



# Promoting mutual respect and understanding Annual Review 2009/2010

## The Inter Faith Network for the UK

The Inter Faith Network for the UK was founded in 1987 to “advance public knowledge and mutual understanding of the teachings, traditions and practices of the different faith communities in Britain, including an awareness both of their distinctive features and of their common ground” and to promote good relations between people of different faiths in this country.

The Network links nearly 200 member bodies including: national representative bodies of the Baha’i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian faiths; national, regional, and local inter faith bodies; and educational and academic bodies with an interest in inter faith relations. It works with its member bodies and other agencies to help make the UK a place marked by mutual understanding and respect between people of different religions where all can practise their faith with integrity. It seeks to increase the opportunities for people of all ages to learn more about the importance of good inter faith relations – in schools, within faith communities and in society more widely. It:

- provides a trusted neutral, non-denominational framework for people of different faiths to discuss issues of shared concern, reflecting on both the distinctive aspects and the common ground of their individual traditions
- runs a helpline and publishes resources to help people working to promote good inter faith relations
- links, shares good practice between, and supports with advice and information the growing pattern of inter faith initiatives in the UK at national, regional and local levels
- in cooperation with the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish national inter faith linking bodies and Regional Faith Forums in England, fosters local inter faith co-operation and offers advice on patterns of local inter faith initiatives suitable to a particular local area as well as helpful contacts
- assists member organisations and other agencies, such as local authorities and other public bodies, to help strengthen their inter faith programmes through sharing of good practice
- fosters joint working by the faith communities on social issues
- arranges seminars and conferences and carries out research to pursue particular issues in greater depth, such as building good relations on campus, educating for shared citizenship, and women’s inter faith initiatives

The Inter Faith Network’s way of working is firmly based on the principle that dialogue and cooperation on social action can only prosper if they are rooted in respectful relationships which do not blur or undermine the distinctiveness of different religious traditions. In its work, it proceeds by consensus wherever possible and not making statements on behalf of member bodies except after full consultation.

Further information about the Inter Faith Network can be found on its website: [www.interfaith.org.uk](http://www.interfaith.org.uk) or by writing to its office.

The Inter Faith Network for the UK closed in 2024, with outward facing operations ceasing in April.

In order to ensure that the material in IFN's publications remained available to the public, to inter faith practitioners, and to scholars after IFN's closure, the copyright status of publications has been changed.

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## Annual Review 2009/2010

*Promoting mutual respect and understanding*

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## Co-Chairs' message

The Inter Faith Network for the UK was founded in 1987 to “advance public knowledge and mutual understanding of the teachings, traditions and practices of the different faith communities in Britain, including an awareness both of their distinctive features and of their common ground” and to promote good relations between people of different faiths in this country. In 2009 we embarked on an ambitious project to enable more people to learn about their local faith communities and the contribution of faith communities to society and also to engage more people in inter faith engagement and action. This project is ‘Inter Faith Week’.



*The Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern and Dr Girdari Lal Bhan, Co-Chairs, Inter Faith Network*

The first Inter Faith Week in England and Wales – which took place from 15–21 November – received support from across the faith communities and inter faith bodies and many other organisations and institutions as well. We were delighted that the Government of the day saw the significance of the project and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) chose to work in partnership with IFN on the first such Week in England – including on a major national launch. In Wales, the Welsh Assembly likewise supported the lead role of the Inter-faith Council for Wales. At local level, many local authorities joined in, with the encouragement of the Local Government Association. Schools drew on resources specially commissioned by the then Department for Children, Schools and Families. The BBC gave the Week extensive coverage on its regional sites and local radio. The story of the first Inter Faith Week in England and Wales is told at pages 19–37. The Review has been extended in length to accommodate this special section, reflecting the significance of this new Week.

We would like to record our gratitude to the Scottish Inter Faith Council, which advised on early stages of development of the Week, drawing on its experience of running ‘Scottish Inter Faith Week’ since 2004; to the Inter-faith Council for Wales for its work on the Week in Wales; and to the Regional Faith Forums in England which played an important role in encouraging local support for the Week within their regions. In keeping with the significance of the new Week, a major report and evaluation was produced, which not only provides a remarkable picture of the hundreds of events that took place around the country but also provides an invaluable resource for event organisers in future Weeks.

Another key area of work during the year has been supporting the development of inter faith work at local level. We took as the topic of our 2010 National Meeting: 'Shaping our shared society: the key role of local inter faith organisations'. This well attended meeting saw speakers from around the UK sharing stories of success and addressing some of the challenges and over 150 participants discussing their programmes and future directions of the work. We were pleased to welcome Andrew Stunell OBE MP, the new Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in DCLG with responsibilities including community cohesion and the 'Big Society', who provided a perspective from Government on the importance of local inter faith work as part of developing good community relations. An illustrated report on the meeting has been produced and widely disseminated.

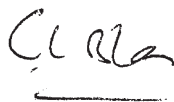
Work also continued with national faith and inter faith bodies. IFN's Faith Communities Forum met four times during the year. Through the Forum, the faith communities discuss collectively, on a regular basis, issues of common concern and exchange information about their programmes of work. A meeting of national inter faith bodies in membership of IFN was also held, as was a meeting in Belfast of the inter faith linking bodies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland with IFN.

Much of IFN's work is, of course, less high profile but it is no less important. It is about the provision – with the assistance of its member bodies as well as others – of reliable information about inter faith issues, as well as about the faith communities. And it is about ensuring effective two way communication between organisations such as Government and other public agencies and faith communities on issues which affect our common life so that we continue to develop as a society that appreciates its own diversity and is also united by its shared values.

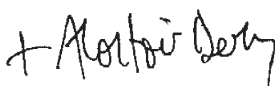
We thank IFN's staff, trustees and member bodies for their contribution to its work and we thank faith groups, individual donors, trusts and Government who have helped, through their financial support, to enable IFN's work to promote good inter faith relations. Without your assistance this vital work could not continue.

We note with much sadness the passing in May 2010 of Om Parkash Sharma MBE. A leading and highly influential figure both in the Hindu community and in inter faith affairs, he was one of the Inter Faith Network's first Officers and served it with distinction for many years.

With gratitude, we acknowledge the work of the many in all our communities who continue to work tirelessly for good inter faith relations in this country and around the world. It is one of the most pressing tasks for our times.



Dr Girdari Lal Bhan  
Co-Chair



The Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern  
Co-Chair

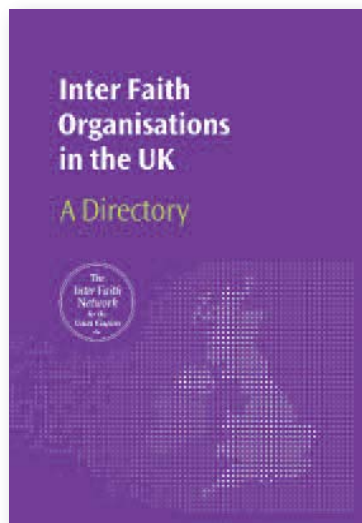
## Supporting local inter faith engagement

Supporting the strong development of inter faith work at local level is a vital part of the work of the Inter Faith Network (IFN) – both directly and through its work with the Inter-faith Council for Wales, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum, Scottish Inter Faith Council and English Regional Faith Forums.

Local inter faith organisations have a most valuable role to play in providing contexts in which greater understanding and practical cooperation can be developed between people of different faiths and in offering advice on religious issues to the relevant local authority and other public bodies in their areas.

IFN's website has a 'local inter faith zone' which gives examples of work that local groups are doing and advice on developing programmes of activity. This resource is widely used by local inter faith practitioners. So too are its helpline and advice service and its publication *The Local Inter Faith Guide*. IFN staff and trustees also visit local groups and respond to speaking requests. These visits are an important part of keeping the IFN office in touch with local developments.

IFN publishes a directory, *Inter Faith Organisations in the UK*, which lists national, regional and local inter faith bodies around the country. The last edition of this included details of 223 local councils or forums operating on a multi faith basis, working with people from all or most of the major faiths in their areas. In the course of 2009-10 12 new local inter faith bodies were added to the linked listings on the IFN website ([www.interfaith.org.uk](http://www.interfaith.org.uk)) bringing the total of known local inter faith organisations



*Directory of Inter Faith Organisations in the UK*

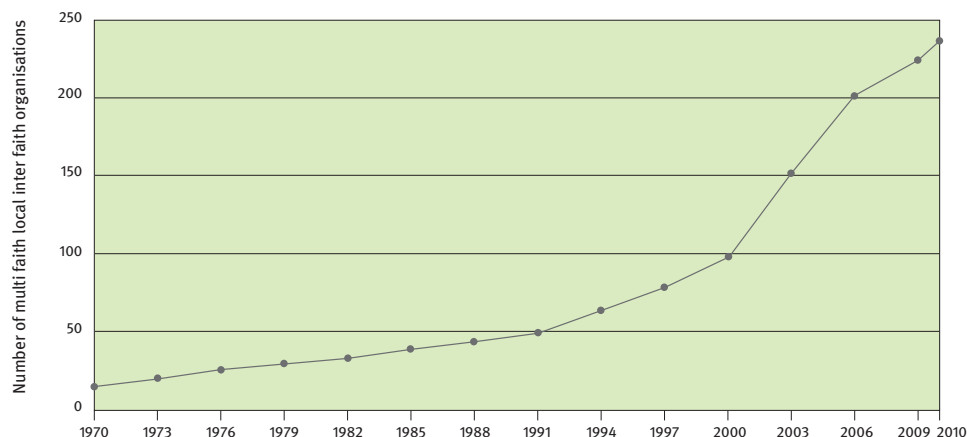
to 235. There are also nearly 40 branches of the Council of Christians and Jews, and a number of Three Faiths Forum groups and independent bilateral and trilateral groups.

### 'Link' meetings for local inter faith organisers

IFN holds, in association with the relevant Regional Faith Forums (see page 8), 'link' meetings for organisers of local inter faith groups in the English Regions. The meetings provide an opportunity for organisers to share news and discuss issues of common concern as well as suggestions for running effective and interesting programmes. In 2009, regional 'link' meetings were put on hold for a year while Regional Faith Forums established their frameworks and links at local level more strongly, on the basis that these meetings would be resumed again in 2010. During the first half of 2010, meetings were held in February in Wolverhampton in association with the West Midlands Faiths Forum and in April in Cambridge in association with the East of England Faiths Council.

A separate gathering for Scottish inter faith groups is held annually in Scotland by the Scottish Inter Faith Council.

**Growth of local inter faith activity**



## English Regional Faith Forums

By early 2010, Regional Faith Forums (RFFs) were operating in all of England's nine regions. The last two to be formalised were those in London and in the North East. Every region of England has had a Regional Economic Strategy, drawn up by the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) in consultation with unelected Regional Assemblies (which were abolished in 2010), and with other partners and stakeholders. RFFs have helped enable faith groups in their region contribute to the development of these strategies, but also to contribute to other policy initiatives at regional level. RFFs have also had a growing role in supporting local inter faith work.

In 2009–10, RFFs continued to implement work programmes under the previous Government's inter faith strategy in *Face to Face and Side by Side*. They have been receiving funding since April 2008 through the Government's Faith in Action fund, administered by the Community Development Foundation (CDF) which has also been given a capacity building role in relation to the Forums.

