



IFN e-bulletin

January/February 2015

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If you have items which you would like considered for inclusion in the next e-bulletin please email these to ifnet@interfaith.org.uk by **12 March** with 'e-bulletin' in the subject line. Submissions may be edited for length or style. The e-bulletin is designed primarily to flag up new developments and projects and future events.

If your organisation distributes a programme, newsletter or e-bulletin, please add ifnet@interfaith.org.uk to your mailing list.

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

Increasingly, IFN is making use of social media, in particular Twitter (www.twitter.com/IFNetUK) and Facebook. (www.facebook.com/IFNetUK) Please take a moment to 'follow' and like IFN and also Inter Faith Week (www.twitter.com/IFWeek and www.facebook.com/IFWeek) and also check in with the IFN website to see new items which are added on a regular basis.

UK/NATIONAL UPDATES

UK inter faith response to events in France and Germany

The murders at the offices of Charlie Hebdo, at the Hyper Cachat Kosher Supermarket and related deaths in the second week of January, have been the focus of vigils, prayers, statements, articles and reflection across the last few weeks in the UK. Links to details of a range of events and statements can be found on IFN's website at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/news>.

IFN's Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs referred in a New Year message to member bodies to the events [<http://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/statements-and-messages/100-message-from-ifn-officers-to-member-bodies-8-jan-2015>] and also issued a statement on 21 January which is reproduced [at the end of this e-bulletin](#) and can be found at: <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/statements-and-messages>

The Government's response to the impact of the events, as well as to growing concerns about a reported rise in anti-Semitic attacks in the UK and Europe more widely, has included a pledge to increase levels of protection for the Jewish community and police support for mosques as well as statements about the importance of all faith communities to British life and to the countering of extremism. Communities Secretary Eric Pickles and Parliamentary Under-Secretary Lord Ahmad wrote a letter to mosques on 18 January https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/396312/160115_Final_Draft_Letter_to_Mosques_PDF.pdf and Home Secretary Theresa May addressed issues relating particularly to anti-Semitism at a commemorative event on 18 January organised by the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

While the principal focus in the UK in terms of community safety has been on the Jewish and Muslim communities, Sikh organisations have expressed concern that the safety of Sikhs is also affected, with a recent serious attack on a Sikh in Mold, Wales taking place in the days following the events in Paris. <http://www.citysikhs.org.uk/2015/01/attack-on-sikh-man-in-north-wales-statement-from-city-sikhs-network/> The Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain wrote to Sikh leaders to express support <http://www.mcb.org.uk/muslim-council-britain-condemns-attack-sikh-man/>

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EHRC to produce new legal guidance on freedom of expression

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has announced that (on 3 February) it will be publishing new legal guidance on freedom of expression. In explaining the context, it says that "Following the recent tragic deaths in Paris, there has been considerable debate both nationally and internationally about free speech. Freedom of expression is a fundamental right which is essential for democracy, a free media and political, artistic and scientific development." The guidance will explain that a) there are legitimate ways the state restrains what can be said but the test for curtailing freedom of expression in law is a stringent one, and much that is offensive is still legal; and b) Freedom of expression can however be restricted in certain circumstances (for example, where it incites violence against others or promotes hatred based on the colour of someone's skin or their sexual orientation or their religion).

Further information can be found at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/search/site/freedom%20of%20expression>

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Reconciliation and tolerance a theme in speeches from HM The Queen and HRH the Prince of Wales

HM The Queen's Christmas Speech had a particular focus on reconciliation and included reflection on The Queen's own Christian basis for seeking "to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none."

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/imagesandbroadcasts/thequeenschristmasbroadcasts/christmasbroadcasts/christmasbroadcast2014.aspx>

In a speech to the Institute of Jainology and the Oshwal Association at the Oshwal Centre in Potters Bar on 22 Jan, receiving the Ahimsa Anniversary Award, HRH the Prince of Wales spoke of the importance of religious tolerance, saying: "We all have a duty to work for greater harmony between the religions of the world, especially when, as now, tolerance is being so severely tested."

<http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/news-and-diary/the-prince-of-wales-marks-the-25th-anniversary-of-the-institute-of-jainology/speech>

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Charity Commission consults on new guidance for trustees

The Charity Commission has launched a consultation on its new guidance for trustees, the closing date for which is 17 February.

The Commission has rewritten guidance note CC3, entitled 'The Essential Trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do'. The new guidance clearly explains what the Commission expects of trustees and the potential consequences if the minimum good practice standards are not met.

The current guidance distinguishes between what trustees must do (i.e. what are legal requirements) and what trustees should do (i.e. what is good practice), but it is unclear whether the good practice standards are optional. The new draft guidance clarifies this position and warns that those who do not meet the minimum standards are at risk of breaching their legal duties as trustees. The new draft follows recent commission guidance on decision making and conflicts of interest. It also reflects other changes such as the introduction of Charitable Incorporated Organisations.

