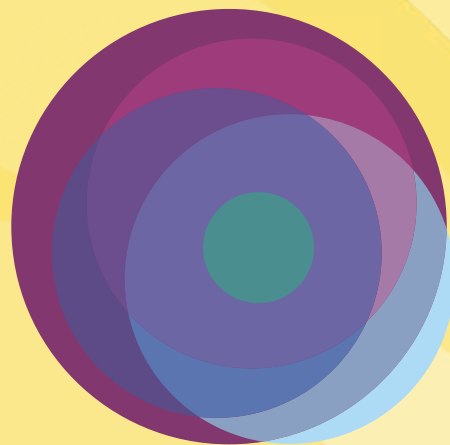


Inter Faith Week

Stories from 2018, Inspiration for 2019



Published 2019 by the Inter Faith Network
for the UK
ISBN: 1 902906 86 1

©Inter Faith Network for the UK

The Inter Faith Network for the UK
Registered charity no 1068934
Company limited by guarantee no 3443823
Registered in England
2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH

ifnet@interfaith.org.uk
www.interfaith.org.uk
www.twitter.com/IFNetUK
www.facebook.com/IFNetUK
www.instagram.com/IFNetUK
www.linkedin.com/company/IFNetUK

The work of the Inter
Faith Network for the
UK is supported by
faith communities,
Government, trusts
and other donors.



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

FRONT COVER PHOTOS

TOP LEFT: Christians in Government displaying information at the Civil Service launch event at Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

TOP MIDDLE: An LGBTQ+ evening of celebration, on the theme 'Celebrating Our Stories' organised by the Faith and Belief Forum

TOP RIGHT: Year 3 pupils at Gorseley Bank Primary School sharing a message and art work for the Week

BOTTOM LEFT: Musicians playing as part of Light for Leeds, an event held by Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship, local faith communities and Kirkstall Abbey

BOTTOM MIDDLE: From a tweet about pupils at Mayflower Primary School, Tower Hamlets, London learning about Judaism as part of their Inter Faith Week activities

BOTTOM RIGHT: Participants in Roses for Peace activity, organised by North Kirklees Interfaith Council

Photos in this report have been credited where requested.

Design: Tattersall Hammarling & Silk Ltd

Inter Faith Week

The Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN) leads on Inter Faith Week, in consultation with the Interfaith Council for Wales/ Cyngor Rhyngffydd Cymru and the Northern Ireland Inter-faith Forum in their respective nations. IFN 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 their common ground and to promote good relations between persons of different faiths”.

IFN's role is unique: linking national faith community representative bodies, inter faith organisations, and academic and educational bodies with a focus on inter faith or multi-faith issues and working with them to deepen inter faith understanding and cooperation in the UK. It carries out its work through raising awareness within wider society of the importance of inter faith issues, creating opportunities for linking and sharing good practice, and providing advice and information to help the development of new inter faith initiatives and the strengthening of existing ones. Working with its nearly 200 member bodies is an important part of this. Each of those makes its own contribution to inter faith understanding and cooperation in the UK. To find out more or to support IFN's work of promoting inter faith understanding and cooperation, please visit www.interfaith.org.uk.

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.

Except where otherwise noted, text content in this publication described as Copyright of the Inter Faith Network for the UK is now licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 4.0 International License](#). Unless noted otherwise, the text of guest speakers' presentations remains the copyright the speaker, and any non-textual content (eg photographs) remains copyright the Inter Faith Network for the UK or as stated.

Inter Faith Week

Stories from 2018, Inspiration for 2019



Contents

Foreword	3
Inter Faith Week	4
10 years of Inter Faith Week.....	5
10 years of Inter Faith Week.....	6
Inter Faith Week 2018 – bigger than ever	8
An amazing array of activities	10
Events map	12
Who took part?	14
A week of huge variety.....	17
Publicity and coverage.....	19
Remembering together	23
Let’s talk.....	26
Solidarity and standing up against hate	28
Working together for the common good.....	30
Sharing and learning	34
Culture and the arts	38
Celebrations.....	41
Food	43
Sport	45
Competitions and quizzes.....	48
Scottish Interfaith Week	49
Planning for Inter Faith Week 2019	50
Planning checklist.....	52
Resources.....	53
And finally.....	56

**RESPECT EDUCATION DIALOGUE INTEGRITY VALUES
COMMUNITY COOPERATION DISTINCTIVENESS ACTION
BELONGING COMMON GOOD FAITH UNDERSTANDING
NEIGHBOURLINES TACKLING PREJUDICE RESPECT**

Foreword

Inter Faith Week takes place every November. Led by the Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN), it is a time to celebrate and demonstrate the positive contribution that faith communities make to society, and to shine a spotlight on the importance of inter faith understanding and cooperation.

The 2018 Week ran from Sunday 11 to Sunday 18 November. It saw a huge variety of activities take place, with thousands of people of different backgrounds coming together to volunteer, hold inter faith events marking #Armistice100, talk, celebrate, learn, play sports, share food, make music, visit places of worship as part of exploration trails, and to take part in many other kinds of activities.

This report gives a taste of the 2018 Week through a selection of examples as well as quotes from those who kindly responded to the post Week survey. IFN is grateful to all who took part and made it such a success, helping the Week's message reach a wider audience than ever before!

Thank you to the Inlight Trust for its support toward the Inter Faith Week programme and to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government



IFN's Co-Chairs, Jatinder Singh Birdi and Bishop Richard Atkinson, sharing messages about the Week

(MHCLG), and to other donors whose support towards the work of the Inter Faith Network helps make the Week possible. We are also grateful to the Near Neighbours programme of the Church Urban Fund, the Presence and Engagement Network and the Inter Faith Youth Trust which encouraged and supported a wide range of activities for the Week, as well, of course, as IFN's own dedicated team, including its Inter Faith week volunteers.

The 2018 Week was the tenth Inter Faith Week. Around 5,000 activities have taken place across these Weeks and millions of people have encountered its positive messages through participation and social media.

We hope that reading about the activities highlighted in this report will inspire and encourage you to take part in Inter Faith Week in 2019 and into the future, providing ever more opportunities for people to learn about and engage positively with those of different faiths and beliefs.



**Bishop Richard Atkinson OBE
and Jatinder Singh Birdi**
Co-Chairs, Inter Faith Network for the UK

Follow us on Facebook,
Twitter, Instagram:

 facebook.com/IFWeek

 twitter.com/ifweek

 instagram.com/ifweek

Inter Faith Week

What is the Week?

www.interfaithweek.org

Inter Faith Week takes place every November, starting on Remembrance Sunday and running for 8 days.

The Week is supported and led by IFN as part of its overall work to support the development and deepening of cooperation and positive relations between people of different faiths in the UK. It does this working with the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum and the Inter-faith Council for Wales in their respective nations.

The activities that take place during the Week are run by different organisations which support the aims of the Week. This leads to a wide variety of approaches, which reflect their particular context.

“[Inter Faith Week] showcases the enormous amount of goodwill that currently exists across the country as shown by the diverse faith organisations coming together to celebrate achievements.”

“[Inter Faith Week] encourages everyone, by showing how many people, spread across the country, are involved in IF activities.”

10 years of Inter Faith Week

Inter Faith Week was initiated in 2009 by the Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN), in partnership for the first year with the then Department for Communities and Local Government. It is marked in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. The Week drew its inspiration from the pioneering Scottish Interfaith Week led by Interfaith Scotland, which has run since 2004, with which IFN works in close relationship.

The Week's aims are to:

- Strengthen inter faith relations at all levels
- Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, celebrating and building on the contribution which they make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

Across the last 10 years, the Week has been successful in raising awareness of, and drawing more people into, inter faith activity. Nearly 5,000 activities are known to have taken place.

There has been a continual widening of participation. An ever increasing range of types of organisations are using the platform the Week offers to build relationships and achieve other goals relevant to their work, such as local community engagement and diversity awareness.

Many organisations have used the Week as an opportunity to try something new or, indeed, to try inter faith activity for the first time. A large number now hold events annually.

91% of 2018 activity organisers surveyed said they were either already planning an activity for 2019 or were likely to do so!

The Week has had an impact on those who have taken part but also far beyond that. In recent years, millions of people have encountered the Week and its positive messages through social media.

Inter Faith Week has had, since its outset, a close working relationship with Mitzvah Day – which happens at or very near the same time – with each adding value and impact to the other. Mitzvah Day is a special day of social action led by the Jewish Community.

IFN's survey of 2018 event organisers asked "Do you think Inter Faith Week should continue to take place each year?" 100% of respondents said yes.

10 years of Inter Faith Week





Inter Faith Week 2018 – bigger than ever

Inter Faith Week 2018 was the biggest Week so far. Thousands of people got involved in activities during the Week, and hundreds of thousands more engaged via social media.

Over 760 activities in England, Northern Ireland and Wales

There was a nearly 125% increase this year in volunteering activities to help local communities.

150 social action activities were held to mark Inter Faith Week. There were, in addition, 127 Interfaith Mitzvah Day activities, held to mark both Inter Faith Week and Mitzvah Day.

98% of survey respondents said taking part in the Week added value to their work



Participants, including Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, at an Indian-Jewish Association event on the lessons that Brits can learn from Indian and Jewish Communities.



Members of the Tooting Christian Muslim Women's Group promoting the Week

Asked what they would say were the two most important things about Inter Faith Week as a national initiative, survey respondents said that the Week:

“Raises the profile of our need to know and understand [and] it improves respect and inclusivity.”

“Rais[es] the profile of faiths working together [and provides] opportunities for people to get involved for the first time.”

“Provides focus and allows us to recognise and celebrate the need and importance of Interfaith Dialogue for the good of the community.”

“Because of activities throughout the country, gives a strong feeling of unity and ownership of your events as they are shared through the Network.”

and they said...

