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/muslim-brotherhood-review-main-findings>.

A written statement made by Prime Minister David Cameron when the report was laid before both Houses of Parliament is at <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2015-12-17/HCWS418/>.

The statement concludes with the intent that the Government will “keep under review the views that are promoted and activities that are undertaken by Muslim Brotherhood associates in the UK in Arabic as well as English. We will consider whether any action under the Counter Extremism Strategy or as part of our wider work may be appropriate, including action in line with the new engagement policy the Government will develop to ensure central and local government does not inadvertently provide legitimacy or a platform for extremists. We will challenge extremists’ poisonous narratives and promote positive alternatives that show vulnerable people that there are better ways to get on in life”.

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## Law Commission Review of marriage law

As noted in the July/August issue of the e-bulletin, in December 2014 the Government asked the Law Commission to conduct a review of the law governing how and where people can marry in England and Wales. The question underlying the Review was whether the current law, which has evolved over a long period of time, provides a fair and coherent legal framework for enabling people to marry.

The Law Commission has carried out an initial piece of work, including a preliminary study involving research of domestic and comparative law, and engagement with key stakeholders, to identify and provide an initial analysis of the issues that need to be addressed in order to develop proposals for the reform of marriage law.

The resulting scoping paper, 'Getting Married' was published on 17 December and can be downloaded from <http://lawcom.gov.uk/project/marriage-law/> together with an executive summary. The next step is for Government to respond to the recommendations for further work.

For further information, contact [propertyandtrust@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:propertyandtrust@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk).

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## Consultation on cremation

The Ministry of Justice has launched a consultation on cremation, which seeks views on proposals for a number of changes to the Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008, and for improving other aspects of cremation practice. In writing the consultation document the Ministry of Justice has worked with the Department of Health, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Communities and Local Government as well as the Human Tissue Authority and the Welsh and Scottish Governments.

The consultation document and details on how to respond are available at <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/consultation-on-cremation>. The consultation can be completed online or using a word document of the questionnaire submitted to [coroners@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:coroners@justice.gsi.gov.uk). The consultation closes on 9 March. A consultation response is due to be published next year which will set out the changes that the Ministry plans to make.

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## National Faith Community Representative Bodies meet

A meeting for member National Faith Community Representative Bodies took place in London on 5 November. There was a special focus session on chaplaincy in prisons, with presentations by the Revd Canon Michael Kavanagh, Chaplain-General and Head of Chaplaincy and Faith Services for the National Offender Management Service, and Mr Mohinder Singh Chana, Network of Sikh Organisations and Sikh Chaplaincy Services UK - Area Manager, Yorkshire, Humberside and the North East region. This was the third in a series of FCF sessions looking at multi faith chaplaincy, following earlier sessions on health care chaplaincy and Higher Education chaplaincy.

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## Collective Worship and Religious Observance in Schools: An Evaluation of Law and Policy in the UK

The AHRC Research Network on Collective Worship published on 13 November a report entitled 'Collective Worship and Religious Observance in Schools: An Evaluation of Law and Policy in the UK'.

The report aims to stimulate fresh thinking on collective worship and religious observance in schools. It sets out the law and educational concerns relating to each country, and considers the merits of a range of options available to policy makers. While many of the observations made in the report apply to all schools, the report "restricts the majority of its recommendations to schools without a religious character, on the basis that separate and distinct consideration should be given to those schools with a designated religious character".

The report is available at <http://collectiveschoolworship.com>.

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## RE for Real report

The Faiths & Civil Society Unit at Goldsmiths, University of London published a report on 29 November, with funding from the Culham St Gabriel's Trust, entitled 'RE for Real'. It focuses on RE in Secondary Schools, and highlights broad support for RE among parents, pupils and employers. The report makes a number of recommendations, including – echoing both the report of the Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life and Charles Clarke and Linda Woodhead's 'A New Settlement' – development of a national framework for religion and belief learning, and continued investment in training opportunities for teachers, including CPD.

The report can be found at <http://www.gold.ac.uk/media/goldsmiths/169-images/departments/research-units/faiths-unit/REforREal-web-b.pdf>.

