



IFN e-bulletin

May/June 2015

CONTENTS

The e-bulletin can be read by scrolling through it. If you prefer to go directly to a particular section, click the relevant blue underlined title in the 'Sections' list immediately below. To go directly to particular individual items, click on the relevant blue underlined 'Read more' links in the list of these in the 'Items' list.

SECTIONS

[Faith and public life updates](#)

[International updates](#)

[Inter faith projects, programmes and developments](#)

[Resources and training](#)

[Jobs, Internships and Volunteering](#)

[Funding opportunities](#)

[Calls for information, competitions and tenders](#)

[Special Weeks/Days](#)

[Diary Dates](#)

ITEMS

[Faith and public life updates](#)

- New Ministerial team at DCLG [Read more...](#)
- New anti-extremism legislation [Read more...](#)
- EHRC Report: Religion or belief in the workplace and service delivery [Read more...](#)
- EHRC Business and Strategic Plans [Read more...](#)
- Office of the Public Guardian [Read more...](#)
- New Year's Honours nominations [Read more...](#)
- RE Council Beyond the Ordinary campaign [Read more...](#)
- 'BRIT' survey [Read more...](#)

[International updates](#)

- Colloquium on preventing and combating anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hatred in Europe [Read more...](#)

[Inter faith projects, programmes and developments](#)

- UK Women of Faith Network [Read more...](#)
- Like Mother, Like Daughter [Read more...](#)
- The Bridge exhibition [Read more...](#)
- Church opens facilities for prayers after Mosque fire [Read more...](#)
- Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade inter faith NCS programme [Read more...](#)
- United – Faith, Food and Football [Read more...](#)
- Marie Curie support services [Read more...](#)
- Multi faith quiet room at Belfast City airport [Read more...](#)
- Faith and Place Network [Read more...](#)

- Building Bridges theme for European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage [Read more...](#)

Resources and training

- Report on national day for local inter faith practitioners [Read more...](#)
- Young people and inter faith engagement microsite [Read more...](#)
- “Know Your Neighbour” [Read more...](#)
- Beyond Forgiving film [Read more...](#)
- Birmingham Faith Leaders’ Group film [Read more...](#)
- Guidance leaflets for voluntary sector bodies on equalities law [Read more...](#)
- ONS overview of religious landscape of UK [Read more...](#)
- InterfaithMinute [Read more...](#)
- Woolf Institute e-learning course [Read more...](#)
- Prevent training in Derby [Read more...](#)
- Tackling domestic violence and abuse in faith communities [Read more...](#)
- St Ethelburga’s community reconciliation conference [Read more...](#)
- Friendly Places workshop [Read more...](#)

Calls for information, Competitions and Tenders

- IFN Call for information [Read more...](#)
- CCJ Snapshots of 1945 [Read more...](#)

Jobs, Internships and Volunteering

- Inter Faith Network for the UK – Summer internship [Read more...](#)
- Interfaith Scotland – Volunteer Youth Workshop Facilitators [Read more...](#)
- 3FF – Volunteer Speakers and Interns [Read more...](#)
- LSE Faith Centre – Coordinator [Read more...](#)

Funding opportunities

- Near Neighbours programme [Read more...](#)
- First Steps programme [Read more...](#)
- Funding Central website [Read more...](#)
- Comic Relief Stronger Communities grants [Read more...](#)

Special Weeks/Days

- Sewa Day [Read more...](#)
- One World Week [Read more...](#)
- National Inter Faith Week in England, Wales and Northern Ireland [Read more...](#)
- Mitzvah Day [Read more...](#)
- Scottish Interfaith Week [Read more...](#)

Diary Dates

- Information on some of the inter faith events taking place around the UK [Read more...](#)

If you have items which you would like considered for inclusion in the next e-bulletin please email these to ifnet@interfaith.org.uk by **15 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 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.

[Back to the top](#)

FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE UPDATES

New Ministerial team at DCLG.

The 2015 UK General Election took place on 7 May.

The Department which takes the lead for the Government on faith and inter faith issues, as part of its integration role, is that of Communities and Local Government. Its new Ministers are:

- Rt Hon Greg Clark MP – Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
- Rt Hon Mark Francois MP – Minister of State for Communities and Local Government
- Brandon Lewis MP – Minister of State for Communities and Local Government
- Marcus Jones MP – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Local Government)
- James Wharton MP – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
- Baroness Williams of Trafford – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Baroness Williams has been given the Integration and Faith portfolio at DCLG. Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/people/susan-williams-of-trafford>.

[Back to the top](#)

New anti extremism legislation

In The Queen's Speech on 27 May, it was announced that measures would be brought forward to "promote social cohesion and protect people by tackling extremism". The Anti-Extremism Bill is to include new immigration rules, powers to close down premises used by extremists and the power to make 'extremism disruption orders'.