“The best thing about our Inter Faith Week activity was allowing young people to lead and deliver it – a youth debate that allowed for real and meaningful engagement.”

“The Buddhist mindfulness session attracted people who may have thought that the Force Chaplaincy wasn’t for them but when they saw us organising this for Inter Faith Week it made them think again.”

“It was about building up an awareness that as people of different faiths we can live and work together despite the differences that we have theologically and culturally.”

“Year 11 pupils said they’d actually changed the way they thought about people from a different culture and background.”

“Several people attending events had not been actively involved in inter faith work before but they have now approached the group about coming to regular events and becoming members in future.”

86% said taking part in Inter Faith Week helped raise the profile of their work

An amazing array of activities

A huge variety of activities were held as part of Inter Faith Week 2018: celebrations, festivals, exhibitions and cultural activities; charity fundraisers and social action projects; school events; competitions; civic receptions; conferences and seminars; discussions ranging from formal debates to chats over coffee; faith trails and open door days; inter faith sports; women's activities; radio broadcasts; inter faith concerts; and, of course, a great deal of cooking and enjoying food! Some towns and cities such as Birmingham, Bolton, Preston and York saw ambitious week-long programmes of activities of many kinds.

Activities took place in churches, gurdwaras, mandirs, mosques, temples, synagogues, viharas and many other locations such as libraries and museums, train stations, government and civic buildings, schools, colleges and universities, hospitals and hospices, community centres, sports grounds, and the great outdoors.

“[Inter Faith Week] encourages everyone, by showing how many people, spread across the country, are involved in inter faith activities. It helps give a major annual focus for inter faith groups and their supporters.”

“It is great to see so many events being run that have great variety and that can appeal to different demographics and age groups.”

So many activities were held that it is not possible to reflect them all individually in this short publication. However, a number of the other activities were highlighted on the Inter Faith Week social media accounts at the time of the Week and a full list of the Week's activities can be seen at:

www.interfaithweek.org/resources/reports

For information on Scottish Interfaith Week activities, visit scottishinterfaithweek.org





Sunny and Shay
@SunnyandShay

Follow

Pleasure speaking to .@HSS_UK
@Muslim_Aid @MitzvahDay on
@BBCRadioLondon about importance of
religious communities working together
during #InterFaithWeek @IFWeek
@Laura_E_Marks @BevMCohen
@ipeacechild LISTEN BACK
Bbc.co.uk/sunnyandshay



Inter Faith Week
@IFWeek

The @yorkpress covering #interfaithweek and #mitzvahday
in York, where a week long @ifweek programme take place
each year. @CityofYork @LiberalJudaism
yorkpress.co.uk/news/17231965...

6 11:16 PM - Nov 20, 2018



Lord Bourne's report can be found at
www.gov.uk/government/publications/belief-in-communities-bridging-the-divide

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published a new report by Faith Minister Lord Bourne to mark Inter Faith Week, championing the role faith groups play in their communities and highlighting the valuable inter faith work taking place around the country. Lord Bourne urged people and faith groups across the country to reach out to one another and build local networks to support their communities and to bridge divides and extend understanding.

The report details how inter faith networks can encourage social mixing and play a key role in building strong, resilient communities. Reflecting on this evidence, Lord Bourne issued a call for individuals and religious institutions around the country to:

- remain open to understanding those of other faiths and beliefs within your community
- reach and establish partnerships with other organisations
- encourage your faith institutions to join a local interfaith network
- establish inter faith networks in those areas where they don't already exist

"As we mark Inter Faith Week, there is no better time to celebrate faith groups around the country who are making a profound impact on their communities, and to encourage people of all faiths to support and lead inter faith activity in their area."

LORD BOURNE OF ABERYSTWYTH

Events map



A map showing the location of activities that took place to mark Inter Faith Week in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. Scottish Interfaith Week events are also marked.



Launch of the new Multi-Faith Centre and Library in Ipswich

The Week is often used to launch new initiatives or take them to new stages. This year, for example, the East of England Faiths Agency held an official launch of its Multi-Faith Centre and restored Inter-Faith Library in Ipswich and in the Wirral, an exciting environmental development took its next steps.



Special services for the Week took place in a number of places, for example those organised by Greater Yarmouth Inter Faith and Belief

Network, Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum, and Swindon Interfaith Group.

Using Inter Faith Week to take forward a climate change initiative

The initial impetus for the Faith & Climate Network (FCN) came from the Cool Wirral Climate Change strategy. A strand of engaging with faith communities, along with support from Wirral Council, enabled us to hold an initial Inter Faith Week 2017 event to consider how we influence our communities on sustainable living and to establish a need for faith focused city region wide dialogue and action on climate change. We've now delivered 2 successful partnership Inter Faith Week events, supported by partners including Wirral MBC, Energy Projects Plus, MET, Planet Heswall, Wirral Together, Wirral VCA, Merseyside Cycle Campaign and faith communities including Eco Churches and most recently the Wirral Deen Centre. The focus for the 2018 event [in Inter Faith Week], supported with funding from Westhill Endowment and Merseyside Council of Faiths and hosted by the Wirral Deen Centre, was energy. The 2018 event was attended by almost 50 faith representatives from different Christian denominations, Mosques, Liverpool Ganesh Temple and Liverpool Baha'i community.

'The event was a success! It was so beautiful that so many people of different faiths got together, sharing these wonderful ideas and all wanting good for our communities'

Who took part?

785 organisations were involved with Inter Faith Week 2018.

This year saw a number of major employers and staff networks joining in the Week. For example Network Rail ran a number of activities as part of Inter Faith Week, beginning with a special exhibition held in the main concourse at London King's Cross station on the Monday of the Week. The exhibition celebrated the different faiths and beliefs within its staff and aimed to show that it is a faith and belief friendly employer. The displays were then used at Network Rail offices in London and Milton Keynes during the Week, and discussion activities for staff took place in offices and at 'Railway Missions' across the UK.

The Civil Service saw a wide range of activities celebrating and building on the contribution that people of different faiths and beliefs make to the Civil Service and wider society in nine different Departments. A special Week launch event for civil servants took place at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. This cross-Government event, 'Let's Talk about Belief', was hosted by Clare Moriarty, Civil Service Faith and Belief Champion. Events were held by civil servants in the Cabinet Office; the Department for Education; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; the Home Office; the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government; the Department for Transport;



One of the Civil Service's faith and belief networks displaying information at the Civil Service launch event at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

HM Treasury; the Coal Authority; HM Land Registry; Office for National Statistics (ONS); and HM Revenue and Customs. The ONS programme was an extensive one across its offices in England and Wales and via Skype, from a 'Meat Free Monday', to talks on Sikhism, Atheism and Judaism, a Christian Union Q and A and a talk on a Christian perspective on suffering and injustice, a 'secular meditation' group, a 'scavenger hunt', and a quiz on its intranet, as well a talk on 'faith and diversity' by the Intellectual Property Office's HR Director and participation in the

cross-Government event by John Pullinger, the National Statistician.

Local authorities again played a key role in the Week. Some, such as Belfast City Council, held civic receptions. Others held events or supported local faith and inter faith bodies to do so. In Birmingham, for example, Birmingham Council of Faiths coordinates an extensive programme for the Week across the city each year. This year, the Lord Mayor launched the Week at an event hosted by the City Council. In Derby, the City Council partnered with the Derby Open Centre, the Multi Faith Centre at the University of Derby and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service to hold a special 'Afternoon of Interfaith'.

North Lincolnshire Council held a celebration event for faith leaders, focusing on the contribution faith makes to the community and lives of inhabitants of North Lincolnshire. Kent County Council partnered with the SACRE and the Kent Equality Cohesion Council to host a celebration for Inter Faith Week at County Hall. The evening offered opportunities to learn more about inter faith working within Kent and nationally and to be part of further discussions around the development of this work.

Faiths Together in Lambeth held a special event reflecting on its civic role across the last ten years.

The emergency services also participated. Merseyside Police, for example, held an inter faith round table; Surrey Police hosted a multi-faith event to discuss policing and neighbourhood engagement; Hampshire Constabulary and Hampshire Fire and Rescue held an inter faith panel discussion. The

Week was also used by the National Fire Chiefs Council to launch a new edition of *Religion, Belief and Culture in our Community*.



A speaker at the Surrey Police round-table

Libraries were actively involved. Some hosted events; others arranged their own contributions, for example Norfolk County Council's specially curated collection of e-books.

Campuses were a hive of Inter Faith Week activity with multiple events at a number of institutions such as De Montfort University, Goodenough College, Leeds University, Liverpool University, Salford University, Swansea University, and St Mary's Twickenham. NUS actively encouraged involvement.

Many hospitals, such as the Southmead Hospital in Bristol and the Royal Cornwall Hospital Treliske took part as did hospices such as Myton Hospices Harlington Hospice, Haven House Children's Hospice and St Richard's Hospice in Worcester.

