



IFN e-bulletin

June/July 2016

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

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

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

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

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FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE UPDATE

UK vote to leave European Union

On 24 June, the results of the European Union Referendum were announced. The UK voted, by a majority of overall numbers of votes cast, to leave the European Union. The vote was close, with the majority of people in Northern Ireland and Scotland voting to remain, and deep divisions of view were evident throughout the UK. Among those calling for unity following the outcome of the Referendum were faith leaders such as the Archbishops of York and Canterbury whose statement of 24 June called on people to “unite in a common task to build a generous and forward looking country, contributing to human flourishing around the world” -

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5743/eu-referendum-statement-by-archbishops-of-canterbury-and-york>. See also <https://ctbi.org.uk/eu-referendum-church-reactions/>

During the following politically and economically turbulent days, there were reports of abuse and attacks on some members of minority groups.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/brexit-eu-referendum-racial-racism-abuse-hate-crime-reported-latest-leave-immigration-a7104191.html>

The Inter Faith Network’s Co-Chairs and Vice-Chair made the following statement:

“On Friday, the results of the European Union Referendum were announced. The UK has voted, by a majority of overall numbers of votes cast, to leave the European Union.

There are rapidly moving discussions and strongly held views on the issue.

An immediate need is extending support to those who have been targeted with abuse in the wake of the vote, including some members of the Polish community and also people from other ethnicities and of a number of faiths, including Muslim and Sikh.

This abuse and hostility is entirely at odds with the values of tolerance, valuing of diversity, and mutual respect. IFN’s member bodies, like many others around the UK, will no doubt be finding ways to reach out and to be supportive at this difficult time.

We are entering a period when the need for bridge building within society will be more important than ever. Faith and inter faith organisations have an extremely important role to play in this as well as in contributing to the debate about future identity of the UK.”

Faith and inter faith groups are already playing an active role in reaching out to those affected and also in thinking about what the referendum outcome may mean for the future of their local community as well as the UK more widely. Information on some of the responses, events and statements of IFN member bodies and others are on IFN's website at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/news>.

Note: There is no implication in this piece that the hate incidents from relatively small groups and individuals in any sense reflect the views or attitude of the majority who voted to Leave.

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Rise in reported hate crimes linked to race and religion

According to Home Office figures, reported racially and religiously motivated crimes have increased in level by 40% since 2012. In England and Wales 39,672 instances of racially or religiously motivated crimes were recorded in 2015. The figure for 2015 was a 16% increase on the 34,270 such crimes in 2014 and 44% higher than the 27,489 in 2012. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015>) The figures are understood by Government to reflect both increase in incidents and also greater willingness to report.

A Tell MAMA report, 'A Geography of Anti-Muslim Hatred', published on 29 June, says that in 2015 there was a 326% increase from 2014 in street based anti-Muslim incidents reported directly to Tell MAMA, such as verbal abuse in the street, and women's veils being pulled away, with 437 incidents reported to Tell MAMA. Murdered MP for Batley and Spennings, Jo Cox, concerned about the impact on young women in her own constituency, had been due to help launch the report and present it and it has been dedicated to her by its publishers.

The National Council for Hindu Temples (UK) has announced that, following a spate of racist incidents and reports of other similar Hate crimes, it has set up a monitoring project "to gather data on the degree to which the British Hindu Community are being targeted by extremists and criminals." More information is at <http://www.nchtuk.org/index.php/8-news/latest-news/438-post-referendum-hate-crimes>.

Police forces across England and Wales are asked to report religious hate crime according to religion. This began voluntarily in April 2016, with all police forces disaggregating their hate crime data by religion from April 2017. This will mean that it is possible to know how many incidents have been reported relating to particular faith communities.

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Tackling hate crime

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Greg Clark, addressed issues of community cohesion since the EU referendum, while visiting Dar Al Islam Mosque in London for the Big Iftar. As well as speaking about the importance of upholding values of religious freedom, respect for others, pleasure and strength from diversity, he underlined the importance facing down discrimination and bigotry and stamping out hate crime. Key points from his speech are at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/communities-secretary-visits-dar-al-islam-mosque>

On 29 June the Prime Minister announced that there would shortly be a new action plan on tackling hate crimes, wanting new steps to boost reporting of hate crime and supporting victims. Home Office Minister Karen Bradley MP subsequently made a statement that the Home Office would be providing extra funding in order to tackle hate crime and that it will also take steps to boost reporting of hate crime and to support victims, issue new CPS guidance to prosecutors on racially aggravated crime, provide a new fund for protective security measures at potentially vulnerable institutions and also offer additional funding to community organisations so they can tackle hate crime.

How to report hate crime

The police and Crown Prosecution Service define as hate incidents where the victim or anyone else thinks the incident was motivated by hostility or prejudice based disability; race; religion; transgender identity; or sexual orientation. Hate crime can be any criminal or non-criminal act such as vandalism to a property, name calling, assault or online abuse using social media.

Hate incidents can be reported directly to the Police. They can also be reported via the True Vision website at www.report-it.org.uk/home and, in some areas, to the Stop Hate website at www.stophateuk.org/report-hate-crime. In Scotland, hate crime can be reported at <https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/hate-crime/>.

Additionally, the Community Security Trust of the Jewish community records and reports on anti-Semitic incidents at <https://cst.org.uk/antisemitism/report-antisemitism> and Tell Mama <http://tellmamauk.org> supports victims of anti-Muslim hate and is a public service which also measures and monitors anti-Muslim incidents.

