



IFN e-bulletin

November/December 2017

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

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

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

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

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FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE UPDATES

Faiths responding to the needs of the homeless

In the Autumn Budget statement, on 22 November, the Chancellor pledged to invest £20m in schemes to support people on the brink of homelessness and end rough-sleeping by 2027. Communities Secretary Sajid Javid, on 30 November, set out details of a new Rough Sleeping Advisory Panel that will help develop a national strategy as part of the government's commitment to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and eliminate it altogether by 2027.

Throughout the year, faith communities and faith-based bodies work to address homelessness through their own programmes as part of their commitment to social justice and to service. The winter months bring increased hardship for many who are homeless and faith communities and their members respond accordingly.

Churches in many parts of the UK run winter night shelters – often ecumenically – and there are many denominational initiatives such as those of the Salvation Army. A number have volunteers from other faiths or none.

The Merton Winter Night Shelter is now in its seventh year, operating with various faith groups in the area. It is led by YMCA London South West (LSW) and supported by Wimbledon Foundation and Merton Council. <https://www.ymcalsw.org/merton-winter-night-shelter-3/> Many who use it are referred through the Merton Faith in Action Homeless Project which also provides drop in support throughout the year. There are also a number of initiatives involving two or more faith communities that run year round, such as the

Hope for Southall Homeless project with Christian and Sikh involvement.

<http://www.hssh.org.uk/who-we-are/>

The Leicester Winter Night Shelter is a multi-faith night shelter organised by One Roof Leicester. It rotates around seven places of worship in the city. Open from December until January, the shelter provides emergency accommodation and food to homeless people in the city during the winter period. The shelter is run by volunteers from diverse faith backgrounds. www.oneroof.org.uk/2-uncategorised/194-about-the-winter-shelter

Faith groups are also involved in other winter linked initiatives to support people who are homeless, as well as other groups such as the elderly. For example, the Independent reports on Human Appeal, a Muslim faith-based charity which has been collecting clothing and donating it to homeless people living on the streets of Manchester, Birmingham and Glasgow as part of the Wrap Up Campaign. Coats will also be donated to rough sleepers in London via the organisation Hands On London, who launched the annual Wrap Up campaigns, starting in London. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/muslim-charity-human-appeal-homeless-thousands-coats-winter-london-manchester-wrap-up-campaign-a8058366.html>

Muslim Aid is holding a UK Winter Campaign, helping to feed the hungry and homeless with their Food Drive programme, distributing essential items to the homeless with the Rucksack Challenge, and also helping the elderly in the UK to keep warm. For more information, visit www.muslimaid.org/uk-winter-campaign.

Mitzvah Day, a Jewish-led 'day of good deeds' on 20 November saw hundreds support the elderly and homeless, as well as refugees and others from poor or vulnerable backgrounds. For example, as part of their activities, members of St Albans Masorti Synagogue knitted woolly hats and scarves, cooked an evening meal at a local homeless shelter, and collected household and baby items for Syrian refugees and baked biscuits. At a Mitzvah Day activity in conjunction with Scottish Interfaith Week, volunteers from Glasgow Reform Synagogue helped out at the Kagyu Samye Dzong Buddhist Centre soup kitchen on Sunday evening, preparing food and distributing it to the homeless in Glasgow City Centre <http://www.grs.org.uk/2017/11/>. Greek Orthodox Christian, Jewish, Muslim Sikh and Zoroastrian, and volunteers from across London came to JW3 in North London to prepare a meal for those in need at Ashford Place in Cricklewood. <http://mitzvahday.org.uk/a-taste-of-mitzvah-day-at-cooking-event>

Volunteers from other faith linked charities have also been contributing through many different routes. For example, connected to Sewa Day, volunteers from City Hindus Network worked in partnership with three other charities at Lincoln's Inn Fields in London to serve hot food to London's homeless and also collaborated with Wrap Up London to sort 4,816 donated coats, of which 1,600 were delivered to those in need within 24 hours.

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Faith communities and refugees

On 1 November A £1 million fund for organisations and communities wanting to support refugees coming to the UK opened. The fund is for the community sponsorship scheme which enables community groups to take on the role of welcoming and supporting refugee families in the UK. Sponsor groups can include charities, businesses, local authorities, community groups and third sector organisations. The fund is designed to give experienced organisations the resources to provide training and support to groups who want to sponsor refugees. It aims to bring people together from across society to support vulnerable refugees through community sponsorship. Further information is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-community-sponsorship-capacity-building-fund-opens-for-bids>. The closing date for applications is 15 December 2017.

Citizens UK, which has a wide range of faith organisations involved in its work, continues to run its Refugees Welcome campaign and to encourage people to welcome refugees in their local community.

http://www.citizensuk.org/save_lives_by_helping_resettle_refugees

The City of Sanctuary is an ongoing project, which began in Sheffield in 2005 and now has a network of groups across the UK. Many different faith groups are involved <https://cityofsanctuary.org/by-theme/faiths/ideas-to-support-asylum-seekers-in-your-congregation/>

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland carries information about Church and other refugee related news and initiatives, including the Churches Refugee Network, on its website at <https://ctbi.org.uk/how-the-churches-are-responding-to-the-refugee-crisis/> and through <http://focusonrefugees.org/>. A recent one is Welcome Churches <https://www.welcomechurches.org/> which provides training and resources to churches to help them provide help and support to refugees arriving in their neighbourhood. Another recent initiative is Church Response for Refugees <http://www.forrefugees.uk/about-us/>.

Within other communities there are also resources for engagement. For example, the Muslim Council of Britain carries information about relevant initiatives <http://www.mcb.org.uk/refugee-aid-and-relief-information/> and the Jewish Council for Racial Equality continues its work in this area, recently launching Coats4Calais, an appeal for warm coats for refugees sleeping rough in Calais www.jcore.org.uk/news. UK faith based bodies also continue to work around the world in support of refugees, for example Khalsa Aid's work to help Rohingya refugees <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/11/16/sikh-volunteers-give-aid-rohingya-muslims-fleeing-persecution/>.

Many individual places of worship around the UK continue to offer support. For example, since March 2012 volunteers from the Alyth Synagogue in London have been running a monthly drop-in for refugees who have recently arrived in the UK. It now regularly welcomes over 60 refugees each month. It was recently recognised for its work in 3FF's

awards for faith and belief groups in London which make London a welcoming place for all <http://www.3ff.org.uk/blog/2017-awards/>.