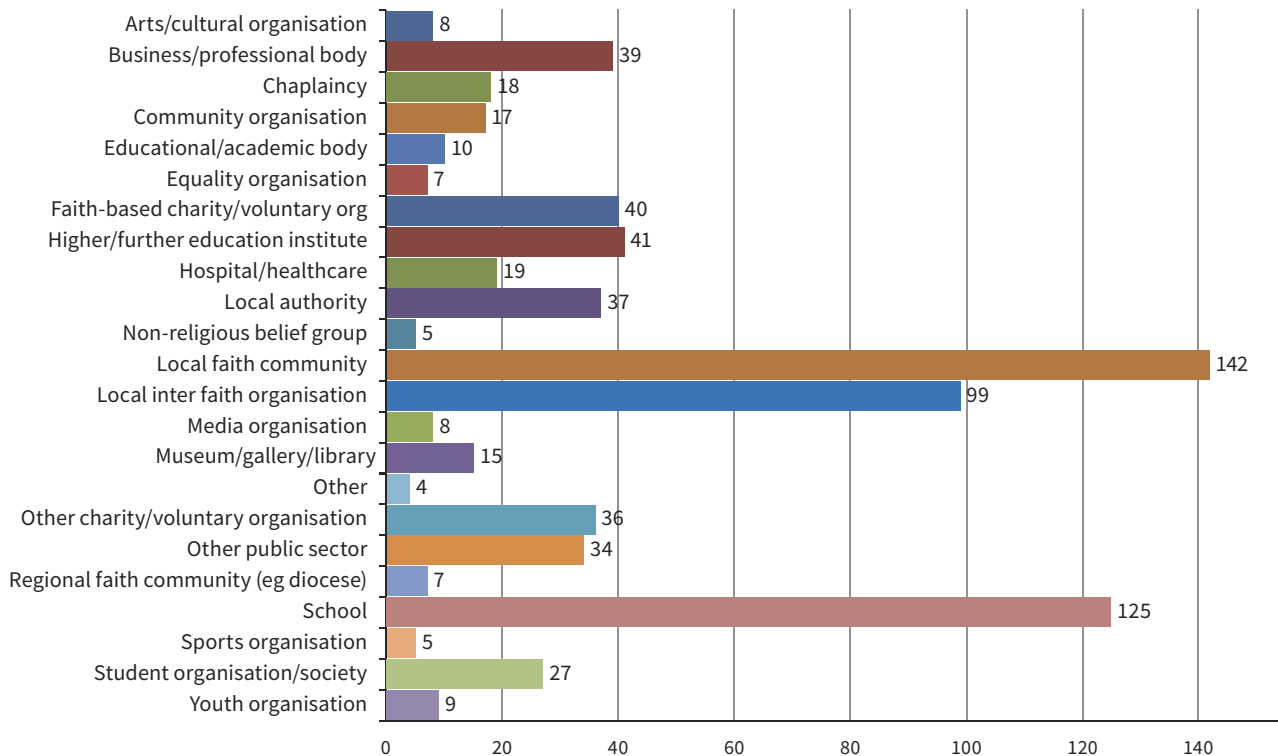
“It has been wonderful to see faith communities leading in activities in many areas and first time participants from primary schools through to major national employers entering into the annual opportunity to deepen understanding, respect and cooperation.”

CO-CHAIRS, INTER FAITH NETWORK FOR THE UK

The chart below shows how many of each type of organisation were involved in the Week. Organisations are listed according to their main characteristic

In addition to those organisations that directly contributed to events, others are known to have supported the Week by encouraging participation.

Inter Faith Week 2018: Organisations by type



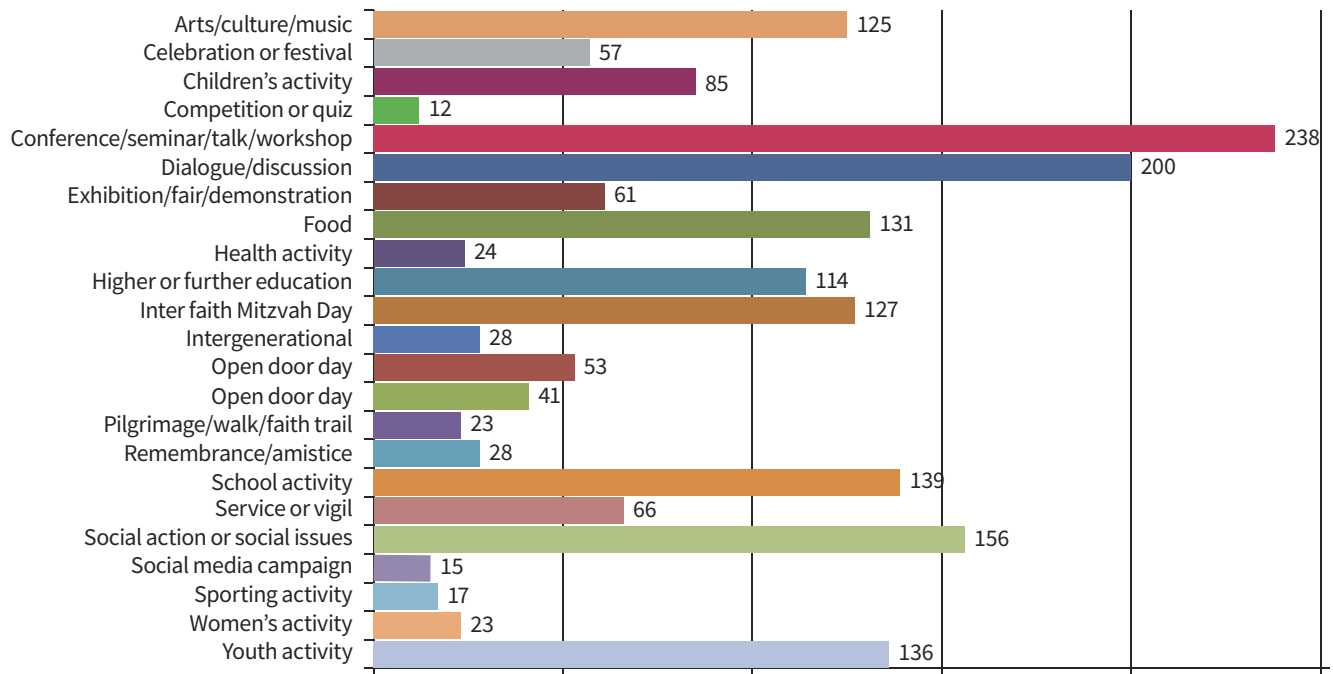
A week of huge variety

Over 760 activities took place as part of Inter Faith Week in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. The chart below shows the numbers of different types of activity. It is based on the categories on the Inter Faith Week activity submission form. The category 'Other' includes events and activities which did not fit into any of the other categories, such as radio broadcasts, coffee mornings, or the launching of new projects.

72% of survey respondents said that they did something they had not done before as part of Inter Faith Week

86% said their activity met or exceeded their expectations

Inter Faith Week 2018: Activity by type



Footnote: Except those marked 'Interfaith Mitzvah Day', activities can be assigned to multiple topic categories, reflecting the fact that many activities touch on multiple themes. There is significant overlap between the categories 'School activity' and 'children's activity'; and, 'Higher and further education activity' and 'youth activity.' The total number of activities with a youth/ children's dimension was 285.

Staff members and volunteers from St Catherine's paid a visit to a local Hindu Temple this week as part of **#interfaithweek**. Here at the hospice we like to celebrate and support the diverse community we serve. Everyone who attended found the visit very informative and enjoyable! ❤️



Wakefield Interfaith Network celebrated Inter Faith Week by planting another oak tree in Thornes Park. They were joined by local children and the Mayor of Wakefield



One of the civil service's faith and belief networks displaying information at the Civil Service launch event



Part of Network Rail's Inter Faith Week exhibition at King's Cross station in London



Publicity and coverage

The Inter Faith Network promoted and publicised the Week in the months leading up to it, through its www.interfaithweek.org website and its dedicated Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts, and targeted mailings, including to local authorities.

Registration packs were sent to those who registered their activities on the website, which helped them to publicise their own events and also gave greater profile to the Week.

Many organisations holding activities promoted their activities both online and using traditional promotional materials.

Social media

Positive messages on social media about people of different faiths and beliefs learning about one another and working together reach a very wide audience beyond those who participate directly in Inter Faith Week activities. This amplifies the impact of the Week.

An IFN Inter Faith Week social media campaign encouraged participants to write messages on Inter Faith Week branded cards to convey what inter faith meant to them. Photos of them holding these were then shared on social media, particularly on Instagram and Twitter.



Publicity for 'The Batley Poets Present Anything Goes'



Contents of the free registration packs sent to event organisers

Tweets about Inter Faith Week appeared on the feeds of 7.7 million Twitter users during November (the 'potential reach'), a total of 27.9 million times (the 'potential impressions'). This means roughly the same number of people may have read about the Week as if the UK's top 4 newspapers were all running pieces on the Week for 3 days each.

Tweets about Inter Faith Week had a 'potential reach' of 7.7million users and 27.9million potential impressions

"I saw more on social media and saw lots of activities from different organisations that might not have participated before."

"Great social media coverage – especially the round up tweets [each day] of the day before."

Follow us on Facebook,
Twitter, Instagram:

 facebook.com/IFWeek

 twitter.com/ifweek

 instagram.com/ifweek



Lakshmi Vyas of Hindu Forum GB and Derek McCauley of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches sharing a message for the Week at a meeting of IFN's Faith Communities Forum



Members of the National Hindu Students' Forum sharing messages about blood and organ donation online as part of Inter Faith Week



Year 3 pupils at Gorse Bank Primary School sharing a message and art work for the Week



Rabbi David Mason, Jewish community Vice-Moderator of IFN's Faith Communities Forum, sharing a message for the Week



IFN Faith Communities Forum Sikh community Vice-Moderator Mohinder Singh Chana with Julie Jones, Interfaith Council for Wales, and Pejman Khojasteh, International Association for Religious Freedom British Chapter sharing a message for the Week

Traditional publicity

Traditional style flyers and posters remain a big part of Week publicity: both IFN's own and those of participating organisations.



