



# IFN e-bulletin

May 2016

## Contents

The e-bulletin can be read by scrolling through. If you prefer to go to a particular section, click on its title in [Sections](#). To go directly to an individual item, click on its 'Read more' link in [Items](#) overleaf.

## Sections

[Faith and public life updates](#)

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

[Resources and study/training](#)

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

[Jobs, internships and volunteering](#)

[Funding opportunities](#)

[Special Weeks/Days](#)

[Diary dates](#)

If you have items which you would like considered for inclusion in the next e-bulletin please email these to [ifnet@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk) by **13 June** with 'e-bulletin' in the subject line. Submissions may be edited for length or style. The e-bulletin is designed primarily to flag up new developments and projects and future events. If your organisation distributes a programme, newsletter or e-bulletin, please add [ifnet@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk) to your mailing list.

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

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

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

## Items

### [Faith and public life updates](#)

- Equality and Human Rights Commission guidance on freedom of expression [Read more](#)
- Responding to the refugee crisis [Read more](#)
- Local and devolved national elections [Read more](#)
- Referendum on membership of the European Union [Read more](#)
- Statement on Religious Freedom [Read more](#)
- RE Council Commission on RE to be formed [Read more](#)
- Religious Literacy [Read more](#)
- Equality and Human Rights Commission [Read more](#)
- Inquiry into anti-Semitism [Read more](#)
- Consultation on reforms to death certification process [Read more](#)
- Faith based service providers [Read more](#)

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

- Inter Faith Week and Scottish Interfaith Week [Read more](#)
- HM The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday [Read more](#)
- Interfaith Scotland [Read more](#)
- Inter faith social enterprises [Read more](#)
- Faith Walks [Read more](#)
- Faith in Birmingham [Read more](#)
- De Montfort University and St Philip's Centre Partnership [Read more](#)
- 'Footsteps - Faiths for a Low Carbon Future' [Read more](#)

### [Resources and study/training](#)

- Inter Faith Week Toolkit [Read more](#)
- Inter Faith Network National Meeting report and 2014-15 Annual Review [Read more](#)
- Concord Leeds Interfaith Fellowship 40th anniversary [Read more](#)
- Tony Blair Faith Foundation – Essentials of Dialogue [Read more](#)
- British Library Sacred Texts course [Read more](#)
- PhD opportunity to research the impact of 3FF's work [Read more](#)
- Woolf Institute e-learning course [Read more](#)
- Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies [Read more](#)
- Managing Major Buildings Projects in Places of Worship [Read more](#)

### [Calls for information, Competitions and Nominations](#)

- Sandford St Martin Awards [Read more](#)
- Westminster Faith Exchange Annual Art competition [Read more](#)
- National Diversity Awards [Read more](#)

### [Jobs internships and volunteering](#)

- Inter Faith Network for the UK – Assistant Director [Read more](#)
- University of Westminster – Assistant Interfaith Adviser and Secular Adviser [Read more](#)
- Inter Faith Network for the UK volunteers and interns [Read more](#)

### [Funding opportunities](#)

- Funding websites [Read more](#)
- Heritage Lottery Fund grants to commemorate the First World War [Read more](#)
- Community Foundations [Read more](#)
- Small charities fundraising training programme [Read more](#)
- Comic Relief Stronger Communities grants [Read more](#)

## [Special Weeks/Days](#)

Dates for Special Weeks and Days taking place throughout the year [Read more](#)

## [Diary Dates](#)

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

[Back to the top](#)

## **FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE UPDATES**

### **Equality and Human Rights Commission guidance on freedom of expression**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has published legal guidance on freedom of expression. The guide explains the legal framework which protects freedom of expression and the circumstances in which that freedom may be restricted in order to prevent violence, abuse or discrimination. It explores the boundaries between freedom of expression, unlawful discrimination and harassment, and hate speech. It also considers various contexts in which freedom of expression is curtailed. The guidance is available from <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/freedom-expression-legal-framework>

[Back to the top](#)

### **Responding to the refugee crisis**

Faith communities and inter faith organisations continue to respond to the current refugee crisis. A new website dedicated to covering the crisis in Europe has been launched by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. This aims to be “a one-stop source of information covering news, policy, practical action and resources for those in the faith community interested in refugee and asylum issues”. The website is at [www.focusonrefugees.org](http://www.focusonrefugees.org).

The Christian Muslim Forum is encouraging churches and mosques to work to welcome refugees arriving from areas of conflict, to assist those already in the UK and to pool resources when sending humanitarian aid to those overseas. More information is at <http://www.christianmuslimforum.org/index.php/news/572-refugees-migrants-churches-mosques-working-together>.

Khalsa Aid is one of a number of UK faith based aid agencies offering support on the ground - <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/05/first-laugh-since-syria-the-clowns-getting-refugee-children-smiling>.

A number of local authorities have pledged to take refugees and faith groups have been playing an active role, as in Birmingham where they have done so through Citizens UK:

<http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/birmingham-commits-taking-500-syrian-11188796>. Citizens UK runs a 'Refugees Welcome' campaign, which has a website at <http://www.refugees-welcome.org.uk/>.

IFN's 2015 National Meeting report, available at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/all-publications> carries several contributions about faith groups and refugees.