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Europe wide compendium of good practice on hate crime

The European Union Fundamental Rights Agency recently launched a compendium of Good Practice for Hate Crime including a number of UK based initiatives. The online compendium (<http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/hate-crime/compendium-practices>)

contains measures that EU countries are using to combat hate crime, with details on their implementation and evaluation.

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Code of Conduct on illegal online hate speech

The European Commission together with Facebook, Twitter and YouTube (collectively the “IT Companies”) have unveiled a code of conduct that includes a series of commitments to combat the spread of illegal hate speech online in Europe.

The Commission’s website notes that “the Commission and the IT Companies recognise that the spread of illegal hate speech online not only negatively affects the groups or individuals that it targets, it also negatively impacts those who speak out for freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination in our open societies and has a chilling effect on the democratic discourse on online platforms. By signing this code of conduct, the IT companies commit to continuing their efforts to tackle illegal hate speech online. This will include the continued development of internal procedures and staff training to guarantee that they review the majority of valid notifications for removal of illegal hate speech in less than 24 hours and remove or disable access to such content, if necessary.”

Further information can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/fundamental-rights/news/160531_en.htm.

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Fleeing Persecution: Asylum Claims in the UK on Religious Grounds

Earlier this month the All Party Parliamentary Group on Religious Freedom and the Asylum Advocacy Group published ‘Fleeing Persecution: Asylum Claims in the UK on Religious Grounds’. This explores how the Home Office handles applications for asylum by individuals on the grounds of religious persecution and makes a number of recommendations.

The report notes that while the law is clear that religious persecution constitutes grounds for asylum, assessment of religion-based asylum applications is complex and challenging due to the inherently internal and personal nature of religion and belief. This is compounded by the fact that persecution on the basis of religion or belief encompasses a wide range of human rights violations and relates to complex dynamics of communal identities, politics, conflicts and radical organisations.

The report explores what it sees as disparity between Home Office policy guidelines and what is actually happening in practice.. Its recommendations include training for greater

religious literacy on the part of officials. It says that all such individuals should be trained to have adequate knowledge of different forms of religious persecution and the right to freedom of religion or belief, the specific religious terminology of different religious groups as well as the cultural contexts of applicants, especially if the applicant identifies as a member of a religious group perceived as ‘heretical’ by others adhering to the same religion. It says that this depth of knowledge is needed so that the religious and cultural contextual meaning of the asylum applicants’ words can be understood and clearly conveyed.

Further information is online at <https://freedomdeclared.org/news/asylum-report/>.

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Office for National Statistics – Census consultation full response

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published *The 2021 Census – Assessment of initial user requirements on content for England and Wales: Response to consultation in May*. Among other items, it sets out the topics the ONS intends to include within the 2021 Census. Page 20 of the report notes that the ONS intends to include the same religion question as in the 2001 and 2011 Censuses, following the consultation. The report can be found at

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/consultations/the2021censusinitialviewoncontentforenglandandwales>.

In Scotland, users were asked for their views on the topics to be included. The consultation ran from 8 October 2015 – 15 January 2016 (<http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/consultation-2021>) and the responses from it are currently being analysed with a report due this summer.

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Joint Committee for Human Rights – Priority Bills 2016-17 call for evidence

The Joint Committee for Human Rights scrutinises Government Bills for compatibility with human rights. The Committee is encouraging written submissions from civil society and other bodies on human rights issues arising in relation to the Bills it has identified as priorities. Further information can be found at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/human-rights-committee/news-parliament-2015/priority-bills-for-2016-17-call-for-evidence-16-17/>.

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Foster carers

Fosterline has highlighted that carers are needed from all ethnic origins with varying faiths, cultures and languages. It says: “The diversity of the population in England is represented by many different beliefs and faiths, from all sections of the community, and this needs to be reflected in the people coming forward to be assessed to enter the fostering population. Every child deserves the right to allow their own heritage and faith to be explored and developed whether in the care system or not. It is vitally important that children are placed with foster carers who can meet their needs and they are more likely to thrive if their religious and/or ethnic background is taken into consideration. The Fostering community desperately requires more potential foster carers to come forward for assessment from as many varied backgrounds as possible. It does not matter what your religion is, this should not affect your application to foster.”

For free impartial information, support and advice, contact Fosterline on 0800 040 7675 or visit www.fosterline.info.

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Charity Commission Consultation on independent examination

The Charity Commission is consulting on updating the framework for independent examination. Independent examination is the alternative form of scrutiny to an audit which is available to smaller charities. A new style of examiners’ reports is proposed along with revised guidance on when to report matters directly to the commission.

The consultation is open until 30 September and the revised framework for independent examination is proposed to take effect for reporting periods (financial years) ending on or after 31 March 2017. For further information, visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-updating-the-framework-for-independent-examination>.

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Charity Commission consultation on approach to using new statutory power

The Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 gives the Commission a power to disqualify individuals from acting as trustees. While a person is disqualified under this power they are also disqualified from holding senior management positions in the charity

or charities concerned. The power will enable the commission to disqualify, for a proportionate period, individuals who are unfit to be a trustee in order to protect a charity or charities generally, other trustees and the public. This is a significant new power and the commission is seeking views on its proposed approach set out in the policy paper.

