



IFN e-bulletin

May/June 2017

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If you have items which you would like considered for inclusion in the next e-bulletin please email these to ifnet@interfaith.org.uk by **19 July** with 'e-bulletin' in the subject line. Submissions may be edited for length or style. The e-bulletin is designed primarily to flag up new developments and projects and future events. If your organisation distributes a programme, newsletter or e-bulletin, please add ifnet@interfaith.org.uk to your mailing list.

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

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

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

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FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE UPDATES

Manchester Arena terrorist attack and faith and inter faith responses

On the evening of 22 May 22 people were killed and over 100 people injured in a terrorist attack at the Manchester Arena.

Manchester and Greater Manchester's faith and inter initiatives have played a very significant part in the city's response including in the vigils in Albert Square and St Ann's Square.

Around the UK, many other faith and inter faith organisations have been among those who have responded through messages, statements vigils, services, prayers and silences; and in some cases responding with offers of practical help. A list of responses by faith and inter faith bodies of which IFN is aware can be found at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/manchester-arena-attack-responses-by-faith-and-inter-faith-bodies>.

On 23 May IFN's Co-Chairs and the Moderators of IFN's Faith Communities Forum issued the following statement in response to the bombing:

“Our thoughts and prayers are with those who lost their lives or were injured in last night's terrorist murders at the Manchester Arena, as they are with their families, all others affected and those responding with assistance.

We deplore and condemn this wanton, brutal and cowardly taking of the lives of young and old.

Let us stand together to oppose terrorism and the ideologies that promote it. Let us also uphold and strengthen the unity of our society and work to ensure that it is a positive and harmonious one where all children and young people can grow up safely and without fear.

It is vital that we all – of every age and background - work to build bridges and positive relationships and to enable difficult issues to be addressed and worked on – always seeking to avoid the use of violence to resolve issues.

We know that each time a terrorist attack occurs, groups within society become the target of abuse or even attack because of terrorist actions which claim, or are perceived by some, as having a link to them. We must stand, likewise, against this. An attack on one is an attack on all.

We remember at this time, in this context, particularly the many in the Greater Manchester area working for good relations.”

A copy of this statement is also on the IFN website at

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/manchester-arena-attack-statement>.

The Muslim community condemned repeatedly the atrocity and the actions of the attacker. Statements were issued by the British Muslim Forum (<http://www.britishmuslimforum.co.uk/2017/05/23/manchester-attack-the-bmf-condemns-act-of-cowardice/>), the Muslim Council of Britain (<http://www.mcb.org.uk/manchester-attack-muslim-council-of-britain-statement/>), the Islamic Society of Britain (<https://twitter.com/BritIslam/status/866950172177289216>) and the British Muslim Scholars (<https://www.facebook.com/1487320954821958/photos/a.1514903692063684.1073741829.1487320954821958/1774314242789293/?type=3&theater>). A number of local Muslim groups also issued statements (<http://www.mcb.org.uk/collation-of-responses-to-manchester-attack/>) and a group of 30 imams gathered in St Ann’s Square (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-40076591>).

A statement by the Prime Minister, Theresa May, can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-following-terrorist-attack-in-manchester-23-may-2017>.

The Department for Communities and Local Government issued advice, in the wake of the Manchester attack, for community leaders on managing tensions. A copy of this can be found online at: <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/advice-and-support-for-community-leaders-on-managing-tensions>.

Advice was also issued about safe giving to Manchester related appeals which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/generous-public-should-make-sure-donations-go-to-genuine-charities-supporting-the-victims-in-manchester-says-charity-regulator>

The Daily Mail newspaper, with Carphone Warehouse, is running an appeal called Mobiles for Manchester. The appeal says: “The bulk of the money raised will go to support victims of the attack. But the Mail also believes that if the social dislocation which can lead to extremism is not tackled, the problem will never go away. So we aim to give some of the money to local inter-faith youth initiatives. Bishop Richard Atkinson and Jatinder Singh Birdi, co-chairs of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, said: ‘Local inter-faith initiatives play a vital role in bringing people of different faith backgrounds together, tackling prejudice and hatred. Young people are a vital part of that.’ The Inter Faith Youth Trust, a registered

charity which provides small grants to local voluntary organisations, will receive some of the money. Trust chairman Neil Martin said: ‘We help bring young people together through community projects so they realise how much they have in common.’”