Information about how to respond to the consultation on the draft guidance, including the consultation questions, can be found online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-essential-trustee-cc3-new-version>.

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Inter Faith Network meetings

Faith Communities Forum

A meeting of the Inter Faith Network's Faith Communities Forum was held on 28 January. The Forum exists to facilitate discussion between member faith communities at a national level on issues of common concern to them as faith communities and thereby to promote the development of closer working relationships between them. Under discussion were issues such as multi faith healthcare chaplaincy and the Government's integration approach.

Faith communities making their spaces available for inter faith meetings and discussions help enable shared engagement in projects that benefit society. In the spirit, FCF meetings take place, where possible, at venues offered by the bodies represented. This meeting was hosted by IFN member body the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations at Friends House.

Planned day event for local inter faith practitioners

Save the date: Planning is under way for a day event for local inter faith practitioners on practicalities of their work, focusing on topics highlighted by member groups at their recent IFN link meetings. This event, planned as the first of two, will be open to both IFN member and non-member local inter faith groups. The provisional date for the first meeting is **26 March**. Further information will be circulated in due course.

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MPs express support for high quality Religious Education

MPs from across the main political parties took part in an All Party Parliamentary Group event to publicise their belief that good RE should be available for all young people. They discussed the subject and its value for modern life with a team of Young Ambassadors for RE, students at St Bede's School in Cambridge. Further information can be found on the RE Council website at <http://religioueducationcouncil.org.uk/public-engagement/news/2015-01-28/mps-publicise-their-support-for-high-quality-re>

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INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions

The 2015 Parliament of the World's Religions will take place in Salt Lake City, Utah in the USA from 15 to 19 October. The theme of the 2015 Parliament is *Reclaiming the Heart of Our Humanity: Working Together for a World of Compassion, Peace, Justice, and Sustainability*. The deadline for proposals for the programme has now been extended until 15 March. Proposals can include: lectures, academic papers, seminars, panel discussions, religious or spiritual observances, workshops, training sessions or artistic performances.

Further information about submitting proposals and about registering to attend the Parliament, can be found online at <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org>.

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PROJECTS

Visit My Mosque – Sunday 1 February

On 1 February, a national #VisitMyMosque day is being held, where British mosques will open their doors to the general public. Mosques will be sharing tea and refreshments alongside an insight into the day-to-day goings on of a busy Muslim centre of worship. They

will also be inviting faith leaders to come together to demonstrate unity and solidarity. Participating mosques will be listed at www.mcb.org.uk/visitmymosque.

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New Hindu temple inter faith reach out

Shri Pashupatinath Mandir, a new Hindu Temple in Rowley Regis, is holding an inter faith conference on 7 February with representatives of the different faiths represented in the area. This is an example of how inter faith engagement is increasingly seen as a vital dimension of the life of places of worship in their local communities.

In an interview with the Hereford Times, their spokesperson said: "We thought with everything going on in the world at the moment it is the right time for all the faiths to get together and support each other. We want to bring different faiths and unite the community so we are hosting the first ever Inter-faith awareness day to bring people of various faiths, leaders, the community and local councillors together. We have also invited members of West Midlands Police and Building a Better Blackheath and the Black Country Housing Group. ...Following our first event, a chance for regular get together for community members and representatives from organisations will be held each Sunday during the coming weeks together with a community meal."

The inter-faith day is at the Shri Pashupatinath Mandir Temple, Park Road, Rowley Regis, between 2pm and 4pm on Saturday, February 7.

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Sharing of expertise – pioneering new approaches

Faith communities are increasingly exploring ways to learn from each other's practical experience and good practice. A synagogue in Bradford is exploring one very direct way of doing this through inviting a member of another faith community – a Muslim member of the Friends of the Synagogue - to become one of its governing body.

http://m.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/11750978.City_s_synagogue_council_appoints_first_Muslim_member_as_strikingly_close_relations_between_two_faiths_deepen_further/

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Woolf Institute 'Community Initiative and Austerity' Facebook Group

The Woolf Institute has launched a new 'Community Initiative and Austerity' group on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1403205489975587/>.

This group aims to: provide information about social action initiatives aimed at generating opportunities and diminishing insecurity; create discussion about best practice, impact, and policies; as well as encourage debate about the kinds of social support and communities that people want in Europe. For further information, contact Dr Christina Fuhr at cf404@cam.ac.uk.