Since the end of 2006 IFN and the Faith Based Regeneration Network (UK) (FbRN) have jointly serviced a link between

the Regional Faith Forums: the English Regional Faith Forums Network (ERFFN). This met four times during 2009–10: in July, October, February and June. The meetings offered a place for RFFs to discuss their ongoing work and their engagement with the capacity building process and also their understanding of, and engagement with, the new coalition Government's idea of the 'Big Society'. With RDAs set to disappear in 2012 and Government Offices in 2011, they looked as well at how they might continue to help faith groups in their regions contribute to evolving governance structures.

Also on the agenda of ERFFN was the sustainability of the RFFs in the light of the end of three year committed funding due on 31 March 2011, as well as complementary working with national and local inter faith bodies in the area of support for local inter faith activity. Officials from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and staff of CDF were invited to joint sessions for discussion of the development of the then Government's inter faith strategy. Separate meetings were also held regularly for the RFFs by CDF as part of the Government's capacity building programme.

## ‘Shaping our shared society: the key role of local inter faith organisations’ – 2010 National Meeting

Exploring how local inter faith organisations are developing their work; the challenges they are facing; and the opportunities they see ahead.

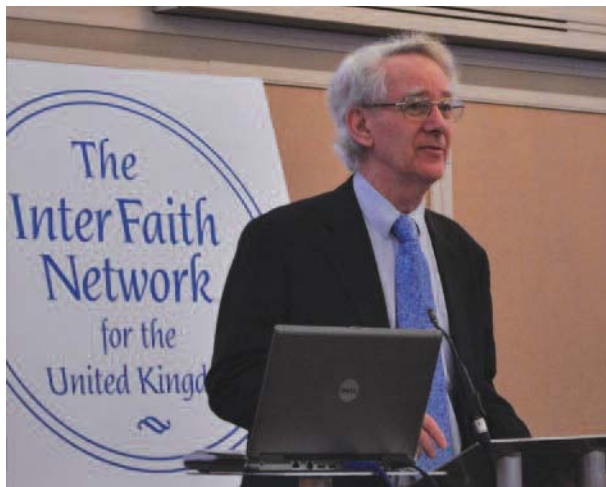
The theme of the 2010 National Meeting held at Glaziers Hall in London on 8 July was ‘Shaping our shared society: the key role of local inter faith organisations’.

The Meeting looked at how local inter faith groups across the UK are developing their work; why their work is so important; what challenges they are facing and what opportunities they see; how the work of local bilateral and trilateral groups (focusing on relationships between two or three specific faiths) contributes to building good inter faith relations; how faith community organisations are engaging with, and taking part in, local inter faith initiatives; how Regional Faith Forums and national inter faith bodies are working with them and helping strengthen their work and how they learn from local groups; and funding issues.

The day was chaired by IFN’s Co-Chairs the Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern and Dr Girdari Bhan. The opening presentation was given by Dr Harriet Crabtree OBE, IFN’s Director. She spoke about the changing landscape for local inter faith work and some of the key issues helping shape this; and reflected on the vital importance of local inter faith initiatives.

*Delegates at the plenary and workshops*





“We can, of course, never easily see our own time and situation with full clarity. We are in the midst of change, particularly with the first new Government for 13 years. Only with the vantage point of history will we be able to see what has worked and what has not and what has proven to be of lasting significance. But I would argue that we can read the signs of the times sufficiently to have a well founded conviction that work to bring about interreligious understanding in the UK – and also understanding about different religions and between them and wider society – is one of the most vital tasks. This is true at every level and local faith communities and inter faith bodies are at the forefront of this ....”

*Dr Harriet Crabtree OBE*

The next speaker was Kashmir Singh Rajput, Chair of Bradford District Faiths Forum. He gave an insight into how this busy metropolitan faith forum has been working to identify issues of importance to the different faith communities in the city and its neighbourhoods and to build a range of partnerships to enable dialogue and social cooperation – both across communities generally and also between particular communities.

Dr Maureen Sier, on secondment from the Scottish Inter Faith Council to the Scottish Executive, then gave a presentation on the topic of ‘Developing local inter faith work in less diverse areas’. She reflected on her experience of working with local inter faith groups in Scotland and how working in less diverse areas differs from working in a multi faith city.

There then followed an opportunity for some ‘on the spot dialogue’ for participants to talk with their neighbours about the themes of the day.

The next presentation was given by Andrew Stunell OBE, MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in DCLG with responsibilities including community cohesion, race equality and the ‘Big Society’, who provided a perspective from Government on the importance of local inter faith work as part of developing good community relations.

Maulana Shahid Raza OBE, Chairman of the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB), then spoke about how national faith communities can support and encourage local inter faith work. He spoke in particular about MINAB’s new initiative to encourage imams to play

a role in local inter faith bodies and to encourage their congregations to do likewise.

The final presentations of the morning were on the theme of Inter Faith Week. Stella Opoku-Owusu, IFN's Local and Regional Inter Faith Officer and Elin Henrysson, IFN's Project Assistant, gave a short presentation of images of the 2009 Week and ideas for 2010. This was followed by a presentation by Fakhara Rehman, Community Faiths

Coordinator at Kirklees Faiths Forum, on events and activities that had taken place in Kirklees during the Week.

After lunch the first presentation was by Anna Allen, Head of Programmes at the Community Development Foundation (CDF). She described how recent funding programmes had been helping support local inter faith initiatives and reflected on some of the challenges for



*Images on page 10:*

*Left: Dr Harriet Crabtree*

*Centre: Andrew Stunell OBE, MP*

*Right: Kashmir Singh Rajput*

*This page (clockwise from top left):*

*Maulana Sbabid Raza OBE*

*Elin Henrysson and Stella Opoku-Owusu*

*Anna Allen*

*Fakhara Rehman and Dr Maureen Sier*

these of developing sustainable patterns of funding and structures which can help underpin their work.

Participants were then invited to take part in one of seven workshops on different aspects of local inter faith activity:

- *Developing a relevant and lively programme* facilitated by Patricia Stoa, Chief Executive Officer, Faiths Forum for the East Midlands, with presenters Ryad Khodabocus, Community Relations Development Worker, Luton Borough Council/Luton Council of Faiths, Peter Adams, Luton Council of Faiths, and Dr David Capey, Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource.
- *Outreach and membership* facilitated by Amy Willshire, 'Faith Ambassador', Waltham Forest Faith Communities Forum, with presenters Brian Pearce OBE, Adviser, Faith and Public Life, Inter Faith Network and Resham Singh Sandhu MBE, Member, Leicester Council Faiths, Vice-Chair, Leicestershire Faith Forum and Trustee, Faiths Forum for the East Midlands.
- *Resources and training for religious literacy and inter faith understanding* facilitated by the Revd Andrew Brown, Public Education Programmes Manager for the Woolf Institute in Cambridge, with presenters Jatinder Singh Birdi, Warwick District Faiths Forum, and Jonathan Marshall MBE and Vallabhadas Meswania, Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity.
- *Involving young people in local inter faith programmes* facilitated by Dr Phil Henry, Director, Multi Faith Centre at Derby University, with presenter Pastor Charles Kwaku-Odoi, Faith Network 4 Manchester.
- *Multi media approaches to making the work known*, facilitated by Jyoti Mehta, Institute of Jainology, Young Jains and Inter Faith Network Executive Committee member, with presenters Paresch Solanki, Assistant Director (Communications and Development), Inter Faith Network, and Selina Brown, Executive Communications Officer, West Midlands Faiths Forum.



*Left: Pastor Charles Kwaku-Odoi*

*Right: Participants in a workshop*

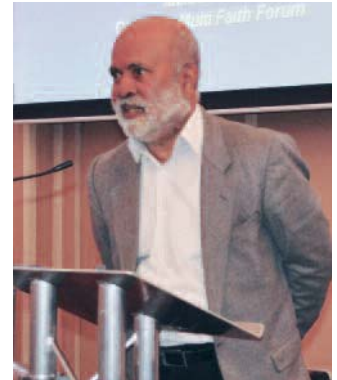
*Reflections by (clockwise from top left) Deanna Van der Velde, Ganesb Lal, Mehru Fitter and Amy Willshire*

- *National faith communities and support for local inter faith work*, facilitated by Mgr Andrew Faley, Assistant General Secretary, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and Inter Faith Network Executive Committee member, with presenter Philip Rosenberg, Interfaith Officer, Board of Deputies of British Jews, and brief responding reflections from Dr Joy Barrow, Inter Faith Relations Officer, Methodist Church in Britain, and Ramesh Pattni, Chair, Hindu-Christian Forum and Interfaith Officer, Hindu Forum of Britain.
- *Inter Faith Week: Looking back to 2009 and forward to this year's Week* facilitated by David Vane, Buddhist member and Secretary, Southampton Council of Faiths, with presenter the Revd Alan Bayes, Chair, Inter-faith Council for Wales.

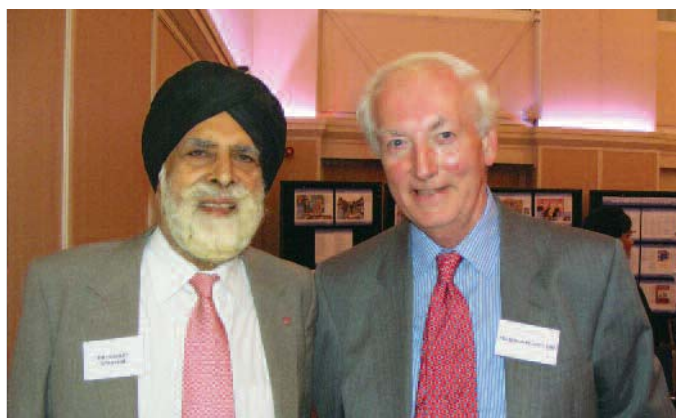
After the presentation of key feedback points from each workshop, four participants were invited to give brief reflections on issues arising from the day: Deanna Van der Velde, Newcastle Council of Faiths, Chair, North East branch of Council of Christians and Jews, Chair, Newcastle SACRE, and member, Task Group, North East Regional Faith Network; Ganesh Lal, member of South London Inter Faith Group and Caribbean Hindu Society; Mehru Fitter, member of Coventry Multi Faith Forum, Executive member, West Midlands Faiths Forum and member of Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe; and Amy Willshire, 'Faith Ambassador', Waltham Forest Faith Communities Forum.

There then followed an opportunity for plenary discussion.

The Meeting closed with final reflections from IFN's Co-Chairs, Dr Girdari Bhan and the Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern.



Note: At the Inter Faith Network's 2008 National Meeting a programme of 'Soundings' events was launched. This is looking, across 2009–11, at a range of current issues in inter faith relations in the UK – both as a way of informing IFN's own work and development but also of giving participants an opportunity to talk through some of the issues affecting their organisations directly and to share good practice and discuss potentially fruitful areas of joint work. One of the areas of focus in the 'Soundings' programme is 'Local inter faith activity'. Given the large number of local inter faith organisations in membership of IFN, and the topic's relevance to all categories of its member bodies, it was decided by the Executive Committee that the 2010 National Meeting would be used as the 'Soundings event' on this topic.