A Counter Terrorism and Security Act received Royal Assent in February. This put the Prevent programme on a statutory footing. From 1 July every local authority will have a legal duty, "when exercising its functions, [to] have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". Higher Education institutions will also have to comply with the new Prevent statutory duty, as will schools, Further Education institutions, the health sector ..., prisons and probation and the Police.

Guidance on implementation of the Act was published in March.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417943/Preve

[nt Duty Guidance England Wales.pdf](#) and https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417941/Prevent Duty Guidance for Scotland.pdf

[*Back to the top*](#)

EHRC report: Religion or belief in the workplace and service delivery

As noted in the last E-bulletin, the Equality and Human Rights Commission report on the findings of the call for evidence on religion or belief has now been published and can be found at <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/our-work/key-projects/your-experiences-religion-or-belief> along with summaries of its findings. The EHRC will be drawing on the findings to produce guidance in due course.

[*Back to the top*](#)

EHRC Strategic and Business Plan

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has published its Business and Strategic Plans for 2015/16.

At the centre of the Business Plan are three new projects: to address pay gaps in relation to gender, race and disability; to examine the state of access to civil justice; and to assess the relationship between attitudes, values and behaviours. The full Business Plan can be found at <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/about-commission/our-vision-and-mission/our-business-plan>.

The Strategic Plan has been revised with minor updates and extended for one further year. The Strategic Plan and the revision for 2015/16 can be found at <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/about-commission/our-vision-and-mission/our-strategic-plan>.

[*Back to the top*](#)

Office of the Public Guardian

The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) is a Government agency that registers lasting powers of attorney (LPAs). These important legal documents allow people to choose someone they trust to help manage their affairs should they ever lose capacity. Setting up an LPA is straightforward and can be done online, but the OPG is concerned that too few people are taking this important step.

Every year, 225,000 people in the UK develop dementia. Every 90 seconds someone is admitted to hospital with an acquired brain injury. That's why it is so important to act now and plan ahead to make sure choices count, no matter what the future holds. The OPG wants to understand better what stops people taking out an LPA as well as what might encourage more people, including younger adults as well people from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, to plan ahead.

The OPG is particularly keen to learn from the insights and knowledge of faith leaders who have strong links with their communities as well as a deep understanding of them. Anyone interested in assisting should email partnerships@publicguardian.gsi.gov.uk or call Munpreet Kaur Uppal on 0121 631 6814.

[Back to the top](#)

New Year's Honours Nominations

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) 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.

All nominations must be made on an official citation form and nominees should not be informed that they have been nominated. Citation forms can be obtained from integration@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

DCLG is holding a series of workshops at its offices in London giving a brief overview of the nominations process and guidance about how to draft a citation. These will be taking place during July and August. For further information contact Abdul Ghaffar at integration@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

[Back to the top](#)

RE Council 'Beyond the Ordinary' campaign

The Religious Education Council of England and Wales has launched a new campaign, entitled 'Beyond the Ordinary', to encourage graduates and career changers to train as RE teachers. The campaign highlights the benefits of a career in RE teaching and includes a short video looking at the experiences of an RE teacher and her students from Redhill Academy in Nottingham, one of the Young Ambassador for RE teams. The film presents RE teaching as a career that is far from ordinary and communicates the breadth and diversity of RE in schools today. For further information, visit www.teachre.co.uk/beyondtheordinary.

[Back to the top](#)

'BRIT' survey

A project called "The Building Resilience through Integration & Trust (BRIT) programme", which is funded from an EU fund – the Radicalisation Leading to Terrorism Programme, has attracted attention for a questionnaire given to Year 5 and 5 pupils in a London school which asked questions such as 'How much do you trust people of another race/religion?' and 'Would you mind if a family of a different race or religion moved next door?' and whether they agree that it is acceptable to marry someone from outside their race or religion. <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/may/28/fury-after-primary-pupils-are-asked-to-complete-radicalisation-seeking-surveys>

[Back to the top](#)

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

Colloquium on preventing and combating anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hatred in Europe

The European Commission is seeking input to its first Annual Colloquium on fundamental rights in the EU. The Colloquium, being held in October, will aim at improving mutual cooperation and greater political engagement for the promotion and protection of fundamental rights in Europe. It will seek to strengthen dialogue between the EU and international institutions, policy makers, academia and civil society, and deepen the understanding of challenges for fundamental rights on the ground. The central theme will be "Tolerance and respect: preventing and combating anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hatred in Europe".

The Commission would like to collect input on a number of questions http://ec.europa.eu/justice/events/colloquium-fundamental-rights-2015/files/2015colloquium_questions_en.pdf which will be at the centre of discussions during the Colloquium. The deadline for input is 31 May and contributions can be sent to JUST-Colloquium@ec.europa.eu.

[*Back to the top*](#)

INTER FAITH PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES AND DEVELOPMENTS

UK Women of Faith Network under development

Religions for Peace, a multi-religious coalition which advances common action for peace among the world's religious communities, is facilitating the establishment of a United Kingdom Women of Faith Network (UKWFN).

