



Surrey Faith Links Newsletter

January 2016



*“Love me when I least deserve it, because that’s when I really need it.”
(Sri Guru Granth Sahib)*

I hope our Jewish friends had a Happy Hannukah, Christian friends a Happy Christmas and Muslim friends a Happy Mawlid. Happy New Year!

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Muslim Burial Ground Peace Garden

The restoration of one of Woking's historic, hidden gems the Grade II listed Muslim Burial Ground and the creation of the new Islamic-inspired Peace Garden, opened by the Earl of Wessex in November 2015, is the topic of a BBC One documentary scheduled to be broadcast on Sunday 3 January 2016 at 1.15pm.

Filmed over a three-year period, the BBC documentary team tracks the long-awaited and carefully planned activities of Dr Zafar Iqbal, Woking Borough Council's Senior Policy Officer, and Elizabeth Cuttle, Trustee of Horsell Common Preservation Society (HCPS), to rescue the historic site from disrepair and restore the domed archway entrance (known as a Chattri), minarets and ornate red brick walls to their former glory, and in time for the First World War commemorations taking place from 2015 to 2018.

The 40-minute, one-off documentary follows the story of the restoration of a forgotten and dilapidated burial ground for 27 Muslim soldiers who gave their lives fighting for Britain in the two World Wars. Using archive, interviews with historians and surviving descendants, the film also reveals the stories of some of the Muslim soldiers once buried at the site, and through their experiences, the history of the Muslim contribution to the British war effort in World War One

- Main Faith Festivals in January 2016**
- 5th - Birth of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)
 - 6th - Epiphany (Christian)
 - 13th - Maghi (Sikh)
 - 15th - Pongal (Hindu)
 - 17th - World Religion Day (Sponsored by Baha'i)
 - 24th - Tu Bishvat (Jewish)
 - 24th—Mahayana New Year

unfolds. The film ends with the voices of modern Muslims who believe this shared narrative is one of the ways that prejudice and distrust of Islam in modern Britain might be overcome.

It was the sites forgotten heritage and national and international importance, which first captured the interest of Aaqil Ahmed, the BBC's Head of Religion and Ethics, who said: "When I first saw the Muslim Burial Ground three years ago, I immediately felt that this forgotten part of British history was a story worth telling.

Located in the south east corner of Horsell Common and a short distance from the Shah Jahan Mosque (the UK's first purpose-built Mosque), the original site was purchased by the War Office and a burial ground was commissioned in 1915 to ensure Muslim soldiers could be buried in accordance with their religious rights.

Designed by architect T.H. Winney and completed in 1917 by local firm, Ashby & Horner, the site soon became the final resting place of 19 Muslim soldiers from the Great War and a further eight casualties of the Second World War. In 1969, following the exhumation of the servicemen's remains by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to the nearby Brookwood Military Cemetery, Horsell Common Preservation Society took ownership of the site.

Opened by the Earl of Wessex in November 2015, the restored site and new Peace Garden features 27 Himalayan Birch trees representing the number of servicemen buried at the site, a water feature incorporating a memorial stone bearing their names, bold strips of pink and white heather orientated towards Mecca, scented plants such as *Rosa rugosa* and *Sarcococca orientalis*, two stone ceremonial prayer mats and benches.



The restoration of the Muslim Burial Ground and the creation of the Peace Garden was funded and supported by: The Armed Forces Covenant Grant Scheme; Department for Communities and Local Government; Historic England; Horsell Common Preservation Society; Shah Jahan Mosque; Sultanate of the Government of Oman; Surrey County Council; and, Woking Borough Council.

The Muslim Burial Ground Peace Garden is owned and managed by the Horsell Common Preservation Society (HCPS). Entry to the site is free and it is open daily, all year round, for quiet contemplation and relaxation.

For more information about the site's history and restoration works, visit

www.woking.gov.uk/woking/heritage/peacegarden

For more information about the BBC One documentary, *Britain's Muslim Soldiers*, visit

www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/proginfo/2016/01/britains-muslim-soldiers

'Extending Hand of Friendship' project

An initiative called 'Extending Hand of Friendship' took place during Hanukkah (6 to 14 December). It was an initiative of the Joseph Interfaith Foundation which seeks to build stronger ties between British Jews and Muslims.