People can drop off old mobile phones – whether working or not – at branches of Carphone Warehouse (<https://www.carphonewarehouse.com/store-locator.html>). Carphone Warehouse will donate all money raised from the donations to the Daily Mail appeal. Even a very old phone raises a £15 donation.
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4546512/Daily-Mail-launches-Mobiles-Manchester-appeal.html>

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General Election – manifestos, hustings and campaigning

A number of faith bodies have been holding Hustings. Examples include a ‘Hustings in the City’ event held in London by the City Hindus Network and City Sikhs Network, in association with the Association of Asian Women Lawyers, Emerald, the Association of Muslim Lawyers, Faiths Forum for London, the Hindu Lawyers Association, the National Hindu Students’ Forum (UK) and the Society of Asian Lawyers (<http://faithsforum.com/events/hustings-in-the-city/>).

A number of faith bodies have been publicising and updating their own manifestos including the Board of Deputies of British Jews (<https://www.bod.org.uk/board-of-deputies-launches-revised-and-updated-jewish-manifesto-to-boost-communal-advocacy-around-the-country/>) and the Muslim Council of Britain (<http://www.mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/fairnessnotfavours-MCB.pdf>).

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland has set up a website for the General Election at <https://www.churcheselection.org.uk/>. This provides: information on how Christian organisations are responding to the Election; details on local hustings being held throughout the UK; and a number of resources including how to hold hustings and possible questions for candidates.

A ‘Values Manifesto’ has also been launched, which has been supported by a number of leading individuals from a range of communities. More information on this can be found at <http://www.valuesmanifesto.org.uk/>.

On 15 May the Department for Communities and Local Government organised a day long ‘Tweet Storm’ during which faith leaders/organisations/individuals were invited to tweet to encourage voter registration. The hashtag to take part was #MyFaithMyVote and IFN took part in this.

There are a number of rules regarding campaigning during General Elections. IFN has produced a document entitled ‘The law relating to General Elections, charities and undue spiritual influence’, which is available at

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/charities-elections-law>. If your organisation is a charity, the following may be relevant:

<https://blogs.ncvo.org.uk/2017/04/18/a-snap-general-election-what-should-charities-be-doing/>

<https://blogs.ncvo.org.uk/2017/05/26/charities-and-the-lobbying-act-the-electoral-commissions-view/>

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/practical-support/information/campaigning/general-election-2017>

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Tributes to Rhodri Morgan

Rhodri Morgan, former First Minister of Wales, died on 18 May. Mr Morgan played a key role in establishing the Faith Communities Forum of the Welsh Government and his significant contribution to inter faith relationships in Wales has been remembered in a tribute by the Church in Wales: "We are particularly grateful for his commitment to interfaith relations. He set up the Faith Communities Forum in response to 9/11 and that has been pivotal in nurturing today's strong relationships both between Wales' diverse faiths and between those faiths and the Welsh Government."

[\(http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/news/2017/05/tribute-to-rhodri-morgan/\)](http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/news/2017/05/tribute-to-rhodri-morgan/)

Mr Morgan was a Patron of the British Humanist Association, which has also paid tribute to him. A copy of this can be found at

<https://humanism.org.uk/2017/05/18/rhodri-morgan-1939-2017-humanist-first-first-minister-of-wales-and-father-of-welsh-devolution/>.

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Public consultation on Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law

The public consultation on 'Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law', launched by the Government Equalities Office (GEO) in March, is still open. The deadline for responses is 11.45pm on 18 July.

The consultation is described as seeking views on how best to ensure that there is appropriate legal protection against caste discrimination. The consultation website notes that "This ban could be applied: a) by formally making caste an aspect of race in the Equality Act 2010 or b) through developing case law in the courts and employment tribunals. In either case, businesses and public authorities would have to consider caste discrimination in the same way they consider other aspects of race discrimination when dealing with employees, customers or service users." Full details of the consultation and

how to respond are at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/caste-in-great-britain-and-equality-law-a-public-consultation>.

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Report on Hate Crime

The House of Commons Home Affairs Committee published a report on 25 April entitled ‘Hate crime: abuse, hate and extremism online’. The report is the outcome of an inquiry launched by the Committee in July 2016, which invited written submission of evidence. The Committee limited the scope of the report to the issue of online hate because of the calling of an early election, but notes “we hope that our successor committee in the next Parliament will return to this highly significant topic and will draw on the wide-ranging and valuable evidence that we have gathered in this inquiry to inform broader recommendations across the spectrum of challenges which tackling hate crime presents.”

The report is available at <https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmhaff/609/609.pdf>.

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INTER FAITH NETWORK FOR THE UK NEWS

Inter Faith Week and Scottish Interfaith Week

2017

As notified in previous e-bulletins, Inter Faith Week 2017 will take place from Sunday 12 to Sunday 19 November.