It is intended that UKWFN will: increase the visibility of religious women as powerful agents of change; create visibility of the leadership role of women of faith; harness the power and showcase the unique models of women of different faiths (and their vast networks) in transforming conflict, advancing just and harmonious societies and protecting the earth; be a mechanism to promote religion as an asset for peace – particularly where historically religion has been seen as a problem; allow women to share experiences and knowledge; be a forum for extended networking – Nationally, Regionally and Internationally; mainstream women of faith into peace building initiatives regionally, nationally and globally; move dialogue to action – Common concerns such as Restoring Dignity – End violence against women initiative; and foster partnerships and alliances with other secular and governmental organisations, such as the United Nations, European Parliament, Council of Europe and civil society.

For further information, contact Ravinder Kaur Nijjar at rknijjar@rfpwomenoffaith.eu or Jehangir Sarosh at executive.director@religionsforpeace.org.uk.

[*Back to the top*](#)

Like Mother, Like Daughter

The Women's Interfaith Network, 3FF, Inlight Trust, the Goldsmiths' Company and the Joseph Strong Frazer Trust have supported a collaborative project entitled 'Like Mother, Like Daughter'. This was a production created and performed by mothers and daughters from different religions and a celebration of the traditions inherited and passed on. For further information, visit

https://www.bac.org.uk/content/36432/see_whats_on/whats_on/shows/like_mother_like_daughter.

[Back to the top](#)

The Bridge exhibition

The Bridge is an East-West travelling art exhibition organised and curated by CARAVAN, an interreligious and intercultural peacebuilding NGO, which will showcase the work of 47 visual artists from 15 countries. The exhibition is a gathering of international artists focusing on what they hold in common through their cultures and creeds: Christian, Jewish and Muslim. The exhibition will be at venues throughout the world and is being held at St Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square in London from 1 June until 31 July. For further information, visit www.oncaravan.org and www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/visiting/art-and-exhibitions.

[Back to the top](#)

Church opens facilities to Muslims for prayer after Mosque fire

Following a fire at Kingston Mosque on 9 June, the nearby church of St Luke's has welcomed the Muslim community into its facilities in Burton Road and members of the mosque have been praying in the church's music room. Fr Martin Hislop said: "We are happy to rearrange things so the Muslim community can use our music room for everyday prayers. We are just working out what they need." Although the Church cannot accommodate the Friday communal prayer needs, he said "We are going to do as much as we can. It does mean a bit of re-jigging – but that's what neighbours do." The fire, termed 'unsuspicious', caused damage but those in the Mosque were not endangered. Further information can be found at

http://www.surreycomet.co.uk/news/13323141.Love_thy_neighbour_Church_opens_doors_to_Muslim_worshippers_after_Kingston_Mosque_fire/

[Back to the top](#)

JLGB summer inter faith NCS programme

Summer inter faith NCS programme

There are a last 30 spaces left on a special National Citizen Service (NCS) programme, designed for young people to explore their faith and cultural backgrounds.

NCS is a Government initiative being rolled out to every 16 and 17 year old. One of the key areas that NCS promotes is social mixing, and with specifically designed social cohesion sessions, it gives the participants a chance to experience and discuss their own and other people's faith, bringing the participants closer in sharing their cultures.

The Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade (JLGB), with other faith organisations, has campaigned for several years to ensure that a faith and culturally sensitive NCS model exists for young people of faith based communities. It will be running an inter faith NCS programme from 10 to 28 August in London and invites interested young people of any background from anywhere in England to apply.

The programme is across three weeks and is residential during the weekdays. The first two weeks take place in Colchester and Redbridge (London); the third can take place anywhere. Week One has a focus on adventure activities. In teams of around 12, participants will have the opportunity to take part in rock climbing, abseiling, archery, swimming and more. Week Two has the focus on learning a particular skill selected by the group such as cookery, graphic design or fitness. Participants will start to plan a social action project that they will carry out during the following week. Week Three: Social action project. Participants will spend 30 hours volunteering in the local community by carrying out a project they designed themselves. During the residential weeks, Kosher, halal and vegetarian food will be provided.

Due to a government grant, the programme can be offered to participants free.

For further information and to apply visit www.interfaithncs.org, or contact the JLGB team on 0208 989 5743.

[Back to the top](#)

United – Faith, Food and Football

'United' is an informal faith dialogue group for young people aged 11 to 18 based in Southall and beyond. Its aim is to get people thinking and talking about the links between Faith, Food and Football. There will be a series of Saturday evening gatherings consisting of cage football, inflatables, team building games and a curry supper. The events will take place at St John's Church, Havelock Road, Southall. For further information, contact the Project Director, Calum Burke on 07748 176183 or at calum@thevibesouthall.co.uk.