A number of UK faith leaders joined together on a multi faith basis during Inter Faith Week to urge action to end statelessness as part of a new initiative calling for improved rights and better support for 'stateless' people. Their statement urged the UK Government to do more to welcome those who no longer have a country to call their home and to review its policies towards stateless people. 'Stateless' people without legal status cannot leave the UK because no country will accept them but do not have permission to work in the UK. Signatories called for alternatives to detention and better support for access to rights and advice and help with integration. The move is part of the #LockedInLimbo campaign which is led by the European Network on Statelessness and seeks to end the detention of people who end up locked in limbo because they have no country that they can return to. The statement, which remains open for signature, is at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPu1UIrSnqBZc84RQ-iH-9xopdvknow9bEwoaTF51lGQwFg/viewform>.

The St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace held a roundtable event in November, 'Multifaith Approaches to Refugee Integration in the UK', with the University of Winchester Centre of Religion, Reconciliation and Peace and with Faith in Society.

Inter Faith Week saw a number of refugee related events, for example Together We Grow taking 50 refugees to visit the Jamia Mosque Madni in Halifax and the Halifax Minster. <https://www.halifaxcourier.co.uk/news/a-tour-around-different-places-of-worship-for-group-of-refugees-1-8885295>

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Impact of US Government policy change on status of Jerusalem

The Trump Administration's change of foreign policy to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel has been followed by strong statements from different perspectives, both there and in many places around the world.

In Europe there have been some protests. In Amsterdam a man with a Palestinian flag yelling 'Allahu Akbar' (God is great) was detained by police after smashing the windows of a kosher Jewish restaurant. <http://metro.co.uk/2017/12/08/jewish-restaurant-vandalised-religious-attack-trumps-jerusalem-declaration-7142432/> There was a firebombing of a synagogue in Sweden and violently anti-Semitic chanting at one protest in that country. <http://www.itv.com/news/2017-12-10/three-arrests-after-synagogue-in-sweden-firebombed-by-masked-attackers/>

The Scottish newspaper *The National* reported that an unnamed leader of Scotland's Jewish community had expressed fears about the consequences for inter faith relations

there

http://www.thenational.scot/news/15709275.Jewish_and_Muslim_communities_in_Scotland_express_fears_over_tensions_after_Trump_39_s_Jerusalem_declaration/. There have not been comparable reports elsewhere in the press.

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Faith Leaders' Declaration on Female Genital Mutilation

A Faith Leaders' Declaration on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) was signed as part of the 'Girl Summit' in 2014 to reinforce the message that FGM is not a religious requirement. This is currently being updated ahead of a reaffirmation of commitment to end this practice which is illegal in the UK.

As part of this process, which is being supported by the Department for Communities and Local Government, views are being sought, including on how best to spread the message that FGM is not tolerated in the UK. Views can be contributed through the following DCLG survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GDL6H2H>. The deadline is 29 December.

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Religious dress and symbols

The wearing of religious dress and symbols in contexts such as the workplace has been something which has received increasing attention in the last few years. The Inter Faith Network's Trustees produced, in 2007, a briefing note on the wearing of religious dress and symbols which can be downloaded from

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/wearing-of-religious-dress-and-symbols-briefing-note>. IFN, alongside national faith community bodies and others, was represented on the advisory group which contributed to the Equality and Human Rights Commission's guidance to Employers on Religion or Belief in the Workplace which contains material about a number of aspects of religious dress and symbols in the workplace:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/religion-or-belief>.

On 5 December, the European Court of Human Rights press service published a new fact sheet, Religious Symbols and Clothing, as part of the ongoing series of factsheets which cover themes in the Court's case law and pending cases:

http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/FS_Religious_Symbols_ENG.pdf.

In November a woman customer entering a North London branch of McDonalds was told by a security guard to remove her hijab <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-42242272>. McDonalds made it clear that this was contrary to its policy.

At its meeting on 5 December, IFN's Board of Trustees noted with concern the continuing impact of religious illiteracy and prejudice on people from different faith backgrounds,

including incidents such as demands for removal of items of clothing or symbols worn for religious reasons. Also noted was that its Briefing on Religious Dress and Symbols (see the first paragraph above) has relevance, as, sadly, because prejudice sometimes spills over into hatred, was the document <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/looking-after-one-another-the-safety-and-security-of-our-faith-communities-2017>.

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Development of Government's integration strategy

In 2015 the then Prime Minister, David Cameron, commissioned Dame Louise Casey to carry out an independent review on “how to boost opportunity and integration in isolated and deprived communities”. The report of that Review was published at the end of 2016. In April 2017 a General Election was called for June and the Conservative manifesto included a commitment to bring forward a new integration strategy. That integration strategy is now under development by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The Casey Review report made 12 recommendations and these are being considered alongside other factors in the development of the Government's new integration strategy. As noted [below](#), Ms Penny Hobman Deputy Director, Integration Strategy, DCLG, came to speak to IFN's Faith Communities Forum about the developing strategy at its meeting on 9 November.

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Lord Bourne begins Faith Tour

During Inter Faith Week, Minister for Faith at the Department for Communities and Local Government, Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, began a Faith Tour to highlight England's diverse landscape of faith communities and places of worship. The new tour follows on from his tour of all 42 Anglican cathedrals in England, “which highlighted their success in adapting to the modern world in addition to championing their role as custodians of England's rich Christian heritage”. Over the next year, Lord Bourne plans to visit 42 places of worship that support the many other denominations and faiths in England. The tour will highlight the role of these places of worship in the community and especially their work in bringing people of different faiths and backgrounds together. Many of the places of worship the Minister will visit were suggested by members of those local communities.

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Ensuring strong equalities legislation after Brexit

In February 2017, the House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee published a report on ensuring the continuation of strong equalities legislation after the UK leaves the European Union. This relates to all protected characteristics, including religion or belief. The Government issued a response to this report in October, including to four key recommendations:

- That the Government should bring forward an amendment to the Equality Act 2010 to allow Parliament and the Courts to make judgements on the compatibility of new legislation with UK principles of equality
- To amend the 'Great Repeal Bill' to include a clause affirming a commitment to present levels of equalities legislation after the UK's exit from the European Union
- To develop a cross-departmental strategy for taking action on equality, as well as consolidating links with civil society organisations
- To take measures to ensure that research on equalities continues uninterrupted after the UK's exit from the European Union

The full text of the Government's response, on a point-by-point basis, can be found at <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmwomeq/385/385.pdf>.