The consultation closes on 22 August and the policy document and further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-power-to-disqualify-from-acting-as-a-trustee>.

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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

As noted in the May issue of IFN's e-bulletin, Scottish Interfaith Week has announced that from 2016 its dates will be the same as for the Week in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Events for Scottish Inter Faith Week will be listed on the interactive map at www.interfaithweek.org. The theme for the Week in Scotland will be 'Religion and the media'. For further information, visit www.interfaithscotland.org/scottish-interfaith-week/.

As noted [below](#) IFN launched a Toolkit on Developing Successful Activities on 16 May.

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Northern Ireland guidelines on involvement of young people

The Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum is involved, with the Community Relations Council and YouthLink (an inter church youth body), in preparing guidelines for young people's involvement in inter faith issues. Further information will be given when these are available.

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Day event for local inter faith practitioners – 28 July Coventry

On 28 July in Coventry IFN will be holding a day event for local inter faith practitioners from local inter faith groups anywhere in the UK to share their experiences, discuss issues of common interest and concern and have focused learning opportunities about practical aspects of developing successful inter faith programmes. There will also be two special issue strands - one on local inter faith response to the vulnerability of some communities following the referendum vote to exit the EU and the other on religious literacy.

In 2015 IFN held two day events in Sheffield and London for local inter faith practitioners. Reports from those events can be found at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/all-publications/all-publications>.

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St Ethelburga's Sacred Activists programme

'Sacred Activists: Leadership & spirituality in action' is a new 9 month programme of the St Ethelburga's Centre. It will bring together "young people who want to create a more beautiful world and empowers them to bring it into being" and "calls those with the spark of the future in their hearts, with committed spiritual lives and the impulse to act and lead".

The programme is based in London and will include: workshops with teaching input from leaders in the field; fieldtrips to inspiring communities where faith and action are combined in innovative ways; one to one mentoring from leaders involved in faith-based social change; building community through shared devotional practice, inner work and celebration; ongoing support to develop youth-led projects; a week volunteering at a refugee camp in Europe; a closing retreat and 'vision quest'.

Sacred Activists will involve the following themes and explorations:

- Sacred activism and the inter-spiritual manifesto
- Worldview and a 'new story' of inter-being
- The inner dimension of sacred activism
- Action learning

For further information and to download an application form, visit <https://www.stethelburgas.org/sacred-activists-leadership-spirituality-action>.

The closing date for applications is 30 July.

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Inter faith gardening

There has been a growing interest (excuse the pun) in inter faith gardens. In this issue we include a special feature about these with some examples.

Watford Interfaith Association and the Rangers of Cassiobury Park are working with members of the faith communities in Watford to create “The Watford Peace Garden”, a shared space for quiet contemplation, meditation or meeting together. A dedicated page gives regular updates on stages of the journey, <http://www.wifa.org.uk/the-watford-peace-garden/>.

A special Holocaust Memorial Garden at Edgware and District Reform Synagogue in London is an example of how a garden space can be created both as a space to remember and to renew commitment to peace and cooperation. It has been created as a communal space where people across the community and from different faiths can come together for inter faith work and discussion. Communities Minister Baroness Williams unveiled a new plaque at the Holocaust Memorial Garden which has at its centre a 'tree of life' sculpture representing the six million Jews whose lives were lost in the Holocaust. More information is at <http://jewishnews.timesofisrael.com/communities-minister-unveils-plaque-at-edgware-holocaust-memorial-garden/>.

Some faith gardens have been planted for quite a time. For example, in Swindon, TWIGS garden developed a ‘Faith Garden’ several years ago with the help of Swindon Interfaith Group. TWIGS, which is a charity which operates on land of the Borough Council, held a series of workshops both at TWIGS and out in the community to pull together garden features which had relevance and meaning to several different faith groups. Contributions for the garden came from Buddhist, Christian, Sikh, Hindu, Muslim, Baha’i and Pagan faiths, though all faith groups were invited and encouraged to contribute to the garden. Garden designers then worked with them to make the faith garden a reality. In the garden is to be found a bench provided by the Swindon Inter Faith Group in honour of the 20 years of service to it of Vernon and the late Margaret Griffiths.

In Fife, members of the Inter Faith Group planted a tree in Beveridge Park, Kirkcaldy, to commemorate the formation of the group. This led to the vision for an Interfaith Peace Garden. At the heart of the garden is the Peace Pole. About 100,000 Peace Poles have been erected world-wide and can be made from any material and usually about 2 metres high. The pole is four-sided, and on each side, in a different language, are the words "May peace prevail on earth". The labour and engraving were donated by local tradesmen and the four languages chosen were the four most widely spoken in Fife: English, Polish, Urdu and Arabic. The garden was opened in 2012, supported through ‘Awards for All Scotland’, the Fife Environment Trust and local business people.

At Oakwell Hall in Birstall, Kirklees, is a faith garden designed to provide 'a special place', inspired by the world's major faiths and the natural environment of the park, which can be

used for quiet reflection and as an outdoor classroom where children will learn about common themes of faith and understanding between different communities. The garden incorporates themes of faith such as circles and the points of the compass. It comprises a circular stone seating area with turfed surround, a circle of standing stones which represent the points of the compass and, to give a different perspective to the circle theme, a grass mound. It was partly funded by the Area Committee for Birstall and Birkenshaw, the ward of the councillor who inspired the project while Mayor. It also received funding from the Kirklees Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).