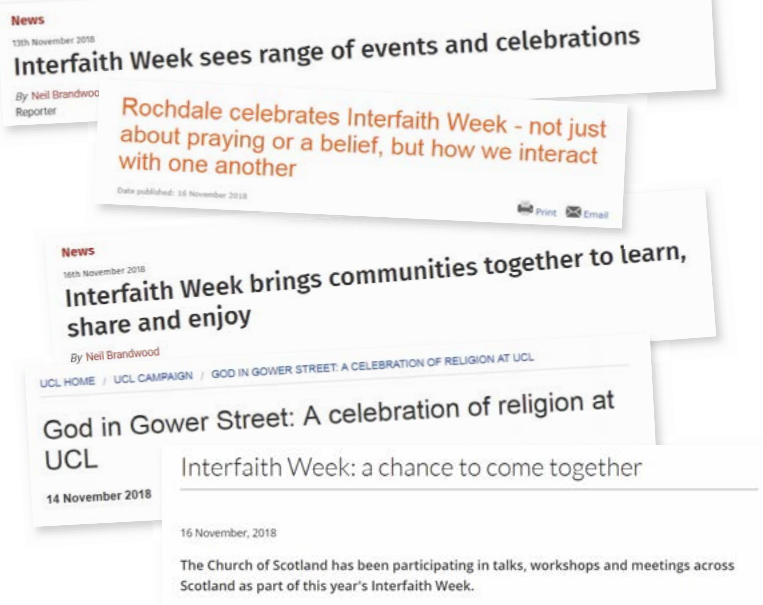
In the News

Inter Faith Week received good news coverage, particularly from local news outlets, including online newspapers.

News coverage of Inter Faith Week events encourages people to attend and keep a look out for events taking place during the entire week and also to get involved in future years.

Coverage of Inter Faith Week in the traditional media and online helps tell the positive stories of people living well together. It and acts as a counterpoint to stories that accentuate the negative, or stir up prejudice and mistrust.

Some of the headlines can be seen below:



Remembering together

Inter Faith Week now begins each year on Remembrance Sunday, encouraging the remembering together of the service of soldiers and civilians of different faiths and beliefs and also to think about peace.

The first day of Inter Faith Week 2018 was also the centenary of Armistice Day. IFN's Inter Faith Week social media had a particular focus on the link with #Armistice100 in the run up to and across the first weekend of the Week.

The connection encouraged many different bodies to hold multi-faith remembrance services and events. IFN produced a resource aimed at encouraging these (www.interfaithweek.org/resources/armistice-100). This resource included particular reference to the service of soldiers of what became the Commonwealth countries. That was also the focus of many events, such as a BAPS Swaminaryan Sanstha event at Neasden Temple, in collaboration with The Royal British Legion, to honour the contribution of Indian and other Commonwealth soldiers during World War One. This featured specially commissioned khadi poppies made of handwoven cloth from India.



Faith communities, inter faith organisations and schools were among those who held special events such as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' 'interfaith theatrical devotional', 'Voices of the Great War' and a Remembrance Sunday Open Samhain Ritual in Nottingham.

A large number of civic remembrance activities, such as Liverpool City Council's annual service of remembrance, also had a multi-faith dimension. Many such events also explored promoting of peace, such as Solihull Faith Forum's 'From Battles to Brotherhood: Commemorating Peace One Hundred Years On'; a Festival of Peace held by Stafford and District Friends of Faith; Cornwall Faith Forum's 'Reflection and Peace Prayer' at the Dor Kemmyn Field to mark the centenary of the end of WW1; Norwich Interfaith's discussion on lessons learnt/being learnt from WW1; and the Light for Leeds event at Kirkstall Abbey, which focused on peace and featured artwork by Suman Kaur commemorating the centenary of the armistice. In Biggleswade, a peace vigil was organised by Churches Together 'inviting people of all faiths and no faith to attend, light a candle and spend some time praying, thinking or meditating about peace'.

“The Armistice Centenary presents another opportunity for everyone to recognise the sacrifices of people from all backgrounds who lived, fought and died in the Great War.”

LORD BOURNE OF ABERYSTWYTH,
MINISTER FOR FAITH

“[Our Inter Faith Week activity] drew in a number of people who had not previously engaged [both] from the host church and because of the remembrance dimension.”

“Nearly 75% of survey respondents said Inter Faith Week’s link with Remembrance Sunday should continue for the time being.”



Unitarians UK
@UKUnitarians



#RemembranceDay2018 in Hampstead, London - an interfaith service led by Unitarian minister Rev Kate Dean of Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel (@RHUnitarianC) #interfaithweek twitter.com/RHUnitarianC/s...

Rosslyn Hill Chapel @RHUnitarianC

Our Minister, Rev Kate Dean, led an #interfaith service this morning at #hampstead #memorial The @mayorofcamden & Baroness of #froggnal attended and laid wreaths #Remembrance2018 #Armistice100 #Armistice





Inter Faith Week
@IFWeek

Follow

Honour to be at @NeasdenTemple Interfaith Remembrance for #Armistice100 honouring the contribution of India + the Commonwealth during #WWI hosted by @BAPS and @PoppyLegion, an event also for #Interfaithweek #RememberingTogether



Participants at BAPS Sri Swaminarayan Mandir, Neasden event with the Royal British Legion, honouring the service of those from India and the Commonwealth during WWI



Remembrance at Eden Girls' School, Coventry



LajnaEast
@LajnaEast



#Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association held a #CoffeeMorning inviting members of different faiths. They raised £120 for the @PoppyLegion #poppyappeal#LestWeForget @LajnaUk#InterfaithWeek2018 #LoveforAllHatredforNone
♡ 54 5:57 PM - Nov 17, 2018



“We work daily on our projects and activities but the national Inter Faith Week is when we are all working with the same objectives to work together and share the many things we have in common. There is a sense of unity and with Remembrance Day encompassed- it is amazing week for us all.”

Let's talk

Dialogues and discussions were the most popular type of event in 2018, after conferences and workshops. They took a wide variety of forms, from radio debates to discussions on topics from life after death to societal issues such as medical care.

Some events focused on the vital need in our society for dialogue. For example the Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum in London held a community event: 'Dangerous Delusions: Learning to Understand each Other' and in Wiltshire there was a presentation from Salisbury's Community Engagement Manager on the importance of dialogue in Salisbury and around the county.

There were also discussions focussed on topical issues, such as, an Isington Faiths Forum youth discussion at the local Youth Hub on 'How do faith and identity contribute to a young person's wellbeing and participation?' This had a panel of young speakers aged between 16-24 from different faiths and those who follow no religion, followed by a Q&A session.

There were also discussions about the status and role of women, such as one held by Baitul Futuh Mosque in London and celebrating their achievements, such as a multi faith event inspired by 100 years of Colombian Missionaries, a Roman Catholic group which promotes justice, peace,



A speaker at the Faith and Belief Forum's annual Interfaith Youth Summit as part of Inter Faith Week



Touchstone

@Touchstone3

Follow



We spent the night of Remembrance Sunday, and the first night of Interfaith Week, coming together as women of different faiths to sleep outside in a carpark, to remember children whose lives are still disfigured by war and to raise money for @WarChildUK who support them @IFWeek



integrity of creation, and dialogue, and 100 years of women's suffrage.

Dialogues between people of particular faith and belief groups took place in a number of places. For example the Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter held a special Jewish-Muslim dialogue day.

The Faith and Belief Forum's Youth Interfaith Summit involving many young people of different backgrounds took place during the Week, and included discussions on a wide range of topics.

Cheltenham Inter Faith, the University of Gloucestershire and Cheltenham Borough Council held an event linked to the Forgiveness Project, exploring the meaning of forgiveness in the sacred and the secular. Navjivan Vadil Kendra in Brent held an event with a One Jain speaker about 'What Interfaith Stands for'. Crawley Interfaith Network invited Dr Opinderjit Kaur Takhar to present on 'Guru Nanak's teaching and message for society'.

The Belfast branch of the Council of Christians and Jews and the Northern Ireland Inter Faith Forum held an event: 'reflection of conflict and the result of dialogue – when it works and what happens when it fails' as part of a City Council reception for the Week. The panel was chaired by the Chair of the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council.



Dialogue between religious and non-religious groups is an important aim of the week. Farnham Humanists held a dialogue involving the local Christian community, the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics and Humanists UK, who came together at South Farnham School for a dialogue that explored the meaning of life. Birmingham Humanists and Near Neighbours invited people of all faiths for a social gathering of diverse religious and non-religious identities including sharing belief journeys, 'speed faithing' and networking.



Students at De Montfort University taking part in a dialogue activity during Inter Faith Week



Participants in 'Speed Faithing' at Leeds University Union

Solidarity and standing up against hate

The 2018 Week took place the month after the Pittsburgh Synagogue terror attack in the USA. It was also towards the end of a year where in the UK there had been continued concern about hatred linked to religious and ethnic identity, about the safety of faith communities and about extremism.

The Week saw exploration of safety and security issues as well as expressions of commitment to deepening joint work to combat prejudice and hatred.

The Dialogue Society organised a panel discussion in partnership with New Scotland Yard, with community, faith and stakeholder representatives, to look at the issue of freedom of religion or belief in the context of countering violent extremism and hate crime.

Pupils at Eden Girls' School, a Muslim school in Slough, learnt about tackling antisemitism and hate crime, with a Year 9 workshop about antisemitism in light of the Pittsburgh attack. Pupils watched a short video about the victims and the impact on the lives of the families of the victims. The pupils then explored the topic of hate crimes in general, the importance of tolerance towards one another and showing support to the Jewish community. Queen Mary, University of London held two events for Islamophobia month.

Faiths Forum for London held focus groups for young people aged 13-25 on the question of 'How can we overcome the rise of hate and extremism?' This was as part of the Mayor's 'Countering Violent Extremism' programme. In Newcastle, an event 'Responding to extremism: Strategies and Solutions', took place at the City's Discovery Museum with community leaders and young people, organised by the Anti-radicalisation Mentoring and Awareness Network.



Rabbi Herschel Gluck speaking at the Dialogue Society event with New Scotland Yard

Bradford University held a 'Celebrating Diversity and Solidarity' inter faith walk from the Richmond Building of Bradford University, through the City Centre, ending Bradford Cathedral.