*Clockwise from top left:*  
 Dr Joy Barrow, Katharina Muller  
 and Mehri Niknam MBE  
 Dr Manazir Ahsan MBE and  
 Cllr Manjula Sood MBE  
 Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid,  
 Resham Singh Sandhu MBE  
 and Bharti Tailor  
 David Vane and Neville Murray  
 Ramesh Shah and Dr Harshad  
 Sanghrajka  
 Dr Indarjit Singh CBE and  
 Brian Pearce OBE

## Faith communities: working together through the Inter Faith Network

National representative bodies of the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian faith communities share a common commitment to working for the wellbeing of wider society and, as part of this, helping to build good inter faith relations in the UK. One very important way they do this is through working together as members of the Inter Faith Network and through its Faith Communities Forum (FCF).

Each faith community has its own programmes of work and pattern of bilateral engagement, for example with Government. Cross-faith engagement on these issues is not a substitute for this. At the same time, there is value in the faith communities discussing collectively, on a regular basis, issues of common concern and exchanging information about their programmes of work. FCF provides the opportunity for this form of engagement on inter faith and faith and public life issues.

Four meetings of FCF were held during 2009–10 in July, December, March and May, chaired by IFN's Co-Chairs. Topics discussed included:

- Inter Faith Week
- Plans for a survey of the work of faith community organisations on inter faith issues
- Developments in relation to equality and human rights issues

- Preparations for the 2011 Census
- Promoting good inter faith relations on campus
- The development of English Regional Faith Forums and their engagement with national faith community representative bodies
- Plans for a 'Soundings' event on dialogue and interreligious engagement of traditions beyond those formally linked by IFN
- The UKAid funded Global Community Linking programme
- The Government's Prevent programme

The background paper on the Prevent programme proposed for FCF's discussion was subsequently made available by Circular to member bodies. It was also placed on the IFN website in 2009 and updated at intervals. ([www.interfaith.org.uk/briefingnotes.htm](http://www.interfaith.org.uk/briefingnotes.htm))

## Work with the national inter faith linking bodies of Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales

The Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum, the Scottish Inter Faith Council and the Inter-faith Council for Wales are member bodies of the Inter Faith Network for the UK. Each carries out its own programme of work. In the case of the Scottish Inter Faith Council, this includes direct support to, and linking of, local inter faith bodies in Scotland.

To supplement the regular contact which the IFN office has with these national bodies over the year, the Network holds a meeting each year with their representatives to exchange news and discuss issues of common concern. In 2010 this took place at the First Presbyterian Church in Belfast in February. The Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum were the 'host' national inter faith body for the meeting which was co-chaired by IFN's Director, Dr Harriet Crabtree and the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum's Chair, Raj Puri.

In addition to updates on the work of each organisation, the discussion covered membership and other structural issues, funding issues and Inter Faith Week.

## National and special focus inter faith bodies

Among the member bodies of the Inter Faith Network are inter faith organisations the work of which is carried out at UK or national level or which, while holding programmes in a more limited geographical area, are used as a resource by people across the country.

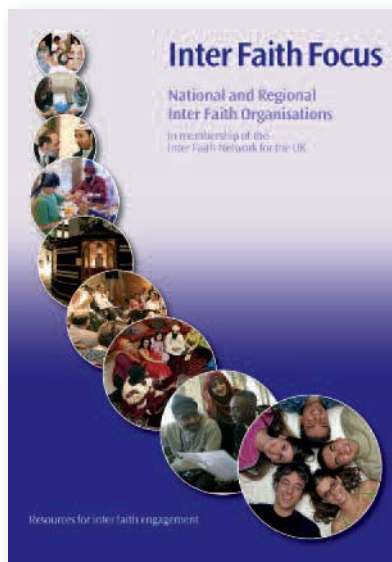
A meeting of national and regional inter faith bodies in membership of IFN was held on 12 May. In addition to detailed discussion of plans for the 2010 Inter Faith Week, the meeting considered how the media presence and visibility of national inter faith groups might be further promoted (including the use of IFN's booklet *Inter Faith Focus* (<http://www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/iffocus2009.pdf>), media training and the profiling of organisations on IFN's website); and opportunities and challenges facing these organisations. The meeting also shared information on current initiatives.

Inter Faith Week 2009 provided a good opportunity for profiling their work and a number exhibited at the national launch. (See page 19).

Links to the websites of national inter faith organisations in IFN membership with further information about their work can be found on IFN's website [www.interfaith.org.uk](http://www.interfaith.org.uk).



*Above: Meeting in Belfast of IFN and the Northern Irish, Scottish and Welsh linking bodies*



*Left: Inter Faith Focus booklet*

## Educating for inter faith understanding

The Inter Faith Network office continued to keep in touch with developments on the educational and academic front through its participation in the Religious Education Council for England and Wales (REC) and the Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education and its links with the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE), which covers SACREs in England. At the 2010 AGM the Wales Association of SACREs also became a member body of IFN.

IFN's Director continued to serve as a member of the Steering Group set up by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority at the request of the then Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to review the content of Circular 1/94 relating to Religious Education, which had remained in force for the last 15 years. There was a public consultation during the summer of 2009 on the draft of this new guidance and IFN's Director attended a meeting in October to discuss the outcome of this. A revised text of the guidance was published in January as non-statutory guidance for educational agencies, local authorities, Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (SACREs), agreed syllabus conferences (ASCs), faith communities, schools governors and all those teaching RE. It is designed to inform and guide, not to direct, and to generate confidence in the capacity of RE to enrich the curriculum offered to young people. While the Government's Circular 1/94 covered both Religious

Education and collective worship, the new guidance deals only with Religious Education.

IFN's Director also served as a member of an advisory group for a new project, REsilience. This is a programme developed by the REC and supported by DCSF (for England) and the then Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DCELLS) (for Wales) to develop a training programme for Religious Education designed to: increase confidence in addressing contentious issues, particularly those sometimes linked with violent extremism; provide continuous professional development opportunities for all teachers of RE; and encourage reflective practice. The group met a number of times in the course of the year and discussed a range of matters including draft resource materials for use in schools.

IFN has also had an interest for some years in issues relating to good relations on campus. The Annual Review for 2008–09 mentioned the new programme of work on inter faith matters being undertaken by the National Union of Students (NUS) and also the work of the Higher Education Equality Challenge Unit (ECU). IFN's Director has been keeping in touch with the work of both organisations and is a member of NUS's relevant advisory group. In December Kat Luckock of the NUS and Gary Loke of the ECU gave a joint presentation to IFN's Faith Communities Forum on the current work of their organisations. IFN's Director also attends meetings of the National Council of Faiths and Beliefs in Further Education (fbfe).

IFN's Adviser on Faith and Public Life is a member of the Advisory Committee on the Religion and Society programme of the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council and attended a number of meetings relating to this in the course of the year.

# Information and advice

## Enquiries

The Inter Faith Network office provides information and advice to a wide range of organisations and individuals. For some types of enquirers, such as companies and employees, IFN's role is to help make them aware of relevant sources of guidance such as the guidelines produced by ACAS (the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service) on religious identity and the workplace or the Shap calendar of religious festivals. In others, such as assisting the media or central Government, it helps enquirers in making contact with the relevant faith or inter faith bodies. On enquiries from national, regional and local inter faith bodies or from people wishing to develop these, IFN's assistance may be ongoing over a long period.

The organisations using the information and advice service during 2009–10 included a wide range of communities, inter faith organisations, Government departments, local authorities, other public bodies, voluntary organisations, schools and educational institutions and the media. A local hospice, a fire and rescue service, a theatre company, a prison chaplaincy service, a radio station and several national newspapers are just a few of those who have talked through aspects of their projects with IFN or been put in touch with its members to assist them.

IFN's website at [www.interfaith.org.uk](http://www.interfaith.org.uk) provides information about its work and publications. It also allows the downloading of some of its publications as well as providing links to the internet pages of other projects with which IFN has been involved. The number of visitors to the website is growing and now averages just over 2,600 a month.

Just a few of the enquiries received this year appear in the next column.

- Our new inter faith group is thinking about developing a constitution. Are there particular issues we need to bear in mind?
- We are setting up a peace garden and would like to include boards with information on different faith communities. Please can you put us in touch with faith community representative organisations who can help us?
- We are planning an Inter Faith Week event. How can we let as many people as possible know about it?
- We are opening a multi faith chapel in our hospice. Which organisations can let us have scriptural texts that could be suitable for the opening?
- Are there any organisations specially for women and inter faith dialogue?
- Do you know of any examples of different faith communities sharing the same premises for worship or community activities?
- Do you have any information on faith-based aid agencies and how they work together at times of international disasters?
- Do you know where we can seek funding for our local inter faith project?
- Where can we find suitable literature for use with young people on the importance of inter faith understanding?
- I've just started work as a development worker with a local inter faith group. My trustees and I would like to know of any guidelines for helping develop a strong pattern of engagement with local faith groups.
- Our national faith community body is holding a major anniversary celebration next year. Can you provide us with contacts for the key organisations of the major faiths in Britain?

## Inter Faith Week 2009

A major part of the work of the Inter Faith Network during 2009–10 was related to the national Inter Faith Week (IFW) for England and working with colleagues in Wales to support the establishment of such a Week in Wales.

IFN, with its wide range of member bodies, has worked since 1987 to promote good inter faith relations and to encourage more to realise the importance of this. Its Trustees proposed to Government, in the course of the consultation in 2008 for what became the then Government's strategy document *Face to Face and Side by Side: A Framework for Partnership in our Multi Faith Society*, an Inter Faith Week.

In Scotland such a Week has been held since 2004 with great impact and IFN's Trustees believed that a similar Week could help deepen and extend inter faith work in the UK – and also highlight the vital contribution which faith communities make, singly and together, to society. The Scottish Inter Faith Council gave valuable input in early discussions about the Week.

The Government accepted the suggestion and work with IFN on the first such Week in England in 2009 was built into the policy implementation steps of *Face to Face and Side by Side* and the first national Inter Faith Week in both England and Wales took place from Sunday 15 to Saturday 21 November. The Week in England was developed with the help of a DCLG/IFN led Steering Group, with representation from the then Department for Children, Schools and Families (DSCF); the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC); the Local Government Association (LGA); and the Community Development Foundation (CDF). The English Regional Faith Forums

(RFFs) played an important role in relation to their respective regions, helping to encourage and advertise events through their websites and, in a number of cases, to hold regional launches for the Week.

A full report on, and evaluation of, the Week in England was produced ([www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/ifweek2009report.pdf](http://www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/ifweek2009report.pdf)) and also a list of all known events ([www.interfaithweek.org/images/stories/pdfs/interfaithweek-events-2009.pdf](http://www.interfaithweek.org/images/stories/pdfs/interfaithweek-events-2009.pdf)) and a photogallery ([www.interfaithweek.org/index.php/media/photo-gallery](http://www.interfaithweek.org/index.php/media/photo-gallery)). A report on the Week in Wales was produced by the Inter-faith Council for Wales ([www.interfaithwales.org](http://www.interfaithwales.org)).

The aims of Inter Faith Week 2009 were:

- To strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- To encourage local faith groups and communities to reach out to each other and build stronger bonds of understanding and cooperation
- To increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, with a particular focus on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- To gain positive profile for inter faith initiatives, locally, regionally and nationally as well as for the overall work of building good inter faith relations
- To increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs
- To encourage the development of new partnerships within local communities and by faith communities with statutory and third sector partners.