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Kendal Peace Garden

South Lakes Interfaith Forum is involved in a Peace Garden that is being planned for Kendal to commemorate the First World War. The idea for the garden, in Abbot Hall Park, was put forward by the town's Mayor, Cllr Tom Clare. It is intended to be "a deliberate and conscious community creation: a signifier of peace and understanding between our communities and those in the rest of the world. In addition it is intended that the Kendal Peace Garden should embody wider symbolism and be something which people will come to the town to see". The symbolism within the garden design currently includes reference to Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Paganism. For further information, visit http://www.thewestmorlandgazette.co.uk/news/11714242.Plans_for_Kendal_Peace_Garden_unveiled/ or contact amandareynolds1@me.com.

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Equally Ours

Equally Ours is a campaign run by eight national charities, led by the Equality and Diversity Forum, which talks about the importance of human rights and how they benefit people in everyday life. It does this by collecting stories of people's personal experiences of using human rights to challenge negative treatment or behaviour. The first series of stories can be found on the website at <http://www.equally-ours.org.uk/>. Any human rights stories can be shared via <http://www.equally-ours.org.uk/resources/share-story/>.

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Big Lunch Extras

Following on from the success of The Big Lunch, the Eden Project has begun a new community programme called Big Lunch Extras, which it believes could benefit and encourage inter faith work.

Big Lunch Extras is designed to help people interested in bringing about small, positive changes in their neighbourhoods. At the heart of the programme is a free three day Community Camp at the Eden Project, offering speakers, workshops, tours and the chance to network with others on the programme. This is followed by a series of one-day road-shows across the country, to help develop skills and keep up the momentum. This is a fully funded programme and further information can be found at www.biglunchextras.com.

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Unity in motion

Faith leaders in Redditch will be joining together to take part in a peace walk on Sunday 26 April. Those taking part will visit a church, mosque and gurdwara as part of the event, with information about Hinduism also on display at the Gurdwara. Further information about the event can be found at <http://www.redditchstandard.co.uk/2015/01/25/news-Faith-leaders-walk-the-same-path-125467.html> or by phoning Councillor Bill Hartnett on 01527 534123.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Tackling domestic violence training

KahrmelWellness is holding a training day on Tackling Domestic Violence and Abuse in Faith Communities in Leeds on 12 February. This will be the first in a series of national training days, which are aimed at many constituencies including faith leaders and members of faith communities. Topics covered will include: spiritual abuse; female genital mutilation; behavioural patterns; forced marriage; and child sexual exploitation. Further training days will be held in Nottingham on 14 May and in Birmingham on 9 July. For further information, visit <http://kahrmelwellness.com/2015-national-training/>.

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Cambridge Inter-faith Programme Summer School

In July/August 2015, the Cambridge Inter-faith Programme will bring together an international group from Muslim, Christian and Jewish backgrounds, for three weeks' inter faith and cross-cultural encounter, to resource practical peacemaking and conflict-transformation efforts. Students receive intensive training in Scriptural Reasoning; are offered a series of lectures delivered by specialist academics and peacemakers; and are facilitated in a process of teaching one another about aspects of their traditions.

The cost of tuition, accommodation, on-site meals, activities and visits will be covered by the Cambridge Inter-faith Programme. Students will be asked to pay a deposit - refundable at the end of the Summer School - and will need to source their own funds to cover their travel to and from Cambridge. The closing date for applications is 13 February.

For more information and the Summer School film see <http://www.interfaith.cam.ac.uk/summerschool2015>

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Prevent training workshops

The Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby is running a series of one day interactive workshops about the Prevent programme and developing an understanding of relationships to local communities in Derby, covering questions of risk and threat, vulnerability, susceptibility, safeguarding and the process of radicalisation. The next workshops are on Thursday 19 February, Thursday 26 March and Thursday 23 April. For further information, or to book a place, contact Joanne Thornewill on 01332 591285/592657 or at j.thornewill@derby.ac.uk.

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Building Networks across Difference and Inter Faith and Networking

The Christian Muslim Forum and St Ethelburga's are holding two full-day training workshops on 17 February and 10 March at the St Ethelburga's Centre in London.

The first workshop, entitled 'Building Networks across Difference', will explore networking within and between faith community individual contexts and is aimed at anyone in a position of responsibility or leadership within a faith community. The second workshop, entitled 'Inter

Faith and Networking: Training the Trainers', will build on this, exploring what the training will look like in each individual context.

Refreshments will be served but participants should bring their own lunch. There is a charge for attending. For further information, contact info@christianmuslimforum.org.

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Edinburgh Inter Faith Association video and publication

The Edinburgh Inter Faith Association has recently created two resources:

Faith and I is an educational documentary video which challenges hate crime and racism directed towards people of faith. It follows the lives of three young women from different faith traditions; Islam, Judaism and Sikhism, showing the positive influence of faith in their lives. The project was partly commissioned in response to a rise in hate crime towards Muslims and Jews as an educational tool to tackle prejudice and raise awareness. It highlights hopes and fears which anyone can identify with, regardless of beliefs, values and practices.

