

A TASTER OF EVENTS BEING HELD FOR INTER FAITH WEEK 10-17 November 2019

Here are some examples from the hundreds of events that will be held for Inter Faith Week 2019. New events are being added to the website daily.

For more information about these and other events visit www.interfaithweek.org In the 'Get involved' section you can search for events by location, specific place name, date and type of activity. To search for events involving particular faiths or beliefs or organisations, use the general search bar on the home page and type in the relevant word or name.

Week long programmes are taking place in some places such as Birmingham, Calderdale, Great Yarmouth, Kendal, Kirklees, Medway, Preston and York.

Remembrance activities Many activities will be taking place linked to both Inter Faith Week and Remembrance Sunday.

- North Kirklees Interfaith Council, with the Royal British Legion and the Jo Cox Foundation, is hosting "Batley 2 minutes" in Batley Memorial Gardens on Armistice Day, with poems read by schools alongside prayers and a 2 minute silence.
- Hastings and District Interfaith Forum and the Council of Christians and Jews Bexhill Branch will be holding a 'Remembering Together' event.
- The City of London Corporation Multi-Faith Staff Network will be holding a multi-faith remembrance service.
- Building Bridges Pendle and Pendle Forum of Faiths are organising a multi-faith remembrance parade in Nelson.
- The Sikh Welfare and Cultural Society in Leicester is working with ABF the Soldiers Charity, and the Brahma Kumaris to hold a multi-faith remembrance service.

Volunteering together to help the local community

- In Sheffield, Friends of Parkwood Springs, GoodGym volunteers and Sheffield Interfaith will be working on the Multi Faith Forest Garden which is a young forest garden developed by Sheffield City Council in association with volunteers.
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Stockport will be hosting a collection point all week for food, toiletries and other essentials for refugees.
- Communities in London (Harrow and Wembley), Wakefield, and York will be planting trees as part of the Week.
- There will also be activities held both for Inter Faith Week and Mitzvah Day www.mitzvahday.org with a focus on helping local communities through

volunteering, such as an annual day of faith-based social action, with practical conservation tasks at Walthamstow Wetlands with the London Wildlife Trust team.

Dialogues, discussions and debates will be held in many locations, for example:

- The Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum and the Belfast Branch of the Council of Christian and Jews (CCJ) are holding a discussion on 'religious perspectives on culture, community and censorship'.
- Chaplains of Northumbria and Newcastle Universities and local faith leaders will be discussing from a range of faith perspectives: Living Well Together, The Media and Fake News, and Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation, at a conference at Northumbria University organised by the university with the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle, Newcastle Council of Faiths and Initiatives of Change.
- Devon Faith and Belief Forum and Inclusive Mosque, Exeter are holding an informal 'Ask a Muslim' session in a Methodist Church.
- In Newport, IP Inclusive is hosting a faith and belief panel discussion on how employees practising their religious or non-religious beliefs might make the Intellectual Property Office "a brilliant place to work."
- The Civil Service is holding a wide-ranging programme of events in Whitehall and in offices across the country.
- The Proud Trust is hosting a series of discussions across the first weekend of the Week on supporting LGBT+ young people of faith in Chester.
- Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is holding an afternoon of inter faith and cross-community conversations around faith and belief to celebrate faith and belief from everyday life experiences.
- In Stroud, a special meeting for the St Lawrence Church and the local Baha'i community has been arranged to mark the Week.
- The Board of Deputies of British Jews and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland are holding a series of 'Invest in Peace' events across the country in partnership with Solutions Not Sides.

Discussions of social issues There will be many practically focused discussions of social issues. This year, by far the most addressed topic will be climate change.

- South Cardiff Interfaith Network is holding an arts event exploring climate change and other environmental themes: 'Tread Softly' and in Birmingham, Birmingham Council of Faiths' Footsteps initiative is holding 'Tread Lightly on this Earth' at the Shree Ram Mandir, a conference looking at how Birmingham can go carbon neutral by 2030.
- In Liverpool, Faiths4Change has worked with the Diocese of Liverpool and members of the Faith Leaders' Group to organise a special event for community groups, as part of both Mitzvah Day and Inter Faith Week, to continue the city-region wide response to climate change.
- Reading Interfaith Group and the Fellowship Educational Society are hosting an inter faith reception on the theme 'The Cry of the Earth'; Hull and East Riding Interfaith will be hosting a discussion on 'Spirituality and the Environment' and Cheltenham Inter Faith, the University of Gloucestershire

and Cheltenham Borough Council will be discussing how teachings of different faiths might help mitigate the climate crisis.

- Newham Student SACRE is bringing together 8 secondary schools in the borough to talk about what religious worldviews have to say about climate change.
- Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum and FaithAction are hosting 'Together Against Hate', with speakers from different traditions.
- An event on 'Women in Faith' is being held by Bradford Council.
- Dignity in Dying Oxford Branch will be looking at faith perspectives on assisted dying.
- Interfaith Wolverhampton, with the Black Country Partnership NHS Trust, Wolverhampton City Council and the University of Wolverhampton, is holding a conference on suicide prevention.
- The Greater Manchester Interfaith Network, supported by Near Neighbours, is hosting a discussion on 'sex and relationship education: addressing faith communities' concerns'.
- The Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association in Raynes Park (London) is hosting a discussion on mental health and dealing with grief and isolation.