The Week was not a centrally directed, 'top down' one with formal 'badging' of events but, rather, one in which all were encouraged to participate. Many different kinds of event and projects took place during what was a remarkable Week: a week where faith communities in England came together at local and national level; where



*Left to right: Julia Goldsworthy MP, The Rt Revd Dr Tom Butler, Diane Johnson MP, Mgr John Devine, David Prout, Dr Girdari Bhan, Caroline Spelman MP, John Denham MP*

people of many different faiths and none learned more about the different religious communities and their contribution to society and visited their places of worship (often for the first time); talked together; played music and sang together; and engaged with each other through inter faith sporting events, cooking demonstrations, and joint projects from litter picking to tree planting. It was also, importantly, a week where those of religious beliefs and those of non-religious beliefs debated their positions and considered points of commonality as well as difference.

A dedicated website, [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org), was developed to provide information and ideas for events. A flyer and poster about the Week were widely circulated. The image of a number of men and women of different faiths at a tree planting event used on these was specially chosen to send a strong message of people of different faiths actively working together.

A late Autumn week, when most educational institutions were in session, was chosen, after consultation, to enable maximum participation by faith communities, school pupils and students in Higher and Further Education institutions. November had also, to date, been the time of Islam Awareness Week (IAW). Following consultation with IAW, the choice was jointly made to run the Weeks concurrently rather than one after the other. IAW chose a linked theme for 2009 and was a key contributor, in partnership with the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB), to exhibition boards about the Muslim community for the faith communities section of the exhibition at the IFW national launch. It also produced a booklet *Living in a Multi Faith Society*. Mitzvah Day ([www.mitzvahday.org.uk](http://www.mitzvahday.org.uk)) also took place during the Week, on its first day (Sunday 15 November). A number of very positive joint IAW/IFW and IFW/Mitzvah Day events took place.

A key intention in planning for the Week was to encourage as much involvement as possible from young people. Thousands of school pupils learnt about inter faith issues in both classroom and whole-school environments; Further and Higher Education students ran their own inter faith



*Poster publicising Inter Faith Week*

events and activities, as well as participating in joint projects; and many more young people had opportunities to talk about their own beliefs and learn about the beliefs of others through special conferences and exchange events.

DCSF commissioned special materials for the Inter Faith Week website for use during the Week ([www.interfaithweek.org/index.php/resources/for-schools](http://www.interfaithweek.org/index.php/resources/for-schools)) and the Inter Faith Youth Trust joined with DCLG in supporting thirty five special youth projects relating to the Week. The National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) and the Religious Education Council encouraged schools to mark and make good use of the Week and the NUS promoted participation among students.

A national launch event, organised by DCLG and IFN, took place at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre on 12 November. It took place ahead of the Week to avoid clashes with regional launch events and to give advance publicity. Over three hundred guests from different faiths and beliefs, regions and types of organisation attended. The launch event programme was compered by DCLG's then Director General (Communities), David Prout, and opened by the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, John Denham, and the then Co-Chairs of the Inter Faith Network, Dr Girdari Bhan and the Rt Revd Tom Butler. Diana Johnson, then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in DCSF, also spoke, reflecting the important role played by her department in relation to the Week. The then Shadow Secretary for Communities and Local Government, Caroline Spelman and the then Liberal Democrat Communities and Local Government spokesperson, Julia Goldsworthy, spoke as well. This cross-party participation was an important aspect of the launch.

Young people from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian faith communities from different regions of England, spoke about what their faith meant to them and highlighted particular areas of work reflected in the exhibition.



*Top: Young people speaking (L-R): Atheeb Ghani, Seth Pinnock, Miriam Lorie, Darius Parekh, Esther Copeland-Harrison, Iman Fadei, Jyoti Mehta, Rajiv Setbi, Lakmini Ratnayake, Jasdeep Singh Degun*

*Below: Swara (L-R): Greg Barnes, Upneet Singh, Dilraj Lall, Jasdeep Singh Degun, Edward Harrington*

Swara, a multi faith group of young musicians from Yorkshire and Humber, and Kol Simcha, a Jewish quartet, provided music for the event. A presentation about faith and social action was given by Mgr John Devine of the Northwest Forum of Faiths.

An exhibition of work on inter faith activity and faith and social action was a key part of the launch. It was



designed to provide a lively and informative spread of displays which gave an insight into the work of faith communities and inter faith bodies in the UK and some of the many events and projects which were to happen during the Week.

National bodies of the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian communities all presented displays about their faith community and its contribution to society (for example, social action,

charitable activities, promoting community cohesion and inter faith activity in the UK). Each had been prepared on a cross-community basis with input from the various key bodies within their respective communities in the UK.

There was also a stand on religious-non-religious engagement prepared by the British Humanist Association.

National and regional inter faith organisations and academic inter faith programmes contributed displays



about their work. There was also information about relevant work in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The English Regional Faith Forums displayed materials about their history and work, including how they link and engage with local, regional and national faith, inter faith and governmental bodies and work across their regions to support faith-based social action and development of good inter faith relations.

*Images on page 22 (clockwise from top left): Faith stands at the Inter Faith Week launch - Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh and Zoroastrian*

*This page (clockwise from top left): Regional Faith Forum stands at the Inter Faith Week launch - Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum, East of England Faiths Council, Faiths Forum for the East Midlands and West Midlands Faiths Forum*



A special display was created by IFN, in consultation with local inter faith bodies, highlighting their pilgrimages, walks and visits; youth events; festivals, celebrations and concerts; directories; exhibitions and displays; publications and resources; civic life; community and social projects; and dialogue. There were also sections on 'faith and food' and on Inter Faith Week itself. Examples of local inter faith work also featured prominently in the regional boards as well as in an exhibition by CDF.

The exhibition included a 'Faith and Social Action' area, assembled and run by FbRN which showcased a number of specific projects through which the different faith communities are contributing to society. A DVD on the faith and social action work of the Church of England was shown during the lunch hour on a rotating loop.

Internationally focused faith-based social action was reflected in a set of stands in the foyer/reception area, including a specially created Department for International Development (DfID) stand and a display with information from faith based aid agencies.

One room of the exhibition was dedicated to young people and inter faith learning and activity in schools,

colleges and universities and through dedicated youth inter faith programmes.

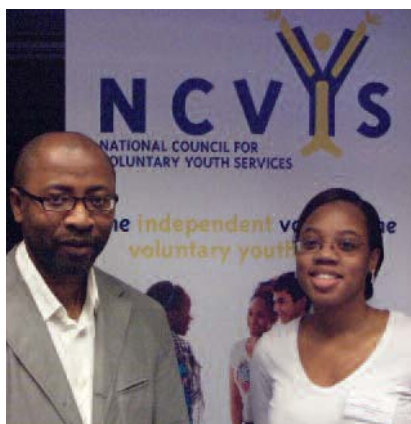
The Three Faiths Forums 'Documentor' programme documented aspects of the launch.

## Regional and subregional launches and events

There were also special launches for the Week in the West Midlands and Yorkshire and Humber as well as a number of county level launches, such as those in Suffolk and Leicestershire.

**"It was an excellent week, full of new initiatives and regular events given a new slant. Nor was it just the already committed who supported events; I saw many new faces during the course of the Week. Most of all, it was a Week that energised people and caught their imagination, and whose effects I'm sure will continue to be felt and appreciated."**

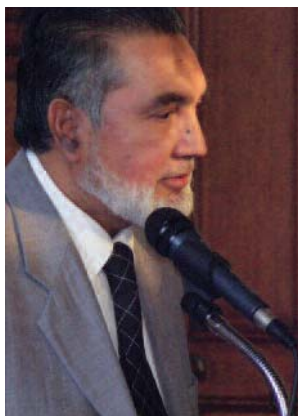
*Inter-Faith Development Officer, West Midlands Faith Forum*



*Images on pages 24 (left to right):*  
 Faith-based aid agencies stand  
 DFID stand on International Development  
 Oldknow School's Arts project stand

*This page (clockwise from top left):*  
 National Union of Students stand  
 National Association of SACRES (NASACRE) stand  
 Girlguiding UK stand  
 Filming at the Three Faiths Forum stand  
 Inter Faith Youth Trust stand  
 National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) stand

PHOTO: RUPAL SHAH



*Clockwise from top left:*  
*Archbishop of Canterbury,*  
*Dr Rowan Williams*  
*The Chief Rabbi,*  
*Lord Sacks of Aldgate*  
*Dr Manazir Ahsan MBE*  
*Dr Girdari Bhan*  
*Dr Indarjit Singh CBE*

## Faith Communities' National Inter Faith Week event at Lambeth Palace

A reception for national faith community leaders took place on 16 November at Lambeth Palace, hosted by The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd and Rt Hon Dr Rowan Williams. The event was organised by Lambeth Palace in consultation with the IFN office.

Contributors included the Archbishop himself, Lord Sacks of Aldgate, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of Great Britain and the Commonwealth; Dr Indarjit Singh CBE, Director of the Network of Sikh Organisations and an IFN Vice-Chair; Dr Manazir Ahsan MBE, Director of the Islamic Foundation and an IFN Vice-Chair; and Dr Girdari Bhan, President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (UK) and an IFN Co-Chair. The event was attended by faith leaders and national inter faith practitioners and by the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, John Denham, and invitations were extended to his Opposition 'shadows' in the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties.

A joint statement of common commitment to continue building good inter religious relations and to contribute to the common good from different religious perspectives, which had been developed by the faith communities through the Faith Communities Forum of IFN, was read out by Commissioner Elizabeth Mattear, a President of Churches Together in England, and Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala of the Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha of Great Britain. It was signed by all present. This formed part of a message of loyal greetings to Her Majesty The Queen which was sent on behalf of all present. A message from The Queen anticipating its reception and conveying good wishes to all concerned for a memorable and successful event was read out by the Archbishop.

## Statement by national faith communities to mark Inter Faith Week

“We believe that good inter faith relations are a vital part of a harmonious, just and respectful society. We pledge, today, to deepen our work to increase understanding about and between our faiths and to strengthen our cooperation on social issues.

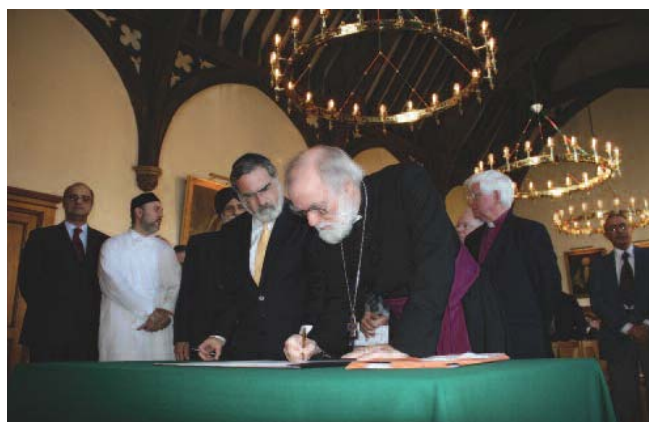
We renew our commitment to developing effective and long term ways of dialogue and mutual learning. We shall continue to seek to understand the patterns of engagement of our faith communities – through history and today; to affirm the positive aspects of these patterns; and to heal wounds of misunderstanding where these are found.