Faith and Young People is a publication for schools detailing the needs of young people of faith in terms of requirements for prayer facilities, dietary needs and requirements around religious holidays. It discusses potential uniform/dress code requirements and issues relating to relationships, sexual health, parenthood education, physical education, religious and moral education and religious observance. This document was produced primarily as a resource for those working in schools, but is described as relevant to anyone interested in developing their knowledge to the needs and sensitivities of the various faith adherents and communities.

For further information on these resources, contact Iain Stewart at iain@eifa.org.uk.

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Celebrating Faith video

Lancashire Forum of Faiths has created a video entitled 'Celebrating Faith'. This celebrates the rich diversity of Lancashire's religions and cultures and gives an insight into some of the inter faith taking place across the region. The video can be watched on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-F-FdDj9s0&feature=youtu.be>.

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Interfaith Explorers website

Interfaith Explorers is a free online learning resource supported by UNESCO and designed to add value to RE and PSHE lessons by helping primary school pupils respect and understand religious and cultural diversity. It has recently launched a new website at www.interfaithexplorers.com.

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JOBS, INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING

3FF - Director

3FF is currently recruiting for a Director.

The successful candidate will have at least 5 years' experience in a senior management role in a charity or similar organisation; and be ambitious and motivated to work with the 3FF team to achieve its vision of a connected and cohesive society where people of different faiths, beliefs and cultures have strong, productive and positive relations. People from all backgrounds - those with non-religious or religious beliefs - are welcome to apply.

The role is full time based in London. Applicants must be willing to attend evening and sometimes weekend events and travel – within the UK and abroad. Applications can only be accepted from individuals with the right to work in the UK. The full job description can be found online at <http://www.3ff.org.uk/jobs/3ff-director.php> and the closing date for applications is 23 February. To request an application pack, email apply@3ff.org.uk.

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Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme – Research Associate in Modern Inter-Faith Relations

Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme with the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge is seeking a Research Associate in Modern Inter-Faith Relations. The successful candidate will be expected to undertake their own research in an area relevant to the interests of CIP, preferably with reference to the modern period and can expect some appropriate mentoring. The appointee will be expected to do some teaching and administration. Candidates should already possess a doctoral degree in a relevant discipline.

Further information and an application pack can be found at <http://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk/job/5985/> and the closing date for applications is 25 February with an anticipated start date of 1 May.

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Near Neighbours programme

The Near Neighbours programme, a partnership between the Church Urban Fund and the Archbishops' Council, awards small grants of between £250 and £5,000 to projects that enable people of different faiths or none to work together for the benefit of the community.

This is a rolling programme with no deadlines available in certain parts of England (maps showing eligible areas can be found at <http://www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours/grants/eligible-areas>). Its second phase is due to run until March 2016, with the grants programme ending ahead of that.

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

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Funding Central website

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

Funding Central is managed by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, in partnership with Idox Information Solutions Ltd, and funded by the Government's Office for Civil Society.

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Comic Relief Stronger Communities grants

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

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Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund give grants from £300 to over £500,000 to organisations ranging from small local groups to major national charities. Information about their various grant schemes can be found at <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/Home/Funding/Funding%20finder>.

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CALLS FOR INFORMATION, COMPETITIONS AND TENDERS

Strengthening Faith Institutions

The Department for Communities and Local Government is inviting bids from organisations to run a £400,000 programme to help strengthen and support faith institutions. The programme aims to help strengthen and support faith institutions in a number of ways including, providing training on key topics for faith institutions and consultancy-style support for those facing specific challenges. Bids are welcomed from 30 January – 2 March. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-strengthening-faith-institutions-programme-now-open-for-bids>

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Inter Faith Week questionnaire – deadline extended

If your organisation held an event for Inter Faith Week in England, Northern Ireland or Wales in 2014, IFN would very much value your feedback on the Week. Your response can help it continue to develop the Week as a highly effective way to profile, and widen involvement in, inter faith activity and cooperation and to add value to the work of the many organisations sharing these important aims. You can let IFN have your feedback by clicking on this link: <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/139357PKHMF>. There is also a space at the end to use if you would like to send us a short account of your event.

The closing date for this short electronic questionnaire has been extended until 10 February. If you prefer to have a Word version of this, contact Ashley Beck at Interfaithweek@interfaith.org.uk.

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Equality Act - 5 Years On: Call for Papers

The Forum for Research into Equality and Diversity (University of Chester) in collaboration with the School of Law and Social Justice (University of Liverpool) will be hosting a one-day academic conference on 22 June entitled 'The Equality Act 2010: Five-Years On'. The conference will seek to undertake a review of the implications of the Equality Act 2010 and encourages contributions from those conducting socio-legal and scholarly research in this area. It will offer the opportunity to explore the impact of the Equality Act 2010 and to also consider the way in which this legislation will continue in its purpose to promote equality and protect against discrimination into the 21st Century. For further information on the Call for Papers, the deadline for which is 27 February, visit <http://www.chester.ac.uk/node/28098> or email FRED@chester.ac.uk.