[Back to the top](#)

## **Local and devolved national elections**

People across the UK last week took part in local and devolved national elections. Many faith communities were involved in volunteering on Election Day, such as this multi faith team in Cardiff - <http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/volunteers-who-taking-day-work-11281822>.

One of the elections that took place was for Mayor of London. The Rt Hon Sadiq Khan was elected as Mayor of London and was sworn in on 7 May. His swearing in ceremony was held at Southwark Cathedral rather than City Hall at his request and included people from many different faiths. In his speech, he said that he had asked for it be there because he wanted to start his mayoralty as he intended to go on, representing every single community and every single part of the city as a mayor for all Londoners.

[Back to the top](#)

## **Referendum on membership of the European Union**

A referendum is being held on 23 June to decide whether Britain should leave or remain in the European Union.

General information about the referendum has been produced by a number of bodies such as the BBC at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-32810887>. The Government's information can be found at <https://www.eureferendum.gov.uk/>. Its information leaflet is based on a 'remain' position.

A number of faith community bodies have been providing resources and opportunities for informed discussion and decision making, such as <https://ctbi.org.uk/eu-referendum-resources/> and <https://www.bod.org.uk/board-of-deputies-hosts-eu-referendum-debate-for-the-jewish-community/> and others, such as the Sikh Council UK, are encouraging debate <http://bit.ly/21NBAbY>.

The Electoral Commission is keen to ensure that as many people as possible are registered to vote by 7 June ahead of the European Union referendum on 23 June. It takes just a few minutes to register online at <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>. Anyone who will be

away on 23 June and unable to vote in person can apply for a postal vote or a proxy vote. The Commission has asked that communities disseminate information about registering to vote as widely as possible.

[Back to the top](#)

## **Statement on Religious Freedom**

On 29 March, following the murder of shopkeeper Asad Shah in Glasgow, stated at the time by the Police to be likely to be linked to the expression of his beliefs, the IFN Officers issued a statement on Religious Freedom. This can be found at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/statements-and-messages>. The Statement makes clear the importance of IFN's principles to this issue and to living well and harmoniously together, without resort to violence where there is difference of belief. It also noted how faith communities in the UK seek to respond to incidents here and also to support those around the world whose religious freedom is truncated, often brutally, including through murders and terrorist attacks, such as, just before the issuing of the statement, the Easter day attacks in Lahore, and in other parts of the world.

[Back to the top](#)

## **RE Council Commission on RE to be established**

The Religious Education Council of England and Wales is working to establish a Commission on RE. Following a consultation with its members in February and March, the REC has set four tasks for the Commission:

- To consider the nature, purposes, and scope of religious education.
- To identify the enabling factors that currently promote high quality RE, and the barriers that currently limit it.
- To identify what changes are needed to ensure the highest quality provision of RE.
- To ensure that recommendations focus on realistic and specific proposals aimed at both immediate and long-term implementation in the context of continuing educational reform.

For further information, contact the RE Council at [info@religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk).

[Back to the top](#)

## **Religious Literacy**

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Religious Education, chaired by Fiona Bruce MP, announced on 15 March an inquiry into religious literacy. The inquiry aims to “assess how Religious Literacy can be improved through a range of means including, but not limited to, schools and other formal and informal education settings such as workplace training

schemes, life-long learning, media and literature, sports and other leisure activities and community forums.” The period for written submissions ended in mid April and there have subsequently been two Oral Evidence Sessions on 25 April and 3 May. The APPG plans to publish a report on present its findings to Government.

For further information, visit [http://fionabruce.mp/campaigns/appg\\_re/](http://fionabruce.mp/campaigns/appg_re/).

[Back to the top](#)

### **Inquiry into anti-Semitism**

The Home Affairs Select Committee of the House of Commons has announced an inquiry into anti-Semitism, looking at whether prejudice against the Jewish community has increased and the particular dangers facing Jewish people arising from terrorism. For further information, visit <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2015/140412-anti-semitism-launch/>.

[Back to the top](#)

### **Consultation on reforms to death certification process**

On 10 March the Department of Health launched a consultation on its proposed reforms to the death certification process. The consultation document describes how the new death certification process and medical examiner system will work. It seeks views about the system and on the accompanying draft regulations, which will provide the framework for death certification in England and Wales. The consultation is aimed at local authorities who will establish a medical examiner service, health and care professionals involved in the process as well as members of the public and all service providers involved when a death occurs.

The consultation and supporting documents are at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/death-certification-reforms>. Enquiries or responses to the consultation should be sent by email to [deathcertificationconsultation@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:deathcertificationconsultation@dh.gsi.gov.uk). The consultation runs until 15 June.

The Department of Health has advised that the Welsh Government will consult separately on the arrangements for appointing and funding medical examiners in Wales, after the forthcoming National Assembly for Wales elections.

[Back to the top](#)

## Faith based service providers

A Commons debate on 4 May saw wide-ranging inputs on the contribution that faith organisations make to the voluntary sector as well as to faith-based social activism more generally. In the course of the debate, the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Faith and Society, chaired by the Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP, pressed for national support and uptake of the Faith Covenant. The Covenant, developed after hearing evidence from faith groups across the country, was the idea of David Lammy MP, who was keen to develop a set of principles that faith groups and local authorities could adopt to promote joint working. For further information, visit Hansard at <http://goo.gl/L6sn7I> and <http://www.faithandsociety.org/>.