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## House of Commons Briefing Paper on RE

The House of Commons published a Briefing Paper on 11 December entitled 'Religious Education in Schools (England)'. The Paper gives an overview of the rules surrounding RE and Collective Worship in England for all types of school, summarises some concerns that have been raised in relation to the teaching and inspection of RE in schools, and refers to the recent CORAB, Goldsmiths and Clarke/Woodhead reports.

It can be downloaded from

<http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7167>

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## INTER FAITH PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES AND DEVELOPMENTS

### Inter Faith Week

[www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)

An amazing range of different kinds of events and projects took place during Inter Faith Week in England, Wales and Northern Ireland – all 400+ of them making a contribution to understanding and cooperation between people of different faiths and beliefs and raising the profile of the contribution that faith groups make to society. It was a Week when the importance of 'living well together' was highlighted including – in the wake of the terrorist attacks in Paris – many raising their voices together to affirm what they value in our shared society and against terrorism and other forces of destruction and division.

The Week saw good media coverage, including a segment on Songs of Praise during Day 1 (also featuring Mitzvah Day), and an extended article in the Huffington Post published toward the end of the Week. A number of community papers and on-line media such as Jewish News and The Asian Today featured the Week. The Week saw considerable use of social media, including a planned campaign running up to the start of the Week. Tweets linked to the Week reached the accounts of over 3.4million unique Twitter users, with over 11million impressions. Facebook activity had a reach of over 42,000 users. A number of bodies ran Twitter campaigns linked to the Week, including Near Neighbours, The Feast, DCLG and Faith Matters.

Mitzvah Day took place on 22 November this year and its events formed an official part of Inter Faith Week in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. As in previous years, many social action projects were run with participants from different faiths, and over 50 'Inter Faith Mitzvah Day' projects were listed on the Inter Faith Week website. For further information, visit <http://www.mitzvahday.org.uk/>.

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## Scottish Interfaith Week

<http://www.interfaithscotland.org/scottish-interfaith-week/>

Over 70 events took place across Scotland to mark Scottish Interfaith Week. The theme was 'Care for the Environment'. The theme was chosen partly because of the Climate Change Summit taking place in Paris in December as a time to focus on what faiths have to say about caring for the environment and protecting it for future generations.

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## 'Extending Hand of Friendship' project

An initiative called 'Extending Hand of Friendship' took place during Hanukkah (6 to 14 December). It was an initiative of the Joseph Interfaith Foundation which seeks to build stronger ties between British Jews and Muslims.

The aim of the initiative was "to give the chance to individual Muslims who want to extend their hand of friendship towards the Jewish community through a safe forum". There was a greater than anticipated response to the project which saw over 200 cards sent from Muslims to Jewish synagogues during Hanukkah. The cards were sent online either giving a name or anonymously as a well-wishing Muslim neighbour.

Information about the project, which has now closed, can be found at [https://www.launchgood.com/project/send\\_the\\_jewish\\_community\\_a\\_message\\_of\\_friendship#](https://www.launchgood.com/project/send_the_jewish_community_a_message_of_friendship#).

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## Inter faith musical festival in London and Berlin

Faiths in Tune, an inter faith musical festival, will for the first time be held next year at the British Museum. The Festival, now in its fifth year, will be held on 22 May and will include classic music performances in the British Museum's lecture theatre, interactive music sessions in various museum galleries as well as an Interfaith Fair. Funding from the Berlin Lottery Foundation has also just been approved for the festival to be held in Berlin, entitled 'Fest der Religionen', in July. For further information, visit <http://coexistifmf.wix.com/coexist>.

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## **Birmingham Soup Kitchen**

*I Am Birmingham* reports that Birmingham Central Mosque will be welcoming the homeless and hungry over the festive period, providing them with food during an open soup kitchen every evening between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day. Hundreds of homeless and vulnerable individuals and families are expected to attend the mass soup kitchen, which has been organised by the Birmingham Soup Kitchen, a new project aiming to regularly provide food to those in need at the Muslim faith centre. It is hoped this will become a regular fixture to complement the many already established food distribution and outreach services taking place daily and weekly in the city, many run by Christian, Muslim, Sikh and inter faith groups. Further information can be found at <http://iambirmingham.co.uk/2015/12/21/birmingham-mosque-to-feed-city-homeless-on-christmas-day/>

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## **Cambridge Inter-faith Programme appoints new director**

Dr Ankur Barua, specialist in Hinduism and the comparative philosophy of religion, has been appointed as the new Director of the Cambridge Inter-faith Programme following the retirement of Professor David Ford.