In Sheffield, there is a Multifaith Forest Garden at Parkwood Springs which is being developed by Sheffield city Council with volunteers. Just outside the city centre, it relies on committed volunteers for maintenance and people of many faiths and none help take care of it. For more information, contact sheffieldinterfaith@hotmail.com.

Weymouth has a Peace Garden which is a multi-faith community garden created to promote a commitment to peace and understanding in the local area. The garden lies on the secluded site of an old burial ground, once owned by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Visitors can experience walking the labyrinth, enjoy a time of silence amongst the landscaped garden or prefer a moment of reflection by the peace pole. The garden is managed by a dedicated group of volunteers with the support of Weymouth and Portland Borough Council. Further information is at <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/article/408672/Weymouth-Peace-Garden>.

Faith and inter faith gardens are popular with schools too. For example Pupils at Bryntirion Infants School in Bridgend helped created a faith garden which includes religious symbols and multi-sensory plants, will help to stimulate and develop children's learning. Further information can be found at <http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/local-news/school-plants-faith-garden-1916480>.

The Near Neighbours grants programme has made grants supporting a number of inter faith gardening and allotment projects. Examples of these are a peace garden in Luton, created by renovating an overgrown area into allotments for community members to grow healthy food - <http://www.cuf.org.uk/News/near-neighbours-blogs-changing-the-face-of-englands-communities>; a community garden in East Ham in London holding events to mark faith festivals - <http://www.bonnydowns.org/inter-faith-events>; and an 'edible garden' soon to launch in the London Borough of Brent - <https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/sport-leisure-and-parks/allotments/food-growing-conservation-and-gardening-projects/st-raphael-s-edible-garden/> .

If you know of inter faith gardens – or indeed are designing or planting one – do let us know: ifnet@interfaith.org.uk

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Big Iftar

The Big Iftar is a volunteer-led project where mosques, churches, synagogues, community centres, and schools invite the community to join the fast-breaking meal during Ramadan, called the 'iftar'. It was launched in 2013 to help explain the Islamic faith and to bring communities of all faiths closer together. A number of this year's inter faith Big Iftars, such as those at the West London Synagogue and London Central Mosque, are 'Royal Iftars', in honour of the 90th birthday of Her Majesty The Queen.

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Exchange greetings project

In 2015 imams and other members of the Muslim community were invited by the Joseph Interfaith Foundation to send Happy Chanukah cards to the synagogues and Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis. Following the success of that, the Jewish community is reciprocating by extending their hand of friendship towards the Muslim community by sending Eid Mubarak cards. The aim of the initiative is to create further social interaction and extend good relations between the Jewish and Muslim communities nationally.

Further information from: info@josephinterfaithfoundation.org

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Update on Inter Faith Network for the UK meetings

The Inter Faith Network for the UK works throughout the UK to promote good relations between people of different faiths and beliefs and it has in membership the national inter faith linking bodies of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales – the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum, Interfaith Scotland and the Inter-faith Council for Wales. Each year these bodies meet together with IFN staff and the meetings rotate between countries in the UK. This year's meeting took place on 24 May in Cardiff, hosted by the Inter-faith Council for Wales. In addition to the usual round up of key developments since the last meeting, the meeting discussed: the development of local inter faith activity, including Inter Faith Week; IFN's changing governance – the devolved nations trustee nomination and appointment process; and integration and anti-extremism and inter faith work in the different nations.

On 14 June an Inter Faith Network meeting was held for member bodies in the Educational and Academic category and for National Faith Community Representative Bodies (which usually meet as the Faith Communities Forum). The meeting had a special focus discussion on religious literacy, including Religious Education. There will be further information on religious literacy in the next issue of the e-bulletin.

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RESOURCES AND STUDY/TRAINING

Inter Faith Week Toolkit – get ready for Inter Faith Week 2016!

On 16 May the Inter Faith Network launched an Inter Faith Week Toolkit on Developing Successful Activities. Speakers at the launch event included Ashley Beck and Sofi Hersher, IFN office; the Revd Alan Bayes, Inter-faith Council for Wales; Riaz Ravat, St Philip's Centre Leicester and Minou Cortazzi, Leicester Baha'i community; Ben Shapiro, 3FF; Chan Parmar, Bolton Inter Faith Council and Meera Solanki, Bolton Interfaith Young Ambassadors; and Suzanne Kochanowski, Head of Race and Faith, Integration Division, Department of Communities and Local Government.

The Toolkit is packed with suggestions for marking the Week and examples and illustrations drawn from the many successful activities held for the Week to date. It also includes practical guidance and links to further information. You can download it from the Inter Faith Week website at www.interfaithweek.org Hard copies are available from the IFN office.

An electronic copy of the Toolkit and the 2016 Week flyer are being circulated with this e-bulletin.

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Working Together in Faith

The Working Together in Faith conference in Edinburgh examined how individuals and groups could grasp policy, advocacy and practical action as they exercised their faith. It was organised by Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees and included first hand experiences of someone going through UK's asylum process.

Videos of the presentations can be found at: <http://focusonrefugees.org/looking-back-at-the-working-together-in-faith-conference-in-edinburgh-sfarconference/>.

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Charity Commission guidance on Protecting Charities from Harm

The recent period has seen the introduction of legislation and guidance relating to prevention of violent extremism and counter extremism and there are implications for charities.