A flyer advertising the Week is now available at www.interfaithweek.org/flyer and hard copies will shortly be available from the IFN office. Last year’s was the biggest Week to date and it would be tremendous to get even more people involved. If you know of organisations or individuals who might find the Week a helpful platform, please do pass on the [flyer](#) and/or a link to the [website](#)

Scottish Interfaith Week will again be taking place on the same dates as Inter Faith Week in 2017. Its theme will be ‘Religion, the Arts and Creativity’. For further information, contact admin@interfaithscotland.org.

2018

At its meeting in May, IFN’s Board of Trustees agreed that in future years, Inter Faith Week would begin on Remembrance Sunday and run until the following Sunday. The dates for 2018 will therefore be Sunday 11 to Sunday 18 November in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Scottish Interfaith Week in 2018 will also run across these dates.

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Meeting of IFN’s Faith Communities Forum

A meeting of IFN’s Faith Communities Forum took place on 3 May. On the Agenda were: the General Election; The Government’s consultation on Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law; Developing Dialogues; The Great Get Together, with a presentation by Mr Mike Buckley; an update on faith communities and response to refugees; and a number of IFN matters.

Officials from Government Departments invited to attend and offer reflections for Agenda Items relating to the consultation on ‘Caste in Great Britain and equality law’ and to the development of the planned integration policy were no longer able to attend due to restrictions ahead of the snap General Election.

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INTER FAITH PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Great Get Together

As noted in the March/April issue of the IFN e-bulletin, on the weekend of 16-18 June, the anniversary weekend of the murder of Jo Cox, former MP for Batley and Spennings, the Jo Cox Foundation is organising what it hopes will be the biggest street party since the Jubilee: The Great Get Together (GGT).

Organisers say “Jo’s killing was meant to divide us and we think the best response is to show how united we are. We believe there is a groundswell of people who reject divisive politics and simply want to bring our communities together and celebrate all that unites us. This is our chance.” Their hope is that this weekend of community events will demonstrate how united people are.

The GGT is being supported by the Big Lunch, the Big Iftar, the Eden Project, the Inter Faith Network for the UK, the Church Urban Fund, and organisations of a range of different faiths and beliefs as well from across the broad spectrum of society.

The GGT gives faith communities an opportunity to celebrate their work and to meet with others in their community. If you are a faith or inter faith organisation interested in getting involved and supporting the Great Get Together, here are just a few ideas that you might like to consider:

- Encourage your members to get involved or, if you are a local organisation, plan an event together
- Open your church, gurdwara, mandir, mosque, synagogue, temple, vihara or other place of worship, inviting in people of different faiths and beliefs
- Hold a special Great Get Together breakfast, lunch, or supper for guests of different backgrounds
- If you're fasting for Ramadan you could hold an interfaith Iftar
- Take part in other Great Get Together events near you – meals, sports events, bake-offs, and more
- Work with other faiths or a local inter faith group to write a Great Get Together message of unity for use in local media

Your event can be held at any time over the three days. For further information visit <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/the-great-get-together> and to take part, visit pledge.greatgettogether.org. You'll then be sent an information pack. You can also email Mike Buckley at the Jo Cox Foundation at mike@moreincommon.co.

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Inter faith iftars

The period of Ramadan observed by Muslims began on the evening 26/27 May. Throughout the UK many Muslim communities are inviting their neighbours and people of other faiths to join them as they break their fast at the end of the day at an inter faith iftar meal.

A number of mosques and Muslim organisations and some other faith communities are hosting inter faith events as part of the Big Iftar and the Great Get Together. Lots of these are listed on the Big Iftar's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TheBigIftar/>. Local inter faith organisations, such as Building Bridges in Burnley, are also hosting inter faith events including iftars throughout June. Cardinal Vincent Nichols is inviting young people to Archbishop's House in Westminster for an inter faith iftar, with the Chief Rabbi and the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, in partnership with the Naz Legacy Foundation. More on this can be found at <http://dowym.com/voices/archbishops-house-interfaith-iftar/>.

Another example is the Ramadan Tent Project, an initiative founded by students at SOAS, University of London, which aims to participate in social change by creating bridges between individuals, bringing together communities and fostering inter faith dialogue through its project Open Iftar - <https://ramadantentproject.wordpress.com/>.

Strengthening Faith Institutions, together with the International Centre for Integration & Cohesion, is offering grants for faith bodies to organise a Big Iftar event in their community. (See [below](#).)

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The Grand Trunk Project

2017 will mark 70 years since the independence of India and the creation of modern day Pakistan and Bangladesh. The Grand Trunk Project has been developed in partnership with faith leaders, community activists and facilitated by the Faiths Forum for London. Seeking inspiration from the ancient and unifying Grand Trunk Road which runs across the subcontinent, it aims “to build common ground and open up a much needed dialogue”.