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SPECIAL WEEKS/DAYS

World Interfaith Harmony Week – first week of February

World Interfaith Harmony Week is a UN recognised Week which takes place each year during the first week of February.

WIFW was proposed at the UN General Assembly on 2010 by HM King Abdullah II of Jordan and adopted by the UN. It is based on the work of the Common Word initiative which started in 2007 and called for Muslim and Christian leaders to engage in a dialogue based on two common fundamental religious Commandments - Love of God, and Love of the Neighbour - without compromising any of their own religious tenets. Events can be registered on the website www.worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com

Note: While the decision was taken to keep Inter Faith Week in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in November for a range of practical reasons and Scotland also continues to mark its Inter Faith Week in November/December, the World Week is marked by a

number of organisations in the UK, including the branches in this country of international inter faith organisations which help raise awareness of, and encourage involvement with, the vital issue of global inter-religious harmony.

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Fairtrade Fortnight – 24 February to 9 March

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. The Fairtrade Foundation's vision is of "a world in which justice and sustainable development are at the heart of trade structures and practices so that everyone, through their work, can maintain a decent and dignified livelihood and develop their full potential". Information on Fairtrade Fortnight can be found at <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>.

Information on how faith communities and places of worship can get involved can be found at <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/in-your-community/faith-groups>.

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Islam Awareness Week – 16 to 22 March

The theme for the 2015 Week is 'Give a little of yourself'.

Further information about Islam Awareness Week can be found online at <http://www.iaw.org.uk/pages/page.php?id=home>.

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DIARY DATES

This section includes just a sample of some of the events taking place around the UK.

The Gandhi Foundation is holding a Multifaith Celebration on Saturday 31 January entitled 'Caring for the Future of People and Planet - Different Faiths, Ecology and Spirituality'. The speaker will be Dr Ursula King, Professor Emireta of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Bristol. This will be followed by a discussion with representatives of various faith traditions. The celebration will take place at 2.30pm at the London Interfaith Centre, 125 Salusbury Road, West Kilburn, London NW6 6RG. Refreshments will be served. To aid refreshment planning, register with William@gandhifoundation.org. For further information, contact the foundation at contact@gandhifoundation.org or on 0845 313 8419.

The **International Association for Religious Freedom (British Chapter)** will be co-sponsoring a special World Interfaith Harmony Week service at Golders Green Unitarian Church, London NW11 8BS on Sunday 1 February. The service begins at 11am. The programme will include prayers, readings, classical oboe and choir and the guest preacher will be the Reverend Rana Khan. For further information, contact the Revd Feargus O'Connor at ggunirev@aol.com.

The **St Ethelburga's Centre** is holding the next meeting of its City Forum on Monday 2 February from 5pm to 7.30pm. This brings together organisations which work to make a difference in the City and the Financial Sector and it is exploring the idea of a 'Community of Practice'. The event is entitled 'Stories from the Edge of the New'. For further information, visit <http://www.stethelburgas.org/events/public>.

An event is being held at **Durham Castle** on Tuesday 3 February as part of World Interfaith Harmony Week on 'Meditation: Buddhist and Christian perspectives'. The event will be held at 5.30pm in the Norman Chapel in Durham Castle and will be led by Jacquetta Gomes and Hannah Cleugh. For more information, contact hannah.cleugh@durham.ac.uk.

The **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** will be holding an event on 'The sanctity of marriage', featuring presentations and stands from different faiths on Tuesday 3 February as part of World Interfaith Harmony Week. The event will take place at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Rhiwbina, Cardiff. For further information, contact Julie Jones via jjones@maxiom.net.

The **Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity** is holding its next 'Quiet Time' on Wednesday 4 February from 12.30pm to 1.30pm at the Unitarian Church, Notte Street, Plymouth PL1 2HG. The format is a 10-minute reflection followed by a short period of silence and/or music and then an opportunity for a brief comment from participants. People are welcome to drop in for a few minutes or stay for the whole time. It will be led by Yuki Yoshioka in connection with Setsubun, the Japanese Bean Scattering Festival. For further information, visit <http://www.pcfcd.co.uk/page/quiet-space.aspx>.

The **University of Winchester** is holding an 'Interfaith Lecture' from 6.30pm to 8pm on Wednesday 4 February. The speakers will be the Reverend Andrew Ashdown and Imam Ajmal Masroor who will be engaging in dialogue on key issues that Muslims and Christians encounter in Britain today. Their conversation will be followed by a time for questions. The event is being held at the Stripe Building, King Alfred Campus, University of Winchester, Sparkford Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 4NR. To book a place, contact Gulya Garside at gulya.garside@winchester.ac.uk.