The aim of the initiative was "to give the chance to individual Muslims who want to extend their hand of friendship towards the Jewish community through a safe forum". There was a greater than anticipated response to the project which saw over 200 cards sent from Muslims to Jewish synagogues during Hanukkah. The cards were sent online either giving a name or anonymously as a well-wishing Muslim neighbour.

Information about the project, which has now closed, can be found at.

https://www.launchgood.com/project/send_the_jewish_community_a_message_of_friendship#.

Holocaust Memorial Day resources

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) has launched its resources for 2016, the theme for which is 'Don't stand by'. There are many resources including activity packs, ways to take action, guides for workplaces, libraries, local authorities, trade unions, faith and inter faith settings, universities, museums and galleries, emergency services and cinemas on how to get involved, and activity templates for different length activities.

National and Regional Resources provide tailored advice for marking HMD in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Each guide features specific local experiences to help in planning an HMD event.

In partnership with Diversity Role Models HMD has also produced a guide exploring LGBT themes related to HMD. This explores the Nazi Persecution of LGBT people and offers contemporary perspectives on discrimination.

For further information and to download the resources, visit

<http://hmd.org.uk/resources/theme-papers/hmd-2016-dont-stand>

Epsom & Ewell Foodbank – New Vacancy

Are you interested in working with the foodbank, supporting the backup of the 5 centres across Surrey – Epsom, Ewell, Leatherhead, Tadworth & Banstead?

If so, an exciting new opportunity has arisen to employ a Foodbank Administrator. The post would aim to support the admin and function of the 5 centres plus the storage centre.

The role is a year contract for 16 hours a week at £9 per hour.

For further information and an application pack please email admin@generation.org.uk or ring 0208 786 8221.

The closing date is Friday 15th January at 9am.

Safe Haven Worker (4 Posts)

Salary: £21,000 - £23,000 dependent on experience

Hours: 25 hours per week (6pm – 11pm) including weekends and Bank Holidays

Length of contract: 1 year fixed term with a view to extending dependent on confirmation of funding

Leave: 25 days per year (pro rata)

Mary Frances Trust is developing a new out of hours evening and weekend service in partnership with Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group for people in Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Banstead and Mole Valley area. The service will be known as "Safe Haven" and will be open 6pm - 11pm Monday - Friday, as well as weekends and bank holidays.

The purpose of the service is to provide an alternative to A&E for adults with mental health problems or in emotional distress or crisis. It will offer a safe, supportive and therapeutic environment, promote independence, opportunity and recovery in the community.

The Safe Haven will be based in Epsom and will be one of several situated in different areas of Surrey. It will be staffed by a mental health clinician and a couple of trained members of staff from the voluntary sector organisation.

The purpose of the job is to facilitate the Safe Haven café provision in Epsom to provide a safe, friendly and understanding environment for people who are in emotional or mental health distress.

How to Apply

For the full Job Description, Person Specs and Application Form visit our website www.maryfrancestrust.org.uk and email your completed form to patrickwolter@maryfrancestrust.org.uk or post it to Patrick Wolter, Mary Frances Trust, 23 The Crescent, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8DY

Closing Date for applications is: 10am on Tuesday 19th January 2016

The Impact of Faith on Public Health



Faith-based organisations play an important, but often unrecognised, role in providing for the health needs of their communities.

Faith Action have collected together 5 examples of where work like this is taking place across England, in order to show what can be achieved when faith groups and public health officials work together.

It is hoped that these examples inspire both faith groups and public health agencies to seek out new partnerships with each other, and lead to real positive change in the health and wellbeing of communities around the country.