[Back to the top](#)

Marie Curie support services

Marie Curie, a national charity that provides care and support for people affected by terminal illness, has recently launched a range of new information and support services to complement its existing nursing and hospice care. These include an information hub

(mariecurie.org.uk/help), an online community (community.mariecurie.org.uk) and a confidential support line on 0800 090 2309.

The services are for anyone living with any terminal illness and their family, friends and carers. Marie Curie is keen to ensure that it supports the diverse needs of faith communities across the UK, and welcomes any guidance that will help it improve its services and help more people. Its information currently includes links to multi-faith pastoral support, and a recognition that spiritual or emotional pain can be a significant experience for people living with terminal illness, regardless of their faith.

Anyone wishing to share any feedback on the new services, should contact the team at infosupport@mariecurie.org.uk.

[Back to the top](#)

Multi faith quiet room at Belfast City airport

George Best Belfast City Airport has opened an in-terminal quiet room to provide a place of prayer and worship for the multi faith communities of Northern Ireland. Representatives of a number of faiths were present in March to officially open the room to the public and each gave a short blessing to the space. For further information, visit <http://niinterfaithforum.org/>.

[Back to the top](#)

Faith and Place Network

The Arts and Humanities Research Council's Faith and Place Network aims to bring people together to inform the critical issues around faith, place and planning, especially for minority faith groups. It is a multi faith and interdisciplinary network, including faith groups' representatives, planners, policymakers and academics. Further details are at <http://faithandplacenetWORK.org>. A key aim of the Faith and Place Network is therefore to produce a policy brief for disseminating to various governmental levels, based on the Network deliberations. It has held two events so far and will be holding its final event on 30 June and 1 July at Grove House at the University of Roehampton in London. Information on the event can be found at <http://faithandplacenetWORK.org/events/futures-event/>.

[Back to the top](#)

Building Bridges theme for European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage

This year's European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage, organised by B'nai B'rith UK, will run from 11 to 18 October. It will be on the theme of 'Building Bridges' and will include an inter faith event. For further information, see: <http://www.jewishheritage.org/jh/edjc.php>

[Back to the top](#)

RESOURCES AND TRAINING

Report on national day for local inter faith practitioners

IFN recently held a day event in Sheffield for local inter faith practitioners across the UK to come together for learning and sharing. Open to participants from groups anywhere in the UK, it was an opportunity to share experiences and discuss issues of common interest and concern, with focused learning opportunities on practical aspects of setting up, running and sustaining local inter faith initiatives with positive, long term impact. A copy of the report on the day can be found at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/all-publications/all-publications>.

[Back to the top](#)

Young people and inter faith engagement microsite

In April IFN launched a new youth inter faith engagement 'microsite' linked to its main website: <http://youth.interfaith.org.uk/>.

On this site are materials flowing from a special event, '*Young Voices, Young Agents for Change*', which took place in November and brought together over 80 participants of different ages from a range of organisations to explore aspects of inter faith activity developed by, with and for young people. The aim is to broaden and strengthen this area of activity, enabling even more young people to get involved. In preparation for the event, the IFN office contacted member bodies to ask if they had programmes or projects which were relevant to the day and a number were featured.

On the microsite is an illustrated report on the day and a summary of points made by participants in the course of the day. There are also videos of the presentations by the three young presenters who opened the day: Aamna Alam of Bolton Interfaith Young Ambassadors; Ankit Sinha of Redbridge Ambassadors of Faith and Belief and Megan Wallace of Interfaith Scotland and many more video clips of participants from other organisations and projects such as Rachel Silveira of 3FF; Dr Joyce Miller of the RE Council of England and Wales; Raheed Salam of the National Council of Faiths and Beliefs in Further Education and Isabelle King of the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services.

The work on the microsite and on the event was kindly made possible by support from the Church Urban Fund, Golden Tours Foundation, Inter Faith Youth Trust, National Association of SACREs, and Zoroastrian Trust Funds for Europe as well as through support from the Department for Communities and Local Government for the work programme of which this event formed part.

[Back to the top](#)

“Know Your Neighbour”

The Near Neighbours programme has recently started a new series entitled ‘Know Your Neighbour’ which will provide a short briefing for some of the key religious festivals in the calendar. For information about the series, visit <https://www.cuf.org.uk/blog/know-your-neighbour>.

For further information about the Near Neighbours programme, visit <https://www.cuf.org.uk/how-we-help/near-neighbours>.

[*Back to the top*](#)

Beyond Forgiving film

Initiatives of Change has produced a documentary on the theme of Beyond Forgiving. The film features a former South African army commander who ordered retaliatory massacres on white civilians during apartheid and Ginn Fourie, whose daughter was killed in one of these massacres. The two of them now work together as peacemakers. The approach to conflict represented in the film is that of trust building, relationship building and respecting differences. Initiatives of Change are interested in partnering with any organisations interested in screening the film or running workshop discussions. For further information, including a trailer, visit <http://uk.iofc.org/Films-to-watch/Post-Apartheid-Beyond-Forgiving>.