Early this year Theos and the Centre for Theology and Community published a short practical guide for faith-based organisations intended to “support decision makers and practitioners as they shape high quality and effective services which are consistent with their values”: <http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/publications/2016/01/20/keeping-the-faith-a-guide-for-faith-based-organisations>. This follows its earlier publication *The Problem of Proselytism* <http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/publications/2015/10/20/the-problem-of-proselytism> which explores three areas where it says that faith-based organisations need to exercise caution: prioritising the public good, respecting the dignity of religious and other minorities and protecting vulnerable service users. It argues that faith-based organisations do not need to secularise in order to head off these concerns.

[Back to the top](#)

## INTER FAITH PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES AND DEVELOPMENTS

### Inter Faith Week and Scottish Interfaith Week

Inter Faith Week 2016 in England, Northern and Ireland and Wales, now in its eighth year, will run from Sunday 13 to Sunday 20 November. Why an ‘8 day Week’? This year, the Week begins on Remembrance Sunday and many people of different faiths and beliefs will be marking that in some way. The additional Sunday will provide additional opportunity for weekend events to take place. For further information, visit [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)

Scottish Interfaith Week has announced that from 2016 its dates will be the same as for the Week in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The theme for the Week in Scotland will be ‘Religion and the media’. For further information, visit [www.interfaithscotland.org/scottish-interfaith-week/](http://www.interfaithscotland.org/scottish-interfaith-week/).

As noted [below](#) IFN will shortly be launching a Toolkit on developing successful Inter Faith Week activities.

[Back to the top](#)

## HM The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Over 900 beacons were lit throughout the UK, including at a number of places of worship, to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen on 21 April.

Information on official celebrations to mark the occasion during the rest of the year are at <http://www.royal.gov.uk/LatestNewsandDiary/Pressreleases/2015/EventstomarkTheQueens90thbirthday.aspx>.

One of the main celebration events will be the Patron's Lunch, taking place on 12 June. This is a ticketed event in The Mall in London for people from the over 600 charities across the Commonwealth of which the Queen is Patron. In addition to the event in the Mall the organisers hope that street parties and lunches will take place across the UK to celebrate Her Majesty's birthday and to raise money for local initiatives. They say that they hope it will "re-ignite the famous British 'community spirit' and have villages, towns and cities all over the UK and across the Commonwealth to hold their own street parties. It is hoped these local 'Patron's Lunches' will help raise money for their own communities and local initiatives. In addition to the fundraising generated at a local level, the event will also serve as a unique platform for the charitable organisations to which The Queen acts as Patron, to maximize their own fundraising efforts."

Further information can be found at <http://www.thepatrons-lunch.com/how-to-get-involved/>.

The Big Lunch in which many faith communities and inter faith organisations have taken part since it began is also being held on 12 June and it is anticipated that many will be using this as a birthday celebration – [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com).

[Back to the top](#)

## Interfaith Scotland

Interfaith Scotland has moved to new premises at Flemington House in Glasgow. It has created a Dialogue Centre at the new offices and held a training day for volunteers there in April.

For further information on Interfaith Scotland and its member bodies, visit <http://www.interfaithscotland.org>, where you can also download its latest newsletter.

[Back to the top](#)



## Inter faith social enterprises

Social enterprises trade to tackle social problems, improve communities, people's life chances, or the environment. They make their money from selling goods and services in the open market, but they reinvest their profits back into the business or the local community.

A number of social enterprises with a faith or inter faith focus exist. A recently established one is a social enterprise called Faith in Society which was started in April "dedicated to bridging the gap between faith communities wanting to become more involved in civil society locally or nationally, and those in the public, private and charitable sectors wishing to engage more effectively with religion and belief". Further information can be found at: [www.faithinsociety.org.uk](http://www.faithinsociety.org.uk).

[Back to the top](#)

## Faith Walks

With the warmer weather, many faith walks, both new and well established, are now underway.

Redditch recently held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Faith Walk. Walkers included the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, the Mayor of Redditch and other civic leaders. At the heart of this was a pledge stating "We as people of Redditch, pledge ourselves as one united community, respecting all races, faiths and beliefs, to build on our common values to achieve happiness and progress for all." <http://redditchstandard.co.uk/news/magnificent-hundreds-throng-second-redditch-faith-walk-sign-redditch-pledge/>.

This year marks the 31<sup>st</sup> Multi-Faith Pilgrimage for Peace held by Westminster Interfaith (an inter faith agency of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster). It is held in different London boroughs each year and this year will be held on 21 May in the boroughs of Knightsbridge and Kensington. Further information is available from Jon Dal Din at [jondaldin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:jondaldin@rcdow.org.uk).

Other forthcoming Walks include Lewisham Inter Faith Walk, which will take place on 31 May [http://content.met.police.uk/Event/Interfaith-walk--Lewisham/1400031247923/1257246745828?scope\\_id=1257246764187](http://content.met.police.uk/Event/Interfaith-walk--Lewisham/1400031247923/1257246745828?scope_id=1257246764187), Northampton Inter Faith Forum Unity Walk on 22 May <http://www.niff.org.uk/events.html> and Bristol Multi Faith Trail which takes place as part of Bristol Walk Fest during May <http://bristolmultifaithforum.org.uk/bristol-walk-fest-2016-multi-faith-trail/>.