The project’s website notes that “The happenings of 1947 are an important part of the cultural memory of the faith communities disproportionately affected, yet very little has been done to explore the impact. Despite being a divisive and emotional time for many, stories of altruism, bravery and courage have often been underrepresented. Living in one of the most diverse societies in the world, much has been done to build bridges and develop lasting inter community relations. However, the historical, political and religious divides in the British Asian Faith communities have not yet been explored in a relevant manner. The Grand Trunk Project is about opening up dialogue, rediscovering crucial stories of coexistence and developing lasting relationships in our communities that have been fractured.”

For further information, visit <http://tgtp.co.uk/>.

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Interfaith Scotland exhibition for Scottish Refugee Festival

As part of the Scottish Refugee Festival, Interfaith Scotland is holding an art exhibition from 20 June to 22 June at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. The exhibition will be by the artist Hannah Rose Thomas and will take place in a secure part of the Parliament building so anyone wishing to attend should contact their MSP to arrange admittance.

As part of the exhibition there will be an event entitled The Art of Connection, sponsored by Bill Kidd MSP, on the evening of 21 June. Hannah Rose Thomas will be speaking about her exhibition and there will be an opportunity to connect through her art with refugees in

Jordan and Calais, view refugee art, find out more about the mental health foundation's refugee programme and explore how your community can connect with the global refugee crisis. Pre-registration is essential. Anyone interested in attending should contact the Interfaith Scotland office at admin@interfaithscotland.org.

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Amplify project

Amplify is an arts-based youth-led programme run by 3FF for Sixth Forms and Further Education colleges. It seeks to create and strengthen safe spaces within educational institutions for exploring issues relating to faith, belief, identity, belonging, social trends and community in a rapidly interconnected and globalised world. The programme focusses on three active principles: Critical investigation, Creative expression and Access to Platforms. The platforms range from arts and community spaces, to educational institutions, to corridors of power where young people can make their voices heard.

3FF is piloting its first project with Westminster Academy to deliver Amplify as part of their Creative Action and Service Learning curricula. For further information, visit <http://www.3ff.org.uk/amplify/>.

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Forum for Islam-Christian Dialogue

The Benedict XVI Centre for Religion and Society at St Mary's University, Twickenham and the Centre for Islamic Finance at the University of Bolton have launched the 'Forum for Islam-Christian Dialogue'.

The Forum will hold regular events designed to promote a greater understanding of the tenets of the two faiths and their impact on important areas such as public policy and business ethics. It will also focus on reaching out to academics and opinion formers with the intention that, in the long term, promoting greater understanding at this level in society will permeate into public policy and into communities more generally. For further information, visit

https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/news/2017/05/st_marys_bolton_forum_islam_christian_dialogue?filtered=1.

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One World Week

One World Week has launched a new website at <http://www.oneworldweek.org/>. The theme of this year's Week, which runs from 22 to 29 October, is 'Good Neighbours: My World Depends on Us'. The theme aims to raise awareness of how our everyday lives,

actions and decisions impact upon our global neighbours – often adversely - and what we need to do to improve that impact by being good neighbours.

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Remembering Srebrenica

11 July is the designated international day that marks the Srebrenica genocide. This year the theme is ‘Breaking the Silence: Gender and Genocide’, and the charity Remembering Srebrenica is focusing on the stories of women and the atrocities perpetrated against them that occurred in Bosnia. Remembering Srebrenica hopes that 2017 will be an opportunity not only to remember the impact that conflict has on women, and continues to do so, but also to think about how women are vital contributors to society at all levels.

Resources have been developed for groups to reflect on the impact of war on women and these can be found at: <http://www.srebrenica.org.uk/resources/gender-and-genocide-resources/>.

There are a number of resources on the website and inter faith groups may be interested in the ‘interfaith speech’ link on the Faith Resources page: <http://www.srebrenica.org.uk/resources/faith-resources/>. There are also three case studies that can be found at: <http://www.srebrenica.org.uk/category/case-studies/remembering-through-faith/> which may prove useful for planning inter faith events to mark the Bosnian genocide.

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RESOURCES AND STUDY/TRAINING

Let’s Talk: Practical pointers for inter faith dialogue

The March/April issue of IFN’s e-bulletin noted that IFN was publishing a new resource entitled *Let’s Talk: Practical pointers for inter faith dialogue*. This is now available to download at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/publications>.

The resource draws on existing IFN materials and contributions from member bodies to provide tips and ideas for productive dialogue and conversation between people of different faiths and beliefs in a range of different contexts. Hard copies can be supplied by the IFN office. If you would like a copy, please contact ifnet@interfaith.org.uk.