For more information please visit: www.faithaction.net/portal/faith-and-health/evidence/inspiring-others-the-impact-of-faith-on-public-health

Faith & Belief news from 3 Faiths Forum:

Some of the top stories this month:

- [Pope Francis visits besieged mosque in Central African Republic](#)
- [#YouAintNoMuslimBruv: the voice of defiant unity](#)
- [Coronation of next monarch should reflect 'less Christian' Britain, report says](#)
- [Scientists enlist the big gun to get climate action: Faith](#)
- [Donald Trump's real threat is making extreme bigots seem moderate](#)
- [Over 100 Jews, Muslims and Christians discuss Islamophobia and anti-Semitism](#)
- [Hundreds of Muslims marching against terrorism in London 'ignored by British media'](#)
- [American Muslims accuse Donald Trump of leading 'lynch mob'](#)
- [UK Petition To Ban Donald Trump Breaks Record](#)
- [Vatican says Catholics should not try to convert Jews, should fight anti-semitism](#)
- [Syrian refugee family embraces Christmas spirit in Germany](#)
- [French elections: Front National makes no gains in final round](#)
- ['Love has no religion': priests and pastors reach out to refugees](#)



What a Difference Faith Makes... to Homelessness!

Faith Action have put together a report which views homelessness as primarily an issue of public health. It highlights the role of faith groups with contributions from over 30 organisations.

The report shows the dual role of faith-based organisations in homelessness – their meeting of a frontline practical support requirement and their advocacy to influence public and political debate. It explores the issues they face and the ‘faith factor’ that influences their work.

If you are delivering services for homeless people, please share your experiences and reflections in relation to this report.

For more information please visit: www.faithaction.net/portal/faith-and-health/our-projects/homelessness/



For Human Rights Day 2015, Equally Ours have launched a new website to explore the human rights we have and stories of the effects they have had on people: <http://www.equally-ours.org.uk/>

Rosa, the UK Fund for Women and Girls, has launched Everybody's Business, a youth-led website providing information on female genital mutilation and showcasing work being done to prevent FGM:

<http://fgm-every-bodys-biz.co.uk/>

SOME USEFUL LINKS FOR THOSE WORKING IN INTER-FAITH

Religious Education Council Sacred Space, Learning outside the classroom

<http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/educators/projects/learning-outside-the-classroom>

Arts and Humanities Research Council Connected Communities projects www.ahrc.ac.uk/Funding-Opportunities/Research-funding/Connected-Communities/Pages/Connected-Communities.aspx

Help from Historic England to develop plans for your place of worship through describing step by step your intentions for it. www.statementsofsignificance.org.uk/

Pocket Parks Community groups supported by local authorities will be invited to apply for a slice of £1.5 million funding, which could see up to a hundred under-used sites turned into small parks for people to enjoy, right in the middle of some of the country's biggest towns and cities. www.gov.uk/government/news/a-slice-of-the-big-apple-coming-to-a-neighbourhood-near-you

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Do It Awards

UnLtd's Do It Awards provide packages of support and funding to individuals aged 16+ to help run projects that will have a positive social impact and meet a clear need in the local community, plus have the potential to be sustainable. The programme is currently accepting expressions of interest until 6th April 2016.

Read more: <https://unltd.org.uk/doiit/>

Children in Need Small Grants

The BBC Children in Need Small Grants Programme offers grants to charities and non-profit organisations of up to £10,000 to support projects that work with children and young people up to 18 years old that are affected by:

- Illness, distress, abuse or neglect
- Any kind of disability
- Behavioural or psychological difficulties
- Living in poverty or situations of deprivation

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with the next deadline being 1 March 2016 for a decision in May.

For more information please visit:

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4fJVTzz5QmQx5rx0S4NVg0Q/small-grants

Google Ad Grants

Google Ad Grants provide registered charities with free advertising on it's AdWords programme, allowing a charity to advertise its website online via Google: <http://www.google.co.uk/grants/index.html>

Holiday Grants for Children

The Henry Smith Charity are providing grants of up to £2,500 for schools, youth groups and non-profits, to contribute towards holidays or outings in February-April for disabled children or children from a deprived area who would not otherwise be able to experience these activities. Deadline for applications is 18th March 2016.

<http://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk/holiday-grants-for-children.html>

Sainsbury's Local Food Partner Programme

To expand its Local Food Partner Programme, Sainsbury's is seeking applications from charities wishing to join its network. Charities would collect food donated at local Sainsbury's stores and distribute them to the local community

<http://ccworks.co.uk/sainsburys.html>

Together Grants Programme

The Church Urban Fund are offering grants of up to £5,000 to churches and community groups that are working to tackle poverty in deprived areas of England, particularly the underlying causes.