[Back to the top](#)

## Faith in Birmingham

Birmingham Museums has created a new gallery called Faith in Birmingham, which is now open to the public at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

The gallery development involved nearly a year of consultation with faith groups and communities across Birmingham. Birmingham Museums says that “The groups and individuals identified objects in our collection, and from further afield, to enable them to tell stories about their beliefs to other people. The gallery contains objects, images and film to tell the stories of faith practice in the city. Initially the gallery focuses on the six main faith groups in Birmingham; Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Judaism. Over the next two years the Birmingham Museums will work with other faiths to incorporate more voices and communities into the gallery.”

The gallery contains insight into each faith through a significant ‘gateway object’ to demonstrate the individuality of each faith. Other areas of the gallery are organised into themes that demonstrate the similarities and shared beliefs between faiths. These themes are: Faith and History; Spiritual Life; Life’s Journey; and Faith and Community.

For further information, visit

<http://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/bmag/highlights/faith-in-birmingham>.

[Back to the top](#)

## De Montfort University and St Philip’s Centre partnership

The St Philips Centre in Leicester, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, is dedicated to building understanding and friendships between different faiths and cultures. In April the St Philip’s Centre signed a new agreement with De Montfort University for the two organisations to work more closely together. Students will be able to volunteer for community projects while Frontrunners – DMU’s paid internships which give experience to students – will offer roles in inter faith work as part of #DMUlocal, the university's programme to support work to benefit people across Leicester.

DMU will also work alongside the St Philip’s Centre on its Near Neighbours project, which offers funding to communities to develop joint projects, while academic research will strengthen future funding bids. A programme of joint lectures will examine key issues for society and faith. For further information, visit <http://www.dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/news/2016/april/new-partnership-to-celebrate-interfaith-work-in-leicester.aspx>.

[Back to the top](#)

## 'Footsteps - Faiths for a Low Carbon Future'

Following a successful pilgrimage and gathering in the city centre in November, an inter faith group has been formed in Birmingham to take forward the climate change agenda.

The group includes Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh members, and is chaired by a Senior Adviser to Birmingham Council of Faiths (BCF). It has been accepted as a project of BCF, and is founded on the Lambeth Declaration signed by Faith Leaders in June 2015. There are plans for several events during the coming year, starting with a multi faith panel discussion on 15 May, with speakers from Operation Noah, Eco Islam and an Eco Sikh group. There are also plans for a series of workshops for young people during the summer and a multi faith walk to highlight environmental actions being taken by different places of worship in the city. Any similar groups in other parts of the country are invited to get in touch at [ruthtetlow@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthtetlow@btinternet.com) to share ideas.

[Back to the top](#)

## RESOURCES AND STUDY/TRAINING

### Inter Faith Week Toolkit

It was noted in the February/March issue of the e-bulletin that the Inter Faith Network would shortly be developing a toolkit with tips for Inter Faith Week event planners to help them develop successful events and engage with new audiences; publicise these; and afterwards, evaluate and report on them and follow up so that the outcomes have a lasting impact. The toolkit will be launched on 16 May and available from the Inter Faith Week website at [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org).

[Back to the top](#)

### Inter Faith Network National Meeting report and 2014-15 Annual Review

The Inter Faith Network for the UK has recently published its 2014-15 Annual Review. A pdf of this can be downloaded from <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/annual-reviews>.

The Report of the 2015 National Meeting on 'Living Well Together' is also available to download from the IFN website at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/all-publications>.

[Back to the top](#)

## **Concord Leeds Interfaith Fellowship 40th anniversary**

To celebrate its 40th anniversary this year Concord Leeds Interfaith Fellowship has produced a book entitled 'A Leeds Interfaith Story 1946-2016'. The book, written by a team of people including Concord members, tells the story of the different faith communities in Leeds and of the key individuals who have promoted inter faith relationships.

The book can be purchased online or by downloading an order form from <http://www.concord-leeds.org.uk/index.php>.

[Back to the top](#)

## **Tony Blair Faith Foundation – Essentials of Dialogue**

The Tony Blair Faith Foundation (TBFF) has developed a resource for use in the classroom entitled 'Essentials of Dialogue'. The resource is part of the Face to Faith project and focuses on the core concept of respectful dialogue.

The TBFF website says "It is imperative that we give students the tools to build societies that welcome diversity rather than fearing it. That encourage an open-minded approach to the other, rather than the cultivation of prejudice; that includes rather than excludes."

The resource is free to download from <http://tonyblairfaithfoundation.org/projects/supporting-next-generation/supporting-next-generation-essentials-dialogue-0>

[Back to the top](#)

## **British Library Sacred Texts course**

The British Library is running a course during May on 'Sacred Texts of Judaism, Christianity and Islam'. The course runs on Wednesday afternoons and explores the origins and development of the Hebrew Bible, the Christian Bible, and the Qur'an. It also offers an opportunity to see original manuscripts from the three faiths dating back to the 3rd century.