While our great religious traditions are distinct in belief and practice, there is much that unites us. We will draw on fundamental values held in common and on the wisdom of our respective faith traditions to continue to work – as individual communities and together – for the wellbeing of our society, our wider global community and the planet that is our home.

Alongside all of good will, we will work to tackle with renewed determination the challenges of poverty, ignorance, injustice, crime and violence, and social fragmentation and to help shape a society where all feel at home; all are valued and justly treated; and all have a chance to thrive.”



PHOTO: LAMBETH PALACE



*Clockwise from top:*

*Faith Leaders at Lambeth Palace*

*Faith leaders listening to the speeches at Lambeth Palace*

*Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams signing the Statement*

*Commissioner Mattear and Venerable Seelawimala*

# Inter Faith Week

Inter Faith Week Aims to:

- strengthen inter faith relations at all levels
- encourage local faith groups and communities to reach out to each other and build strong bonds of understanding and cooperation
- increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious belief



[www.interfaithweek.org.uk](http://www.interfaithweek.org.uk)

*A selection of inter faith posters and banners*



**Inter Faith Week**  
15-21 November 2009



**Saturday 21st November**

**6 pm - 9 pm**

Civic Centre  
Council Chamber  
Station Road  
Harrow  
HA1 2XF

**An event to celebrate the diversity of faith in Harrow**

A selection of posters and banners from the Inter Faith Week 2009, featuring a variety of religious symbols and the text 'An event to celebrate the diversity of faith in Harrow'.

**Harrow Inter Faith Council and Harrow Council's contribution to National Inter Faith Week 2009**

## Bristol Diverse Doors Open Day

Sunday 15 November 2009  
11am-4pm



**An opportunity to visit places of worship and some of the faith communities in Bristol**

Organised by the  
Bristol Multi-Faith Forum  
and supported by  
Bristol City Council



**Join in with your local communities to celebrate England's first ever National Inter Faith Week!**

A number of unique and exciting activities are taking place in and around Leicester and Leicestershire from Saturday 14th November to Sunday 22nd November, to help us demonstrate mutual respect and understanding between our diverse community groups.

Activities and events taking place during National Inter Faith Week include:

- A Faiths Exhibition in the Highcross Shopping Centre every day of the week
- 'Open Doors' at different places of worship across the City and County, throughout the week
- Opportunities to sign up to an Inter Faith Charter
- Launch of Women's Inter-Faith Sporting Events at St Philip's Centre
- A Hindu-Christian Dinner at St Philip's Church Hall
- An Inter-Faith Football Tournament at Judge Meadow Community College
- A 'Feast of Faiths' in Loughborough
- Exhibitions at Leicester Secular Society
- An Inter Faith Week Launch Event at County Hall

[www.leics.gov.uk/faith](http://www.leics.gov.uk/faith)

## Images of the week



### Top row:

People gathering at the Leicestershire Launch  
Leicester Council of Faiths  
High Cross exhibition

### Left:

People participating in the Living Library Project in Wycombe

(PHOTOS: WYCOMBE SHARING OF FAITHS)

### Below:

Faith map launch, Luton Council of Faiths



## Study, dialogue, discussion and debate

In the course of the Week many events were held which brought people together to study, talk, listen and debate.

Some were formal events in settings such as places of worship or academic establishments. Others were examples of 'dialogue on the move' – for example 'conversations over a hot drink' in Woking's coffee shops or impromptu dialogue between passers by of different faiths at an inter faith display in a Leicester shopping centre.

A different approach to dialogue which proved a big hit in High Wycombe and Slough and also within

Government itself (as part of DCLG's own marking of the Week) was the 'Living Library'. A living library is where the borrower 'takes out' a person to talk with and learn

*Clockwise from top left:*

*Storyteller at St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace 'Sea of Stories' event, a series of five performances of stories and music from the Baba'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, and Muslim faiths performed at five key religious venues across central London*

*Armchair aerobics at St Philip's Centre, Leicester*

*North East Regional Faiths Network Conference to facilitate engagement between faith communities and statutory bodies*

*Delegates at a Jain Seminar*



PHOTO: THE JAIN NETWORK

Individuals from many communities in Sheffield coming together to plant an 'Interfaith Tree' at Ellesmere Green, in conjunction with the Sheffield City Council's Community Forestry Team. Co-ordinated by the Multifaith Chapel and Library based at the Ashram, the tree-planting was part of the all-day 'Faith, Work and Food in Fellowship' event held on the Sunday which began the Week

(PHOTO: MULTIFAITH CHAPEL AND LIBRARY, BURNGREAVE ASHRAM, SHEFFIELD)



from – usually for about half an hour. In these Inter Faith Week living libraries, members of different faiths engaged in conversation with each other on subjects of faith – including their commonalities and differences.

**“We are in no doubt that our original objective of helping to promote tolerance and understanding in the community through providing a safe and neutral space for dialogue and learning between those of different backgrounds was met. Most importantly, the Living Library meant that 143 meaningful conversations exploring difference and diversity took place that would not have otherwise happened. This has to be a good thing.”**

*High Wycombe Library and Wycombe Sharing of Faiths*

## Opening doors and making new connections

The Week saw many places of worship opening their doors to visitors – often providing guided tours or hosting events which explained aspects of their faith. Despite the November weather, in several other towns and cities such as Huddersfield, Hull, Lincoln and Watford, faith trails,

multi faith walks and pilgrimages were a particularly popular way to visit places of worship and to do so *together* as a visible symbol of inter faith understanding.

In Liverpool the faith trail was on wheels, with a guided cycle ride round Sefton Park incorporating visits to places of worship near the park.

Another town, Luton, chose the Week to launch a new 'faith map' of places of worship in the town.

## Religious learning and literacy

From lectures on theological topics, to talks about the views of different religious traditions on particular topics, such as care for the environment, the Week offered many opportunities for learning. Informative exhibitions about the different faiths were a big part of the Week and some used the Week to learn more about different faiths or launch new resources for employers and the public sector.

Story telling offered another popular way for people to learn about and enter into the world of another faith.

Newham Student SACRE is a group of students aged 14–16 who meet every six weeks from across all London Borough of Newham secondary schools from a wide mix of different religious and non religious world views who are interested in Religious Education. During Inter Faith Week 45 students met and reflected together on the value of growing up in a borough that is one of the most diverse in the country in the religious views held by different people



## Faith and public life

Not surprisingly, many of the events of the Week had as their focus how different communities can interact well and contribute to society.

Civic venues in many towns and cities played host to local inter faith events and local authorities across England seized the opportunity to strengthen the links between faith and belief groups and the public sector.

## Faith and community

The Week was a chance for people of different faiths and beliefs to discuss issues of common concern and carry out community projects ‘side by side’.

## Inclusion and cohesion

Running through the whole Week was discussion about what it means to be part of a community where everyone belongs and everyone is valued. The focus was often on

how people of different faiths experience society. But other dimensions of inclusion were also discussed such as the involvement of women and young people and faith in prisons. Including and involving people with learning disabilities within the different faiths was another theme which people came together to address during the Week.

Some events addressed directly questions of community cohesion, including the inter faith dimension of this.

## The environment

From debates on climate change and discussions about sustainability to tree planting and clearing of outdoor spaces, many events had an environment theme.

## Health and wellbeing

Food and fasting, keeping fit, dealing with dementia and end of life care were just some of the health and wellbeing topics addressed during the Week. A yoga camp and aerobics kept Week participants in Coventry and Leicester

limber. A number of hospitals took part in the Week and in Kirklees and Sheffield fundraising took place as a Week activity to support wards and units in the local hospitals.

## Young people

Young people across the country took part in the Week. It seems to have caught the imagination of many schools, colleges and universities as well as youth councils and forums. Numerous events in and for schools took place around England – many jointly organised with the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and some involving the ‘Youth’ or ‘Student’ SACRE. There were also events created especially for school students by inter faith bodies, such as a seminar on “Why should we live peacefully with people of other faiths today?”

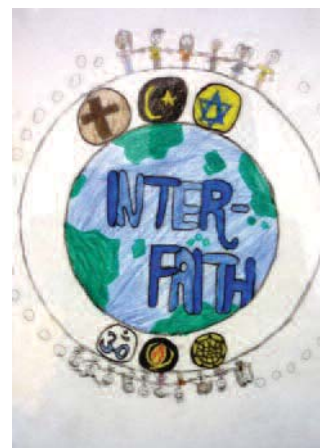
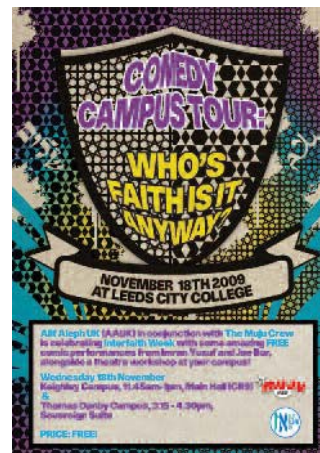
In cities such as Birmingham and Northampton there were inter faith logo competitions and art exhibitions.

**“Inter Faith Week is a great idea to bring faith to the forefront for one week and it’s exciting to see the faith groups talking about issues on campus and working together to really put faith on the student map.”**

*Activities Officer, Sheffield University Students’ Union*

Students from a number of universities across England developed, led and participated in inter faith volunteer events in each of their local communities.

Both Further Education and Higher Education campuses also saw debates, seminars and events such as inter faith focused comedy performances, alongside participatory theatre and comedy workshops. Many students’ unions encouraged marking of the Week, as did chaplaincies. At Imperial College, London, representatives of eight religions gathered to share insights from their faiths at the outset of Inter Faith Week at an event led by members of the Inter Faith Group, a network of students interested in promoting dialogue and understanding between people of



*Clockwise from top left:*

*Joseph Interfaith Foundation Regents Park Mosque event*

*Comedy Campus Tour poster*

*Oldknow School pupils' inter faith poster designs*

different faiths. Over 300 people attended to listen to the speakers, following which some participants broke off into smaller groups to discuss issues around inter faith dialogue.

One project encouraged inter faith dialogue across the generations.



#### Top row:

Left: 'Sikhs in the square' event with dhol players (Slough Faith Partnership)

Right: Nottingham Inter Faith Council Children's Concert

#### Middle row:

Left: Image from 'Artifice' an event where artists from different traditions using different forms of expression took over and transformed a space. An event was linked both to Inter Faith Week and the launch of the Charter for Compassion and co-hosted by the Three Faiths Forum, Jewish Community Centre for London (JCC), Radical Middle Way and Arts and Christianity Enquiry

(PHOTO: THREE FAITHS FORUM)

Right: Hindu dancers at the West Midlands launch event

(PHOTO: WEST MIDLANDS FAITHS FORUM)

#### Bottom row:

Left: Leeds Inter Faith Cricket Project

Right: Inter faith football match

(PHOTO: MFC DERBY)



“...I met people from faith backgrounds I had never had a chance to speak with about faith, and this opportunity allowed me to hear the experiences of others; people who belong to entirely different traditions to my own. This is important because faith issues often can spill over into the political arena, and it is easy at that point to draw on stereotypes. I learned not only about different religions, but people and their personal journeys; something that is much more easy to identity with, rather than a religious tradition or belief system that is alien to me....”