There were also recollections and commemorations with lessons for today, such as a Kristallnacht Memorial at Brighton Progressive Synagogue with testimony from a survivor and screening of the film ‘Denial’; and an evening of inter faith dialogue at the Newcastle Heaton Mosque with speakers on ‘Peace and Reconciliation: Reflections on the Genocide in Bosnia’.

“We wanted to show that as people of different faith communities in Bradford, we could work together to share words of inspiration and kindness with each other. To show people in Bradford, and remind them what an amazing diversity this is. There’s a lot about this place that inspires us”

ANDREW HOWORTH – CHAPLAIN OF BRADFORD UNIVERSITY

“I’m here to show support and solidarity to this walk, as a member of the Muslim community. This is a project we’ve sort of set up to show that we as people of faith can walk side by side in a city that is so diverse. It’s a symbolic gesture walking side by side on this journey of inspiration and the purpose really is to walk through University, into the city, to the Cathedral sharing words of wisdom along the way”

RIDWAAN HARIS – BELIEVING IN BRADFORD AMBASSADOR

From piece by Anisah Arif, Asian Sunday, November 14 2018



Faith groups in Bradford came together to show unity at Tesco Great Horton Rd. They ‘promoted inter faith’ to customers and members of the public by handing out sweets and leaflets on the significance behind it. Photo: Asian Sunday.



Inter Faith Week
@IFWeek

Follow

Basildon hosts #Interfaithweek exhibition to inspire residents to 'stand up against hatred' yellowad.co.uk/article.cfm?id...
@BasildonCouncil #WeStandTogether
@mhclg @ukhomeoffice #WWII @yadvashem
@FaithMattersUK



Working together for the common good

“[Inter Faith Week] provides a place in the national calendar where we celebrate and enjoy the goodness and selfless attributes of the nation.”

Inter Faith Week is a great opportunity for people of different backgrounds to come together to help their communities and to explore important social issues.

36% of Inter Faith Week activities had a social action dimension.¹

Social action was showcased in a number of events. For example, Harrow Interfaith held a panel discussion on faith based social action in the community; Bexley Heath Council and Bexley Interfaith held a day conference on ‘Helping Others in the World’ with a linked awards ceremony; and Middlesex University and Barnet Multi Faith Forum held a Faith Fair with social action projects showcasing the impact of faith based social action in

their community. Stronger Communities Middlesbrough and Middlesbrough Interfaith Network launched ‘Middlesbrough: City of Kindness’ where local residents and school children talked about their everyday acts of kindness which make a difference to others. In Bristol, the Multi Faith Forum held a ‘Love your Neighbour’ awards event at the Bristol Rovers Memorial Stadium, celebrating unsung local heroes who had been promoting community cohesion and inclusiveness.

Environmental projects were also popular, with groups coming together to promote action on climate change issues, to plant trees and to help in ‘cleans ups’ such as that arranged by the St Mark’s Road mosque in Sunderland. Walthamstow Wetlands Nature Reserve, in North East London, with the London Wildlife Trust held a special Inter Faith Week day with guided walks, talks and conservation activities. Birmingham Council of Faiths Footsteps – Faiths for a Low Carbon Future project organised a day at Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Smethwick: ‘Treading Lightly: Exploring Food, Faith and Living Sustainably’. This explored the topic of ‘Low Carbon Food’ from different faith perspectives with speakers from faith and environmental groups sharing initiatives that have worked for them.

¹ Includes ‘Interfaith Mitzvah Day events’

“It was great to attend a diverse range of events during Inter Faith Week and witness a variety of activities that link faith to social issues such as mental health, politics and arts.”

In Wakefield, to celebrate Inter Faith Week and National Tree Week, members and friends of Wakefield Interfaith Network added a new tree to the growing circle of ‘faith’ trees in Thornes Park that they have been planting each year during Inter Faith Week.

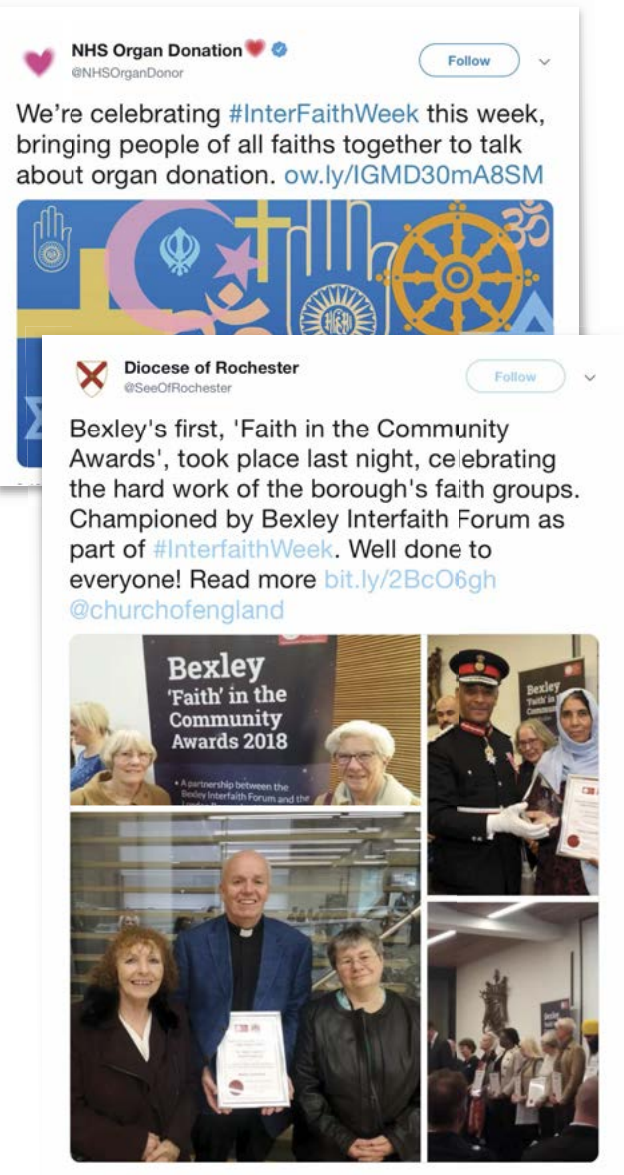
In Manchester, the Pulling Together Asian Women’s Group, supported by funding from In Kind Direct and Postcode Lottery, distributed a wide range of free goods to vulnerable people including Syrian women and children in local hostels.



Bharti Taylor and Charanjit Ajit Singh at the Hounslow Friends of Faith event

In Hull, AAK Ltd held a ‘Giving away your lunch’ event as part of the Week and Mitzvah Day.

In Brentford, the Hanuman Hindu temple was the location for a Hounslow Friends of Faith event



“The second Inter Faith Week event I attended was the Interfaith Youth Summit 2018 run by the Faith and Belief Forum at Amnesty International near Old Street. It was a fascinating evening with various workshops and activities going on. The first interactive workshop I attended was on ‘Mental Health and Masculinity in Modern Times’ presented by The Delicate Mind. Concepts of mental health were explored as well as personal stories of grief and suicide. The conversation explored what makes men commit suicide, including factors such as: not seeking medical support; not discussing mental health problems with their families or therapists; and pressures of gender identity. Everyone who participated agreed that the current relationships that men have need to be improved and the perception needs to change around them not having problems. That was thought to be one of the first stepping stones to tackling male suicide.”

BLOG OF IFN STAFF MEMBER, JAFFOR BHUIYA



Santosh Kundi of the Warwick District Faiths Forum with the Lord Lieutenant and one of the Deputy Lords Lieutenant of Warwickshire

focusing on prison chaplaincy, with the Hindu Chaplain at Bronzefield and Send Women’s Prisons.

NHS Blood and Transplant used the Week to highlight the importance of organ donation and the National Hindu Students Forum and students from Aston, Warwick and Loughborough Hindu Societies used social media to support and encourage organ donation as part of Inter Faith Week.

A number of talks, conferences and workshops took place focusing on other important social issues. For example, Devon Faith and Belief Forum and Devon County Council held an event ‘Dying Matters’, with perspectives from different faiths and beliefs on death and dying. Interfaith Wolverhampton held a special conference exploring different faith perspectives on improving mental health. Mental health was also a theme within the Faith and Belief Forum’s Interfaith Summit. Other topics included religion and LGBT rights, on which the Law Society ran an event, and the environment, which was the subject of a conference held by Warwick District Faiths Forum; and an event on 'The Meaning of Marriage' at Blackburn Cathedral organised by Near Neighbours and Lancashire Forum of Faiths.



Faith fair as part of a celebration of Inter Faith Week at Middlesex University with Barnet Multi Faith Forum

Parliament Week was also taking place and some events reflected both Weeks, such as a 'Faith in Politics' event organised by the Forum for International Relations Development (FIRD) with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Faith and Society.



West Herts NHS staff promoting organ donation during Inter Faith Week



Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP (speaking) and Toaha Qureshi MBE at the FIRD/ APPG on Faith and Society event



Rotherham Interfaith Group and The Unity Centre litter pick in the town centre



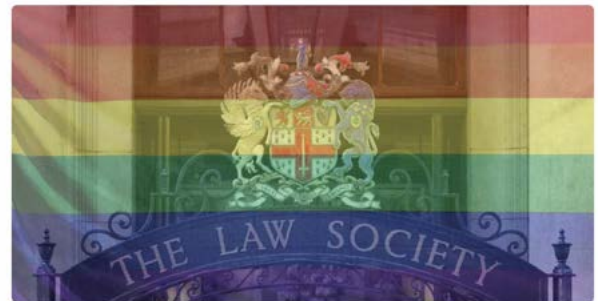
The Law Society ✓

@TheLawSociety



Join our LGBT+ Lawyers Division marking #InterFaithWeek with a free panel event on the interaction between religion and LGBT+ rights this Thur 15 Nov 18.00-21.00 events.lawsociety.org.uk/ClientApps/Sil...