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## **RESOURCES AND TRAINING**

### **'Faiths working together' toolkit**

On 19 November, Near Neighbours and the Inter Faith Network for the UK launched, at the Vauxhall Gardens Community Centre in London, the *Faiths Working Together* toolkit.

Published in Inter Faith Week, the toolkit's aims are to support positive cross-faith engagement for the common good and inter faith understanding and help people to

- reach out and engage with people of different faiths in their local area;
- create a successful project that engages people of different religious backgrounds;
- develop and deepen cross-faith understanding and relationships; and
- support people of different faiths as they engage in social action for the good of their neighbourhoods.

The toolkit includes practical pointers for making contact and for planning and publicising initiatives, as well as advice on key principles to consider, such as the importance of looking for shared values and experiences while working well with difference.

The launch was opened with words from Baroness Eaton, Chairman of Near Neighbours, and the Co-Chairs of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson and

Vivian Wineman. There were presentations from three local projects in Luton and Hounslow followed by discussion of the importance of working together between different faith communities.

Copies of the *Faiths Working Together: Connecting for the Common Good* toolkit can be downloaded from <https://www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours/resources> and <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/all-publications/all-publications>.

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### **Northern Ireland guidance on inter faith and multi faith events**

'Threads of Compassion' is the title of guidance published in November by the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum. The booklet, which was launched during Inter Faith Week, provides advice on arranging multi faith and inter faith events.

The publication was supported by the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council and offers practical planning advice as well as a list of 'dos' and 'don'ts'. It can be found online at <http://niinterfaithforum.org/index.php/news/113-threads-of-compassion-guidelines-for-multifaith-and-interfaith-events>.

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### **Local inter faith group calendars**

One of the best known multi faith calendars is that produced by the Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education: <http://www.shapworkingparty.org.uk/calendar.html>.

A number of local inter faith groups also produce inter faith calendars each year. Two examples of 2016 calendars which are now available are below.

Hampshire Interfaith Network produces a calendar each year which includes drawings made by schools students. Each year the Children and young people whose work has been chosen for inclusion attend a celebratory launch event at Hampshire County Councils headquarters in Winchester. The 2016 Interfaith Calendar produced by Hampshire County Council is now available for sale online at <https://hants.gov.uk/shop/product.php?productid=18616&cat=257&page=&featured=Y>.

Warwick District Faiths Forum produces a calendar each year which is supported by Warwick District Council, Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police. The calendar includes photographs of religious artefacts and places of worship throughout Warwickshire and can be downloaded online from <http://www.wdfaitsforum.org.uk/>.

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### **CCJ Snapshot 1945 Booklet**

In the May/June issue of IFN's e-bulletin information was provided about a project being run by the Council of Christians and Jews entitled Snapshot 1945. This sought to understand what life was like for Jews and Christians living in Britain at the end of the Second World War.

The booklet has now been published and anyone interested in purchasing a copy can contact [cjrelations@ccj.org.uk](mailto:cjrelations@ccj.org.uk) or call the office on 0203 515 3003.

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### **Holocaust Memorial Day resources**

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) has launched its resources for 2016, the theme for which is 'Don't stand by'.

There are many resources including activity packs, ways to take action, guides for workplaces, libraries, local authorities, trade unions, faith and inter faith settings, universities, museums and galleries, emergency services and cinemas on how to get involved, and activity templates for different length activities.

National and Regional Resources provide tailored advice for marking HMD in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Each guide features specific local experiences to help in planning an HMD event.

In partnership with Diversity Role Models HMD has also produced a guide exploring LGBT themes related to HMD. This explores the Nazi Persecution of LGBT people and offers contemporary perspectives on discrimination.

For further information and to download the resources, visit <http://hmd.org.uk/resources/theme-papers/hmd-2016-dont-stand>.