Faiths Together in Lambeth is holding an Interfaith Harmony Breakfast to mark World Interfaith Harmony Week on Thursday 5 February. The breakfast will be held from 8.30am to 10.00am at South London Synagogue (Orthodox), 45 Leigham Court Road, SW16 2NF. Anyone interested in attending should email ftil@hotmail.co.uk.

Crawley Interfaith Network is holding its next event on Thursday 5 February from 7pm to 9pm. This will be a talk entitled 'The State, Politics and Faith' by Henry Smith, MP for Crawley. The event will be held at The Holy Trinity School, Buckswood Drive, Crawley, West Sussex RH11 8JE. For further information, contact Iyad Daoud at contact@crawleyinterfaith.net or on 01293 883372.

Havering Inter Faith Forum is holding an Inter-Faith Discussion Evening at 8pm on Thursday 5 February. Speakers from different faiths, including Baha'i, Christian and Hindu, will be talking and answering questions on the topic of 'Health and Healing' at the Salvation Army, High Street, Romford RM1 1JJ. For further information, contact John Lester at contact@haveringinterfaith.org.uk.

Interfaith MK is holding its next meeting on Thursday 5 February with a talk on 'Judaism in the Modern World' by Leon Silver, Chair of the East London Central Synagogue. For further information, including timings and venue, contact interfaithmk@gmail.com.

INFORM is holding its Winter Seminar on Saturday 7 February on the theme of 'Innovation, Violence and Paralysis: How do Minority Religions Cope with Uncertainty?' The seminar, which will explore how minority religions and their members work with notions of uncertainty and insecurity, takes place from 9.30am to 5pm in the New Academic Building at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE. There is a charge to attend. For further information, and to book, visit <http://www.inform.ac/node/1576>.

The **Christian Muslim Forum**, in partnership with the **Islamic Centre of England** and **St Augustine's Church Kilburn**, is organising an inter faith meeting on Saturday 7 February entitled 'The Family: Challenges and Benefits'. The morning session from 10am to 12 noon will be held at St Augustine's Church, Kilburn Park Road, London NW6 5XB and the afternoon session from 12.15pm to 4pm will be held at the Islamic Centre of England, 140 Maida Vale, London W9 1QB. For further information, visit http://www.christianmuslimforum.org/index.php/calendar?task=view_event&event_id=245.

Central Scotland Interfaith is holding its next "Soul Space" at 6.30pm on Sunday 8 February. This will follow the usual format of gathering at 6.15pm for a 'bring and share' vegetarian supper, followed

by gathering to share reflections on the chosen theme, which will be “Light”. For further information contact Jon Cape at jon@cameroncape.net,

The **Council of Christians and Jews** is holding a breakfast seminar entitled ‘Trust and Rust – is the decline of trust irreversible?’ on Tuesday 10 February from 7.45am. The panel discussion will be hosted by CCJ Chairman-Designate the Rt Reverend Michael Ipgrave. The event is being held at Freshfield Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, 26-28 Tudor Street, London EC4Y 0BQ. A continental breakfast will be served and pre-booking is essential. To register, contact ccjseminars@gmail.com.

Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource, in partnership with **Ipswich and Suffolk Muslim Council** will be holding a seminar and debate on ‘Freedom: Rights and Wrongs’ on Tuesday 10 February. The event takes place at 7.30pm at the Cooperative Education Centre, 11 Fore Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 1JW. For further information, contact cynthia.cahey@sifre.org.uk.

The **Hindu Christian Forum** in association with **Near Neighbours** and **Multi Media Arts & Sports** is organising a workshop on Wednesday 11 February entitled ‘Faith, Photo, Walsall, Action!’ with award winning photographer, Hazel Thompson. There will also be a presentation by Margaret Slater of Faith Through a Lens National Photo Competition. For further details visit <http://www.hinduchristianforum.co.uk/news/inter-faith-update/>.

Keighley Interfaith is hosting its annual Interfaith Meal at 7pm on Thursday 12 February. The Meal, which is an opportunity for people of all faiths in the Keighley area to meet and create understanding and support between faith groups, will be held at Cafe Aamir Khan, 37-39 Bradford Rd, BD21 4BW (next to the fire station). Anyone interested in attending, should contact Keighley Interfaith via <http://keighleyinterfaith.org/contact-us/>.