[*Back to the top*](#)

Birmingham Faith Leaders’ Group film

Birmingham Faith Leaders’ Group have produced a film about their visit to India in October. The visit was filmed throughout by a crew from Sangat TV and is an account of the visit and an in-depth exploration of the background, history and nature of the Sikh faith in the context of an inter faith group. It also includes a specially recorded statement of support from the Prime Minister.

It can be seen on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPQLHbBJ1bY&feature=youtu.be>.

[*Back to the top*](#)

Guidance leaflets for voluntary sector bodies on equalities law

The Equality and Diversity Forum has produced updated guidance leaflets for voluntary and community sector bodies. The leaflets are designed to help VCS bodies to make use of the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty in their work. There are also leaflets on the meaning of ‘due regard’ and a glossary of key terms in equality law. The leaflets are available at <http://www.edf.org.uk/blog/?p=37062>.

[*Back to the top*](#)

ONS review of religious Landscape of the UK

The Office for National Statistics recently published online a short overview of the changing religious landscape of the UK, based on the 2011 statistics. This can be found at <http://visual.ons.gov.uk/2011-census-religion/>.

[Back to the top](#)

Interfaith Minute

The Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions has launched a new YouTube series entitled #InterfaithMinute. Each week it will be releasing a new video portraying the power of inter faith relations, the do's and don'ts of engaging in inter faith dialogue and useful information regarding the inter faith movement. The first film can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aog9LOL9nOc&mc_cid=64d76690cf&mc_eid=bQxmeNgtRw.

[Back to the top](#)

Woolf Institute e-learning course

Applications are now open for the Woolf Institute's e-learning course, *Jews, Christians and Muslims in Europe: Modern Challenges*. This three-part e-learning course focuses on the relationships between Jews, Christians and Muslims in modern Europe. The course examines historical trends, religious and cultural interaction, and issues of contemporary citizenship. The e-learning approach allows participants to study wherever and whenever they choose via the internet. The closing date for applications is 3 August. For further information, contact Dr Emma Harris, Academic Coordinator, at eth22@cam.ac.uk.

[Back to the top](#)

Prevent training in Derby

The Multi Faith Centre at the University of Derby is part of a group of organisations hosting one day training courses on the Prevent programme, exploring radicalisation and terrorism. The courses will explore: risk and threat; safeguarding and vulnerability; statutory duties; and referrals. For further information and future dates, contact Joanna Thornewill on 01332 591285 or at j.thornewill@derby.ac.uk.

[Back to the top](#)

Tackling domestic violence and abuse in faith communities

Kahrmel Wellness is continuing to host specialist training days on 'Tackling domestic violence and abuse in faith communities'. The next one takes place in Birmingham on 9 July. The training is aimed at faith leaders, statutory service workers, academics, survivors of DVA, politicians, professionals working with DVA victims and DVA perpetrators. Detailed

information can be found at <http://kahrmelwellness.com/2015-national-training/>. Any enquiries can be addressed to 0121 231 7465.

[Back to the top](#)

St Ethelburga's community reconciliation conference

The St Ethelburga's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation is holding a day conference on 24 June on 'Community reconciliation – a collaborative enquiry'. This is for all those working in the field of reconciliation to share reflections, build relationships and form possible collaborations for future programmes. At its heart is a transparent process of mutual listening to increase understanding, reduce prejudice and make connections across differences. Further information can be found at <https://www.stethelburgas.org/community-reconciliation-training>. Any enquiries can be addressed to Angharad Thain at angharad@stethelburgas.org.

[Back to the top](#)

Friendly Places workshop

FaithAction is working on a project entitled Friendly Places which aims to help those suffering from mental health problems. As part of the project it is holding workshops to help faith communities make their places of worship welcoming to those suffering from mental health problems. For further information, visit <http://www.faithaction.net/event/friendly-places-training-dudley/> or contact FaithAction at info@faithaction.net or on 0845 094 6350.

[Back to the top](#)

CALLS FOR INFORMATION, COMPETITIONS AND TENDERS

IFN call for information

Local inter faith updates

The Inter Faith Network for the UK regularly checks, through desk research, on new local initiatives which are emerging and seeks to keep its local groups list on the website fully up to date. This summer we are embarking on a more in depth updating process and we would be very pleased if local readers would like to check out the details of local groups at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/take-part/find-my-local-inter-faith-group>.

If you spot one that you think is missing, do let us know! You can email Ashley Beck at Ashley.beck@interfaith.org.uk or ring 020 7730 0410.

Short films on religion and belief in the workplace

The IFN office has received some enquiries recently about short films on religion and belief in the workplace. If you have information on resources you have used and found helpful, the IFN office would be interested to have details: ifnet@interfaith.org.uk

[Back to the top](#)

CCJ Snapshots of 1945

The Council of Christians and Jews is compiling a collection of stories, memories and accounts from its members who remember what life was like for Jews and Christians after the Second World War. The project aims to explore questions such as: How was life different for Jews and Christians in 1945? What were Christian-Jewish relations like at the end of the Second World War? What about this time made people interested in inter faith relations and CCJ? Anyone wishing to contribute can contact aron.carr@ccj.org.uk.