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Looking After One Another: The Safety and Security of our Faith Communities

Looking after one another: the safety and security of our faith communities was published, as previously reported, in March by the Inter Faith Network for the UK in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Home Office, the Crown Prosecution Service, the National Fire Chiefs' Council and the National Police Chiefs' Council. The guidance has been drawn to the attention of a range of bodies, including in the wake of the Manchester attack.

The document contains guidance on responding jointly to attacks on places of worship; working for calm at times of tension; and working to build on and strengthen existing good inter faith relations. It contains material about how and where to report hate incidents, cyber attacks, and actual or suspected terrorist activity; where to find information on strengthening the security of buildings; and where to find information about working to build – and strengthen – good inter faith relations locally. These practical pointers for responding in solidarity have particular resonance at the present time when there is a need to watch out for the wellbeing of any groups who may be targeted because of terrorist actions which claim, or are perceived by some, as having a link to them.

The document can be found at: <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/looking-after-one-another-the-safety-and-security-of-our-faith-communities-2017>.

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Faith Festivals – guidance on sending greetings

In the UK today a range of festivals are celebrated by different faith communities. The Inter Faith Network office often receives enquiries about the most appropriate festivals on which to send greetings and the form of greeting to use and a guidance document has been produced with the IFN's Faith Communities Forum which can be found at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/faith-festivals-guidance-on-sending-greetings-2017>. Each faith community has many different festivals but has chosen two festivals on which greetings from those of other faiths and none would be particularly appreciated. These are included in a table with greetings that the faith community bodies suggest.

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Church Urban Fund Impact Report

The Church Urban Fund has published its impact report 2016, called: Changing Lives and Communities Together. The report can be found at <https://www.cuf.org.uk/our-impact-in-2016>. Near Neighbours projects are looked at under four headings:

- Living together well and handling differences – bringing people from different faith and belief communities together

- Working with hard to reach social groups – a small grants scheme intended to reach those who are often excluded from traditional community initiatives
- Common Good Fund – launched in 2016 in response to the rise of community tensions in the wake of the Brexit vote
- Catalyst – Developing young leaders, a programme that emphasises the contribution that multi-faith and multi-ethnic diversity make to society

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NCVO guidance on cyber security

Following the recent ransomware attacks across the world, including at several sites in the UK, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations has drawn attention to the best practice guides available on its Knowhow Nonprofit website:

- ‘How to protect your charity’s IT systems’, which gives practical steps on using anti-virus software - <https://knowhownonprofit.org/organisation/how-to/safeguarding-your-charity-with-ict>
- ‘How to stay safe from email scammers’, which gives tips for individuals to implement in their every day work - <https://knowhownonprofit.org/how-to/how-to-avoid-email-hackers-and-scammers-1>
- ‘How to use more secure IT systems’, which gives advice on measures that should be carried out to protect an organisation, including establishing good practice policies - <https://knowhownonprofit.org/how-to/how-to-secure-your-it-systems>

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CALLS FOR INFORMATION, COMPETITIONS, AND NOMINATIONS

Commission on Religious Education

The Commission on Religious Education continues to gather evidence from individuals and organisations, both from within and outside of the RE community. Written evidence can be submitted via the website, and the Commission is also holding evidence gathering sessions around England (the Commission’s remit extends only to England). The next sessions will be in Manchester on 13 June and in Exeter on 20 June.

The 2017 AGM of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, held at the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden, focused particularly on the Commission.

For further information on the Commission, visit <http://www.commissiononre.org.uk>.

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Interfaith Voices

3FF has launched a new platform for people to make their voices heard on different topics. The platform, entitled Interfaith Voices, will be sharing stories, ideas and opinions, including blog posts, reflections and videos. Each month a different question will be posed and people are invited to share their responses.

The theme for May was Politics, Faith and Belief and the theme for June is Brexit, Belief and Identity': How do you feel Brexit has impacted communal relations in the past year?

Contributors are invited to send their content to comms@3ff.org.uk with 'Interfaith Voices' in the subject line. Each month a few will be published on the blog and in the 3FF newsletter.

For further information, visit <http://www.3ff.org.uk/blog/3ff-wants-hear-voices/>.

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Belief at Work Awards

The ComRes Belief at Work awards are a new scheme to celebrate best practice in diversity and inclusion which will be judged by a panel of business, media, community and faith leaders.

The Awards have been set up following the recently published Belief At Work study into faith in the British workplace, which can be found at www.comresglobal.com/belief-at-work.