Many charities further their charitable aims by arranging meetings involving invited speakers and by distributing literature and other educational materials. Charities, by the nature of their work and the issues they deal with, will raise issues which some people find emotive or which may be controversial. In most cases, this causes no problems.

However, terrorists and those who encourage terrorism have been known to use charities to make their views known. The Charity Commission has guidance on how trustees, staff and volunteers can protect their charity from abuse by those encouraging extremism, terrorism or illegal activity.

This can be found in Chapter 5 of the commission's Compliance Toolkit, entitled 'Protecting Charities from abuse for extremist purposes and managing the risks at events and in activities' which is online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-charities-from-abuse-for-extremist-purposes>.

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Woolf Institute e-learning course

Applications are still being accepted for the Woolf Institute's e-learning course on 'Jews, Christians and Muslims in Europe: Modern Challenges'. The e-learning approach allows participants from all over the world to study wherever and whenever they choose via the internet. The course is multidisciplinary and examines historical trends, religious and cultural interaction, and issues of contemporary citizenship. 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.

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CALLS FOR INFORMATION, COMPETITIONS, AND NOMINATIONS

NATRE's 'Art in Heaven' Competition

The National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) is holding its 13th Annual 'Art in Heaven' competition for school pupils aged 4 to 19 years.

Entries for the competition, which is also supported by RE Today, can be created using drawing, painting, art, video, sculpture or other media and there are five themes from which to choose: Visions and Prophecy; Could Britain be a Rainbow Nation?; It's not Fair! Faith and Justice; Where is God today?; and Seeing Jesus. The choice of theme is dependent on whether the submission is from primary or secondary school pupils.

There is full, detailed guidance available online at <http://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/introduction/2015-competition/>. Submission of entries, to be considered for an award, must arrive at NATRE on or before 31 July.

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Jewish Award for Interfaith Volunteering

This year's Jewish Volunteering Awards have ten categories, including an Award for Interfaith Volunteering. Nominations are open at www.jvn.org.uk and will close on 25 July. The Awards Ceremony will be held in London on 1 November.

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Faiths Together in Lambeth – call for artwork

Faiths Together in Lambeth is calling out to all artists, amateurs or professionals, to donate artworks on the theme of 'Living Together in Harmony' and welcoming artworks in any medium, with the only limitation being the size of the stand.

All artworks donated will be sold to raise funds for the work of the charity. The theme 'Living Together in Harmony' was selected to highlight the mission statement for the charity, which works to promote religious harmony for the benefit of the public, improving knowledge and facilitating mutual understanding and respect of the beliefs and practices of different religious faiths.

Artwork can be donated by 2 July to Faiths Together in Lambeth, 24 Holmewood Gardens, London SW2 3RS.

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Faith Through a Lens photography competition

Faith Through a Lens is an annual photography competition, linked to Inter Faith Week, held by Congregational and General Insurance. It aims to profile the positive effects of faith within a diverse range of communities. The competition encourages amateur photographers from across the UK to capture what faith means to them. It is funded by Congregational & General Insurance and supported by the Inter Faith Network and Churches Together in England.

This year's competition is now open and will close on 3 October. Entry is only open to amateur photographers and will be judged based on emotional connection, creativity and originality. For further information, visit www.faiththroughalens.co.uk.

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Honours List 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 and notes that nominees can come from all levels; being in a junior role is not a barrier to a nomination.

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

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JOBS, INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING

Inter Faith Network for the UK - Internship

IFN is offering an opportunity for a 6 month internship to help on projects such as national Inter Faith Week (www.interfaithweek.org) local inter faith support and engagement, the development of materials sharing case studies and good practice, and a range of other projects.

This is a fulltime, paid, internship at the London Living Wage from 15 September 2016 until 15 March 2017. For a copy of the full information and application form, contact Hannah Cassidy at ifnet@interfaith.org.uk.

The closing date for receipt of application forms is 5 July.

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Inter Faith Network for the UK - Volunteers

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>.

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Christian Muslim Forum – Volunteers

Based at its central London office (or at home for online work), the Christian Muslim Forum is looking for talented people of any age who are interested in this expanding area of work and who would like to get some part-time, hands-on experience.

A commitment of two to three months is requested. To apply, send in a brief CV/biography and reasons for wishing to work with the Forum to volunteer@christianmuslimforum.org. Interviews will then be held.

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3FF – Programmes Coordinator (Schools)

3FF is seeking to recruit a Programme Coordinator to establish 3FF’s successful Schools work in Birmingham and the surrounding areas. This is a full time job, based in London with regular travel in and around Birmingham.

Further information including an application form and how to apply can be found at <http://www.3ff.org.uk/jobs/programmes-coordinator-schools.php>. The closing date for applications is 11 July.

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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/>.

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Heritage Lottery Fund grants to commemorate First World War

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

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

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Near Neighbours grants programme

The Near Neighbours programme offers small grants of between £250 and £5,000, as seed funding for local groups and organisations working to bring together neighbours, and to develop relationships across diverse faiths and ethnicities to improve their communities.