[Back to the top](#)

JOBS, INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING

Inter Faith Network for the UK – Summer internship

IFN is offering an opportunity for an 6-8 week summer mini-internship, 4 days per week, to help on projects such as national Inter Faith Week (www.interfaithweek.org), local inter faith support and development of website resources. Further information and an application form can be obtained from the IFN office. The application deadline is 23 June.

[Back to the top](#)

Interfaith Scotland - Volunteer Youth Workshop Facilitators

Interfaith Scotland is looking for fifteen new volunteers to help it deliver a new inter faith initiative for young people in schools and youth groups across Scotland. The closing date for applications is 15 June. For more information, visit <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/news-events/>.

[Back to the top](#)

3FF – Volunteer speakers and Interns

3FF is looking for confident and enthusiastic volunteers from different backgrounds to share their personal experience about faith or belief in schools around London and Birmingham. The workshops are aimed at developing young people's skills of empathy and promoting inter faith dialogue and understanding. For further information, visit <http://www.3ff.org.uk/volunteer/>.

3FF is also currently recruiting for new interns. Each internship lasts three or six months and interns work closely with 3FF's teams and participate in training sessions on different topics. The closing date for applications is 8 June. For further information, visit <http://www.3ff.org.uk/internships/>.

[Back to the top](#)

LSE Faith Centre - Coordinator

The Faith Centre at the London School of Economics and Political Science is seeking to recruit a Coordinator. The Faith Centre opened in January 2014 to provide a home for faith

activities on campus, a centre for interfaith dialogue, and a reflective space for all staff and students. The Coordinator will play a key role in working with the Chaplain to oversee the running of the Centre and develop its programme of activities.

The post is full time for a fixed term of three years and the closing date for applications is 22 June. For more information, including how to apply, visit <http://www.lse.ac.uk/LSEJobs/ProfessionalServices/home.aspx> and search for this vacancy.

[Back to the top](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Near Neighbours programme

The Near Neighbours programme, a partnership between the Church Urban Fund and the Archbishops' Council, awards small grants of between £250 and £5,000 to projects that enable people of different faiths or none to work together for the benefit of the community. This is a rolling programme with no deadlines available in certain parts of England (maps showing eligible areas can be found at <http://www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours/grants/eligible-areas>). Its second phase is due to run until December 2015.

Details on eligibility and how to apply can be found online at <http://www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours/grants>.

[Back to the top](#)

First Steps programme

The Faith Based Regeneration Network, in partnership with Locality, the Community Development Foundation and others is launching a new programme of support for local community action, funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government, called 'First Steps'. The programme will initially be working to support at least 115 local neighbourhoods or areas to work collaboratively in their communities to create a community action plan by March 2016. Grants of up to £2,500 are available to assist community groups in putting together their first plan. The Starter Pack and Guidance Notes can be downloaded from <http://cdf.org.uk/content/funding-programmes/first-steps>.

[Back to the top](#)

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.

[Back to the top](#)

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/.

[Back to the top](#)

SPECIAL WEEKS/DAYS

Sewa Day - Sunday 4 October.

The Sanskrit word 'Sewa' means 'selfless service'. The aim of Sewa Day is to provide people a chance to give back to the local community through volunteering on a single day to make a difference. For more information and to get involved visit: www.sewaday.org

One World Week - Sunday 18 to Sunday 25 October.

Each year One World Week is an opportunity for people from diverse backgrounds to come together to learn about global justice, to spread that learning and to use it to take action for justice locally and globally. The theme for this year's One World Week is 'Hope in Action'. This aims to inspire a culture of hope to build a more equal and peaceful world. For more information, including guidance for inter faith and inter cultural events, visit <http://www.oneworldweek.org>.

National Inter Faith Week in England, Wales and Northern Ireland - Sunday 15 to Saturday 21 November.

National Inter Faith Week is a programme of the Inter Faith Network for the UK. Its aims are:

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

Many different kinds of organisation will be holding events to mark the Week: faith community bodies; inter faith organisations; non-religious belief bodies; schools and Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs); universities and colleges; local authorities and Police and Fire and Rescue Services; hospitals; businesses; voluntary organisations; chaplaincies; and others.

Just a few possible ways of marking the Week are:

- Faith trails and open door days – opportunities to visit places of worship
- Highlighting an inter faith project or programme of your organisation
- Launching a new inter faith project or resource
- A social media inter faith awareness campaign
- Joint social action – like a community litter-pick or charity fundraising
- Dialogues, debates and talks
- Quizzes, poster and photography competitions
- Inter faith sports events
- Hands-on learning activities and exhibitions
- Exchange visits between members of different places of worship
- Whole school and classroom activities
- A young people's inter faith forum event
- Arts and cultural events
- Faith and food events

This year, why not consider a hands on social action project – from treeplanting to volunteering together in another way that helps the local community. Or hold a discussion about how living well together as people of different faiths and beliefs and how we contribute to our shared society.