*Young participant at an Interfaith Action volunteers day at Highgate Cemetery in London*

## Music and the arts

Music of all kinds featured strongly in the Week. There were single faith events and many multi faith musical events which proved very popular.

Bradford, Ealing, Kingston, Harrow, Hertsmere, Brighton and Hove, Oxford, Northampton and Wellingborough were just a few of the areas where people of many different backgrounds came together to play music and sing. School rooms, village halls and centres echoed to sounds such as that of the *shofar* (Jewish ceremonial ram's horn), reciting from the Qur'an, Christian hymns, a Baha'i choir, Buddhist chanting, African drumming, and Jain, Hindu, Sikh and Zoroastrian devotional prayers and songs, choirs – including an inter faith choir – and the resonance of a Quaker silence. Ancient joined modern with some of the oldest tunes and thoroughly contemporary performances from groups such as the Shul of Rock – a youth band from a Liberal Synagogue – and *dhol* players from the Ministry of Dhol.

There were also art exhibitions and specially commissioned images created for the Week. Some events cut across the various boundaries, combining visual art, music, video, spoken word, graffiti and dialogue about culture, faith and identity. Dance was also a strong feature.

## Sporting events

Inter faith football proved a popular Inter Faith Week activity. From youth teams in Crawley, Derby and Leicester to religious leaders in Preston, hundreds of players laced up their boots and took to the pitches.

Cricket, too, was a Week theme, despite the time of year. There was also indoor bowling.

The London Jewish Forum, Community Security Trust and Arsenal in the Community held a panel discussion at the Emirates Stadium (home of Arsenal FC) addressing the topic of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in football.

## Women

Some of the Week's events were organised specifically by and for women, such as music and entertainment events in Middlesbrough and Redbridge; learning events and conferences in London, Dudley and Thames Gateway; the launch of a women's sport network in Leicester; a coffee morning in Houslow with a beginners' guide to growing your own vegetables and herbs in your back garden or allotment; a meditation evening in Kendal; and a Christian-Muslim women's 'Walk and Talk' walk around Thornton Reservoir near Leicester.

## Food and faith

Food was at the heart of many of the events for the Week: celebratory events; 'inter faith cafés'; meals and 'drop in' events to learn about the food of different faiths; a Sikh-Quaker Friendship Lunch and a Christian-Hindu Friendship Dinner; a multi faith drive by students to collect food for a local homeless shelter; and a challah baking demonstration.



*Top row:*

Left: Event at the St Philip's Centre in Leicester, with Zara Jurenko (winner of three gold medals for tennis in the Special Olympics) who inspired the 50 or so women present with the story of her personal journey of overcoming adversity to achieving success and the role of faith in her life.

Right: Bharti Tailor speaking at a by invitation event held by the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Hindu Forum of Britain where 50 prominent women from six faith communities addressed the challenges that face women of faith in contemporary Britain.

(PHOTO: BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS)

*Bottom row:*

Left: 'Walk and Talk', St Philip's Centre, Leicester

Right: Challah baking – Kirklees Faiths Forum



## Quizzes, talent shows and even an evening of jokes...

Several inter faith quizzes took place. There was a 'Faiths Got Talent' competition for the primary schools of Pendle and an evening of 'Jokes across Faiths and Cultures' took place at the launch of the first Fairtrade Hindu Temple in the UK, the Sanathan Sewa Samaj Temple in Luton.

## Religious/non-religious dialogue

A 'by invitation' Inter Faith Week event was held by the

Inter Faith Network, arranged jointly with the British Humanist Association, on the evening of 17 November. The meeting was held at Barnard's Inn in Holborn, London. It was co-facilitated by Brian Pearce, the Inter Faith Network's Adviser on Faith and Public Life (and its former Director) and Hanne Stinson, former Chief Executive of the British Humanist Association.

This joint event was seen by IFN as an important first step in a longer term project which it is taking forward, drawing on experience in inter faith dialogue, with the aim of encouraging greater mutual understanding and more constructive relations between those with religious

beliefs and those with non-religious beliefs. While the primary focus of the work of IFN has been, and remains, on inter faith relations, this wider dialogue is also a very important one in today's society.

The aim of the event, by agreement with the British Humanist Association, was not to debate the place of religion and belief in the 'public square', (and issues such as state-funded faith schools, which are addressed in other contexts). Rather, the aim was to provide an opportunity for shared reflection on the extent to which there may be meeting points between religious traditions and the Humanist tradition, in particular in terms of understandings of the universe and of ethical values, exploring what common ground there may be as a basis for working together, within a plural society, for the common good, while respecting the distinctiveness of different faiths and beliefs.

It had been agreed that the discussion should be initiated through two introductory contributions of about fifteen minutes each, from a philosophical standpoint. The two introductory speakers were Professor John Cottingham, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Reading, speaking from a religious perspective and Professor Richard Norman, Emeritus Professor of Moral Philosophy at the University of Kent, who is a member of the Humanist Philosophers Group.

A note of the event is available on the IFN website at [www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/IFW2009event171109.pdf](http://www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/IFW2009event171109.pdf).

The East of England Faiths Council and the Cambridge Union Society hosted a Cambridge Union debate. The debate attracted some high profile speakers and lively exchanges on the motion: 'This House believes that faith has an essential role in democratic debate.' The proposers included the Assistant Secretary of the Muslim Council of Britain, the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Director of the Kirby Laing Centre for Christian Ethics at Cambridge University. Opposers included the Chair of the British Humanist Association's

Humanist Philosophers' Group, the founder and director of secular summer camp CampQuest UK and a former British ambassador to Egypt.

"What is the role of faith in community development and cohesion work?" was a discussion seminar with a range of leading speakers presented by the British Humanist Association for the Week. It considered Government policy in relation to the contribution of 'faith groups' in community work and asked what this may mean for the voluntary sector, for community development practitioners and for service users.

In Leicester, the Leicester Secular Society provided an exhibition and tour and also hosted a lecture on Sikhs in British Society'.

**"This week was a fantastic opportunity to push us to try new things and engage with different communities and I certainly hope it becomes a permanent fixture in our calendar."**

*Warwick District Faiths Forum*

**"Not only did [the Week] affirm the thousands of people in the Council of Christians and Jews and others of faith who for years have tried to tell and show the spiritual and cultural richness derived from listening and learning from the 'other', it also called us to think bigger, to take risks and to hope. Inter Faith Week in common with inter faith dialogue did not call for abandoning or changing one's faith for another or the construction of a 21st century syncretism. Rather it afforded us an opportunity for a renewed hope in one another...[and] ... offered a springboard for us to see 'the other' in the image of God, in all their richness, striving, pain and joy."**

*David Gifford, writing in CCJ Dialogue, Winter 2010*

Unless otherwise credited, all photographs relating to Inter Faith Week 2009 were taken by the organisations whose events are described.

## Engaging with public policy issues

Good inter faith relations can only flourish where people of different faiths feel valued and active members of society. The Inter Faith Network office has again worked through the year to brief its member bodies on relevant issues and to support the faith communities' work together in the sphere of shared engagement with public life issues.

It has continued to encourage Government and other agencies, at UK, regional and local level, to involve the faith communities in discussion about policy and service delivery. In Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the member national linking inter faith bodies have also carried forward this work.

IFN's relationships with Government departments and other public bodies are important in its work of building good inter faith relations. Its main link with the Government has been through the Cohesion and Faiths Unit in the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). But it has also been in touch with other Government departments, including the then Department for Children, Schools and Families, (now the Department for Education), the Government Equalities Office and the Ministry of Justice. The office has also kept in touch with relevant developments between the inter faith linking bodies of the devolved nations and their devolved administrations. This section of the Review summarises the main issues with which the Network office has been engaged and with which it has kept its member bodies in touch.

## Faith Communities Consultative Council

In the course of 2009–10 the Faith Communities Consultative Council (FCCC) of DCLG, met in October, January and March. The IFN office is represented on the Council.

During the year the matters discussed included DCLG workstreams; a paper on new initiatives and the relationship between Government and faith communities, including the appointment of faith advisers in DCLG; changes to the FCCC's structure and operating procedures; the 2009 Inter Faith Week; the then Government's Prevent programme to combat violent extremism (about which there was much debate over the year and which is under review by the new Government); and the Bill of Rights and Responsibilities proposed by the previous Government and work by the Ministry of Justice on values related to this (which a sub-group of the FCCC discussed in more detail). Also, a briefing was given by officials from the Department for Transport, supported by the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism, on the use of body scanners at airports.

## Equality and Human Rights Commission and the 2010 Equality Act

The IFN office keeps in touch with developments on equalities issues and is represented at relevant meetings by its Adviser on Faith and Public Life to enable it to brief IFN member bodies as and when necessary. These briefings covered developments relating to the progress of the previous Government's Equality Bill.

The Equality Bill, consolidating and harmonising existing legislation and containing a number of provisions intended to strengthen the law in a number of areas, received the Royal Assent in April, just prior to the dissolution of Parliament ahead of the General Election.

The new Government indicated that it would bring the main provisions of the Act into force from 1 October 2010 and that it intended to bring into force from April 2011 the new general duty on listed public authorities, initiating a prior consultation process on what the new public duty should involve in terms of more specific duties to be included in secondary legislation.

In the summer of 2009 the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), following an earlier consultation on drafts of these, published non-statutory guidance on the Equality Act relating to employment, equal pay, services, public functions and associations; and statutory codes of practice covering these same three areas are due to be produced in autumn 2010. The guidance and code of practice relating to education were due to follow soon afterwards. The IFN office was represented at discussions on initial drafts of this material.

A briefing note on the Equality Bill, subsequently revised at intervals, was placed on IFN's website in 2009.

As mentioned in earlier Annual Reviews, the Religion and Belief Consultative Group (RBCG) whose formation IFN helped to facilitate, brought together over recent years faith community representative bodies and representatives of the British Humanist Association (BHA) and the National Secular Society (NSS), to be kept in touch with developments in the fields of equality, diversity and human rights. It held regular meetings with the EHRC. At a joint meeting in September 2009 there was discussion on the EHRC's proposed research programme in relation to religion and belief issues and the religion and belief dimension of its good relations work. IFN's office has been regularly represented at RBCG meetings.

Following the withdrawal of a number of the main Churches from the RBCG in the spring of 2010, consideration began to be given to how joint discussions between faith community representative bodies including the Churches on these issues should be handled in future; whether there should be any continuing collective

engagement (and, if so, what) on the part of faith community bodies with the BHA and the NSS on these or other matters; and how the EHRC might handle in future its arrangements for consultation with the 'religion and belief' strand, whether collectively or separately in relation to 'religion' and non-religious 'belief'. The Churches withdrawing from the RBCG made it clear that their action would not reduce their commitment to inter faith dialogue or to dialogue with other strands of the equality agenda. Their main concern was the use by EHRC of the Group as a 'cross strand' consultative mechanism and their belief that this consultation needed to take place with the various sub-strands within the 'religion and belief' strand.