Award nominations are invited for employers in the private, public and non-profit sector in England, Wales and Scotland before 16 June. For further information on how to nominate, visit <http://www.comresglobal.com/faith/belief-at-work-awards-2017/>.

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JOBS, INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING

IFN's website lists job and internship opportunities with a significant inter faith dimension with IFN member organisations at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/vacancies/jobs>.

3FF – Head of Programmes

3FF is seeking to recruit a new Head of Programmes to lead the “next phase of development for 3FF's ground-breaking, award-winning programmes in schools, universities and community spaces.” The closing date for applications is 19 June.

Further information, including details on how to apply, can be found at <http://www.3ff.org.uk/jobs/head-of-programmes.php>.

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Inter Faith Network for the UK – Media Support – Invitation to Tender

IFN is inviting media agencies to tender for targeted support to boost engagement and to raise the profile of IFN and inter faith issues through print and through broadcast media more generally. IFN will be following an open tender process. The deadline for applications is 5 June.

A copy of the tender document can be downloaded at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/vacancies/jobs>.

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Inter Faith Network for the UK - Volunteers and interns

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

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One World Week – Trustees and Volunteers

One World Week is currently looking for a number of new Trustees. Further information can be found in its Trustee Recruitment Pack at <http://www.oneworldweek.org/about-oww/recruitment>.

It is also looking for volunteers to help with resources for this year’s Week. A list of the type of activities involved and the time needed, can be found at <http://www.oneworldweek.org/about-oww/recruitment>.

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Grants for Big Iftar events

Strengthening Faith Institutions, together with the International Centre for Integration & Cohesion, is offering grants of up to £500 for faith institutions to organise a Big Iftar event in their community during Ramadan (approximately 26 May to 25 June).

Further information can be found at <http://faithsforum.com/new-grant-host-big-iftar/>. The grant application form should be completed and sent to muhammad@faithsforum4london.org by the closing date of 3 June.

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Building a Stronger Britain Together programme

The Home Office programme Building a Stronger Britain Together is continuing to offer in-kind support such as social media training, technical assistance to help a group improve their website, or capacity building work to help a group protect more vulnerable individuals. It is open to bodies in England and Wales. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/building-a-stronger-britain-together>.

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Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund

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

The next deadline is 29 September. It is open to all charities which meet its criteria and have never received funding from the STV Children's Appeal. For more information call Chris on 0141 221 4544 or visit <http://www.faithincommunityscotland.org/faith-in-community-scotland-action-fund/>.

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Tesco Bags of Help

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

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

Grants are awarded to voluntary or community organisations (including registered charities/companies), schools, health bodies (eg Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS Hospital Trust, Foundation Trust), Parish/Town Councils, local authorities and social housing providers. For detailed information on criteria and how to apply, visit <http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/tescocommunityscheme/pages/Category/the-tesco-bags-of-help-programme-tes2>.

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Funding websites

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations offers advice on fundraising and grants on its Knowhow Nonprofit site at <https://knowhownonprofit.org/funding>.

Funding Central - <http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/default.aspx> - is a free website for charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises in England that provides access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities, together with tools and resources for supporting organisations to develop sustainable income strategies appropriate to their needs. Similar websites for funding in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found at Funding Scotland - <http://www.fundingscotland.com/> - Wales Council for Voluntary Action - <http://www.wcva.org.uk/funding/search> - and Grant Tracker for Northern Ireland - <https://www.grant-tracker.org/>.

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Heritage Lottery Fund grants to commemorate First World War

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

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

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Community foundations

Community foundations are local, grant-making organisations to which local community organisations can apply for funding. There are 46 community foundations in the UK, covering Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and most of England. A map of community foundations across the UK and how to contact them, can be found at <http://www.ukcommunityfoundations.org/our-network>.

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Transform Foundation

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

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Google, Microsoft and charities

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

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Subsidised fundraising workshops

The Foundation for Social Improvement offers heavily subsidised training programmes for small charities across the UK. The courses cover a wide range of subjects from event planning to leadership but the majority of their training courses are focused on helping charities learn the skills to raise and earn income. Further information can be found at <http://www.thefsi.org/services/training/>.

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SPECIAL WEEKS/DAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

See more [above](#).

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

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

THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR SUPPORT

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

Please consider making a gift today to support the work of the Inter Faith Network. Gifts at all levels are valued and make a difference. You can donate on our website at www.interfaith.org.uk/donate or via PayPal or JustGiving at <https://www.justgiving.com/interfaithnetwork-uk> or by sending a cheque to The Inter Faith Network for the UK, 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH.