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### **Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations – PhD studentships and scholarships**

The Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University is offering three full time PhD studentships and additional scholarships

They are seeking proposals for PhD research projects in distinct and cross disciplinary areas related to their current research themes: *integrated peace building*, *living side by side* and *trust matters*. For further information about potential supervisors interests and expertise, visit the CTPSR website at <http://www.coventry.ac.uk/research/areas-of-research/trust-peace-social-relations/>

The three studentships will cover the equivalence of UK/EU or overseas fee, plus the current Research Council (UK) stipend level at the point of commencement. The fee only scholarships will cover tuition fee only. In addition, the university will offer competitive two year post docs to enable the most successful of these PhD students to be retained and develop further as an early career professional within the Centre. For further information, visit <https://jobs.ac.uk/job/AMN412/phd-studentship-integrated-peace-building-living-side-by-side-and-trust-matters>.

Enquiries should be addressed to Professor Gordon Crawford, Postgraduate Research Director at [gordon.crawford@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:gordon.crawford@coventry.ac.uk).

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### **Lessons from Srebrenica**

Remembering Srebrenica is continuing to take British citizens to Srebrenica as part of its educational visits programme to Bosnia & Herzegovina called 'Lessons from Srebrenica'.

The programme includes learning from the survivors and the mothers of those killed in the genocide in 1995. Remembering Srebrenica arranges all aspects of the four-day visit, including flights, accommodation, guide, transport in Bosnia and food. Participants are asked to make their way to Heathrow and to make a donation to Remembering Srebrenica.

Every participant is asked to make a pledge to do something concrete in the UK on their return to tackle hatred and promote social cohesion. The pledge should help to achieve real change and applications will be based on the strength of each pledge.

The 2016 programme is particularly encouraging young people to apply. Applicants must be UK citizens aged 18 years and over. For further information, and to apply, visit <http://www.srebrenica.org.uk/lessons-from-srebrenica/interested-becoming-delegate/>. Enquiries can be addressed to [visits@srebrenica.org.uk](mailto:visits@srebrenica.org.uk).

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

### **Public Faith and Finance**

Public Spirit and the Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Citizenship has announced a new project on 'Public Faith and Finance'. Funded by the Barrow Cadbury

Trust's 'Resources and Resilience' programme, the research explores the role of faith-based organisations in addressing financial insecurity, developing alternatives to market-based financial services or models, and building sustainable and socially just economic systems.

They are conducting a short survey on the ways in which organisations engage with financial issues and would like to hear from any faith groups and civil society organisations which:

- is providing advice on how to deal with personal debts and money concerns
- is engaged in running financial activities or campaigns aimed at developing alternative financial products or promoting responsible finance
- has provided or is involved in providing food or financial assistance to those experiencing financial hardship

For more information and to complete the survey, visit [www.publicspirit.org.uk/faith-and-finance](http://www.publicspirit.org.uk/faith-and-finance). Any queries should be addressed to Katya Braginskaia on 0117 33 10477 or at [katya.braginskaia@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:katya.braginskaia@bristol.ac.uk).

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### **Faith trails – your stories and images**

Many local inter faith bodies run an annual inter faith pilgrimage, peace walk or faith trail. A number, such as Watford, have done so for many years:  
<http://www.wifa.org.uk/interfaith-pilgrimages/>

If you hold, or have held, a walk or pilgrimage of faith trail, what are your top 3 tips for a positive and successful event? You can tell us by emailing [ifnet@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk). We will be working with volunteers over the next couple of months on some pointers to help organisers.

If you have photographs of a recent walk, trail or pilgrimage that you think capture its spirit well, we would also be pleased to have copies, together with details of who took them and permission to use them.

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## Faith and social action

Is your local inter faith organisation involved in social action projects such as assisting on winter shelters for the homeless or assisting refugees and asylum seekers? Or are you aware of local projects involving different faith groups working together on social action and social justice issues and projects?

If you have details to share please email [ifnet@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk). We plan to include a feature on this in a future e-bulletin and will also be adding information to the IFN website.