Belief in Mediation and Arbitration is holding an event entitled ‘Knead for Peace’ on Monday 16 February from 4.30pm to 9pm, at St. James’s Piccadilly, 197 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LL. The afternoon will be based on inter faith bread making and breaking. Spiritual leaders who are looking to reach across religious and community divides are encouraged to join and explore together how a community can move forward. Vegetarian food will be provided. Event registration is by invitation only. To register an interest and check availability, contact info@bimagroup.org.

Leeds Concord Interfaith Group will be holding its next meeting at 7.30 pm on Monday 16 February at the Quaker Meeting House, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9DX (opposite the Engineering Building). The theme for the evening is ‘Death and Beyond in Buddhism and Paganism’ and the speakers will be Dennis Hallam & Jay Anderson. For further information, contact secretary@concord-leeds.org.uk.

Watford Inter Faith Association is holding its AGM on Tuesday 17 February at 7.30pm at Friends Meeting House, 150 Church Road, WD17 4QB. The business of the AGM will be followed by an interesting talk. For further information, visit <http://www.wifa.org.uk/coming-events/>.

Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 4pm to 5pm in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace, London SW1P 1Q. The next meeting is due to take place on Wednesday 18 February when Stefan Byron will be speaking about yoga. For further information text 0790 8888 586 or email John Woodhouse at woodhousesopten@btinternet.com.

The **Cambridge Coexist Leadership Programme**, an initiative of the Coexist Foundation, in partnership with the **Cambridge Inter-faith Programme**, with the support of other inter faith organisations, is organising a Coexist Pilgrimage on Thursday 19 February entitled ‘People of Faith Walk as People of Peace’. The pilgrimage begins at Regent’s Park Mosque at 11am, moves to the Central Synagogue in Great Portland Street at 12.15pm, to Westminster Abbey at 1.30pm, to the Houses of Parliament at 2.15pm and ends at St Thomas’ Hospital at 3.15pm. For more information, contact pilgrimage@coexistfoundation.org or telephone 07949 538189.

Edinburgh Interfaith Association and the **Alwaleed Centre** are holding the next in a series of meetings for young Christians and Muslims on Saturday 21 February from 10am to 3pm at 19 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD. The theme of the meeting is ‘Breaking Barriers: Scriptural Reasoning’. For further information, contact Tom Lea at tom.lea@ed.ac.uk.

The **Interfaith Forum for Leicestershire** is holding its next meeting on Monday 23 February from 6pm to 8pm in the Sparkenhoe Committee Room at Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RA. The theme of this meeting will be 'Faith and Poverty'. To confirm attendance, contact Lindsey Norman at Lindsey.Norman@leics.gov.uk.

The **William Temple Foundation**, in partnership with the **Church Urban Fund** and the **Joint Public Issues Team of the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches** is hosting a pre-election conference on Tuesday 24 February entitled 'Building a Politics of Hope'. Three case studies, by the Revd Al Barrett, Salma Ravat and Chris Sunderland, will provide starting points for group discussions and plenary reflection. There is a charge to attend the conference, which ends with a free lecture by Steve Chalke. It will be held at the St Bride Foundation, Fleet Street, London EC4Y 8EQ. For more information and to book tickets, visit <http://williamtemplefoundation.org.uk/politics-of-hope/>.

Bedford Council of Faiths is holding its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 24 February at The First Church of Christ Scientist, 84 Kimbolton Road, Bedford, MK40 2PD. The meeting starts at 7pm with a 'bring and share' vegetarian meal. At 7.30pm there will be a presentation on 'Hate Crime' followed by the Annual Business Meeting and election of the new Committee. For further information, contact bcof@bcof.org.uk.

York Liberal Jewish Community is holding a special inter faith service on Friday 27 February led by Rabbi Jackie Tabick, the first woman to be ordained as a rabbi in the UK in 1976. The service will be held at Friargate Quaker Meeting House, York, YO1 9RL at 6.30pm. For further information, visit <http://www.jewsinyork.org.uk/events/>.

Religions for Peace UK in partnership with **Quaker Peace & Social Witness**, **The Joint Public Issues Team**, **the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons** and **SGI-UK** is holding a seminar on Saturday 28 February on 'UK Faith Communities – Progress towards a World Free of Nuclear Weapons'. This will explore how nuclear weapons represent a unique threat to humanity. The event runs from 11am to 4pm with lunch being provided at Friends House, 117-177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. Spaces are limited. To register interest, email David Horner at dvd.horner@googlemail.com or call 07825 189263.

Horsham Interfaith Forum is hosting an event at 1pm on Saturday 28 February. There will be a talk by Simon Clare on 'How can humanists get along with religious groups?', followed by discussion. The event will take place at The Church Centre, Causeway, Horsham, RH12 1HE. For further information, contact info@horsham-interfaith.org.uk.