♥ 2 7:32 PM - Nov 12, 2018



Sharing and learning

95% of survey responders said Inter Faith Week helped participants to learn about different faiths and beliefs.

One of the many positive aspects of Inter Faith Week is that it is an opportunity to improve religious literacy across the country. In 2018, faith communities across the country took advantage of this opportunity to organise events and activities that were not only fun and entertaining, but also helped people learn more about the faiths and cultures of those from a different background to themselves.

“Through learning and understanding we are led to respect and inclusivity. You can’t fast track through the first bit and expect to just arrive at the second bit. Teaching about and learning from different faiths and world views is vital.”

“[Inter Faith Week] draws new people into inter faith cooperation and people can learn about those from different backgrounds and interact with them.”

Many activities took place which helped people to learn about the faith traditions of others. For example the St Philip’s Centre arranged a Diwali Event at Leicester Cathedral with an introductory session on Diwali from Hindu, Sikh and Jain perspectives.

Other popular ways of learning were ‘open door days’, faith trails, inter faith pilgrimages and programmes of visits.

An ambitious cross-Kent Diverse Open Door series was arranged by Kent County Council with Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara, Gravesend Hindu Temple, Canterbury Cathedral, Canterbury Mosque, Union Street Methodist Church, and Thanet and District Reform Synagogue.

The Inter-faith Council for Wales/ Cyngor Rhyngffydd Cymru arranged a lantern-lit faith walk worship in Cardiff. The event, supported by the Welsh Government, featured a presentation from Minister

for Housing and Local Government Julie James AM, and culminated in a meal at Dar-ul-Isra Mosque.

Some other examples include a multi faith walk beginning at the Coventry Cathedral, visiting the Spiritualist Church, Eagle Street Masjid and finishing at Gurdwara Guru Nanak Prakash. Some places such as Preston, Sheffield and Watford have an annual Inter Faith Week walk or trail. Universities got involved too. Liverpool Guild of Students held a 'faith crawl', taking in the first mosque in England,

Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, the Princes Road Synagogue and the Kadampa Meditation Centre. Others such as St Mary's Twickenham also arranged walks. Peace walks took place in Southampton and Sunderland. In Todmorden in West Yorkshire, a special 'faith stories' trail to different places of worship was arranged in conjunction with the Todmorden Book Festival. Faith leaders shared 'stories that reflect the sense of community common to all faiths'.

There were also exchange visits such as in Deepdish in Rochdale, where at Neeli Mosque and St Luke's Church and the congregation at both places of worship were invited for a day to experience each other's worship, in order to enhance understanding and further the ties of communal respect and togetherness. In Halifax there were exchange visits between the congregation of the Nativity Church and Hopwood Lane Mosque.

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, with others, arranged a presentation on the diversity of faith communities resident and active in the borough with contributions from council staff, elected members, community groups and organisations which provide a service in the Borough.

In many places there were exhibitions, such as at Bedford College, which displayed objects related to different religions, and Tansley Primary School in Matlock, Derbyshire, which held presentations and displays about different faiths.

Some events also included an exhibition dimension alongside other activities, such as the Rhythms of the



Heart event organised by Wellingborough Inter Faith Group, which included musical performances from and display stands about different faith traditions. Preston Faiths Forum held an event using some of the rugs from Bradford Touchstone's Weaving Women's Wisdom exhibition as a backdrop, which began with a look at the link between faith communities and the local cotton industry, and then moved to a listening and sharing of the ways in which Wisdom is portrayed, perceived and experienced in different religions.

There were also question and answer sessions with faith leaders or university chaplains; quizzes; and 'speed faithing' events where participants have a short time to sit down and ask someone about their faith. Many of these, like Anglia University's 'Quiz and Curry' night, also involved eating together.

Some groups helped others to learn about their faith in very hands-on ways, such as by allowing others to observe prayers being performed. At Swansea University a 'pop-up Pagan temple' was created as a learning opportunity as part of a day of activities.

Schools used the Week to help increase the religious literacy of their students, within and beyond RE. Many invited speakers from different religions to visit classrooms to talk to pupils about their faith and to demonstrate their traditions. For example, Year 4 pupils at Thatto Heath Community Primary School, St Helen's examined Buddhist religious artefacts brought in by a Buddhist monk. Watford Grammar School for Boys' Philosophy, Religion and Ethics Department organised a presentation and discussion that covers the 'benefits of religious tolerance' and at



Participants in the Roses for Peace activity organised by North Kirklees Interfaith Council



Participants in a lantern-lit walk, part of the Walking Alongside Our Community/ Cyd-gerdded gyda'n cymuned event held by the Inter-faith Council for Wales/ Cyngor Rhyngffydd Cymru



Participants in Banbury Interfaith Network's Interfaith Friendship Walk



Participants on the Inter Faith Walk organised by Sunderland Interfaith Forum (Photo: David Allan Photography)



Participants visiting a local Buddhist Centre in Cardiff as part of the Walking Alongside Our Community/Cyd-gerdded gyda'n cymuned event held by the Interfaith Council for Wales/Cyngor Rhyngffydd Cymru

Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School, Preston, each year group learned about a different faith and shared their learning with the whole school and parents at a special Friday assembly.



Winstanley School
@WinstanleySch

Follow

#InterfaithWeek2018 @WinstanleySch

Strengthening good inter faith relationships
Awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in our school
Understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs



Abbey Grange
@abgacademy



Students from Abbey Grange are part of Concord Interfaith Peace service, with more here: goo.gl/T2vw5t Wishing you peace this Inter-Faith Week.

♥ 3 9:18 AM - Nov 13, 2018



Culture and the arts

Concerts, dances, art exhibitions, poetry recitals and more were a vibrant part of the Week. In Bradford, the Touchstone Roots and Shoots intergenerational, inter faith project enables women and girls from different backgrounds to come together to share and discuss ideas around their identity, faith culture and being female. Working with The Feast, they gathered to write, make and produce a 'Zine' with local artist Jean McEwan, on the women who have inspired them in their personal lives and faith traditions.

Many schools and sixth form colleges also had Inter Faith Week art projects. For example, Eastwood Primary School, Bury, Lancashire held an 'Inter Faith Parents Session' where there was a challenge to make 1000 origami peace cranes; and students at Christopher Whitehead Language College in Worcester drew and wrote onto the playground messages of hope, love, peace and respect. And in Darlington, a chemistry teacher turned rap artist, performed at Polam Hall School as the climax of a week in which pupils listened to speakers representing a variety of faiths.

The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford held a special free weekend of 'faith, folk and song celebrating the communities of Oxford' with music, storytelling, talks and craft for all ages. Canterbury and District Inter Faith Action held an exhibition 'Light Emerging' for local Artists from different faiths to come together in unity to express their faith visually.

In Cornwall, the Multi Faith Chaplaincy at Penryn Campus at Falmouth University launched a new labyrinth.

"Because our activity was a combination of music, spoken word and dance from a range of traditions there was a sharing of culture which was well appreciated."

"The Music Concert was a totally new concept and was superbly supported by various community groups."

Storytelling was also popular. Kent History and Library Centre and the Maidstone Interfaith group held story sessions with tales from different traditions around the world, including Muslim, Christian, Bahá'í and Buddhist traditions and the Faith and Belief Forum ran an Inter Faith Stories Workshop at Becontree Children's Centre in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

Inter Faith Week also brought out the poets. Uxbridge Quakers (Religious Society of Friends),

Hillingdon Inter Faith Network, the London Borough of Hillingdon, and Brunel University London held an inter faith poetry workshop and a live poetry salon. In Batley, BatleySmile CIC, BatleyPoets, Friends of Batley Library, and Kirklees Council Library Service held 'Anything Goes' – an event, attended by the local MP, for people to come and share their poems. And in Derby, the County Council Library hosted an evening of spoken word and poetry.

Faith Matters hosted an evening of Choral Music of Jewish and Muslim Traditions and in Wisbech, the Interfaith Forum hosted a concert by Kol Echad, the Cambridgeshire Jewish Choir with an extended intermission to enable the choir and audience to interact and learn from each other.

Salford City Radio shared music and messages from across the local faith spectrum and at the Taliesin Centre at Swansea University there was a special inter faith jamming session.





The Kol Echad Jewish choir performing at a Wisbech Interfaith Forum event



Young people from Ephrata Church in Bolton taking part in Bolton Interfaith Council's Multicultural Music Concert, part of the Bolton Light Festival and Inter Faith Week



Musicians playing as part of Light for Leeds, an event held by Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship, local faith communities and Kirkstall Abbey, celebrating what is held in common



Artwork by Juliet Goodden, part of an exhibition of her work called In Good Faith held at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington



Members of the Batley Poets a special cake as part of 'Anything Goes', an evening of poetry as part of Inter Faith Week

Celebrations

Inter Faith Week provides participants with an opportunity to celebrate together with other communities.

“[It is] very important to have national events that celebrate all of us in this country positively.”

“[The best thing about our Inter Faith Week activity was] various faiths demonstrably celebrating together.”

Rotherham Inter-Faith Group invited local people to join them for a ‘Tea Party’ to celebrate national Inter Faith Week at the Unity Centre, ‘celebrating the richness of our different Faiths and Cultures in Rotherham’. Redbridge Interfaith Forum held a celebration and fundraiser for their work at the Ilford Islamic Centre.

Many celebrations of diversity included arts and cultural activities of the kind mentioned in the previous section, as well as opportunities to try food from different traditions.

At Northern College, Barnsley, there was an inter faith display focusing on celebrations and festivals. Some faith communities also invited those from other backgrounds to observe or take part in their festivals.