REMEMBERING A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND

From time to time we receive an ‘in memoriam’ gift after an individual has passed away, funded from a collection following their death or through a donation from their heirs. Such gifts provide a living memorial to a loved one, supporting inter faith understanding in this country – for now and for the future. If you would like to make a gift in memory of a loved one, please get in touch by emailing remember@interfaith.org.uk or call us on 0207 730 0410.

A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

By leaving a gift in your will to the Inter Faith Network for the UK, you can leave a living inheritance to help deepen and strengthen inter faith understanding and cooperation in this country – for now and for the future. If you are thinking about making a will, the best thing to do is to get in touch with a professional will writer, such as a solicitor or advocate; they can help to ensure it is legally correct and that your wishes are met. If you have already made a will, you can still make an addition or amendment in the form of a codicil. If you would like to pledge a gift, please provide our name and address, along with our registered charity number 1068934.

Please get in touch with us if you have any queries. You can call Hannah Cassidy, on 0207 730 0410 or contact us at remember@interfaith.org.uk.

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

Thank you!

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DIARY DATES

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

Interfaith MK is holding its next meeting on Thursday 1 June. This will be an Open Discussion on the topic of ‘An Interfaith Response to Terrorism’ discussing how we can best play our part in combatting violence in society. It is being held at 6.30pm at the Freeman Memoria Methodist Church, Buckingham Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 5HH. For further information, contact Ken Harris on 01296 720454 or email interfaithmk@gmail.com.

The City Circle and **St James’s Church** are holding an Interfaith Iftar: Bringing Communities Together on Saturday 3 June. The Iftar aims to bring Britons of all faiths and

none, together to celebrate Ramadan and shared values. The keynote speaker this year will be Baroness Sayeeda Warsi. There will also be a discussion on the importance of building strong inter faith communities, followed by the breaking of the fast, evening prayers and dinner. Booking is essential. This is being held from 7.30pm to 10.30pm at St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LL. To book a place or for further information, visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/interfaith-iftar-bringing-communities-together-tickets-34620652303?aff=es2>.

Burngreave Ashram Multifaith Chapel & Library is hosting its next Meditation/Prayer lunch and seminar on Monday 5 June from 12pm to 2.30pm. The meditation and prayer will be led by John Vincent. It is being held at 86 Spital Hill, Sheffield S4 7LG. For further information, contact on BAMCL@outlook.com or call on 07932 017929 or 0114 2436688.

York Interfaith Group is holding an event on Tuesday 6 June. It will begin with a 'Bring and Share' Meal with Music from 5.30pm to 7.30pm and will then be followed at 7.30pm by its Monthly Meeting, for which the theme is Linkages between Dharmic and Abrahamic Faiths, with a particular emphasis on Buddhism. It is being held at the York Medical Society Rooms, 23 Stonegate, York YO1 8AW. For further information, contact yorkinterfaithgroup@gmail.com.

South Lakeland Interfaith Forum and South Lakeland Mind are holding an informal launch party on Tuesday 6 June for their collaborative booklet 'Spiritual Links' to raise awareness of mental health issues. Booking is essential. This is being held at 4pm at Stricklandgate House, Kendal, LA9 4PU. For further information, contact Rev. Amanda Reynolds at amandareynolds1@me.com.

St Philip's Centre is holding its AGM and a Book Launch on Wednesday 7 June. The book launch will be of Riaz Ravat and Tom Wilson's book, which has been co-authored on the theme of *Learning to Live Well Together: Case Studies in Interfaith Diversity*. The book uses the Centre's aim of learning to live together and the four criteria by which they evaluate their work (encounter, understanding, trust and co-operation). Proceeds from discounted copies of the book will go to support the work of the Centre. This is being held at 5pm at St Philip's Centre, 2A Stoughton Drive North, Leicester, LE5 5UB. For further information, contact on maureen@stphilipscentre.co.uk.

The Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter is holding the 47th Cardinal Bea Memorial Lecture on Wednesday 7 June. The event entitled 'Jews, Christians and the Reformation', will be commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in the context of the Jewish Christian relationship. The speakers will be Rabbi Sybil Sheridan and Dr Volker Haarmann. Places are limited so booking is essential. This is being held at 7pm, with a wine reception from 6pm, at the Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter, 34 Chepstow Villas, London, W11 2QZ. For further information contact sioncentrefordialogue@gmail.com or telephone 02073138286, or alternatively visit www.sioncentre.org.