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Hate Crime

New national online hate crime hub

In October, the Home Secretary announced the creation of a new national hub to tackle the emerging threat of online hate crime. The creation of the hub is intended to offer better support for victims, and to help increase the number of prosecutions by streamlining current processes and allocating resources more effectively. The hub will be managed by the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC). Home Secretary Amber Rudd said:

“Online hate crime is completely unacceptable. What is illegal offline is illegal online, and those who commit these cowardly crimes should be met with the full force of the law. The national online hate crime hub that we are funding is an important step to ensure more victims have the confidence to come forward and report the vile abuse to which they are being subjected.”

It is expected that the new hub will be operational by the end of the year. More information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-new-national-online-hate-crime-hub>

APPG on Hate Crime

A new All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Hate Crime was launched on Wednesday 6 December at the Houses of Parliament. The APPG will explore the challenges and impacts of all forms of hate crime, including those involving religion and belief. The APPG will also work with key anti-hate crime organisations across the public and voluntary sectors to achieve its aims.

For further information about the work of the APPG, including the beginning of its first enquiry in the New Year, email info@appghatecrime.org.

Home office statistics

In October the Home Office published its annual statistics on hate crimes and racist incidents recorded by the Police. The statistics cover the extent and trends in levels of hate crime for all police forces in England and Wales. Hate crimes are recorded using five centrally monitored strands, one of which is 'religion and beliefs'.

The official statistics, and the accompanying report can be downloaded at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2016-to-2017>.

CPS annual report

The Crown Prosecution Service has published its 'Hate Crime Annual Report 2016-17'. The report is an analysis of the key prosecutions across a number of classified 'strands' of hate crime offences, including race and religion. With regard to religiously aggravated hate crime, a number of key findings emerged:

- The volume of religiously aggravated hate crime referrals from police to the CPS decreased in 2016-17
- The volume of completed prosecutions decreased significantly in 2016-17
- The conviction rate and guilty pleas remained steady
- The proportion of successfully completed prosecutions with an announced and recorded sentence uplift increased significantly

It was also announced that in 2016-17, the CPS provided prosecutors with mandatory training on racially and religiously aggravated hate crimes which focused on developing strategies to obtain a recorded sentence uplift. The full annual report can be downloaded at http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/docs/cps_hate_crime_report_2017.pdf.

National hate crime awareness week

The September/October edition of IFN's E-Bulletin looked ahead to National Hate Crime Awareness Week. The Week took place from 14 to 21 October, with events and activities taking place across the country. More information about the Week, including the dates for 2018, can be found at: <http://www.stophateuk.org/hate-crime-awareness-week/>.

Tell MAMA annual report

In November, Tell MAMA published its annual report: 'A Constructed Threat: Identity, Prejudice and the Impact of Anti-Muslim Hatred'. Among the key findings highlighted in the report is a significant rise in recorded anti-Muslim hate crime incidents at 'street-level' or in public places. The report also highlighted the increasingly gendered nature of anti-Muslim hate crime in the UK. The full report can be downloaded at: <https://tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/A-Constructed-Threat-Identity-Intolerance-and-the-Impact-of-Anti-Muslim-Hatred-Web.pdf>.

In December Faith Matters published ‘From antisemitism to anti-Muslim racism: the evolving face of the far-right in Poland’, which it describes as highlighting how extremist groups like Britain First have continued to sow division by exploiting the religious sentiments of Poles in Britain to further their anti-Muslim agenda. <https://www.faith-matters.org/2017/12/08/changing-face-hate-poland-antisemitism-anti-muslim-hatred/>

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Law of marriage in the UK

The Government has confirmed that it does not currently support a full review of the law of marriage in the UK. An initial scoping report carried out by the Law Commission and published in December 2015 identified key issues and questions to be considered in a full review. These included how the ability to solemnise marriages might be extended beyond religious groups and the state; whether the current rules could be made more coherent; and what the process of registration of marriage should entail.

More details can be found at <http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/marriage-law/>.

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Meeting with Scotland’s First Minister of Religious Leaders of Scotland

The annual meeting with the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon and the religious leaders of Scotland took place on 7 November in Edinburgh. The meeting was facilitated by the Director of Interfaith Scotland.

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Inter Faith Week

Inter Faith Week is the Inter Faith Network’s largest programme, and this year it took place from 12 to 19 November. Over 600 activities took place in England, Northern Ireland and Wales to mark the Week – more than ever before.

Strong support was offered from within national faith community bodies with messages from leading figures such as Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and from many faith and denominational bodies. Key public figures showed their support, including Prime Minister Theresa May; Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Minister for Faith at the Department for Communities and Local Government; other MPs; Mayor of London Sadiq Khan; and mayors and councillors across the country.

The Co-Chairs of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, which leads on the Week, the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson and Jatinder Singh Birdi, said:

“Inter Faith Week 2017 has seen an incredible array of activities taking place, involving many thousands of people of different backgrounds. These have contributed to developing even stronger inter faith relations in local communities and in our shared society.”

Prime Minister Theresa May said:

“Inter Faith Week 2017 was an inspiring effort across all neighbourhoods and faiths across the United Kingdom, in building understanding, tolerance and a sense of community. These sentiments are so important as we build a country where everyone has the chance to succeed and where no one suffers discrimination because of their background, ethnicity, religion or belief.”

Faith communities have contributed in ever-increasing numbers. They opened their doors and welcomed others in, discussed commonalities as well as challenging and difficult issues, celebrated with their neighbours, took part in joint social action projects, and have been active in civil society in existing and new ways. Inter faith organisations have also played a vital role in the Week, highlighting and providing a focus for the important work that they do year-round.

More activities took place than in any previous year since Inter Faith Week began in 2009. The hundreds of organisations that took part have included: faith communities and inter faith bodies; non-religious belief bodies; local authorities; schools, SACRES, universities and FE colleges; businesses; youth organisations; sports organisations; police and other emergency services; the Armed Services; hospitals and hospices; Government departments, and many more.