Sharing food and holding small tea parties or coffee mornings was a popular way of celebrating both diversity and common ground, while also



Venerable Nagase of the London Peace Pagoda at a London Buddhist Vihara event to celebrate Inter Faith Week

encouraging people of different backgrounds to make new links and start new friendships.

The Week was also used to celebrate the achievements of 21 young inter faith leaders in a unique partnership between the Jewish News, British Muslim TV, the Church Times and Coexist House, in association with the Faith and Belief Forum. This saw 21 young people - 7 Jewish, 7 Christian and 7 Muslim - recognised for their contributions to inter faith relations in the UK. The winners were announced during Inter Faith Week.



An LGBTQ+ evening of celebration, sharing a meal, and reflections on the theme 'Celebrating Our Stories' organised by the Faith and Belief Forum

Food

Food was at the centre of many activities!

Liverpool Students Guild held an ‘Interfaith Bake Off’ with its faith societies putting their best bakes forward and competing to be crowned the first Guild Star Baker.

Some made or distributed food to those in need, including the Pulling Together Asian Women’s Group in Manchester, which distributed food and other goods to vulnerable people in local hostels, and a number of activities linked also to Mitzvah Day, including its flagship Big Chicken Soup Challenge project, hosted at East London Mosque with Muslim Aid. This saw people come together to cook chicken soup to a kosher recipe and give this out to people in need in the local community. The Jewish Museum, London also held an ‘open house’ as part of both Mitzvah Day and Inter Faith Week. As part of this, participants baked Challah bread for a local homeless shelter.

St Richard’s Hospice in Worcester welcomed staff and volunteers to a ‘Culture and Food’ event to celebrate the Week and to taste dishes from 5 cultures and learn about 5 religions.

In Bolton, the Bolton Interfaith Council (BIC) arranged an opportunity to learn about different world faiths along with singing, poetry, sharing food, chatting with elders, having fun and making new



Participants at the Inter Faith Week Celebration in Nature organised by the London Wildlife Trust at Walthamstow Wetlands

friends. Many pupils from diverse primary and secondary schools participated in the BIC event. There were eight faith tables— Baha’i, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism and Sikhism, with people of each faith in attendance. Each pupil had their individual passport endorsed by each faith table.

In Bradford, the Bangladeshi Youth Organisation hosted a meal for all faiths in celebration of Diwali for the Hindu Community.

Volunteers from the Fellowship Educational Society distributed Noah’s Pudding to commuters in Reading Railway Station to raise awareness of Inter Faith Week in Reading.

Many groups held dialogue and discussion events over food. For example, Loughborough Council of Faiths held a 'Feast of Faiths' event with short activities to help those attending mix together and learn a bit about each faith, followed by a sit-down meal where everyone could chat and mingle.



The University of Brighton Chaplaincy hosted a talk on 'tools for inter-religious engagement' over supper, and the All Faiths Network held an 'Evening of Interfaith Music, Dance Performance and Food'.

Fellowship Education
@FSEducation

Our volunteers distributed around 500 Noah's Pudding today to celebrate diversity and equality and to #sharethegoodness at Reading station #InterfaithWeek2018 @getreading @ReadingCouncil @rva_news @AlokSharma_RDG @MattRodda



Christian Muslim Forum
@ChrisMusForum

Women & places of worship: energised & fun planning session at Leicester Christian-Muslim women's group today with Raheema Caratella, Revd Diane Johnson, Rabiha Hannan #InterFaithWeek



Sport

During the Week, sports and physical exercise activities in a number of areas brought people together to have fun and to foster a spirit of teamwork.

Activities included: football; inter faith table tennis; a family cycle ride which toured local places of worship; capoeira; zumba; swimming; yoga sessions; a tai chi taster session; and free fitness classes. Sports-based charities also took part, often getting together with their local faith communities to promote inter faith cooperation and to encourage increased physical activity in the local community.

In Birkenhead, two faith leaders took part in an inter faith football match, leading their sides out at the Tranmere Rovers Ground in the first of what they hope will be a regular match involving local Christians and Muslims.



Sport England @Sport_England

It's **#InterFaithWeek**, so why not consider using the power of sport and physical activity to build good inter faith relations.

Take a look here for some great guidance from **@IFNetUK**

tinyurl.com/interfaithsport



Jamie Hooper @just_jamie1990

What a week at **@Sport_England!**

Needed a day off today to relax and recover!

#AntiBullyingWeek

#TransAwarenessWeek

#Interfaithweek

#RainbowLaces

So proud to be leading **@Sport_England's** **#LGBT** and **#BAME** inclusion work, driving the sector forward and making **#sportforall!**

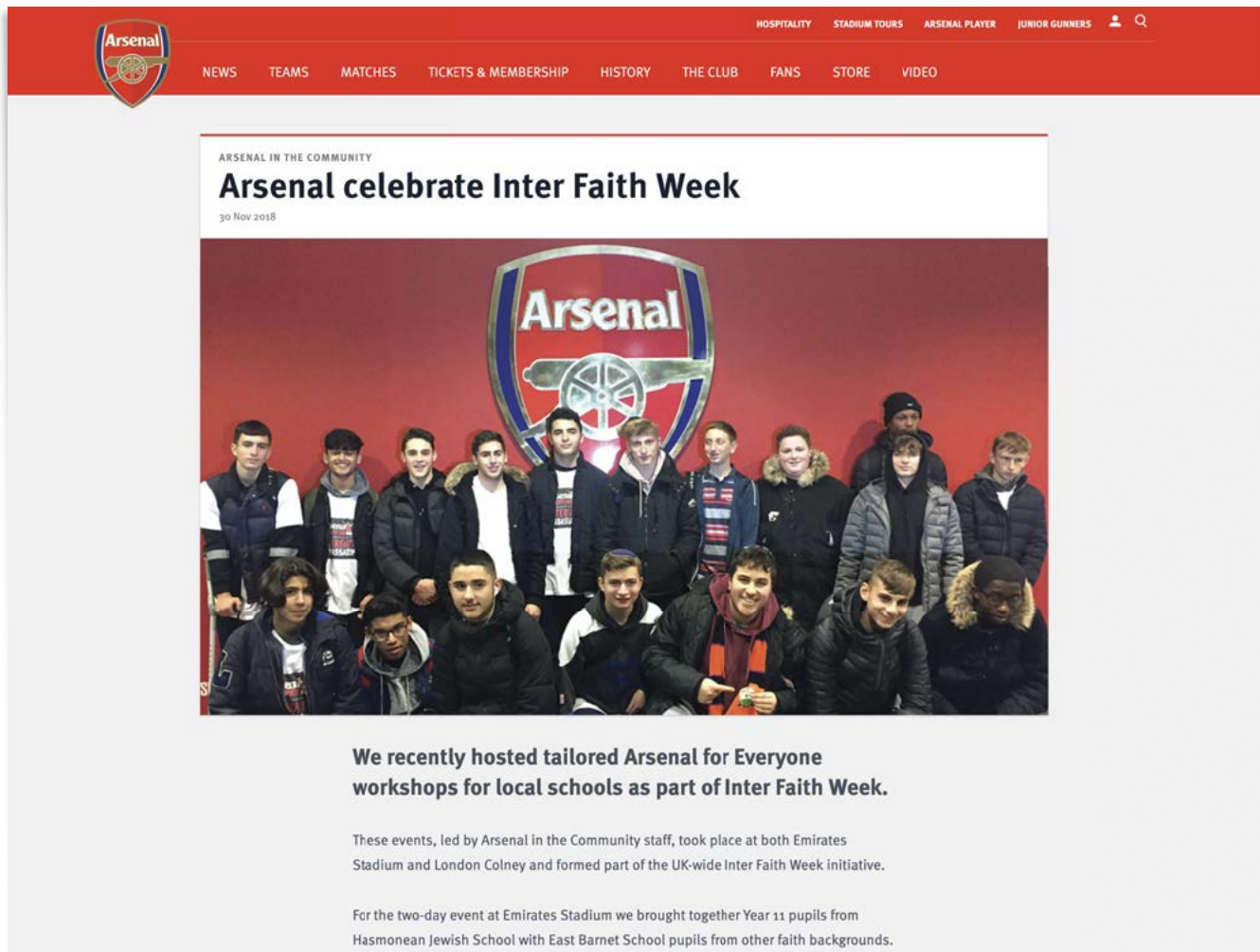


Wirral Deen Centre @WirralDeen

Faith Leaders Football (imams, vicars and more) **@TranmereRovers** bringing us all together ❤️❤️❤️❤️ Thanks Zoom **@NicolaPalios** for supporting and Inspector Sacker **@MerPolICC** for playing



Arsenal in the Community arranged a two-day event at Emirates Stadium and London Colney, which brought together Year 11 pupils from Hasmonean Jewish School and East Barnet School. Mixed groups of pupils worked together to research and plan presentations about different religious festivals, before playing a football match together. They were then joined by primary school pupils from Danegrove and Rosh Pinner schools on day two, to whom they delivered their presentations about different religious festivals. All the pupils then enjoyed a free tour of Emirates Stadium together.




The screenshot shows the Arsenal website's navigation bar with the Arsenal crest on the left and links for HOSPITALITY, STADIUM TOURS, ARSENAL PLAYER, JUNIOR GUNNERS, and a search icon on the right. Below the navigation bar, a news article is featured with the Arsenal crest and the title "Arsenal celebrate Inter Faith Week" dated 30 Nov 2018. The article includes a photograph of a group of young men in front of the Arsenal crest and a sub-headline: "We recently hosted tailored Arsenal for Everyone workshops for local schools as part of Inter Faith Week." The main text describes the events at Emirates Stadium and London Colney, and mentions a two-day event at Emirates Stadium involving Year 11 pupils from Hasmonean Jewish School and East Barnet School.