Faith in Lancaster is holding its next Faithshare meeting on Monday 12 June. The theme for the meeting will be ‘Exploring Faith Through Reading (and perhaps also writing) Novels, Poetry and Plays’. This meeting provides an opportunity to meet together in a safe and respectful space in which to share and learn about each other’s beliefs, understandings, experiences, traditions and practices. This is being held at 7.30pm in the William Stout Room, Quaker Meeting House, Lancaster, LA1 1TX. For further information, email info@faithinlancaster.org.uk or visit www.faithinlancaster.org.uk.

Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby is holding a Faith Trail on Thursday 15 June. This is an opportunity to explore places of faith in close proximity to each other. The visit will start at 9.45am for 10am at the Hindu Temple Geeta Bhawan Derby, 102 Pear Tree Road, Derby, DE23 6QA, followed by visits to Derby Jamia Mosque, Guru Arjan Dev Gurdwara and finish at the Baptist church, 154 Pear Tree Road, Derby DE23 6QD. Booking is essential. For further information, visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/refugee-week-faith-trail-tickets--33488715650> or visit www.multifaithcentre.org.

Building Bridges in Burnley is holding its AGM on Thursday 15 June at 8pm. This will be followed by the closing of the Ramadan fast at approximately 9.45pm. This is being held at the Ghosia Masjid, Abel Street, Burnley, Lancashire, BB10 1QX. For further information, contact Bea Foster on 07875517043 or on bea_foster@hotmail.com.

Nipponzan Myohoji, The London Peace Pagoda is holding the 32nd Annual Celebration of the London Peace Pagoda on Saturday 17 June. There will be an annual ceremony of Nipponzan Myohoji with various Buddhist traditions; inter faith prayers for peace messages and speeches; and devotional music and dance. The programme will be followed by an offering of tea and light refreshments. Everyone is welcome to offer incense, flowers, candles, etc. This is being held at 2pm at the Nipponzan Myohoji, The London Peace Pagoda, Battersea Park, Albert Bridge Road, London, SW11 4NJ. For further information, contact on 02072289620 or email on londonpeacepagoda@gmail.com.

Waveney Interfaith Circle is holding themed ‘talking’ meetings every month for anyone interested in learning about the beliefs and traditions of other faiths through friendly informal contact with those who are familiar with them. The next meeting is on Monday 19 June at 7.30pm. The theme of the meeting is ‘Fasting’ and the speaker Nora Hassan will talk about the Islamic fast of Ramadan before the group shares how fasting features in other traditions. This is being held at St Margaret’s Church Centre, 147 Hollingsworth Rd, Lowestoft NR32 4BW. For further information, contact Rose Norgate on 01502712369.

London Inter Faith Centre is holding a talk entitled ‘Contemporary challenges in Hindu-Christian relations – India and UK’ on Monday 26 June. The speaker, Dr Andrew Wingate OBE will be reflecting on his experience of inter faith encounter, in Britain, in India, and in Sweden, with special emphasis on the encounter with Hindus. A donation has been requested, with concessions available. This is being held from 7.30pm to 9pm at the London Inter Faith Centre, 125 Salusbury Road, NW6 6RG. For further information, visit <http://londoninterfaith.org.uk/>.

St Philip's Centre, Leicester is holding a Scriptural Reasoning event on the theme of food on Monday 26 June. These sessions give the opportunity to engage with different world faith scriptures alongside The Bible, with people of those faiths. Each of these sessions will look at a different thematic approach, with the first looking at Food. This is being held from 7pm to 8.30pm at the St Philip's Centre, 2A Stoughton Drive North, Leicester, LE5 5UB. For more information, and to book a place, contact maureen@stphilipscentre.co.uk.

Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship is holding a talk and discussion on 'Baha'i Ethics in Contemporary Society' on Thursday 29 June. The speaker will be Dr Shahin Fatheazam. This is being held at 7.30pm at the Leeds Language Academy, 14A Woodsley Road, LS3 1DT. For further information, contact John Summerwill on 01132697895 or email on membership@concord-leeds.org.uk.

Christian Aid Scotland and **Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees** are organising an inter faith pilgrimage called Shoulder to Shoulder on Sunday 2 July. This 10km walk on the paths of the mountain of Ben Ledik, near Callander, will take in sights including Rock of Embers and a panoramic view of the Highlands, and will be themed around sanctuary and refugees. It is free to take part in this pilgrimage, however participants are encouraged to raise funds for a project or charity which works with refugees, especially one with a faith basis. To register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shoulder-to-shoulder-tickets-34318446397> or for more information visit www.christianaid.org.uk/scotland-events or contact events@christian-aid.org or 0141 221 7475.

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

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

Interfaith Scotland: www.interfaithscotland.org

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

If you have items which you would like considered for inclusion in the next e-bulletin please email these to ifnet@interfaith.org.uk by **19 July** 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

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