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## Perceptions of science and religion

A team of researchers from universities in Britain and Canada are looking for participants for a new study looking at perceptions of religious belief and evolutionary science. Over the next two years, they will be carrying out surveys, interviews, focus groups and experimental research with adults from a range of religious and non-religious backgrounds.

For further information and the opportunity to complete the survey, visit <http://us10.campaign-archive2.com/?u=6955d1bc689f44f71fcb3e448&id=549e585b63&e=>

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## Sandford St Martin Trust Awards

The 2016 Sandford St Martin Trust Awards are now open for entries. The awards are for radio, TV and online content exploring religious, spiritual or ethical themes and this year there is a new Interview of the Year category.

Entries are welcome from people working across the broadcast media – producers, broadcasters, online content creators and publishers. The new Interview of the Year Award category is for a broadcast TV, Radio or online interview that explores religion, spirituality or ethics from a personal perspective. This could be with a leading religious figure or an ordinary person.

The 2016 Awards, worth around £10,000, will be presented at Lambeth Palace in June. The closing date for entries is 5 February. For details on how to apply, visit [www.sandfordawards.org.uk](http://www.sandfordawards.org.uk) and for further information, contact Sarah Parfitt on 07900 4117 15 or at [sarah.parfitt@sandfordawards.org.uk](mailto:sarah.parfitt@sandfordawards.org.uk).

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## **Honours List nominations**

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has said that it is keen to ensure that individuals from the full breadth of society who are making a significant contribution to public life are properly recognised through the Honours system. It is particularly keen to recognise individuals who have contributed to building integrated communities and notes that nominees can come from all levels; being in a junior role is not a barrier to a nomination.

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

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## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **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 impartial, 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](http://ukcommunityfoundations.org/community_foundations/map).

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### **Funding Central website**

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

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

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

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

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## **SPECIAL WEEKS/DAYS**

### **Holocaust Memorial Day – 27 January**

Holocaust Memorial Day provides an opportunity for everyone to learn lessons from the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides and apply them to the present day to create a safer, better future. The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2016 is 'Don't Stand By'.

A list of events taking place throughout the UK can be found on the HMD website at <http://hmd.org.uk/page/activities>. Anyone interested in organising an event to mark HMD can order or download an Activity Pack at <http://hmd.org.uk/campaign-pack>.

## World Interfaith Harmony Week – First week of February

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>.

## DIARY DATES

This section includes some of the events taking place around the UK.

IFN has been trialling the inclusion of diary date information received between e-bulletins on its website at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/take-part/events>. Your feedback on that is welcome.

**Interfaith Glasgow** is holding a ‘Festivals Exchange’ event on Thursday 24 December. This will be a Christmas Eve Celebration at Gorbals Parish Church, 1 Errol Gardens, Glasgow G5 0RA from 6.45pm to 8.30pm. It will be an evening of reflection on the story of Christmas through narrations, song, and prayer and will be a unique opportunity for people of all faiths and none to witness a Christian celebration. Those attending will be met at the entrance and hosted by members of the Christian community. Registration is essential. Anyone interested in attending should email Kemal at [projects@interfaithglasgow.org](mailto:projects@interfaithglasgow.org).

**York Interfaith Group** will be holding its AGM on Tuesday 12 January. This will be held at 7.30pm at the York Medical Society Rooms, 23 Stonegate, York YO1 8AW. Participants are invited to bring vegetarian food to share. For further information, contact Mark Cosens at [yorkinterfaithgroup@gmail.com](mailto:yorkinterfaithgroup@gmail.com). Its full programme of events for 2016 is available on its website at <http://www.yorkinterfaith.org/>.

**Building Bridges Burnley** is holding its next Share Faith Food meeting on Tuesday 12 January. This is a women only event and will be on the theme of the response to the refugee crisis. It takes place from 7.10pm to 8.30pm at the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre, Burnley Campus, Barden Lane, Burnley BB10 1JD. For more information, contact Farah Naheem at [farahnaeem@hotmail.com](mailto:farahnaeem@hotmail.com) or [bea\\_foster@hotmail.com](mailto:bea_foster@hotmail.com) or telephone 07875 517043.