While the EHRC's Commissioners are not appointed to 'represent' particular equality 'strands', the EHRC moved in the course of the year to a pattern of identifying Commissioners who would act as the Commission's 'ambassadors' to individual 'strands'. The first 'ambassador' for the 'religion and belief' strand was Maeve Sherlock OBE, former Chief Executive of the Refugee Council. She held a general discussion with representatives of the sector on 13 April and on 17 May and held a subsequent discussion with them on the EHRC's forthcoming Triennial Review on the 'state of the nation' in terms of the EHRC's areas of responsibility, to be published in autumn 2010.

The EHRC published in November 2009 a report by Professor Linda Woodhead based on a series of seminars on *Religion or Belief: Identifying Issues and Priorities* commissioned by the EHRC's research division. This can be found at [www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded\\_files/research/research\\_report\\_48\\_\\_religion\\_or\\_belief.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/research_report_48__religion_or_belief.pdf). The IFN office was represented at one of these seminars. The EHRC has also published a report entitled *Good Relations: A Conceptual Analysis* by Nick Johnson and John Tatum of the Institute of Community Cohesion.

IFN's office was represented throughout the year at monthly meetings of the Equality and Diversity Forum

(EDF) which brings together representatives from a wide range of organisations with interest in the equality field. Lynne Featherstone, soon after being appointed as the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Home Office with responsibility for equalities, spoke at a meeting of EDF in June 2010.

The independent National Equality Panel set up by the previous Government to examine how inequalities in people's outcomes – such as earnings, incomes and wealth – are related to their characteristics and circumstances – such as gender, age or ethnicity – published its report, *An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in the UK*, in January 2010. The IFN office was represented at a number of discussions on this report.

## Work relating to local authorities in England and Wales and their engagement with faith and inter faith issues

During the year consideration was given by DCLG to the possibility of a conference focusing on steps to 'refresh' the existing guidance for local authorities on engaging with faith and inter faith organisations and the FCCC discussed the issues which this might cover. In the event the conference was refocused on faith and social action and faith and social enterprise and was held on 17 March.

In March DCLG issued 'myth-busting' guidance for local Government on working with faith groups, entitled *Ensuring a Level Playing Field: Funding faith based organisations to provide publicly funded services*. The document was considered in draft by both the FCCC and the Faith Advisers to the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, John Denham.

## Public benefit test for religious charities

In December 2008 the Charity Commission published guidance specifically on the application to charities of the

new 'public benefit' provisions included the Charities Act 2006. IFN's office was represented at a Charity Commission seminar on this topic in March 2009.

IFN's Director continued to serve during the year as a member of the Advisory Group on Faith established by the Charity Commission in November 2008.

## Ministry of Justice project on the 'Governance of Britain'

As mentioned on page 37 the FCCC considered developments relating to the 'shared values' aspect of the work of the Ministry of Justice by way of follow up to the Government's document on *Rights and Responsibilities: Developing our Constitutional Framework*.

## Census 2011

The IFN office continued to be involved in meetings with the Office for National Statistics about the arrangements for the Census to be held on 27 March 2011 and kept its member bodies in touch with developments on this.

## BBC's 'Standing Conference' on Religion and Belief

IFN's Director participated, on a personal basis, as a member of the Standing Conference on Religion and Belief created in early 2009 to liaise with the BBC on matters of common concern to the BBC and religious groups and also Humanists.

## The UK and the wider world

A number of the Inter Faith Network's member bodies, such as branches of international inter faith organisations, have a particular focus on international issues.

The focus of IFN's own work is on inter faith relations in the UK. At the same time, it is interested to learn about relevant developments in inter faith work overseas and has a commitment to sharing the experiences of British inter faith work with practitioners in other countries, of whom a number visited the IFN office during the year and a number sought advice by email and telephone. IFN also, as the opportunity to do so arises, helps its member bodies make overseas links which can strengthen this mutual learning.

### Global Community Linking Project

As reported in the 2008–09 Annual Review, IFN agreed to be a partner in a consortium led by the British Council (the others being the Institute of Community Cohesion and Voluntary Service Overseas) to carry out a three year project on behalf of the Department for International Development (DfID) to promote the development of 'links' between communities in the UK and overseas. One of the intended outcomes of this project is increased community cohesion in the UK as funded groups are drawn together in shared learning and support activities. IFN is responsible for dealing with the faith community dimension of this. IFN has taken part in this project because of the likely benefit in terms of cross-faith understanding and engagement.

A Baseline Report based on the data collected from the Baseline Survey from August – September 2009 was

finalised. There was a good response from faith groups to the survey and a number took part in telephone interviews. The results provide a baseline for the three year project in terms of the number and types of community links which currently exist and how the work needs to be taken forward. An Inception Report was also produced which outlined the details of the grants process.

The project was formally launched in London on 9 March at the Coin Street Community Centre. Over 120 guests from a range of organisations attended the event. IFN staff were in attendance and a number of IFN's member bodies sent representatives. The project was formally unveiled by the Director of Corporate Performance at DFID.

Details of the programme can be found on the newly updated GCL website <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/communitylinks>.

### Commonwealth sharing of good practice

In the run-up to the 2009 Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF), the Commonwealth Foundation and IFN facilitated a teleconference for a number of IFN Trustees and its Director with the Inter Religious Organisation of Trinidad to discuss best practice and share ideas.

## Network membership

At the Network's Annual General Meeting, held in London on 8 July, eighteen organisations were accepted into membership:

- Camden Faith Communities Partnership
- Council of Dharmic Faiths
- Sharing of Faiths (Dacorum)
- Devon Faith and Belief Forum
- Exeter Inter Faith Group
- Interfaith Action (INTERACT)
- Kirklees Faiths Forum
- Faith in Lancaster
- North East Regional Faiths Network
- North Herts Faith Forum
- Scriptural Reasoning (also known as the Scriptural Reasoning Society)
- Sheffield Faiths Forum
- Society for Dialogue and Action
- South Shropshire Interfaith Forum
- Wales Association of SACREs
- Warwick District Faiths Forum
- Worcestershire Inter-Faith Forum
- York Interfaith Group

It was noted that Faiths Together in Lambeth was constituted, had a programme of activity and would have been in operation for two years in October and it was proposed that their membership of IFN would become active then.

This brought the total number of Network member bodies at the present time to 195.

The AGM also noted that the Committee for Other Faiths of the Catholic Bishops' Conference for England and Wales has changed its name to the Committee for Relations with Other Religions of the Catholic Bishops'

Conference for England and Wales; and that there has been a redesignation of member body from the Inter-Faith Panel of the Unitarian and Free Christian Churches Faith and Public Issues Commission to the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

## Trustees

At the AGM, the Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern was re-elected as a Co-Chair for the coming year. Dr Manazir Ahsan MBE of the Muslim community was elected as Co-Chair in succession to Dr Girdari Bhan who was stepping down at the end of the three year period for which the Hindu community held the Co-Chair position.

Dr Indarjit Singh CBE and Vivian Wineman were re-elected as Vice-Chairs for the coming year. Dr Bhan was elected as Vice-Chair in place of Dr Manazir Ahsan MBE and Ven Bogoda Seelawimala of the Buddhist community was elected as Vice-Chair in succession to Hon Barnabas Leith of the Baha'i community (in pursuance of the relevant guideline for a Vice-Chair appointment to be drawn in rotation from the smaller communities represented within the Network).

Monsignor Andrew Faley stood down from the Committee and was thanked for the contribution he had made. Katharina Muller was elected to serve on the Committee for the coming year.

## Trustees for 2010–11

### Co-Chairs:

- Dr Manazir Ahsan MBE
- The Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern

### Vice-Chairs:

- Dr Girdari L Bhan
- Ven Bogoda Seelawimala
- Dr Indarjit Singh CBE
- Mr Vivian Wineman

### Treasurer:

- Mr Ramesh Shah

### Executive Committee:

- Ms Sughra Ahmed
- The Revd Peter Colwell
- Professor Brian Gates
- Mr David Gifford
- Mr Sanjay M Jagatia
- Ms Pramila Kaur
- Mr Ayub Laher
- Mr Shabbir Lakha
- Hon Barnabas Leith
- Mr Yann Lovelock
- Ms Jyoti Mehta
- Mr Dorab Mistry
- Ms Katharina Muller
- Mrs Ravinder Kaur Nijjar
- The Revd Daniel Otieno-Ndale
- Mr Nitin Palan
- Rabbi Alan Plancey
- Dr Narayan Rao
- Maulana M Shahid Raza OBE
- Mr Norman Richardson MBE
- Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid
- Mr Resham Singh Sandhu MBE
- Dr Natubhai Shah

- Mr Jagjiwan Singh
- Mrs Diana Soffa
- Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick
- The Revd Canon Guy Wilkinson
- Mrs Amy Willshire

## Remembering Mr Om Parkash Sharma MBE



*Om Parkash Sharma MBE*

The Inter Faith Network notes with sadness the passing on 11 May 2010 of Mr Om Parkash Sharma MBE. Mr Sharma was a senior figure in the Hindu community and made a highly significant contribution to building good inter faith relations in the UK. He was involved in the meetings which led to the setting up of the Inter Faith Network for the UK in 1987 and served with distinction as both a Co-Chair and Vice-Chair for many years. His untiring commitment to inter faith understanding and cooperation was an inspiration to many.

## Staff and volunteers

Ziya Adilov has continued in his role as Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant; Dr Harriet Crabtree has continued in her role as IFN's Director; Stella Opoku-Owusu has continued in her role as Regional and Local Inter Faith Officer; and Paresh Solanki has continued in his role as Assistant Director (Communications and Development).

Hannah Mercer, from the ProspectUs employment agency, continues in her role as PA/Administrator. Bhupinder Singh continues to maintain, on a freelance basis, IFN's website.

Elin Henrysson was employed as a Project Assistant from July 2009 until July 2010 when she left to work as a peace worker through Quaker Peace and Social Witness on a twelve month placement in Burundi. Yi Ling Ong continued to help as a Clerical Assistant in the IFN office one day per week until she left to return to Malaysia in the summer of 2010.

Former IFN Director, Brian Pearce, has continued to offer, on a voluntary basis, part time assistance as Adviser on Faith and Public Life. IFN is most grateful for the gift of his time and wisdom.



*IFN staff at the 2010 National Meeting*

## 2009 Accounts and Supporters

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# Statement of Financial Activities

## (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

For the year ended 31 December 2009

	Note £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2009 Total £	2008 Total
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
<b>Incoming Resources from generated funds</b>					
Voluntary Income	2	105,077	308,997	414,074	375,890
Investment Income	3	–	1,391	1,391	7,336
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>	4	–	9,903	9,903	8,680
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>105,077</b>	<b>320,291</b>	<b>425,368</b>	<b>391,906</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Cost of Generating Voluntary Income		788	10,509	11,297	14,037
Charitable Activities					
Consultation, Information and Advice		38,396	95,800	134,196	202,186
Meetings and Conferences		43,342	65,783	109,125	78,097
Publications		18,349	51,688	70,037	29,136
Research		1,576	22,403	23,979	30,596
Governance Costs		2,626	38,507	41,133	50,466
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>105,077</b>	<b>284,690</b>	<b>389,767</b>	<b>404,518</b>
<b>Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources for the year</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>35,601</b>	<b>35,601</b>	<b>(12,612)</b>
Funds brought forward		–	88,320	88,320	100,932
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>123,921</b>	<b>123,921</b>	<b>88,320</b>

All the charitable company's operations are classed as continuing. All the charitable company's recognised gains and losses are shown above. The movement on reserves is shown above.