IFN has a long-standing relationship with Mitzvah Day, a day of social action and volunteering led by the Jewish community. The Day fell within the Week again this year (having, for the first time, come slightly outside of it in 2016) and over 70 ‘interfaith Mitzvah Day’ events were held jointly to mark both. These events were also listed on the Inter Faith Week website.

The geographical spread was huge: Bangor, Belfast, Bristol, Carlisle, Durham, Exeter, Fermanagh and Omagh, Great Yarmouth, Leeds, London, Manchester, Medway, Oxford, Penryn, Northampton, Newcastle, Waltham Forest and Wolverhampton, are just a few of the places that took part. Week-long programmes took place in a number of cities and towns such as Birmingham, Bolton, Kendal, Leicester, Preston, and York. The Week’s activities can be seen at www.interfaithweek.org/map.

The Week is timed to begin on Remembrance Sunday, remembering the service of soldiers and civilians of many faiths and beliefs. That was reflected in participation in civic commemorations and a number of moving events. Across the Week there were: sporting events; school activities; social action projects such as meals for the homeless and tree

plantings; dialogues; cultural events; open door days held by faith groups around the country; faith trails; talks; women's events; events for young people; events bringing religious and non-religious people together; and many more.

The Week saw many new partnerships and launches of a number of new projects as well as signalling the start of a tour of faith communities' places of worship by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Minister for Faith at the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The Inter Faith Network for the UK held a joint symposium with Sporting Equals UK: 'The Power of Sport to Build Good Inter Faith Relations'. [See below.](#)

Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum held an event on 'Human rights, Pluralism and Freedom of religion' and one on 'Faith in the Environment – Caring for our Common Home'. The Inter-faith Council for Wales held an event entitled 'Hate Crime – What it is and how to report it' and the Muslim Council of Wales held its annual Inter Faith Week dinner earlier this month.

The Near Neighbours Programme of the Church Urban Fund and the Inter Faith Youth Trust supported a number of events during the Week.

The impact of the Week also spread further than ever before on social media, with many organisers, participants and supporters tweeting about the Week. Tweets about the Week have so far had a potential reach of 12.6 million Twitter users with over 40 million impressions.

Reporting on the Week

The Inter Faith Week team of staff and volunteers at the IFN office has been posting photos of events on our Inter Faith Week [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts, sharing many of those that activity holders posted. If you organised or were at an event and have good photographs the team would love to see them. Please email them with any details to Interfaithweek@interfaith.org.uk or post them and tag us either on Instagram (www.instagram.com/IFWeek) or Twitter (www.twitter.com/IFWeek), or both.

It is important for IFN to learn what worked well about the Week and what worked less well, so that we can keep developing Inter Faith Week. Activity organisers have been asked to complete a short survey. This can be found at <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/InterFaithWeek2017/>.

Scottish Interfaith Week

This year Scottish Interfaith Week, which has taken place since 2004, took place on the same dates as Inter Faith Week in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Its theme for 2017 was 'Creativity and the Arts'; it was also a very high impact week.

Inter Faith Week 2018 – 10th Anniversary!

Inter Faith Week 2018 will take place from Sunday 11 to Sunday 18 November. This will be the 10th Anniversary of the Week.

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INTER FAITH NETWORK FOR THE UK NEWS

Using the Power of Sport to Build Good Inter Faith Relations

On 14 November IFN held an event, in partnership with Sporting Equals UK, entitled ‘Using the Power of Sport to Build Good Inter Faith Relations’. The event was held at the Leicester Tigers rugby stadium in Leicester and participants came from national sports organisations, regional sports clubs and faith and inter faith organisations. It was held as part of national Inter Faith Week.

The day opened with a welcome from the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson, IFN Co-Chair, and an opening presentation by Mr Arun Kang, CEO of Sporting Equals UK. Presentations followed by Mr Tim Mathias, Inclusion and Equalities Executive for Premiership Rugby; Mr Matt Parish, Director of Education and Inclusion, Burnley Football Club and Mr Afrasiab Anwar, Community Faith Coordinator, Building Bridges in Burnley; Ms Sadia Akram, Women in Sport project, Manchester; the Revd Canon Paul Hackwood, Executive Chair of the Church Urban Fund and Director of Near Neighbours; Ms Shaheen Bi, Head of Projects at Sporting Equals; and Mr Arfan Akram, East London Cricket Co-Coordinator and Tour Captain and team member, Cllr Mukesh Patel, members of the East London multi faith team arranged by Essex County Cricket Club which had recently played the Vatican XI in Rome. The speakers on the closing panel were Professor John Williams, Co-Director, University of Leicester Unit for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement; Mr Rehan Haidar, Senior Policy Officer, Department for Communities and Local Government, who is supporting development of a new integration strategy; and IFN’s Executive Director, Dr Harriet Crabtree.

There were 3 workshops during the programme: Creating opportunities for engagement between single faith based bodies, with presentations by Mr Wasim Riaz, Project Manager, and Ms Shana Khan, Association of Muslim Schools Inter Faith Games Programme, and Mr Alan Sefton, Head, Arsenal in the Community; Working with sport and physical exercise as part of developing local inter faith initiatives, with a presentation by Mr Trip Pannu, Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum; and Sport and inter faith engagement in a wider inclusion context, with presentations from Ms Helen Derby of the English Federation of Disability Sport and Ms Kathryn Wall of Gwent Police Multi Faith Panel.

The Islam Channel attended to film a number of interviews and parts of the day. Its programme on the event was shown later in November.

IFN will be building on this event with further work on this area.

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Meeting of Faith Communities Forum

A meeting of IFN's Faith Communities Forum was held on 9 November. On the Agenda were:

- the Government's Integration Strategy, with a short opening reflection from Ervad Yazad T Bhadha on bases in the Zoroastrian tradition for thinking about integration and its importance to society and a presentation from Ms Penny Hobman, Deputy Director, Integration Strategy, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) about the Government's new Integration Strategy which DCLG is currently developing;
- the establishment of a Religion Media Centre, with a presentation from Mr Ben Rich, one of its Trustees;
- current issues of interest or concern to faith communities;
- the inter faith engagement of faith communities; and
- some IFN updates.

The launch of Inter Faith Week 2017 took place as the last item of the meeting.

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Day event in Manchester for local inter faith practitioners

In October IFN held a day event in Manchester for local inter faith practitioners from inter faith groups across 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.