The course is led by leading academics and British Library curators and will focus each week on a single religious tradition through its manuscript heritage, culminating in a collective session that will further illustrate the concept that the books of the three faiths form one linked textual tradition.

For further information, visit <http://bit.ly/1XRrAvz>.

[Back to the top](#)

## **PhD opportunity to research the impact of 3FF's work**

The Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University is now offering a PhD studentship to research the impact of 3FF's work. The successful candidate will work closely with the 3FF team over three years. The opportunity is fully funded and includes a bursary plus tuition fees.

Coventry University is inviting proposals for a PhD project exploring the role and impact of 3FF in fostering peaceful relations. It welcomes proposals that are interdisciplinary, innovative and use participatory research methods. Proposals should challenge existing ideas, expand current thinking and contribute to change within 3FF and the communities it works with. The PhD studentship will be based within the Faith and Peaceful Relations Research Group, one of six research groups in the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations. The closing date for applications is 20 May. For further information, visit <http://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/ANJ926/phd-studentship-in-the-role-and-impact-of-3-faiths-forum-in-fostering-peaceful-relations-funded/>.

[Back to the top](#)

## **Woolf Institute e-learning course**

Applications are now being accepted for the Woolf Institute's e-learning course on 'Jews, Christians and Muslims in Europe: Modern Challenges'.

The course is multidisciplinary and examines historical trends, religious and cultural interaction, and issues of contemporary citizenship. It will be led and co-taught by Dr Gorazd Andrejč, Dr Sami Everett, and Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner. The e-learning approach allows participants from all over the world to study wherever and whenever they choose via the internet.

More information on the topics covered, the structure of the course, and the application details, can be found at <http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study/e-learning/jcme.asp>. A limited number of bursaries are available. The course begins on 5 September and the closing date for applications is 2 August. Any queries can be addressed to Dr Emma Harris, Academic Coordinator, at [eth22@cam.ac.uk](mailto:eth22@cam.ac.uk).

[Back to the top](#)

## **Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies**

Registration for the August session of the Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies is now open. The meeting will be held at The Old Library in the Oxford University Church of St Mary from 1 to 3 August. The symposium is inter-disciplinary and has a broad-based theme. Participants are invited to attend as observers or to present a paper. The closing date for proposals is 8 July and for attendance registration is 11 July. There is a discount for registration by 1 June. For further information, visit [www.oxfordsymposiumonreligiousstudies.com](http://www.oxfordsymposiumonreligiousstudies.com).

[Back to the top](#)

## **Managing Major Buildings Projects in Places of Worship**

The Historic Religious Buildings alliance is holding a training day on 9 June on Managing Major Building Projects in Places of Worship. This will be taking place at Hexham Abbey and is an opportunity for anyone thinking about or starting to plan a major building project for their place of worship.

The day deals with the management of all stages of a building project in a place of worship, from start up through to making sure benefits are achieved over the long term. There will also be a session from the Heritage Lottery Fund as well as lunchtime surgeries where individual cases can be discussed. Booking is open at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/managing-major-building-projects-in-places-of-worship-tickets-22414716019>.

[Back to the top](#)

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

### **Sandford St Martin Awards and Radio Times Faith Award**

The Sandford St Martin Trust promotes “thought-provoking, distinctive programming that engages with religion of all faiths, ethics or morality”. Each year it holds runs an Awards programme that celebrates excellence in religious, spiritual and ethical broadcasting. The shortlist for this year’s Awards has been announced - <http://sandfordawards.org.uk/the-awards/2016-awards/> - and the ceremony will be held at Lambeth Palace on 8 June.

[Back to the top](#)

## **Westminster Faith Exchange annual art competition**

The Westminster Faith Exchange art competition is open to children and young people from any faith community in Westminster, London, as well as those who do not follow a religion. The closing date for entries has now been extended to 13 May.

The theme for this year's competition is 'What Prayer Means to Me'. Artwork should be a painting or drawing no bigger than A2 and must be submitted with an official form. The prize giving ceremony, sponsored by CityWest Homes, will be hosted at The Central London Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre on 26 May. For more information, contact the Faith Exchange team at [faithexchange@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:faithexchange@westminster.gov.uk) or on 020 7641 3255 or visit <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/faith-exchange>.

[Back to the top](#)

## **National Diversity Awards**

The National Diversity Awards celebrate the achievements of grassroots communities tackling issues in society. There are six strands for the Positive Role Model Award and the Community Organisation Award, one of which has 'Race, Religion and Faith'. The nomination process is still open and more details can be found at <http://www.nationaldiversityawards.co.uk/>. The awards ceremony will take place in Liverpool on 16 September.

[Back to the top](#)

## **JOBS, INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING**

### **Inter Faith Network for the UK - Assistant Director**

The Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN) is seeking to appoint an Assistant Director. The successful candidate will be a graduate or equivalent, and have significant experience of working in the field of inter faith relations or in another closely related field. The role is full time and office-based in London. It is a temporary fixed term post to 31 March 2017. Possible renewal of contract subject to funding.

A full job description, including a person specification, and an application form, can be found at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/about-ifn/vacancies>. Applications should be made on the official application form and sent by post. Applications will be acknowledged on receipt.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 12 May. Interviews are due to take place in the week commencing 23 May. The role is due to commence in June/July.