As part of the criteria, projects should:

- Bring together peoples of two or more different faiths and/or ethnicities, to build friendships and develop relationships of trust.
- Work locally. We want to see people who are living very locally (i.e. in the same street, estate or neighbourhood) come together.
- Work sustainably. We want to see long term and natural relationships grow, that will last beyond the period of funding.
- Work to improve the community. We want to see people working to make their communities a better place to live.
- Involve diverse people in planning and implementation. People from more than one faith group and/or ethnicity are involved in planning and implementing the proposal.

The full criteria, information on areas in which the grants are available and information on how to apply can be found at <http://www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours-grants>. For general enquiries, contact near.neighbours@cuf.org.uk.

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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.

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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/>.

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Comic Relief Stronger Communities grants

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

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SPECIAL WEEKS/DAYS

Srebrenica Memorial Week will take place from 10 to 17 July www.srebrenica.org.uk

Peace One Day will take place on 21 September www.peaceoneday.org

Sewa Day will take place on 16 October 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

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

Scottish Interfaith Week will also take place from Sunday 13 to Sunday 20 November www.interfaithscotland.org/scottish-interfaith-week/

Mitzvah Day will take place on Sunday 27 November www.mitzvahday.org.uk/

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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>.

The **St Ethelburga's Centre** is holding an event on Thursday 30 June entitled 'Opening listening: after the Referendum'. Open listening "is a model that enables a diverse community to gather and share perspectives in response to an event of global significance. It allows everyone to speak their truth, to listen and be heard, but without generating argument or assigning judgement." The event is to enable people to share concerns and responses to the result of the EU Referendum. It will be held in the St Ethelburga's Tent in London from 4.30pm to 6pm. For those who wish to stay, the dialogue will be followed by half an hour of prayer and silent meditation. For further information, visit <https://www.stethelburgas.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=804>.

Salaam Shalom will be hosting its British Muslim and Jewish Art exhibition across Bristol from 3 June to 3 July. There is a programme of visual art, performance and interaction centring on an exhibition of contemporary art by British Muslim and Jewish Artists. For further information, visit www.sharedspacesfestival.co.uk.

Medway Inter Faith Action is holding a 'Walk for Peace' on Saturday 2 July from 10am to 12pm. The festive launch and speeches will take place at Gillingham High Street, opposite Co-operative passage and will finish with speeches at the War Memorial in Rochester High Street and Kundalini Yoga meditation by Sarah March. For further information, call on 07947259910 or visit www.peacewalkmedway.uk.

Bedford Council of Faiths is one of a number of organisations involved in organising a Peace Rally in Bedford town centre on Monday 4 July at 4pm. This will be a celebratory get together to demonstrate that Bedford is proud of the diversity of its residents. It has been organised in the wake of the EU referendum result. For further information, contact the Revd Cass Howes at secretary.bcof@gmail.com.

AREIAC is holding a conference entitled 'RE: 'A Design for Life' on Monday 4 July – Tuesday 5 July. The theme for this year is focussed on reviewing 'RE for Real' with Martha Shaw, Researcher at Goldsmith's University and Co-Author of RE for Real, and Barrie Philips, Business Innovation & Skills HE/FE Prevent Coordinator (Wales) and Getting on Together Project Director. It will also be exploring the challenges for young people in Islamic communities. There are a range of workshops relating to these themes and other aspects of RE. There is a fee to attend. This is being held at the Village Hotel, Langdon Rd, Swansea

SA1 8QY. Booking is essential. To book a place or for further information, visit <http://www.arei.ac.org.uk/public/conf2016.html>.

York Interfaith Group holds meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is on Tuesday 5 July at 7.30pm. The speakers will be Maurice Vassier (Chair), Abid Salik, and Jerry Karlin. There will be a discussion on Faiths and the Status of Animals: husbandry, conservation, and food. This is being held at the York Medical Society Rooms, 23 Stonegate, York, YO1 8AW. For further information, email Mark Cosens on yorkinterfaithgroup@gmail.com.

FaithAction is holding an event on Thursday 7 July entitled 'How can we create dementia-friendly places of worship?'. The event takes place from 1pm to 3pm at the Nishkam Centre in Birmingham and further details, including booking, can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-can-we-create-dementia-friendly-places-of-worship-registration-26076696100?aff=event>.

Concord Leeds Interfaith Fellowship is holding a 'Walk of Friendship' on Saturday 9 July from 9.45am to 1pm. The walk will commence at the Quaker Meeting House, Woodhouse Lane, LS2 9DX, and end with lunch at the Hindu Mandir. For further information, contact John Summerwill on 01132697895 or email membership@concord-leeds.org.uk.

Events will be taking place throughout the UK to mark **Srebrenica Memorial Week** from Sunday 10 July to Sunday 17 July. The theme for this year's Remembering Srebrenica Week, marking the 21st anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide, will be '21: Coming of Age – Time to Act' with a particular focus on inspiring young people to challenge hatred and create a better future. For further information, visit www.srebrenica.org.uk.

Bournemouth CCJ is holding an event entitled 'Interfaith Conversations Serving the Common Good' on Sunday 10 July at 3pm. The speaker will be the Right Reverend Dr Michael Ipgrave OBE, Bishop of Lichfield, Chair of CCJ. Refreshments will be provided. There is a cost to attend. This is being held at the Menorah Suite, Murray Muscat Centre, Glen Fern Road, Bournemouth, BH1 1PW. For further information, call on 0203 515 3003 or visit <http://www.ccj.org.uk/contact/>.