This was an opportunity to share experiences and news; discuss issues of common interest and concern; share tips for developing successful inter faith programmes; hear about some projects being run by local groups; and to take part in discussion groups about supporting RE and inter faith engagement in schools; developing programmes with impact; getting to grips with Facebook and Twitter; and women and inter faith engagement.

The day opened with a presentation from Jatinder Singh Birdi, Co-Chair of IFN and Chair of Warwick District Faith Forum, about the importance of local inter faith work and its UK context and a welcome to Manchester from the Revd Charles Kwaku-Odoi on behalf of the

Faith Network for Manchester. During the morning session there were presentations by Rabbi Warren Elf of Faith Network for Manchester and Elinor Chohan of Altrincham Interfaith Group and Altrincham Muslim Association. In the afternoon the speakers included Dr Peter Rookes and Ms Shenaz Sajan of Birmingham Council of Faiths, Mr Ashley Beck of IFN and Mr Chan Parmar of Bolton Interfaith Council and Miss Puja Solanki, a Bolton Youth Interfaith Ambassador from Bolton Interfaith Council's Young Ambassadors programme. Closing reflections were offered by Sister Patricia Harriss of York Interfaith Group and Mr Chirag Khajuria of Blackpool Faith Forum.

A report of the event is being produced. The last four such days were held in Sheffield, London, Coventry and Bristol. Reports from those events can be found at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/all-publications/all-publications>

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INTER FAITH PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES AND DEVELOPMENTS

Council of Christians and Jews 75th anniversary

Sunday 1 October marked 75 years since the establishment of the Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) and the start of its year-long anniversary celebrations. A number of events will be held over the next 10 months to mark the anniversary, including:

- the launch of an alumni network for over 200 graduates of CCJ's Yad Vashem Clergy Seminar and a conference at the National Holocaust Centre in April 2018;
- a national Rabbi/Clergy training conference that will bring together rabbis and clergy from across the UK to build stronger connections at a local level in March 2018;
- the launch of a young CCJ network incorporating CCJ's campus leadership alumni as well as young stakeholders involved in CCJ's work.

Further information about CCJ is at www.ccj.org.uk.

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UK's first 'Mayoral Faith Summit' in Birmingham

On 27 November the University of Birmingham hosted the first UK 'Mayoral Faith Summit', bringing communities together to shape and advance the priorities of the new City Region Mayor, Andy Street. The University's College of Arts and Law and its Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religion worked with community stakeholders to design the process of the event in the weeks leading up to it. Its aim was to provide a space for a wide range of voices to be heard, and to build towards a shared action plan to address social and community issues, such as building new leadership networks for young

people, reducing homelessness and social need, keeping communities safer by mitigating hate crime and discrimination, and finding concrete ways of working together to make the economy work better for the whole community.

Following the event, Francis Davis, Professor of Religion, Communities and Public Policy, Director of Policy at Edward Cadbury Centre and co-chair of the Faith Summit, will be developing a special edition of an international journal. He will also carry out more research to support emerging themes of focus and produce a pamphlet with think-tank Localis, which will assess the West Midlands' progress in these areas in an international context. More information about the project is available at <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/thebirminghambrief/items/2017/11/higher-education-anchor-institution-at-work-the-mayors-faith-summit.aspx>.

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Invest in Peace Board of Deputies and CTBI initiative

Invest in Peace is an ongoing joint initiative of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The initiative invites Christian and Jewish communities in Britain to come together in support of Israeli-Palestinian peacebuilding projects. Three events took place in May in London, each being locally led by a church and synagogue partnership. Christians, Jews and others sat alongside one another to hear from two bereaved parents, one Israeli and one Palestinian, who promote reconciliation as an alternative to revenge. Speakers Robi Damelin and Bassam Aramin, members of the Parents Circle – Families Forum, travelled to London especially for the three events. A further three similar events were held during Inter Faith Week in November in Glasgow, Leeds and Manchester. For further information about the project, contact CTBI Deputy General Secretary the Revd Peter Colwell peter.colwell@ctbi.org.uk or Board of Deputies Interfaith and Social Action Officer, Anthony Silkoff anthony.silkoff@bod.org.uk.

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The Great Christmas Get Together

Following on from the Great Get Together in June, organisers are encouraging people to get involved with 'Mince Pie Moments', by getting together this Christmas to build closer communities and positive connections through sharing mince pies. Participants are encouraged to make or buy mince pies and share them with neighbours or their communities any time between 24 and 26 December. More information and resources for hosting a Great Christmas Get Together are available at <https://www.greatgettogether.org/how-to/>.

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Hindu Christian dialogue resources under development

A number of meetings have taken place this month to develop further some resources that will equip Hindus and Christians to engage in Scriptural Reasoning together. Working in partnership with the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, the St Philip's Centre in Leicester has been engaged in a dialogue project throughout 2017 with a view to building sufficient trust between the different parties so that meaningful scriptural reasoning can take place. The work has been funded through grants from the Spalding and Teape Trusts and has enabled it to develop a pocket guide for those engaged in first encounters between Hindus and Christians, as well as some "text bundles" on themes such as "divine descent," "what happens after death" and "food and drink." The Centre will be using these resources in its work in 2018, including in a major conference planned for June 2018. Further information from admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk.

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3FF projects – Pizza & Plays and Amplify

3FF is launching a new project for people aged 18 to 35 as part of a two-year partnership with the National Theatre. 'Pizza & Plays' will involve weekly workshops led by a professional writer and director from the National Theatre. Participants will read and discuss some of the past century's most iconic plays, focusing on themes of faith, belief and identity, all whilst sharing pizza. There will also be opportunities for participants to write their own plays, inspired by their life stories and experiences. Following the workshops, there will be a chance to rehearse and perform a brand new play at the National Theatre in the summer of 2018, alongside leading professional actors and community performers from all over London. No experience is necessary and further information is available from 3FF at <http://www.3ff.org.uk/blog/pizza-plays/>.

Amplify is an arts-based youth-led programme of 3FF for Sixth Forms and Further Education colleges that creates and strengthens safe spaces within educational institutions, for exploring issues relating to faith, belief, identity, belonging, social trends and community in the increasingly globalised and interconnected world. A pioneering group of 'Amplifiers' from Westminster Academy have come together to combine creative forces, challenge divisive narratives and amplify their vision for a better world. Further information and the video manifesto is available here <http://www.3ff.org.uk/blog/amplify/>.