The **London Boroughs Faiths Network** is hosting an event on Sunday 1 March entitled 'Fast and Pray'. This is being held in the lead up to the UN conference on climate change later this year. The event will run from 7pm to 9pm at Collaboration House, 77 Charlotte Street, London W1T 4PW. For further information, contact convener@lbfm.org.

Interfaith Scotland will be celebrating International Women's Day with a women's interfaith dialogue event in Perth on Sunday 8 March. Further details will be available at www.interfaithscotland.org in due course.

Cheltenham Inter Faith is holding its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 10 March at 7pm. The AGM will be followed at 7.30pm by a talk by the Revd Dr Marcus Braybrooke on 'Jesus as seen through the eyes of people of other faiths'. The meeting will be held at Friends Meeting House, Warwick Place, (off Portland Street), Cheltenham GL52 2NP. For further information, visit http://www.cheltenhaminterfaith.org.uk/events_and_news.html.

York Interfaith Group is holding its next meeting from 10am to 12pm on Wednesday 11 March. The meeting is being held as part of International Women's Week and a talk entitled 'From Scarborough to Samye Dzong' will be given by Buddhist nun Ani Tselha. The event takes place at the Friends Meeting House, Friargate, York YO1 9RL. For further information, contact loscosens@yahoo.co.uk.

Northampton Inter Faith Forum is holding its fourth annual Multi Faith Day on Saturday 28 March. The event takes place from 10am to 2pm in the Market Square, Abington Street, Northampton NN1

2DN and is an opportunity to find out about Northamptonshire's faith communities, ask questions, see displays and sample foods. For more information, contact Neelam Aggarwal Singh on 07791 618450 or at northamptonniff@gmail.com.

Wisbech Interfaith Forum will be holding its Annual Meeting on Monday 18 May at the Boathouse Business Centre, Nene Parade, 1 Harbour Square, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 3XE. The theme of the programme is "Our Peace, Our World" and the speaker will be Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury. For further information, contact seanfinlay@aol.co.uk.

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

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

Interfaith Scotland: www.interfaithscotland.org

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

If you have items which you would like considered for inclusion in the next e-bulletin please email these to ifnet@interfaith.org.uk by 12 March with 'e-bulletin' in the subject line. Submissions may be edited for length or style.

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

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SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIVING WELL TOGETHER

A statement by the Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Inter Faith Network for the UK

The recent murders in Paris, as well as reported rises in anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim comments and attacks in the UK and more widely in Europe, have brought in their wake increased anxieties about the safety of Jewish and Muslim communities. In the case of manifestations of violent extremism and terrorism they have brought anxiety about the safety and wellbeing of all communities and of our society overall.

There is, and will be, debate about best ways to respond to these disturbing developments, as well as to the implications of others around the globe. At an immediate practical level, however, where communities feel their very safety is under threat, mutual support is vital. Inter faith initiatives are fundamental to achieving this and play a crucial role alongside that of the emergency services and other secular agencies working to ensure public safety. [The attached principles](#), drawn from the IFN and partners document 'Looking After One Another: The Safety and Security of our Faith Communities' remain very relevant.

Government statements this weekend about the need to re-double efforts to eradicate anti-Semitism, as well as about the need to protect Muslim and other communities, were accompanied by statements from Ministers about the importance of all faith communities to British life and to the countering of extremism.

The Inter Faith Network for the UK works to increase understanding about and between faith communities and to encourage and support good inter faith relations. As part of this it has always underlined the enormous importance of the contribution which faith communities make to British society – and also of their engaging and being engaged with well by wider society.

Among the Government statements made was that of Home Secretary Theresa May: "Without its Jews, Britain would not be Britain, just as without its Muslims, Britain would not be Britain - without its Sikhs, Hindus, Christians and people of other faiths, Britain would not be Britain". We wholly agree. We would add that Britain would also not be Britain without our continuing commitment as people of different faiths, within its four nations, to finding ways to live together well – including with those of non-religious beliefs - and continuing to work together to shape our society in the light of our shared values while retaining the integrity of our religious beliefs and appreciating the positive dimensions of diversity.

There has been fresh discussion in recent times about "values", including in the context of discussion of 'British values'. The Inter Faith Network has, across the years, explored the ideas of 'common values' and 'shared values' in a number of ways, from the seminar The Quest for Common Values <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/quest-for-common-values>, through working with the faith communities on the Act of Commitment for the new Millennium <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/act-of-commitment>, to such documents as 'Living Well Together' www.interfaith.org.uk/living-well-together. Further work on values will be taking place within the Inter Faith Network across the year."

The Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE (Co-Chair)
Vivian Wineman (Co-Chair)
Dr Girdari L Bhan (Vice-Chair)
Mohinder Singh Chana (Vice-Chair)
Maulana M Shahid Raza OBE (Vice-Chair)
The Ven Bogoda Seelawimala (Vice-Chair)

21 January 2015