Faith Action in partnership with the **University of Bristol** and **Public Spirit** is holding a 'Faith and Finance' Fair on Monday 11 July from 1.15pm to 5pm. The fair will bring together faith-based and community organisations, researchers and others to share information that can help shape delivery locally. A series of policy considerations and suggestions will be collected during the fair and presented to the All-Party Parliamentary group on Faith and Society. Booking is essential – lunch provided to those who book a place. This is being held at the Main Hall, Woburn House, London WC1H 9HQ. To book a place or for further information, contact Katya Braginskaia on 0117 331 0477 or email katya.braginskaia@bristol.ac.uk.

Building Bridges in Burnley is holding a Celebration week from Sunday 10 July to Sunday 17 July. There are a range of events open to all including a Faith Walk, a Young People's

event, the AGM, an 'In the Park' family event, a vigil of silent prayer and a Share Food Share Faith event. For a full list of events, visit <https://bbburnley.co.uk/>. For further information, contact Colin Wills on colin@wills77.plus or call him on 01282 436665.

The **London Inter Faith Centre** is organising an event, in response to the EU Referendum result, on Tuesday 12 July for local Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders to meet and talk about Islamophobia and anti-Semitism. This is a by invitation event. For further information, contact, the Revd Laurence Hillel at laurence.hillel@londoninterfaith.org.uk.

Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum is holding its AGM on Tuesday 12 July at 7pm. The AGM will be followed by refreshments and brief presentations by representatives of Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim religions on practices surrounding the birth of a child and his or her introduction to faith. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion. This is being held at the EMF Centre, Mercer Close, Thames Ditton, KT7 0BS. For further information, visit www.elmbridgemultifaith.org.uk/.

Nottingham Inter Faith Council is holding a stall at the 'Summer Fair' organised by Broxtowe Celebration Group on Saturday 16 July. This is an all-day event, being held from 11am to 4pm. All are welcome. The fair is being held at the Roundhill School, Foster Ave, Nottingham, Beeston NG9 1AE. For further information, call on 07445893 641 or email via <http://www.interfaithnottingham.org.uk/formmail/>.

Marylebone Scriptural Reasoning is holding an event focused on Asylum and Refugees on Thursday 21 July from 6pm to 8.30pm. The speakers will be Reverend Val Reid from Hind St, Rabbi Natan Levy from the Board of Deputies of British Jews and a Muslim speaker. Kosher/halal refreshments will be provided, as will text packs. For further information, visit <http://www.wls.org.uk/event/marylebone-scriptural-reasoning-3/>. Spaces are limited so pre-booking is essential at marylebonesr@gmail.com.

Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum is holding an Interfaith Walk and Talk on Thursday 21 July from 7pm to 9.30pm. There will be visits to the outside of the Undercroft on the High Street, St Catherine's URC Church, St Nicholas school and the English Orthodox church at the Mount Cemetery on route. Accommodations will be made for those who find walking/steps difficult. The walk will start at the Friends Meeting House, 3 Ward Street, Guildford, GU1 4LH and end at St Nicholas Church. For more information, contact Bernard Jones on 01483424257, or email Tony.Oakden@cofeguildford.org.uk.

Crawley Interfaith Network is holding a talk entitled 'Defining Divine in Hinduism' on Friday 22 July from 7pm to 9pm. The speaker will be Dhruv Chhatralia, an international corporate lawyer and author. The event is being held at the Longley Room, The Orchard, 1-2 Gleneagles Court, Brighton Road, Crawley, RH10 6AD. For further information, contact Iyad Daoud on contact@crawleyinterfaith.net or call 01293 883372.

Bolton Interfaith Council is holding an 'Interfaith Cricket' Tournament on Saturday 23 July. All are invited to take part in this family-community event open to everyone. There will be young and senior matches taking place at Deane & Derby Cricket Ground,

Sunnyside Park, Chelsea Road, Bolton, BL3 3BA. For further information, contact Chan Parmar on 01204 546 110 or email on chan@boltoninterfaithcouncil.org.uk.

Faiths Together in Croydon is hosting an inter faith event in Kemnal Park in Chislehurst, Kent, on Saturday 30 July. The event runs from 12 noon until 3pm and will include refreshments, speakers and a tour of the park. For further information and to RSVP, contact asif.hassanali@kemnalpark.org or telephone 020 8300 9790 or 07795 325 446.

Bolton Interfaith Council is supporting an event entitled 'Changing faces of our communities' on Saturday 6 August. This is a diverse event involving local communities and schools in the area. There will be henna and face painting; sari wearing; Bollywood dancing; fashion show; singing and much more. Ambassadors and volunteer support is sought. This is taking place at St Andrews Methodist Church, Tonge Moor Road, Bolton, BL2 3BJ. For further information, contact Chan Parmar on 01204 546 110 or email on chan@boltoninterfaithcouncil.org.uk.

Concord Leeds Interfaith Fellowship is holding its 40th Anniversary Dinner on Thursday 11 August at 6pm. The guest speaker will be the former MP John Battle. The dinner is being held at Guru Nanak NNSJ Gurdwara, 78 Lady Pit Lane, Leeds LS11 6DP. Advance booking is essential, contact John Summerwill on 01132697895 or email on membership@concord-leeds.org.uk.

Interfaith Scotland's Annual Networking Seminar for local interfaith groups will take place on Monday 22 August at Interfaith Scotland's Dialogue Centre at Flemington House in Glasgow. For further information and to book a place, contact admin@interfaithscotland.org.

Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum is holding an event entitled 'Difficult Relationships: Muslims in Germany Today and in the Past' on Tuesday 23 August at 7pm. The evening will look into German attitudes to Islam and the Middle East in the 19th, 20th and 21st Centuries. The discussion is being led by Professor James Hodgkinson of Warwick University. This is being held at the EMF Centre, Mercer Close, Thames Ditton, KT7 0BS. For further information, visit www.elmbridgemultifaith.org.uk/.

Barnet Multi Faith Forum is holding a celebration event with the **Barnet Council, Community Barnet, The Unity of Faiths Foundation, Saracens, JVN** and **Groundwork** on Monday 29 August. The event entitled 'Celebration Barnet Unity in the Community' will take place from 12pm to 6pm. There will be a festival of music, dance, sport, food and culture to promote the positive nature of faith organisation belief and practices and an enhanced understanding of Faith in the Community. This will be held at the Allianz Stadium, Greenlands Lane, Hendon, London NW4 1RL. For further information, visit www.theunityoffaiths.org or email info@barnetmultifaithforum.org.

South East England Faiths Forum is holding a day conference and AGM entitled 'Living with Difference – Religion in a Diverse Society' on Thursday 1 September from 10am to 5pm. The conference will be looking at the implications of the Butler-Sloss report into 'The

Place of Belief and Faith in British Society', which "sets out recommendations for improving and carrying forward the relationship of Britain's Faith and Belief communities with Civic Society". There is a fee to attend. A vegan buffet lunch and refreshments during the day will be provided. For further information or to register, email seeffchair@gmail.com or call on 01865512126, or visit www.se-faithforum.net.

Interfaith Scotland will be holding a networking seminar for women's inter faith groups in Scotland on Thursday 15 September at Interfaith Scotland's Dialogue Centre at Flemington House in Glasgow. For further information and to book a place, contact frances@interfaithscotland.org.

St Philip's Centre is holding a seminar on Saturday 17 September from 9.30am to 4pm on Islam & Christian-Muslim Engagement. The seminar is being led by The Revd Dr Tom Wilson, Director of St Philip's Centre, and Mr Dilwar Hussain, Chair of New Horizons in British Islam. Booking is essential as numbers are limited and places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants are invited to bring in their own lunch. This is being held at St Philip's Centre, 2A Stoughton Drive North, Leicester LE5 5UB. For further information or to register, email at admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk or call 0116 2733459.

Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum and **Surrey Faith Links** are holding an event entitled 'Faith and Inner Peace' on Monday 19 September at 7pm. The event aims to enable people to learn about faith perspectives on mental health and how faith communities help people suffering from mental health. The speakers are Suzette Jones, Ujala Ilyas, Kruawan Sookcharoen, Jennifer Jankel and Dr Phil Ferreira-Lay. Charities working with people suffering from mental health illnesses who would like a stall are suggested to get in touch. For further information, contact Kauser Akhtar on Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk.

Crawley Interfaith Network is holding a talk entitled 'My Faith as a Christian Jew' on Friday 23 September from 7pm to 9pm. The speaker will be Canon Doris Staniford, the first female Church of England priest in Crawley, Chaplain at the Crawley Hospital & St Catherine's Hospice, and Priest at St Albans Church, Gossops Green till 2012. For further information, contact Iyad Daoud on contact@crawleyinterfaith.net or call on 01293 883372.

The **World Congress of Faiths** is marking its 80th Anniversary with an academic conference on 'Religious pluralism and interfaith: learning for the future' to be held on Friday 23 September in Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Discussion will cover themes including the variety of responses to the growth of religious pluralism in the UK and the role of inter faith dialogue in society; and will be led by a range of speakers including: Professor Chris Baker, William Temple Professor of Religion and Public Life, University of Chester; Dr Ankur Barua, Director of Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme; Rabbi Tony Bayfield, Professor of Jewish Theology, Leo Baeck College; Professor Ursula King, inter faith scholar and feminist theologian; and Revd Dr Alan Race, author, theologian and Chair of WCF. For booking forms and enquiries email jenny@worldfaiths.org or call on 01223 781781; or visit www.worldfaiths.org/conference-2016.

Woking People of Faith is holding an Annual International Day of Peace event on Saturday 24 September from 11am to 12pm. Primary school children will be taking part in a poster or poem competition. This is being held at Mercia Walk, Woking, Surrey GU21 6XS. For further information, contact Garry Shore on coordinator@wpof.org.uk or visit www.wpof.org.uk.

Herefordshire Interfaith Group is holding an International Peace Day Service on Sunday 25 September. This will be held at the Hereford Cathedral, 5 College Cloisters, Cathedral Close, Hereford HR1 2NG. For further information, contact the Chairman, Venerable Tenzin Choesang on 01568 750082 or email June@the-hermit-online.co.uk.

Concord Leeds Interfaith Fellowship is holding a talk on 'Pagan and Interfaith' on Monday 26 September at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Prudence Jones, Interfaith liaison officer of the Pagan Federation, and co-author of *A History of Pagan Europe*'. This is being held at the Friends' Meeting House, Woodhouse Lane, 188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9DX. For further information, contact John Summerwill on 01132697895 or email on membership@concord-leeds.org.uk.

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

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

Interfaith Scotland: www.interfaithscotland.org

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

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

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

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