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Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery – Finding Faith

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, in partnership with the British Museum, launched in November a project on the theme of 'Finding Faith'. This will feature a programme of

performances, live debates and panel discussion exploring the role that faith plays in the world today. These will include a discussion on being a young person of faith in Birmingham today; a talk on faith and disability; arts installations; and ‘The Birmingham Conversation’, a series of panel discussions between faith leaders in the city.

‘Finding Faith’ will celebrate the positive role that faith communities play in Birmingham, as well as encouraging visitors to learn more about faith and belief around the world and to reflect on their own beliefs. The project will run until March 2018, and further information can be found at <http://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/bmag/whats-on/finding-faith-launch>.

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Inter Faith Tree Planting

The Faiths Forum for London has been awarded a grant by the Mayor of London to plant 32 trees across ten London boroughs at diverse places of worship. Each place of worship will work in partnership with other faith groups in their area to develop special tree planting events that promote community cohesion. For more information about the project, including to find out which places of worship are taking part, contact Faiths Forum for London at info@faithsforum4london.org.

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RESOURCES AND STUDY/TRAINING

A new resource from CTBI

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland has published a new guide, *Acting in God’s Love: Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World*. Using real-life case studies, the guide builds on recommendations for conduct published by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, the World Council of Churches and the World Evangelical Alliance and aims to foster a ‘practical understanding towards the application of the guidelines, provide a wider UK context, and develop deeper theological reflection on interfaith engagement’. As well as the case studies, the guide also includes questions for reflection that can be used to prompt discussion, and links to other recommended resources. It is available for download from <https://ctbi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Acting-in-Gods-Love-Christian-Witness-in-a-Multi-Religious-World.pdf>.

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Religion in Public Life: Levelling the Ground

Think tank Theos has published a new report, *Religion in Public Life: Levelling the Ground*, by sociologist of religion Grace Davie, Professor Emeritus at the University of Exeter. The

report is based on her 2016 Edward Cadbury Lectures and explores the renewed visibility of religion in public life, through analysis of different ‘levels’ ranging from the local to the global.

The report can be downloaded from

<https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/research/2017/10/28/religion-in-public-life-levelling-the-ground>.

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Inter faith prayer room and Muslim Certificate in Religious Studies

Faith leaders joined together on 5 December at St Mary’s University, Twickenham, to open a new Inter Faith Prayer Room and launch a Muslim Certificate in Religious Studies. The new certificate will aim to develop the religious literacy of teachers and to enhance the contribution that religion can make as referenced in the Professional Standards for Qualified Teacher Status. It will primarily be aimed at those teaching RE in Muslim schools and will support teaching in line with the National Curriculum. The programme will now be developed in more detail, and will complement the University’s Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. Further information about the project can be found at <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/news/2017/12/muslim-certificate-2017>.

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Online course: ‘Bridging the Great Divide: the Jewish-Muslim Encounter’

‘Bridging the Great Divide: the Jewish-Muslim Encounter’ is a 15-week online course created through collaboration between Dr Edward Kessler of the Woolf Institute, Cambridge and Professor Akbar Ahmed of the American University in Washington. The course explores the history, culture and theology of Muslims and Jews, reflecting on similarities, differences and major challenges and also offers strategies for building bridges between communities.

The course begins on 16 January and participants can study wherever and whenever they choose, via the internet. The deadline for applications is 20 December and the course fee is £465. A limited number of bursaries are available. For more information about the course, visit <http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study/online-courses/bridging-the-great-divide-the-jewish-muslim-encounter>.

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CALLS FOR INFORMATION, COMPETITIONS, AND NOMINATIONS

Mitzvah Day Awards

Nominations are now open for the first ever Mitzvah Day Awards, to be presented by the Mitzvah Day Charitable Trust in partnership with the Jewish Chronicle on 30 January 2018, hosted at JW3. Participants and members of the public can nominate individuals or groups in a number of categories, including 'Outstanding Interfaith Partnership'. Nominations close on 2 January 2018. For more information and details of how to nominate, visit <http://mitzvahday.org.uk/news/mitzvah-day-awards/>.

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2018 Sandford St Martin Awards

The Sandford St Martin Trust is calling for entries to its annual broadcasting awards for radio/audio, TV and online content exploring religious, spiritual or ethical themes, in what will be the 40th year of both the Trust and the Awards. To be eligible to enter, programmes must have been broadcast for the first time during 2017 and have been available to general UK audiences. Applications are encouraged from all programme genres as well as from specifically 'religious' commissions.

The deadline for entries is 31 January and winners will be announced at a special ceremony at Lambeth Palace on 7 June. For more information and details on how to enter, visit <http://sandfordawards.org.uk/>.

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Faith and dementia stories

The Faith Communities Action Group of the Prime Minister's 2020 Challenge on Dementia is currently looking for stories from different faith communities, of people living with dementia and/or their family members. In particular, the group is interested in the impact on people's faith of a diagnosis of dementia and its earlier stages, as well as the impact on living with dementia that their faith has had. The stories will be shared publicly as a way of helping others to be more understanding, and encouraging people to share their concerns more openly. They will not include any information that could identify people. Those that have a story to share are invited to contact rodie.garland@faithaction.net.

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Religion Media Centre

A new Religion Media Centre is expected to launch next year as an advisory service to journalists and others to help them to understand, without prejudice or agenda, news stories related to religion. It aims to promote accurate and knowledgeable reporting and commentary on all matters related to religion in national, specialist and social media; and to help journalists to identify and speak with qualified experts on religious matters, and promote informed and intelligent commentary and debate. The Centre is currently compiling a database of experts and journalists. For further information contact one of its Trustees, Ben Rich, at ben@benrich.co.uk.

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Research Excellence Framework expert panels

The Research Excellence Framework (REF) is seeking nominations of potential panel members to participate in the next REF exercise, to be completed in 2021. Whilst the four main panel chairs have been appointed, nominations are invited for additional main panel members and for sub-panel members and assessors. Nominations are welcome in respect of both individuals who have served previously on REF panels and those who have not, and nominations of candidates from underrepresented groups and faith communities are particularly welcomed. Guidance and information about the roles, responsibilities and workload are available here:

<http://www.ref.ac.uk/publications/2017/rolesandrecruitmentoftheexpertpanels.html>.