<http://cuf.org.uk/how-we-help/cuf-funding/together-grants/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holocaust Memorial Day - Keeping the Memory Alive through Art

Display at Surrey History Centre

Tuesday 5 January - Saturday 30 January 2016

Each year, on 27 January, Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates the millions of people killed in the Holocaust, through Nazi persecution and in subsequent genocides.

This year the display at Surrey History Centre will feature selected works by local artists exhibited in Kingston in 2015 to mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps. The artworks were created by students from local educational institutions, and other members of the community, for the competition 'KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE THROUGH ART', which was organised by Kingston University on behalf of the Kingston Inter Faith Forum.

This free display will be in the foyer at Surrey History Centre and accessible during normal opening times.

To see all the winners from the Keeping the Memory Alive Through Art competition visit www.kingston.ac.uk/hmd

Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6ND

Email: shs@surreycc.gov.uk; Tel: 01483 518737

See our Heritage events page for further details and how to find us <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritage-culture-and-recreation/archives-and-history/surrey-history-centre/heritage-events>



Seated Dance Class

LOVE TO DANCE?? You can continue to find joy in moving to music. The dance sessions are led with everyone seated in a circle. They are ideal for anyone who would like to keep moving but finds it difficult to stand for all or part of an exercise session, who has limited mobility or are a wheelchair user, as you can take part at your own level of ability.

These sessions are especially designed to give you the opportunity to dance in whatever way is right for you physically.

This is a Community Cash Fund project funded by Healthwatch Surrey, and we will be asking people for their views on the health services during these sessions.

BENEFITS:

- Improve your balance and mobility.
- Improve your overall health.
- It's great fun and an excellent way to get out and meet people.

WHEN—Friday mornings on 29th January 12th and 26th February and 11th March.

Tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat will be available from 10.15am and the class will take place between 10.45 and 11.30 am

COST – these first four sessions will be free

VENUE – St Paul's Community Hall, Oriental Road, Woking GU22 7BD If you live in Maybury, FREE TRANSPORT can be arranged to and from the sessions, for more details contact Martin Smith on 01483 772081 or email admin@mascotwoking.org.uk



Let's Talk North West

Working together for the health and wellbeing of local residents

Thursday 14 January 2016

North West Surrey CCG and Surrey County Council are hosting an engagement event with the voluntary, community and faith sector to talk about our priorities, and how we can collaborate to meet people's needs in their communities

This event is for representatives from voluntary organisations, and community and faith groups to:

Make connections and share information, ideas and experience

Explore opportunities to work together to improve the wellbeing of local people, so they get the support they need, when they need it.

The event will focus on the areas of Spelthorne, Runnymede, Woking and West Elmbridge.

To book your place please contact Pat Fowler (pat.fowler@surreycc.gov.uk) by Wednesday 6 January.

The event will be during the morning from 9.30am – 12.30pm. It will be held at the lecture hall at Weybridge Library (above the library). Further information will be sent to those attending.



Childhood Obesity - Raising the issue of weight

This training is suitable for all fitness or health professionals including school nursing, health visitors, practice nurses, early years and third sector staff working with children and young people who would wish to help families to recognise the need for weight management support, by raising the issue of weight and signposting families to local services.

8th February, 9.30am-12.30pm, Committee Room, Runnymede Borough Council, Runnymede Civic Centre, Station Road, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2AH

18th February, 9.30am-12.30pm, Town Hall, Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, Castleford Road, Reigate, RH2 0SH

To book your place or for further information:

Call 0208 417 0078 or e-mail: anna.luckett@wmc.uk.com



A FREE Prevention Through Education Project workshop

Protect your premises: Crime Prevention - Fire Risk Assessments - Premises Licensing

The training is being run by Surrey Community Action, Surrey Police and Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, Woking Borough Council and various District and Borough Councils around Surrey throughout the year

- 19th Jan 2016 Dorking area
- 23rd Feb 2016 Guildford area

All trustees, volunteers and regular hirers of a community or religious building should be encouraged to come on the training. If you would like more information or to register please contact Karen Holdsworth-Cannon, Community Buildings Advisor, Surrey Community Action, Guildford, GU4 7BR,