For further ideas, resources, event information and to register your own event and put it on the map, go to www.interfaithweek.org

Mitzvah Day - Sunday 22 November.

Mitzvah Day is a Jewish led day of social action – around the world thousands of people take part in hands on projects to support existing charities and to build stronger communities. People are encouraged to volunteer for projects in their communities and anyone can take part regardless of their background. This year, Mitzvah Day takes place on the day following Inter Faith Week but the Week is delighted to include its events as part of the calendar.

Mitzvah Day 365 takes place year round and is a catalyst in building local communities by bringing together over 37,000 people each year, to take part in collective, hands-on social action projects which make a real difference to local issues. For further information, visit www.mitzvahday.org.uk.

Scottish Interfaith Week - Sunday 22 to Monday 30 November.

Scottish Inter Faith Week is led by Interfaith Scotland. The theme this year is 'Care for Creation'. Further information is online at <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/events/>.

[Back to the top](#)

DIARY DATES

The **Woolf Institute** and **SOAS, University of London** are hosting a workshop on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 June on 'Minorities and Popular Culture in the Modern Middle East'. The workshop will explore the contribution to popular culture of religious and ethnic minorities from the Middle East and analyse how minorities are represented from the late nineteenth century to the present day. The workshop will be held at SOAS. For further information, visit <http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/events>.

Christians Aware, in partnership with the **St Philip's Centre**, is hosting a conference on Saturday 13 June on 'Meeting of Opposites? Hindus and Christians'. The conference runs from 10am to 4.30pm and includes a visit to the ISKCON Temple. It will be held at the St Philip's Centre, 2A Stoughton Drive North, Leicester LE5 5UB. There is a charge to attend. For further information, contact Barbara Butler at barbarabutler@christiansaware.co.uk.

Faith in Sussex is holding a summer conference entitled 'The State, Politics & Faith' on Saturday 13 June. The conference will present Historical Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Secular perspectives and speakers will include the Revd Dr Marcus Braybrooke, Sanjay Jagatia, Iyad Daoud and Dr Robert Stovold. The conference runs from 1pm to 6pm at the Performance Arts Centre, Worth Abbey, Turners Hill, Crawley RH10 4SB. To book a place contact Iyad Daoud on 01293 883372 or at contact@crawleyinterfaith.net by 7 June. For further information, visit www.horsham-interfaith.org.uk or www.crawleyinterfaith.net.

Nottingham Inter Faith Council will have a stall/display at the Broxtowe Celebration on Saturday 13 June. For further information, contact office@interfaithnottingham.org.uk.

The **London Peace Pagoda** will be holding an event to mark its 30th anniversary on Saturday 13 June. The event will include chanting from Buddhist traditions, multi faith prayers, speakers and multi cultural celebrations. Further information from Ven G Nagase, c/o Park Manager's Officer, Battersea Park, Albert Bridge Rd, London SW11 4NJ or on 020 7228 9620.

Welwyn Hatfield Inter Faith Group is holding its next meeting on Monday 15 June at the Jim Macdonald Centre, Hatfield AL10 8HR. The event will run from 7.30pm to 9.30pm and will be on the theme of 'Vision'. For further information, contact Theresa McCrave at theresa.whifg@gmail.com.

Hull and East Riding Interfaith is holding its next event on Tuesday 16 June on the theme of 'Iconoclasm'. The event begins at 5pm in Committee Room 1 of the Guildhall in Hull with refreshments available from 4.30pm. Speakers will include the Revd James Hargreave and Dr Khaled Sultan. For further information, contact Kath Beal at kath.beal@heri.org.uk or on 01482 445728.

A programme of events is being organised by the **Human Rights Office** for the week of the 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta from Monday 15 to Friday 19 June at the Medway Campus of the University of Greenwich, Chatham Maritime, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TB. The purpose of the conference is to link the heritage of the Magna Carta to human and civil rights today. The Magna Carta will be considered from various perspectives, including history, law, religion, humanism, discrimination and freedom of conscience and expression. For more information visit www.magnacarta800medway.org or contact Dr Ingrid van Dooren at mivandooren@hotmail.com.

Interfaith Scotland, Interfaith Glasgow, Scottish Refugee Council and **Women of Faith (Glasgow)** are jointly hosting a Women's Interfaith Fair on Wednesday 17 June from 11.30am – 2pm at St Francis Centre, 405 Cumberland Street, Glasgow, G5 0SE. The event

is to celebrate 'Refugee Festival Scotland 2015' and is open to women of all faiths and none and their children. There will be a variety of stalls and optional workshops ranging from dialogue to arts and crafts, singing, exploring religious objects and trying on clothes from different cultures and faiths. A lunch and a crèche are provided but booking is essential as spaces are limited. Email frances@interfaithscotland.org or call 0141 420 6982 to book.