# Balance Sheets

As at 31 December 2009

	Note	£	2009 £	£	2008 £
<b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>	10		4,793		4,904
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Debtors and prepayments	11	74,164		60,087	
Cash at bank		211,637		166,158	
		<b>285,801</b>		<b>226,245</b>	
<b>Creditors: amounts due within one year</b>	12	<b>166,673</b>		<b>142,829</b>	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			119,128		83,416
<b>Net Assets</b>			<b>123,921</b>		<b>88,320</b>
<b>Funds</b>					
Unrestricted Funds			123,921		88,320
<b>Total Funds</b>	13		<b>123,921</b>		<b>88,320</b>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to Small Companies.

These Financial Statements were approved by the Executive Committee on 8 June 2010 and signed on their behalf by Ramesh Shah, Treasurer.

*Copies of the full accounts, including the Notes to the Financial Statements, audited by the MAP Partnership, are available on request from the Network office.*

## Supporters in 2009

The Inter Faith Network's programme of building good relations between the different faith communities in the UK is funded through support from faith communities, Governments, trusts and individuals supportive of its work, as well as through the subscription fees of its member bodies.

The trustees of IFN thank most warmly all those who have given financial support during the calendar year 2009 and also those who have given the gift of time to help it work for good inter faith relations between the faiths in the UK.

### Trusts, Foundations and Companies

- Ardwick Trust
- David Uri Memorial Trust
- M E Pearce Trust
- Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust
- P H Holt Foundation
- Rest Harrow Trust
- St Peter's Saltley Trust
- Tolkien Trust

### Government Funding

During 2009 the Network received strategy and project grants from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

### Faith Community Organisations\*

- Arihant Charitable Trust
- BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha
- Baha'i Community of the UK
- Bhakti Mandal
- Community Security Trust
- Church of England
- Devizes Religious Society of Friends
- Digamber Jain Association
- Imams and Mosques Council (UK)
- Independent Methodist Church
- Institute of Jainology
- Jain Association of the UK
- Mahavir Trust
- Moravian Church
- Navnat Vanik Association of the UK
- Network of Buddhist Organisations (UK)
- Oshwal Association of the UK
- Raj Saubhag Satsang Mandal
- Salvation Army
- United Reformed Church
- Western Chan Fellowship
- Yorkshire Jain Foundation
- Young Jains
- Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

\* Some contributions to the funding received from member faith communities have come through individual donors and these are included in the list below.

### Other Donors

- Mr Bhupinder Singh Bhasin
- The Revd Stephen Coles
- Mrs Elizabeth Crabtree
- The Revd Freda Evans
- Mr J A Ewan
- Mr Paul and Mrs Yvonne Griffiths
- Mr William Hopkinson

- Mr David and Mrs Sheila Jeffrey
- Mrs June Jones
- Dr Dermot Killingley
- Ms Reyhana Laher
- Mr Nitin Mehta
- The Revd John Morley
- Mrs Jenny Nicholson
- Mr Aubrey Rose
- Ms Clare Salters
- Mr Harbans Singh Sethi
- Mr Anant M P Shah
- Mr Rashid Siddiqui
- Mr David Stevens
- The Revd Richard Tetlow
- Mr B Vora
- The Rt Revd Roy Williamson
- Mrs Kathleen Wills

## Help support work to build good inter faith relations

The Inter Faith Network for the UK is a registered charity. Its work is funded through support from faith communities, trusts, Government and through donations from donors who can see the significance of its work to promote good inter faith relations in this country.

Donations at all levels are much appreciated and are used carefully and with maximum impact.

If you would like to make a donation to support the work of IFN to develop good inter faith relations in the UK, you can do this by sending a cheque, payable to The Inter Faith Network for the UK, to: The Inter Faith Network, 8A Lower Grosvenor Place, London SW1W 0EN or email [ifnet@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk) for details on giving in other ways.

Thank you

# Member Organisations of the Inter Faith Network for the UK

## Faith Community Representative Bodies

Baha'i Community of the UK  
BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha  
Board of Deputies of British Jews  
British Muslim Forum  
Buddhist Society  
Churches' Agency for Inter Faith Relations in Scotland  
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland  
Churches Together in England  
Committee for Relations with Other Religions, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales  
Council of African and Afro-Caribbean Churches (UK)  
Friends of the Western Buddhist Order  
General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches  
Hindu Council (UK)  
Hindu Forum of Britain  
Islamic Cultural Centre  
Jain Samaj Europe  
Jamiat-e-Ulama Britain (Association of Muslim Scholars)  
Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board  
Muslim Council of Britain  
National Council of Hindu Temples (UK)  
Network of Buddhist Organisations (UK)  
Network of Sikh Organisations (UK)  
Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations  
Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha of GB  
Vishwa Hindu Parishad (UK)  
World Ahlul-Bayt Islamic League  
World Islamic Mission (UK)  
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

## Educational and Academic Bodies

Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme  
Centre for Christianity and Interreligious Dialogue, Heythrop College  
Centre for the Study of Interreligious Relations, University of Birmingham  
Community Religions Project, University of Leeds  
Institute of Jainology  
Islamic Foundation  
National Association of SACREs  
Religious Education Council of England and Wales  
Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education  
Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter  
Wales Association of SACREs  
Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths

## Inter Faith Organisations

Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum  
Scottish Inter Faith Council  
Inter-faith Council for Wales/Cyngor Cyd-Ffydd Cymru

East of England Faiths Council  
faithnetsouthwest  
Faiths Forum for the East Midlands  
North East Regional Faiths Network  
Northwest Forum of Faiths  
South East England Faith Forum  
West Midlands Faiths Forum  
Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum

Alif Aleph UK  
Christian Muslim Forum  
Christians Aware Interfaith Programme  
Coexist Foundation

Coexistence Trust  
Council of Christians and Jews  
Council of Dharmic Faiths  
East of England Faiths Agency  
Interfaith Action (INTERACT)  
Interfaith Alliance UK  
International Association for Religious Freedom (British Chapter)  
International Interfaith Centre  
Joseph Interfaith Foundation  
London Society of Jews and Christians  
Minorities of Europe Inter Faith Action Programme  
Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby  
Religions for Peace (UK)  
Scriptural Reasoning  
Society for Dialogue and Action  
St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace  
St Philip's Centre for Study and Engagement in a Multi Faith Society  
Three Faiths Forum  
Tony Blair Faith Foundation  
United Religions Initiative (UK)  
Westminster Interfaith  
World Congress of Faiths

## Local Inter Faith Bodies

Altrincham Inter Faith Group  
Barking and Dagenham Faith Forum  
Barnet Multi-Faith Forum  
Bedford Council of Faiths  
Birmingham Council of Faiths  
Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Forum  
Blackpool Faith Forum  
Bolton Interfaith Council  
Bradford Concord Interfaith Society

Bradford District Faiths Forum  
 Brent Interfaith  
 Brent Multi-Faith Forum  
 Brighton and Hove Inter-Faith  
     Contact Group  
 Bristol Inter Faith Group  
 Bristol Multi-Faith Forum  
 Buckinghamshire Forum of Faiths  
 Building Bridges in Burnley  
 Muslim-Christian Forum (Bury)  
 Calderdale Interfaith Council  
 Cambridge Inter-Faith Group  
 Camden Faith Communities Partnership  
 Canterbury and District Inter Faith Action  
 Cardiff Interfaith Association  
 Cheltenham Inter Faith  
 Clapham and Stockwell Faith Forum  
 Coventry Multi-Faith Forum  
 Crawley Interfaith Network  
 Faiths Together in Croydon  
 Cumbria Interfaith Forum  
 Sharing of Faiths (Dacorum)  
 Forum of Faiths for Derby  
 Devon Faith and Belief Forum  
 Doncaster Interfaith  
 Dudley Borough Interfaith Network  
 Elmbridge Multi-Faith Forum  
 Exeter Inter Faith Group  
 Gateshead Inter Faith Forum  
 Greenwich Multi-Faith Forum  
 Hampshire Interfaith Network  
 Harrow Inter Faith Council  
 Hastings and District Interfaith Forum  
 Hillingdon Inter Faith Network  
 Horsham Interfaith Forum  
 Hounslow Friends of Faith  
 Huddersfield Inter Faith Council  
 Hull and East Riding Interfaith  
 Inter Faith Isle of Man

Islington Faiths Forum  
 Keighley Interfaith Group  
 Kingston Inter Faith Forum  
 Kirklees Faiths Forum  
 Faiths Together in Lambeth  
 Lancashire Forum of Faiths  
 Faith in Lancaster  
 Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship  
 Leeds Faiths Forum  
 Leicester Council of Faiths  
 Lincoln Inter-Faith Forum  
 Liverpool Faith Network  
 Loughborough Council of Faiths  
 Luton Council of Faiths  
 Faith Network for Manchester  
 Medway Inter Faith Action Forum  
 Merseyside Council of Faiths  
 Middlesbrough Council of Faiths  
 Interfaith MK (Milton Keynes)  
 Milton Keynes Council of Faiths  
 Moseley Inter Faith Group  
 Newcastle Council of Faiths  
 Newham Association of Faiths  
 Newham Faith Sector Forum  
 North Herts Faith Forum  
 North Kirklees Inter-Faith Council  
 North Staffordshire Forum of Faiths  
 Northampton Inter Faith Forum  
 Norwich InterFaith Link  
 Nottingham Inter Faith Council  
 Oldham Inter Faith Forum  
 Oxford Round Table of Religions  
 Building Bridges Pendle – Interfaith  
     Community Project  
 Peterborough Inter-Faith Council  
 Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural  
     Diversity  
 Portsmouth Inter Faith Forum  
 Preston Faith Forum

Reading Inter-Faith Group  
 Redbridge Council of Faiths  
 Redbridge Faith Forum  
 Rochdale Multi Faith Partnership  
 Rossendale Faith Partnership  
 Rugby Inter Faith Forum  
 Sandwell Multi-Faith Network  
 Sheffield Faiths Forum  
 Sheffield Inter Faith  
 South London Inter Faith Group  
 South Shropshire Interfaith Forum  
 Southampton Council of Faiths  
 Southwark Multi Faith Forum  
 Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource  
 Interfaith Swansea  
 Faiths United (Tameside)  
 Telford and Wrekin Interfaith Group  
 Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum  
 Valleys Faith Forum  
 Waltham Forest Faith Communities Forum  
 Wandsworth Multi-Faith Network  
 Warrington Council of Faiths  
 Warwick District Faiths Forum  
 Watford Inter Faith Association  
 Wellingborough Inter Faith Group  
 Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith Group  
 West Wiltshire Interfaith Group  
 Westminster Faith Exchange  
 Whalley Range (Manchester) Inter  
     Faith Group  
 Windsor and Maidenhead Community  
     Forum  
 Wolverhampton Inter Faith Council  
 Worcestershire Inter-Faith Forum  
 Wycombe Sharing of Faiths  
 York Interfaith Group

Note: The list records member bodies following the 2010 AGM.



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