[Back to the top](#)

## **University of Westminster – Assistant Interfaith Adviser and Secular Adviser**

The University of Westminster is seeking to appoint an Assistant Interfaith Adviser to provide assistance and encouragement to students and staff of all faiths and none across this diverse student and academic body. This will include assisting the Interfaith Adviser in complying with statutory duties, with pastoral care and chaplaincy support. Further information can be found at

<https://vacancies.westminster.ac.uk/Hrvacancies/default.aspx?id=50044892>.

The University of Westminster is seeking to appoint a Secular Adviser to complement the existing provision of faith-based and spiritual care. Further information can be found at

<https://vacancies.westminster.ac.uk/Hrvacancies/default.aspx?id=50044891>.

The closing date for both posts is 16 May. Any general enquiries can be directed to [recruitment@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@westminster.ac.uk).

[Back to the top](#)

## **Inter Faith Network for the UK volunteers and interns**

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

<http://www.interfaith.org.uk/take-part/volunteering-with-ifn>.

IFN also occasionally has internship opportunities. More information about this, including IFN's Internship Policy, can be found at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/about-ifn/vacancies>.

If you are interested in an internship with IFN please contact us at [ifnet@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk).

[Back to the top](#)

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Funding websites**

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



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

[Back to the top](#)

## **Heritage Lottery Fund grants to commemorate First World War**

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

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

[Back to the top](#)

## **Community foundations**

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

[Back to the top](#)

## **Small Charities Fundraising Training Programme**

The Foundation for Social Improvement is providing free delegate places at fundraising training events for charities throughout 2016. Events are being held in London, Glasgow, Nottingham, Preston and Sheffield

The programme is supported by the Cabinet Office Small Charities Fundraising Training Programme and will provide training opportunities for small charities, from face-to-face training, to intensive one-to-one advice sessions, skilled volunteering matches and webinars. For further information and to sign up for any events, visit <http://www.thefsi.org/services/training/>.

[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/](http://ukcommunityfoundations.org/programmes/comic_relief/).

[Back to the top](#)

## SPECIAL WEEKS/DAYS

**Islam Awareness Week** runs from 23 to 29 May [www.iaw.org.uk](http://www.iaw.org.uk)

**The Big Lunch** will take place on 12 June [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com)

**UK Refugee Week** takes place from 20 to 26 June. This year's theme is 'Welcome'. [www.refugeeweek.org.uk](http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk)

**Srebrenica Memorial Day** is on 11 July [www.srebrenica.org.uk](http://www.srebrenica.org.uk)

**Peace One Day** takes place on 21 September [www.peaceoneday.org](http://www.peaceoneday.org)

**Sewa Day** will take place on 16 October [www.sewaday.org](http://www.sewaday.org)

**Week of Prayer for World Peace** will take place from 16 to 23 October <http://www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com/>

**One World Week** will take place from Sunday 23 to Sunday 30 October [www.oneworldweek.org](http://www.oneworldweek.org)

**National Inter Faith Week** in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will be an '8 day week' this year taking place from Sunday 13 to Sunday 20 November. See more [above](#). [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)

**Scottish Interfaith Week** will also take place from Sunday 13 to Sunday 20 November [www.interfaithscotland.org/scottish-interfaith-week/](http://www.interfaithscotland.org/scottish-interfaith-week/)

**Mitzvah Day** will take place on Sunday 27 November [www.mitzvahday.org.uk/](http://www.mitzvahday.org.uk/)

[Back to the top](#)

## DIARY DATES

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

**Bristol Multi Faith Forum** is holding a Multi-Faith Trail as part of Bristol Walk Fest on Thursday 12 May at 9.30am. Visit places of worship in East Bristol and greet members of six different religions on this Multifaith trail. The trail includes five times 15 minute walks, with 40 minute visits. The duration of the trail is 2.5 miles. It will start at the Hindu Temple, Church Road, Bristol, BS5 9LA and end at the Bristol Sikh Temple, Fishponds Road, BS5 6SF. For further information or to book a place, contact Lily Khandker on 07789040267, or email on [info@bristolmultifaithforum.org.uk](mailto:info@bristolmultifaithforum.org.uk). View the whole programme on [www.bristol.gov.uk/streets-travel/bristol-walking-festival](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/streets-travel/bristol-walking-festival).

**Religions for Peace in the UK** and **Quakers in Britain** are holding an event entitled 'A Noiseless Flash – a chance to hear first-hand the testimony of Hiroshima survivor Setsuko Thurlow' on Thursday 12 May at 6pm. This will be held at Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ. To register for the event, email Stephen Herman on [drsaherman@gmail.com](mailto:drsaherman@gmail.com) or call on 07825189263.

**The Parkes Institute** at the **University of Southampton** along with **The Council of Christian and Jews** and **Three Faiths Forum** are holding a panel debate discussion on the future of interfaith dialogue on Thursday 12 May at 6pm to 8.30pm. The debate is celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Parkes Library being transferred to the University of Southampton and the creation of the Parkes Institute for Jewish/non-Jewish Relations. The guest speakers are Baroness Julia Neuberger, Lord Richard Harries and Imam Monowar Hussain and the Chair will be Naomi Gryn, writer and film maker. A light buffet and drinks will follow the debate, which is being held at West London Synagogue, 33 Seymour Place, London, W1H 5AU. To register for a place or for further information, email Parkes Institute on [parkes@Southampton.ac.uk](mailto:parkes@Southampton.ac.uk).