Celebration

- The Barking and Dagenham Faith Forum will be hosting an event, with the local council, 'Celebrating Faith, Diversity and Harmony' in the Town Hall on the theme of Faith, Diversity and Harmony. It will feature speakers from faith leaders of a number of local faith communities on their faith and experience of living and worshiping in Barking and Dagenham. It will also be making awards to the winners of its Inter Faith Week Creative Competition for local young people, with the winners invited to read out their poetry or essays, or share their experience of living in Barking and Dagenham.
- An Inter Faith Week celebration, 'Vision of Hope' is being held by Enfield Council, Enfield SACRE, Enfield and Haringey Police and others with stalls showcasing places of worship across Enfield, a World Café, children's activities and entertainment to 'strengthen good inter faith relations and to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs'.
- A celebration of Multi Faith Britain, held by the London District of the Methodist Church at Westminster Central Hall.

Arts, cultural activities and exhibitions

- The Museum of East Asian Art in Bath is holding 'Celebrating Religious Arts of Asia' and Durham University Oriental Museum is holding a 'Celebrating Faiths' event, with opportunities to decorate Islamic-style tiles.
- Luton Council of Faiths, with the Scouts, is hosting a storytelling session, as is Maidstone Library with Maidstone Interfaith Group.
- Herefordshire Interfaith Group will be including song and dance within a day which also includes dialogue and discussion in Leominster.

- Birmingham Museum with Faiths in Tune is holding an inter faith music festival with community fair and guided tours by representatives of different faith communities through the Faith in Birmingham Gallery
- Blackburn's Exchange is the venue for Weaving and Wisdom: rugs woven by groups of women from different faiths, around the theme of wisdom, and textiles from the Gawthorpe collection, showing designs from different cultures and traditions – an exhibition from Touchstone.
- Also many smaller exhibitions such as an NHS Digital, Leeds pop-up exhibition about different faiths.

Inter faith walks and pilgrimages, faith trails and walks, and open door days

- Cyngor Cyd-ffydd Cymru/Inter-faith Council for Wales will be holding a candlelit walk, with a special programme of 7 faith speakers and music from an inter faith choir. It is supported by the Welsh Government and Deputy Minister Jane Hutt AC/AM will be speaking.
- Darlington for Peace is organising a faith walk, followed by a shared meal at the gurdwara; Norwich Interfaith Link is holding a 'friendship walk' in Gorleston-on-Sea; and Southampton Council of Faiths is organising 'Steps for Peace', visiting different places of worship in the city.
- An ambitious 'Diverse Open Doors' programme is taking place around Kent for the second time, organised by Kent County Council with many place of worship of different faiths taking part.
- Many places of worship around the country, such as the Nottingham Buddhist Centre, the Jain temple in Leicester and Anware Madina Mosque in Sunderland, are also opening their doors.

Schools and Youth organisations are marking the Week in a wide variety of ways

- Some schools, such as St Laurence CE Primary School, Chorley, are holding week long programmes.
- Question times, panels and quizzes are proving popular this year, with such activities at the Grange School, Aylesbury; Blue Coat School Coventry and Uffculme School in Devon, respectively.
- In Islington a panel of young people will come together at the Platform Youth Hub in an event supported by Islington Faiths Forum, Targeted Youth Support, Islington Council to debate "Does Social Media change your relationship with your faith and beliefs?"
- In Bolton, the Bolton Interfaith Council will be launching a consultation with young people on a new youth programme and in Brixham, Devon Interfaith Forum for Youth will be relaunched at a day on 'Building Bridges and Valuing Visions'.
- Barnet Multi Faith Youth Forum will be holding an event featuring an open mic session, interactive arts as well as football and basketball activities.

Universities and colleges

- A series of events is being held at Coventry University on the theme 'Growing Interfaith Understanding and Cooperation'.

- A Shabbat Dinner is being hosted by University of Plymouth JSoc, OurTable, and UPSU.
- The Chaplaincy Multi Faith Centre at Imperial College London is hosting a dialogue on 'giving offence/taking offence'.
- A series of readings of scriptures and poetry from different traditions has been arranged at Brunel University.
- Wrexham Glyndwr University Multi-Faith Chaplaincy has arranged talks on Buddhism and Sikhism.

Hospitals and hospices

- Hospice activities this year include 'faith breakfast' at Richard House Children's Hospice in Beckton, an inter faith learning and celebration event at St Catherine's Hospice Crawley, a spirituality professional open day at Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People in Loughborough and an open door visit at Primrose Hospice in Worcestershire.
- In Bristol, the University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust has organised a packed week of learning activities across its hospitals.
- In Cornwall, Dor Kemmyn, Cornwall's Interfaith Group, is delivering an awareness session to the Royal Cornwall Hospital Treliske with people from Baha'i, Jewish, Muslim and Pagan faith groups talking about their beliefs and how this may need to be considered when caring for them in a hospital setting.

Services

- 'Stewardship: Prayers for the Planet', is being arranged by the South Lakeside Interfaith Forum.
- There are services' for Inter Faith Week being held at Chatham Memorial Synagogue; Christchurch Great Yarmouth (Greater Yarmouth Interfaith Belief Network); St Nicholas Guildford (Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum); and at Rawtenstall Unitarian Church, Rossendale.

4 November 2019