Nominations must be completed online at <http://www.ref.ac.uk/about/nompan/> by 12 noon on Wednesday 20 December.

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JOBS, INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING

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

3FF – Finance Manager

3FF is seeking to recruit a Finance Manager. Full or part-time and flexible working options will be considered for this role, based in London. 3FF is looking to fill the role as soon as possible and will be conducting interviews on an ongoing basis, so applications are encouraged as early as possible. More information is available here:

<http://www.3ff.org.uk/blog/finance-manager-2017/>.

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Woolf Institute – Junior Research Fellow and Director of Services and Administration

The Woolf Institute is currently seeking applications for two positions:

- A Junior Research Fellow for a forthcoming two-year research project concerned with religious fundamentalism
- A Director of Services and Administration

For more information about both vacancies, including requirements and how to apply, visit <http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/about/vacancies/current-vacancies>.

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Tell MAMA – Parliamentary Officer

Tell MAMA is seeking to recruit a Parliamentary Officer. The role includes hosting events, engaging with MPS across the political spectrum and employing strong partnership work with other key hate crime agencies. The closing date is 7 December. More information is available at <https://www.charityjob.co.uk/jobs/faith-matters/parliamentary-officer/538196>.

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St Ethelburga’s Centre for Reconciliation and Peace - Volunteers

The St Ethelburga’s Centre is looking to recruit the following volunteers: Arabic and Farsi Interpreters, a Marketing Mentor and a Fundraising Support volunteer. More information about the roles and how to apply is available at <https://stethelburgas.org/get-involved/vacancies-and-volunteering/>.

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One World Week – Volunteers and Trustees

The team at One World Week is seeking volunteers and Trustees to assist it with its work. In particular, they are in urgent need of someone to collate feedback, with their support. For more information, visit <https://www.oneworldweek.org/> or email oww@oneworldweek.org.

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Inter Faith Network for the UK - Volunteers and interns

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

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Goods for Good charity - Volunteers

Goods for Good is a small charity that delivers overstock donated by British Industry and second hand goods from the local community to refugees and vulnerable communities overseas. It has delivered to 12 countries in the last year, including Northern Iraq, Syria, South Sudan, Ukraine and Moldova and works with charity partners on the ground to ensure goods go to those in need. They hold weekly inter faith packing sessions during which local volunteers of many different faiths sort and pack the goods together, and they hope to get more people involved more frequently. Packing sessions take place at Unit 1, Borehamwood Enterprise Centre, Theobald Street, Borehamwood, WD6 4RQ and sessions will take place on Wednesday 13 December and Wednesday 20 December from 10am to 12.30pm. For more information or to get involved, contact Mia Hamburger at mia@goodsforgood.org.uk or on 07785 800 500.

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Building a Stronger Britain Together programme

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

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Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund

Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund is open for applications to its new rolling small grants scheme. Small grants of up to £750 are available to faith based anti-poverty projects with an annual turnover of £30,000 or less and can be applied for at any time. For more information call Chris on 0141 221 4544 or visit <https://www.faithincommunityscotland.org/faith-in-community-scotland-action-fund/our-grants/smallgrants/>.

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Supermarket grant schemes

Bags of Help is Tesco's local community grant scheme where the money raised from the 5p bag levy in Tesco stores is being used to fund community projects across the UK. The projects must meet the criteria of promoting community participation in the development and use of outdoor spaces. Bags of Help is administered by Groundwork in England and Wales and supported in Scotland by Greenspace Scotland. (It is not available in Northern Ireland where carrier bag money is managed centrally.) Further information is at <http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/tescocommunityscheme/pages/Category/the-tesco-bags-of-help-programme-tes2>.

Waitrose supports charities through its Community Matters scheme. Local branches are each given £1,000 to share out between three local good causes each month such as welfare organisations, community groups and schools. To apply, fill in a Community Matters form at a local branch or contact the branch champion for community giving at a local branch, using their branch finder tool at <http://www.waitrose.com/branches/index.aspx>.

Sainsbury's stores each partner with a Local Charity of the Year voted on by the local people. To apply, fill in a nomination form at your local store. More information is at <https://www.sainsburyslocalcharity.co.uk/>.

The Asda Foundation offers grants for local community projects which will "make a real long term difference, benefitting the wider community with [its] vision to 'Transform Communities, improving lives locally.'" Further details are at <https://www.asdafoundation.org/applying-for-funding/significant-local-community-projects>.

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Aviva's UK Community Fund

Aviva has made around £1.7 million available for its 2017 Community Fund. Funding is available to voluntary and community organisations for projects that will make a real difference to local residents. The grants support all kinds of projects providing they are causes that the community really cares about and are charitable in nature. Not-for-profit organisations and groups that are operating for the good of their local community and have been in existence for at least six months and have an income of £1 million or less can apply. For further information, visit <https://www.aviva.co.uk/good-thinking/community-fund/>.

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Comic Relief's Core Strength Grants Programme

This programme offers grants to help cover the day to day costs of small locally led and based voluntary and community sector groups that are doing 'much needed' work in their local communities. Grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 or between £1,000 and £10,000 (depending on the local community foundation) are to be used to support groups that can evidence a sustained beneficial impact on people's lives who are excluded or disadvantaged. For further information, visit <http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-grants/open-grants-initiatives/core-strength-local-communities>.

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Funding websites

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

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

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Heritage Lottery Fund grants to commemorate First World War

The Heritage Lottery Fund has £4million of funding available for communities to get involved in projects marking the Centenary of the First World War. Projects applying for funding must be able to meet one of a number of successful outcomes based on heritage, people and communities. Grants can be given between £3,000 and £10,000. There is no current deadline for applications as grants are considered on a monthly basis up to 2019.

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

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Community foundations

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

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Transform Foundation

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

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Google and charities

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

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Subsidised fundraising workshops

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

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SPECIAL WEEKS/DAYS

Holocaust Memorial Day will take place on 27 January. Its theme in 2018 is The Power of Words: - Words can make a difference – both for good and evil. Holocaust Memorial Day is

a time for everyone to pause to remember the millions of people who have been murdered or whose lives have been changed beyond recognition during the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. It honours the survivors of these regimes and challenges everyone to use the lessons of their experience to inform their lives today. www.hmd.org.uk/

World Interfaith Harmony Week takes place in the first week of February. It is a UN recognised Week which was proposed to the UN General Assembly by HM King Abdullah of Jordan. The first UN World Interfaith Harmony Week took place in February 2011. <http://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com>

VisitMyMosque Day 2018 will take place on Sunday 18 February. In 2017 over 150 mosques across the UK held open days to welcome in their neighbours from other communities. Registrations are now open to take part in the 2018 event. For further information, visit www.visitmymosque.org.