**Northampton Inter Faith Forum** will be holding a Conference entitled 'Faith Uniting Northampton Faith Communities – improving local lives' on Sunday 15 May from 2pm to 6pm. This will be an afternoon for everyone to come together, make new friends and celebrate faith groups' contributions to life in Northampton. All ages are welcome. It will be held at the High School, Newport Pagnell Road, Hardington, Northampton NN4 6UU. For further information and to register, visit <http://www.niff.org.uk/events.html> or call [07914237216](tel:07914237216).

**World Congress of Faith (WCF)** is holding an event to mark its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Tuesday 17 May. The event is being chaired by Michael Harris and the panel of speakers include Rabbi Jackie Tabick, Sheik Dr Hojjart Ramzy, Vijay Mehta and the Revd Dr Marcus Braybrooke. It begins at 6pm and is being held at the Congress Suite (adjoining The Winter Garden), Devonshire Park, Carlisle Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 4BP. There is an entrance fee to attend. For further information and to register, contact Michael Harris on 01323 729390 or email [m.harris33@talk21.com](mailto:m.harris33@talk21.com).

**Westminster Interfaith** will be holding its 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Multi-Faith Pilgrimage for Peace on Saturday 21 May in the Royal Borough of Kensington in London. It begins at 9am at the Holocaust Memorial Garden in Hyde Park and includes trips to Westminster Synagogue, the National Baha'i Centre, the Ismail Centre, St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church, Our Lady of Victories Roman Catholic Church, Kensington United Reformed Church, the Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre and ends at the Central Gurdwara (Khalsa Jatha) at 6pm. Further details are available when booking or by contact Jon Dal Din at [jondaldin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:jondaldin@rcdow.org.uk).

**INFORM** will be holding its Spring Seminar on Saturday 21 May from 9.30am to 5.00pm at the London School of Economics. The theme will be 'New Religious Radicalisms'. For further information and to book, visit <http://inform.ac/node/1576>

**Woking People of Faith** is holding a 2016 Football Tournament on Saturday 21 May from 10am to 4pm. Six-a-side teams (plus one substitute) will play in group games as they work their way towards the quarter and semis before the finals. This is being held at Winston Churchill School Sports Centre, Winston Churchill School, Hermitage Road, Woking, GU21 8TL. For further information, contact Garry Shore on [coordinator@wpof.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@wpof.org.uk).

**Cambridge Inter-faith Programme** and the **Woolf Institute** are two of the organisations supporting an interdisciplinary conference on Saturday 21 May entitled 'Reconsidering Religious Radicalism'. The conference, also supported by the Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics, is being hosted by the Cambridge Institute on Religion and International Studies. It is being held from 9.30am to 5.30pm at Memorial Court, Clare College, Cambridge, and keynote speakers will include Lord Maurice Glasman, Professor Peter Mandaville, Professor Nicholas Adams and Professor Mona Siddiqui. For further information and to register, visit <http://ciris.org.uk/2016/04/13/registration-now-open-reconsidering-religious-radicalism-conference-at-clare-college-21st-may/>. The closing date for registrations is 12 May.

**Faiths in Tune** is hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> London Interfaith Music Festival on Sunday 22 May. Over 15 different faiths and spiritual traditions will be represented and the festival will feature 12 interactive singing, chanting and meditation sessions. The Festival is being held in the BP Lecture Theatre, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG. To register for the event, visit <http://www.faithsintune.org/#!tickets/c18ww>.

**Northampton Inter Faith Forum** is holding its second Unity Interfaith walk on Sunday 22 May from 1.45pm to 5pm. The walk of unity and friendship will highlight the diversity and history of Nottingham. Participants will walk through the streets of Northampton visiting several places of worship. Refreshment will be provided at the end of the walk. Suitable footwear is recommended and head scarf is essential as it may be needed at some locations. The walk starts outside All Saints Church, Northampton Town Centre and will end at The Quaker Meeting House. To register for the walk, email Sue on [sueward80@hotmail.com](mailto:sueward80@hotmail.com) or call on 07799273556, or call Ken on 07930644027.

**The Centre of Religion, Reconciliation and Peace at the University of Winchester** is holding an event on Tuesday 24 May on 'Understanding Dialogue - from Theory to Practice'. This is a multi-disciplinary day workshop, led by Professor Simon Keyes, that will explore how theoretical ideas about dialogue can be applied to create powerful new forms of communication and learning. The workshop is likely to be relevant to anyone with an interest in communication, social sciences, inter-personal psychology or inter-religious encounter. It is being held from 10am to 4.30pm at the University of Winchester. A donation towards refreshments is requested but there is no charge for the workshop. To register, visit <http://goo.gl/forms/hlU9gQQ5ZD> or for more information, contact [rebecca.bellamy@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:rebecca.bellamy@winchester.ac.uk).

**Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter** is holding a series exploring Jewish Feasts throughout the year. The next Shavuot and Pentecost talk led by Rabbi Michael Hilton, Kol Chai Hatch End Jewish Community, and Fr Desmond Banister, Vicar of All Saints North Hillingdon, will be on Wednesday 1 June from 10am to 3.15pm at 34 Chepstow Villas, London W11 1QZ. There is a suggested donation. For further information, email [sioncentrefordialogue@gmail.com](mailto:sioncentrefordialogue@gmail.com) or visit [www.sioncentre.org](http://www.sioncentre.org).

**Faiths Together in Croydon** will be holding its annual Inter Faith Bike Ride on Sunday 5 June. The bike ride will be starting at the arena and visiting a Hindu Temple, a Church and a Mosque on the way to the annual picnic in Parkhill park. The picnic will be starting at 2pm. Funds are being raised through Spacehive (<https://www.spacehive.com/FTICbikeride>). For further information, visit [www.faithstogetherincroydon.org.uk](http://www.faithstogetherincroydon.org.uk) or contact [sarah.burns@cvalive.org.uk](mailto:sarah.burns@cvalive.org.uk).

**YouthLink** in Northern Ireland is holding a series of events on Cultural Sensitivity in Youth Work. On Monday 6 June the theme will be 'Working in an interfaith context' and it will be run by the **Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum**. The workshop is from 1pm to 4pm at Youth Link, Farset Enterprise Park, 638 Springfield Road, Belfast BT12 7DY. There is no charge to attend but booking is essential. Further information can be found at <http://www.youthlink.org.uk/uncategorized/cultural-sensitivity-in-youth-work-training/>.

The **Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter** is holding a Cardinal Bea Memorial lecture on Thursday 9 June. The lecture entitled 'To Heal the World – The Role of Mercy' will be led by Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ and Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg. It is being held from 7pm to 9pm at 34 Chepstow Villas, London W11 1QZ. For further information, email [sioncentrefordialogue@gmail.com](mailto:sioncentrefordialogue@gmail.com) or visit [www.sioncentre.org](http://www.sioncentre.org).

**Herefordshire Interfaith Group** is holding a 'Face to Faith' event on Thursday 9 June at 7pm. This will be held at the Methodist Hall, Beaumont/Stockenhill Rd, Leominster HR6 8PP. For further information, contact the Chairman, Venerable Tenzin Choesang on 01568 750082 or email [June@the-hermit-online.co.uk](mailto:June@the-hermit-online.co.uk).

**Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group** is considering during 2016 Laudata Si' Our care for our common home by Pope Francis. Its next meeting will be on Wednesday 15 June and will be led by Jewish journalist, Carol Gould. The group meets from 4pm to 5pm

in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace, London SW1P 1EP. For further information, contact John Woodhouse by text on 07908 888586 or at [woodhouseopten@btinternet.com](mailto:woodhouseopten@btinternet.com).

**St Philip's Centre** is holding its AGM on Thursday 16 June at St Philip's Church, Evington Road, Leicester LE2 1HN. Refreshments will be available at 5.00 pm, with the business meeting at 5.30 pm followed at 6.00 pm by a facilitated discussion on 'learning to live well together'. For further information or to register attendance, contact [admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk](mailto:admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk) or ring 0116 2733459.

**Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship** is holding an event at 2pm on Sunday 26 June in co-operation with Leeds Quakers, T4P and Bradford Peace Museum to launch the Courage, Conscience and Creativity Exhibition. The exhibition will include the peace cloth, rug and banner created by Concord Women's Peace-ing Together Project, which will go on display at the museum till December. The event is being held in the Brodrick Hall, Leeds City Museum, Millennium Square, Leeds LS2 8BH For further information, contact Dr Simon Philips on 07786798929 or at [chair@concord-leeds.org.uk](mailto:chair@concord-leeds.org.uk).

**Hull and East Riding Interfaith (HERI)** is holding its next meeting on Tuesday 28 June at 5pm with 4.30pm refreshments. The meeting is a wide open discussion led by HERI Chair Dr Khaled Sultan. The evening will focus on the following questions: Do you want an interfaith group for Hull and the East Riding? If so, what do you want it to do, and how, by who, when, how often, where? This is being held in the ground floor room 1, The Guildhall, Hull HU1 2AA. For further information, contact Jackie on 01482 445728 or Kath at [Kath.Beal@heri.org.uk](mailto:Kath.Beal@heri.org.uk).

The **World Congress of Faiths** will be holding a day conference in Cambridge entitled Religious Pluralism and Interfaith Dialogue: Learning for the Future on Friday 23 September. For further information and to book, visit <http://www.worldfaiths.org/conference-2016/>.

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

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

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

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

[Back to the top](#)

If you have items which you would like considered for inclusion in the next e-bulletin please email these to [ifnet@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk) by **13 June** with 'e-bulletin' in the subject line. Submissions may be edited for length or style.

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

Inter Faith Network for the UK, 2 Grosvenor Gardens London SW1W 0DH  
[www.interfaith.org.uk](http://www.interfaith.org.uk) [www.facebook.com/IFNetUK](https://www.facebook.com/IFNetUK) [www.twitter.com/IFNetUK](https://www.twitter.com/IFNetUK)  
Registered charity no. 1068934. Company limited by guarantee no. 3443823 registered in England.