**The British Academy** is holding a lecture on Tuesday 19 January entitled ‘Why No Religion is the New Religion’. The lecture is being given by Professor Linda Woodhead, Co-Director of the Institute for Social Futures at Lancaster University and Co-Founder of the Westminster Faith Debates. The lecture takes place at 6pm at the British Academy, 10-11

Carlton Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH. For further information, visit [http://www.britac.ac.uk/events/2016/Why\\_no\\_religion\\_is\\_the\\_new\\_religion.cfm](http://www.britac.ac.uk/events/2016/Why_no_religion_is_the_new_religion.cfm).

**Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship** is holding its next meeting on Monday 25 January. This will be exploring 'Pagan ethics in contemporary society' and the speaker will be Helen Holmes. The meeting takes place at 7.30pm at Friends' Meeting House, 188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9DX. For further information, contact Dr Simon Phillips at [chair@concord-leeds.org.uk](mailto:chair@concord-leeds.org.uk) or on 07786 798929.

**Near Neighbours** is holding a conference in Leeds on Tuesday 26 January entitled 'Learning for our Future'. The day will feature several key speakers experienced in cross-faith community work and from different faith perspectives. There will also be seminars and workshops on a range of subjects including 'The arts and interfaith' and 'Refugees and migrants: what are we learning from the current crisis'. For further information and to book visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/near-neighbours-learning-for-our-future-tickets-19011648352>.

**Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum** will be holding its next event on Tuesday 2 February entitled 'Refugees: Faith perspectives'. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from different faith perspectives as well as some refugees, followed by discussion. The event starts at 7pm for 7.30pm and is being held at the United Reformed Church, 83 Portsmouth Road, Guildford GU2 4BS. For further information, contact them via <http://www.spanglefish.com/gginterfaithforum/>.

**Cheltenham Inter Faith** is holding a meeting on Thursday 4 February on the theme of 'Integrity and Integration'. The speaker will be Richard McKay. The meeting will be held at The Friends Meeting House, Warwick Place, Portland Street, Cheltenham GL52 2NP at 7.30pm. For further information, contact Fr Peter Slocombe on 01242 602412 or at [slocombe415@btinternet.com](mailto:slocombe415@btinternet.com).

**Hull and East Riding Interfaith** is holding its next meeting on Tuesday 23 February. This will be held at 4.30pm in Committee Room 1, Ground Floor, The Guildhall, Hull HU1 2AA. PC Sharon Houfe MBE, Humberside Police and PC Gary Hass, Community Cohesion Officer, Hull City Council, will open a discussion of 'Prevent', the Government's 'counter-terrorism strategy' and Dr Phiri Partson will speak on 'Human Rights and Civil Liberties: Experiences and Reflections'. For further information contact Jackie on 01482 445728 or Kath at [Kath.Beal@heri.org.uk](mailto:Kath.Beal@heri.org.uk).

**FaithAction** is holding an event on Wednesday 24 February on 'Faith and Health'. The event will bring together faith based organisations and those from both a national and local public health perspective to discuss how these two areas can work effectively in partnership to improve health outcomes within communities throughout the country, particularly those who are considered hardest to reach. Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, Minister of State for Community and Social Care, will be the keynote speaker. For further information and to book, visit <http://www.faithaction.net/faith-and-health/>.

**Bristol Multi Faith Forum** is holding its next Diverse Doors Open Day on Sunday 28 February. This annual event offers the opportunity to visit a range of places of worship and gives a flavour of the many faiths in the Bristol.’ A range of photos from this year’s event can be seen at <http://bristolmultifaithforum.org.uk/galleries/bristol-diverse-doors-open-days-2015> where further information can also be found.

**Leeds Faiths Forum** is holding the next in its series of Scriptural Reasoning events on Wednesday 2 March during which small groups of people from different faiths gather to read short passages from their scriptures. The event takes place at the GNNSJ Sikh Gurdwara, 78 Lady Pitt Lane, Beeston, Leeds LS11 6DP. Copies of the texts to be studied will be available nearer the time from Jocelyn Brooks on [jocelyn21@ntlworld.com](mailto:jocelyn21@ntlworld.com).

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

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

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

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

If you have items which you would like considered for inclusion in the next e-bulletin please email these to [ifnet@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk) by **20 January** 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.

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