The date, in March, for **Sadaqa Day** awaits announcement. It is an annual day of faith-based social action led by the Muslim community. mysadaqaday.org

The Big Lunch 10th anniversary will be held on Sunday 3 June. Across the years millions of people from different faith backgrounds have joined together to take part through street parties, BBQs, iftars and picnics. <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/thebiglunchhomepage>

The date for **Sewa Day**, usually in early Autumn, awaits announcement.

Inter Faith Week in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will take place from 11 to 18 November. It is led by the Inter Faith Network for the UK www.interfaithweek.org See more [above](#).

Scottish Interfaith Week will take place from 11 to 18 November. It is led by Interfaith Scotland. <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

Mitzvah Day will take place on 18 November. It is an annual day of faith-based social action led by the Jewish community. On Mitzvah Day, people give their time, not their money, to make a difference to the community around them. Many events and projects held for the day have an inter faith focus. www.mitzvahday.org.uk/

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

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

Gifts at all levels are much valued and make a real difference. You can donate directly at www.interfaith.org.uk/donate or via PayPal or JustGiving at <https://www.justgiving.com/interfaithnetwork-uk>

Donations can also be made by sending a cheque to The Inter Faith Network for the UK, 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH.

REMEMBERING A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND

If you would like to make a gift in memory of a loved one, please get in touch by emailing remember@interfaith.org.uk or call us on 0207 730 0410.

A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

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

Please get in touch with us if you have any queries.

You can call us on 0207 730 0410 or contact us at remember@interfaith.org.uk

Thank you!

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DIARY DATES

This section includes some of the events taking place around the UK during from December to January. We also include information on diary dates between e-bulletins on its website at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/take-part/events>.

The **Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby** is holding its next monthly Conversations Across Faiths event on Thursday 14 December. An invited speaker will lead on a topic, followed by questions and discussion amongst the group, which is made up of people from a variety of faiths, beliefs and world views. It is being held from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Multi-Faith Centre, University of Derby, Kedleston Road, Derby, Derbyshire, DE22 1GB. More information is available at <http://multifaithcentre.org/events/event/conversations-across-faiths-4/>.

Interfaith Wolverhampton is organising a trip to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, to see an exhibition entitled 'Imagining the Divine – Art in the Rise of World Religions' on Friday 5 January. The exhibition showcases some of the world's oldest religious art from around the globe. The trip will last from approximately 9.30am to 6.30pm and the day may also include a visit to one of the Oxford Colleges. Those who are interested should contact Erik Pearse at erik@pearse227.eclipse.co.uk or on 01902 750 440 by 8 December at the latest. More information about the exhibition is available at <https://www.ashmolean.org/imaginingthedivine>.

The **London Interfaith Centre's** Book Group will hold its first meeting of 2018 on Tuesday 9 January from 12.30pm-2pm. The theme for the group will be 'Boundaries and Frontiers', starting with a discussion of Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan*. It will be held at the London Inter Faith Centre, St Annes & St Andrews Church, 125 Salusbury Road, London, NW6 6RG.

Interfaith Glasgow, in partnership with **St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art**, is holding the fifth of a monthly dialogue series on the theme of 'Faith to Faith' on Sunday 14 January from 2 to 4pm. The fifth dialogue is on the theme of 'St Mungo – the son of a refugee'. The event will feature keynote speakers, dialogue and a question and answer session. The event will be held at St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, 2 Castle Street, Glasgow, G4 0RH. For further information, contact development@interfaithglasgow.org.

Heythrop College is holding an event on Tuesday 16 January entitled 'The Jordan, the Tiber and the Ganges'. This will be a celebration of the life and work of Raimon Panikkar, a key figure in the inter faith field, on the occasion of the centenary of his birth, including the launch of his Opera Omnia, the new collected edition of his work, by the editor, Milena Pavan; a film of one of the last interviews Panikkar gave before his death, introduced by film-maker Andrea Andriotto; plus contributions and discussion led by Professor Michael Barnes SJ, Professor Ursula King and the Rt Revd Michael Ipgrave. It is being held at 4.30pm at Heythrop College, 23 Kensington Square, London W8. To register for the event, contact Annabel Clarkson at events@heythrop.ac.uk.

Woking People of Faith, in partnership with **Surrey Faith Links**, **Woking Action for Peace** and others, is organising the 'Woking Debates 2018'. The first debate on Saturday 20 January from 11am to 12.30pm will be held on the theme of 'Is privacy a luxury or necessity?'. The debates are held at Christ Church, Jubilee Square, Woking, GU21 6YG. For further information, email Keith Scott at keithsc.2000@yahoo.com.

Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship is organising a series of dialogues as part of its Spring programme. The first event in the series on Wednesday 24 January is on the theme of 'Violence: Its Causes and Cure'. The dialogue will focus on religious perspectives on the many aspects of violence in private and public life, and will hear Buddhist and Jewish perspectives. The event is being held at 7.30pm at the Jamyang Buddhist Centre, 21 St Paul's Street, Leeds, LS1 2JG. For more information contact John Summerwill on 01132697895 or email chair@concord-leeds.org.uk.

Cytun, Churches Together in Wales is hosting a seminar on the theme of 'Faith and Politics' on Tuesday 30 January from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. The seminar will be delivered by Matthew Rees, who has completed a doctoral thesis looking at how faith-based organisations in the UK have engaged with devolved institutions. The research specifically looked at the structures, strategies and effectiveness of faith-based organisations in Wales and Northern Ireland. The seminar will take place in the Baptist College, Cardiff, CF24 3AT. To attend, contact Gethin Rhys by email at gethin@cytun.cymru.

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

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

Interfaith Scotland: www.interfaithscotland.org

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

If you have items which you would like considered for inclusion in the next e-bulletin please email these to ifnet@interfaith.org.uk by **19 January** with 'e-bulletin' in the subject line. Submissions may be edited for length or style.

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

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