Email: karenh@surreyca.org.uk

Woking Debates 2016
Christ Church, Woking, GU21 6YG
11.00 am—12.30 pm

9 January: How do we prevent people becoming terrorists? Pete Dommette (Sussex Police, Prevent Team) and Zahid Iqbal, President of Peace Education Programme (www.peaceeducationprogramme.co.uk)

13 February: How sustainable can Woking become? Speakers to be finalised.

12 March: The world in 2030: how can we provide sufficient water and adequate sanitation for everyone? David Charters and son

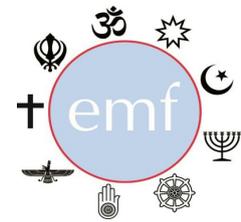
9 April: Is Woking an integrated community? Kausar Akhtar and Dan Eley (Surrey Coalition of Disabled People)

18 June: Refugees: Who is responsible? Nadia Potts from Red Cross and other speakers to be finalised.

Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum
Programme for 2016

Visits:

- ⇒ The Armenian Orthodox Church in Kensington
- ⇒ The Zoroastrian Centre in Rayners Lane
- ⇒ The Buddhapadipa Thai Buddhist Temple in Wimbledon



Talks and Discussions:

- ⇒ Talk by a Circuit Judge on faith issues in Court
- ⇒ The practises of different Cultures and Faiths in relation to: birth, marriage and death
- ⇒ Open discussion on the aims and objectives of EMF
- ⇒ True prosperity will be achieved only when women share responsibility equally. Discussion
- ⇒ Our young girls should not be exploited, mutilated or abused. What can be done—and what is our role?
- ⇒ Charity starts at home. So does Faith. What is the role of parents?

For more information please contact Geoffrey Morris, E: geoffreymorris@emas-bc.co.uk

REFUGEES!
Faith perspectives

An event organised by the Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum.

You will have the opportunity to hear from the different faith perspectives as well as some refugees. Followed by a discussion.

Date: Tuesday 2nd February

Time: 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start

Venue: United Reformed Church, 83 Portsmouth Rd, Guildford GU2 4BS

More information about speakers in the next newsletter, save the date! All welcome.

'Egypt: faith after the pharaohs' exhibition

The British Museum, until 7 February 2016. Discover Egypt's incredible journey over 12 centuries, as Jews, Christians and Muslims transformed this ancient land. It is a story charting the change from a world of many gods to the worship of one God.

Find out more and book tickets:

http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/exhibitions/faith_after_the_pharaohs.aspx

Mental Health First Aid Lite for Employers

Mental Illness costs businesses in the UK around £1200 per employee. By increasing awareness among your staff and taking steps towards staff well-being, you can improve performance and reduce costs associated with absence. Mental Health First Aid England have developed a short course for businesses aimed at improving mental health awareness. It will be delivered by Employment Support Retraining Agency, as part of the Surrey Time to Change campaign

Date	Time	Venue
24 February 2016	09.30 – 12.30	Nuffield Health, Epsom
23 March 2016	09.30 – 12.30	Raven Housing Trust, Redhill

The aims and objectives of this 3 hour course are to:

- Outline the impact of mental ill health in the workplace and the business case for promoting workforce mental health
- Introduce participants to types of mental health problems and signs to look out for
- Provide practical guidance on how to raise the issue of mental health with an employee, how to support an individual in distress and how to introduce reasonable adjustments
- Outline the impact of stigma and discrimination
- Give participants the opportunity to learn from people with experience of mental illness and stigma

Who is the course suitable for?

This course is suitable for staff from any Surrey based organisation, and for carers, volunteers and the general public.

The training is interactive and includes input from people with direct experience of dealing with mental ill health at work. Participants will receive a certificate of attendance and a manual with further information and resources.

This course is being hosted by the Surrey Health & Social Care Training Partnership.

For more information or to apply:

E mail: surreyjointtraining@learningenterprise.co.uk , Tel: 01932 723885 (24hr Voicemail)

Web: <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/surrey-health-and-social-care-joint-training-partnership>



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