The **University of Chester**, in collaboration with the **University of Liverpool**, is holding a conference on Monday 22 June on 'The Equality Act 2010: Five years on'. Papers will be presented on a range of themes including race discrimination, religion and belief discrimination, age discrimination, positive action and the Public Sector Equality Duty. There is a charge to attend. For further information, contact FRED@chester.ac.uk.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland is hosting a conference from Tuesday 23 June to Thursday 25 June entitled 'Cacophony or Conversation? The Bible and Inter Faith Dialogue'. The conference aims to open up a conversation about the Bible in the context of religious pluralism and among the contributions will be an exploration of other religious traditions reading Christian scripture and Christians reading other scriptures. The keynote speaker will be Professor Hugh Poyer, Professor of Biblical Interpretation at the University of Sheffield. For further information and to book, visit www.ctbi.org.uk/677 or contact Natasha Richmond at natasha.richmond@ctbi.org.uk.

The **Historic Religious Buildings Alliance** is holding a workshop on 'Managing major building projects in places of worship' on Thursday 25 June. The day will deal with the management of all stages of a building project in a place of worship from start up to long term benefits, no matter what the size of the project. The workshop is being held at 9.30am at St Mary's Church, Bramall Lane, Sheffield S2 4QZ. There is a charge to attend. For further information and to book a place, contact Alison Brown on 01904 644001 or at HRBArsvp@purcelluk.com.

The **European Network of Buddhist-Christian Studies** is holding this year's conference at the Archabbey of St Ottilien near Munich in Germany from Thursday 25 to Monday 29 June. The theme will be Buddhist Christian Relations in Asia and will cover China, Korea, Japan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand with 3 speakers for each country. For further information, contact Dr Elizabeth Harris on 0151 291 3037 or at harries@hope.ac.uk.

York Interfaith Group is holding a meeting on Wednesday 8 July on the theme of 'Marriage – a brief history of the institution'. The speaker will be Maurice Vassie and the meeting will include an open review and discussion by members of marriage laws, rites and ceremonies in different faiths. It will take place at 7.30pm in the Clementhorpe Room, Priory Street Community Centre, York YO1 6ET. For further information and to book, contact Mark Cosens on 07796 095152 or at loscosens@yahoo.co.uk.

Suffolk Inter Faith Resource is hosting a conference on Thursday 9 July on 'Human Rights, Religious Rights and British Values'. Further details will be available at www.sifre.org.uk in due course.

The **Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB)** and **Historic England** are holding a one-day Faith in Maintenance course on Friday 10 July at Manor Farm and St Mary's Church, Sullington, Essex. The course is for volunteers who look after historic places of worship; providing training to help them understand how their building works and how to fix problems as well as when to call on professional support. To book a place, contact Becky Payne on 020 7233 0900 or visit www.spab.org.uk.

The **Ammerdown Centre** is holding a Jewish-Christian Dialogue Weekend on 'Visions of the Other' from Friday 10 to Sunday 12 July at the Ammerdown Centre, Ammerdown Park,

Radstock, Somerset. The weekend is being led by Fiona Hulbert and Rabbi Mark Solomon and will explore the ways both religions have been portrayed by one another and how a connection can be created for a more open dialogue for fruitful co-existence in the future. For further information or to book a place, visit <http://ammerdown.org/Jewish-Christian-Dialogue-Weekend-2015> or email centre@ammerdown.org or call 01761433709.

The **Lincoln and Leeds branch of the Council of Christians and Jews** will be holding its next gathering on Tuesday 21 July when it will be visiting the Anglican and Catholic Cathedrals in Sheffield. The day will begin at the Anglican Cathedral in Church Street at 10.45am and will end at 4pm. For further information, contact topdore@gmail.com or telephone 0114 2362758.

Quaker Peace and Social Witness is organising an inter faith service of commemoration and commitment to a nuclear-free world on Thursday 6 August. The date marks the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The service will be held from 2.30pm to 3.30pm at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ and will be followed by refreshments and exhibitions. To reserve a place, complete the form at <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/hiroshima> or contact Kristin Skarsholt at kristins@quaker.org.uk or on 020 7663 1121.

The **Council of Christians and Jews** is holding its CCJ Branch Conference from 2 to 3 September. The conference will take place at College Court in Leicester and aims to enable CCJ members to meet, network and share ideas. Non-CCJ members may attend and there is a fee to do so. For further information, contact Dr Joy Barrow at joy.barrow@ccj.org.uk.

[Back to the top](#)

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

If you have items which you would like considered for inclusion in the next e-bulletin please email these to ifnet@interfaith.org.uk by **15 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 this e-bulletin does not imply endorsement or validation by IFN of the events, publications or the bodies which have produced these.

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