ARSENAL IN THE COMMUNITY

Arsenal celebrate Inter Faith Week

30 Nov 2018



We recently hosted tailored Arsenal for Everyone workshops for local schools as part of Inter Faith Week.

These events, led by Arsenal in the Community staff, took place at both Emirates Stadium and London Colney and formed part of the UK-wide Inter Faith Week initiative.

For the two-day event at Emirates Stadium we brought together Year 11 pupils from Hasmonean Jewish School with East Barnet School pupils from other faith backgrounds.



A Boccia competition organised by Kumon Y'all in Dewsbury, with participation from local imams, priests, the Fire and Rescue Service and Police

As part of Inter Faith Week at De Montfort University, the Students' Union teamed up with DMUactive and Healthy DMU to run a week long Inter Faith Week programme featuring sport and physical activity. As part of this it ran 'Active Campus Cohesion Soccerise'. This was a fun fitness class that incorporated football without requiring any knowledge or experience of the sport. It was a free session exclusively for female participants and was held in a facility where no one could observe participants, ensuring women from all faith backgrounds could attend, socialise and get to know each other.

The University of Salford Students' Union organised a Yogalates session open to people from all faiths and none.

Fitness and health activities were also popular, such as two for women: a multicultural swim organised by Carlisle one World Centre and a 'pamper session' at the Maccabi Centre in Manchester.

DMUsport
@DMUsports

🎉 Interfaith Week is next week & there are a variety of fun activities that @dmuleicester students can get involved with 🙌

Let's have a look at what you can take part in ➡️
#DMUactive #HealthyDMU #ProudToBeMore

👍 5 5:32 PM - Nov 9, 2018

DMUactive Highlight Sessions

Monday: Women's Basketball
7.00pm - 8.00pm @ The Watershed
(Waterloo/Leicester Road)

Tuesday: Badminton
5.30pm - 7.00pm @ DSU Leisure Centre

Wednesday: Dodgeball
5.30pm - 6.00pm @ The Watershed

Thursday: Yoga
6.00pm - 6.30pm @ DSU Leisure Centre

Thursday: Tagged (Puffys)
6.30pm - 7.00pm @ DSU Leisure Centre

Friday: Table Tennis
7.00pm - 8.00pm @ DSU Leisure Centre

ALL sessions are FREE and on campus!
Remember to bring your student card!

Healthy DMU DMUactive

Interfaith Week Campus Cohesion
11th November - 18th November

Active Campus Cohesion Yoga
Wednesday 7.00pm - 8.00pm @ DMU Breathing Space

Active Campus Cohesion UV Zumba
Wednesday 5.00pm - 6.00pm @ The Watershed

Active Campus Cohesion Soccerise
Thursday 7.00pm - 8.00pm @ DSU Function Room 2
(Waterloo/Leicester Road)

Active Campus Cohesion Futsal League
Saturday 11.00am - 4.00pm @ The Watershed

Inter Faith Week
@dmuleicester

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY LEICESTER **de montfort**

As part of Inter Faith Week and Mitzvah Day, the Ilford Recorder, in partnership with people of various faiths, organised a 'Walking Football' event at the Redbridge Jewish Community Centre. A popular and growing format of the game, Walking Football is aimed at encouraging older adults to play football again on a regular basis.

Competitions and quizzes

Competitions and quizzes were a popular way to mark Inter Faith Week in 2018. In addition to the sporting and arts activities mentioned earlier in this report that had a competition dimension, a number of organisations held quizzes to enable people to test their knowledge about different faiths and beliefs.

A number of schools used quizzes in this way, including Uffculme School, which held an inter-house quiz, and the RE Department at Nether Stowe School, which challenged pupils across the school to test their knowledge.

Overleigh St Mary's Primary School in Chester held an art competition and subsequent exhibition on the theme 'One United Kingdom'.

The Coventry office of HM Land Registry and the Office for National Statistics also held quizzes for staff as part of their marking of the Week.

The World Congress of Faiths announced the winner of its student essay competition on the question "Can interfaith dialogue achieve any lasting value for society?"



The Revd Canon Dr Alan Race with the World Congress of Faiths' student essay competition winner Ruth Foster

Scottish Interfaith Week

Led by Interfaith Scotland, Scottish Interfaith Week, or SIFW, has taken place since 2004.

Each year, it has a theme. In 2018, the theme was “connecting generations”, which was selected in order to connect with 2018 being named the “Year of Young People” by the Scottish Government.



Musicians playing as part of the launch of Scottish Interfaith Week in Aberdeen

The launch event was held in Aberdeen Town House, and included live music and dance.

Over 80 activities took place to mark Scottish Interfaith Week, in all regions of Scotland. These included dialogues and discussions, hands-on learning activities, open days at places of worship,

Remembrance services, arts and crafts activities, civic receptions, volunteering and social action, celebrations, lunches and many more!



A dancer at the launch of Scottish Interfaith Week in Aberdeen



Participants at the launch of Scottish Interfaith Week in Aberdeen

Planning for Inter Faith Week 2019

In 2019, Inter Faith Week will run from Sunday 10 to Sunday 17 November.

Scottish Interfaith Week will take place between the same dates.

We hope that this report on the 2018 Week has inspired you to get involved this year!

Check out the Inter Faith Week toolkit!

Check out the Inter Faith Week toolkit and the Inter Faith Week website (see Resources section on p.53). The Toolkit has lots of great tips for planning, publicising and holding events. Reproduced overleaf is the activity planner from the Toolkit.

Register your activity!

Please do take a few minutes to register your activity on the Inter Faith Week website at www.interfaithweek.org/submit

Registering your event:

- Puts you on the national map
- Helps people know about your activity
- Adds to the overall buzz and impact of the Week and so helps promote inter faith understanding and cooperation

Inter Faith Week 2019

10–17 November



An opportunity to:

- Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- 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 beliefs

REFLECT/DEBATE/
COOPERATE/LEARN/
QUESTION/RESPECT/
APPRECIATE/MAKE
FRIENDS/CELEBRATE

www.interfaithweek.org

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter:
[facebook.com/IFWeek](https://www.facebook.com/IFWeek) [@IFWeek](https://twitter.com/IFWeek)



- Makes you eligible to receive a free 2019 registration pack with poster, flyer, social media card, sample badges and stickers and balloons to help you promote your event (while stocks last)

You can register an activity at any time. Events will be published on the website from September onwards. Activities can be of any kind, including

online or social media. If they are not open to the general public it is still good to list them, but make it clear that they are for a particular group only – eg a school class or an internal employee network.

If you are holding several activities, please register these separately or send a list with the necessary details to the IFN office: ifnet@interfaith.org.uk

We hold data with care and data supplied will be used only for the Inter Faith Week related purposes set out at www.interfaithweek.org/events/submit

The Inter Faith Network team will also be very happy to discuss your plans if you would find this helpful.

Join in the media buzz!

In the run up to the Week join our social media campaign by sharing a photo of people from your initiative with one of the Inter Faith Week social media cards, using the hashtag #Interfaithweek and tagging our account on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook (@IFWeek).

During the Week, you can tweet/post about your activity using the hashtag #Interfaithweek and can tag @IFWeek to tell us about it. Sharing your events on social media is very helpful in encouraging people to attend, and helps build a real buzz around the Week.

98% of survey respondents said their Inter Faith Week activity helped them to engage new people



IFN's Co-Chairs, Jatinder Singh Birdi and Bishop Richard Atkinson, sharing messages about the Week

“Inter Faith Week was the perfect opportunity to introduce faith-based social action to new audiences, sign up new volunteers and motivate new supporters. It was the highlight of our year and we look forward to seeing what additional opportunities 2019 will bring for interfaith collaboration and partnerships.”

Planning checklist

The planning checklist below is taken from Page 32 of the Inter Faith Week Toolkit, which can be downloaded at www.interfaithweek.org/toolkit

- Identify a project or an event
- Create a tasks list
- Find a venue
- Invite speakers or any other contributors
- Invite the audience
- Register your project on the Inter Faith Week website
- Contact companies or bodies such as your local authority to seek in-kind support
- Invite your MP or Mayor
- Get permission if necessary
- Complete a risk assessment
- Make sure you have appropriate insurance
- Ensure that participants have DBS checks if necessary
- Make sure you have the necessary equipment
- Let participants know where or when they need to be
- Update your website with your event
- Send out news release about your project
- Hold your activity/event
- Use social media to highlight your event
- Thank your volunteers, supporters and sponsors
- Record feedback from participants, stallholders and volunteers
- Fill in a survey on the Inter Faith Week website



If you would like to purchase Inter Faith Week badges, please contact the IFN office.

Resources

The Inter Faith Week Toolkit

The Inter Faith Week Toolkit was created to give ideas and guidance about running your own event during Inter Faith Week.

The Toolkit is packed full of ideas on the kind of events and activities you could hold as part of the Week and examples of events from past Weeks to inspire you. It also contains practical advice on the organisation and running of activities, along with checklists and templates to help you.

It can be downloaded at:

www.interfaithweek.org/resources/toolkit



Inter Faith Learning, Dialogue and Cooperation: Next Steps

This guide was published after the 2016 Inter Faith Week for people who got involved in the Week (or followed it on social media) and want to get involved or continue to be involved in inter faith activities in the future. It was developed with the help of IFN's member bodies and describes the many ways in which you can get involved in inter faith groups and activities, and also provides a list of contact details of various inter faith organisations which you can get in touch with who can help you further.

Download it here:

www.interfaithweek.org/resources/next-steps



Let's Talk: Practical pointers for inter faith dialogue

Let's Talk was published by IFN in 2017, and is a guide on conducting inter faith dialogue. It includes good practice examples, tips for successful dialogue sessions, along with information on different types of dialogue and in what contexts they occur. It also gives guidance on how to engage in dialogue around difficult issues.

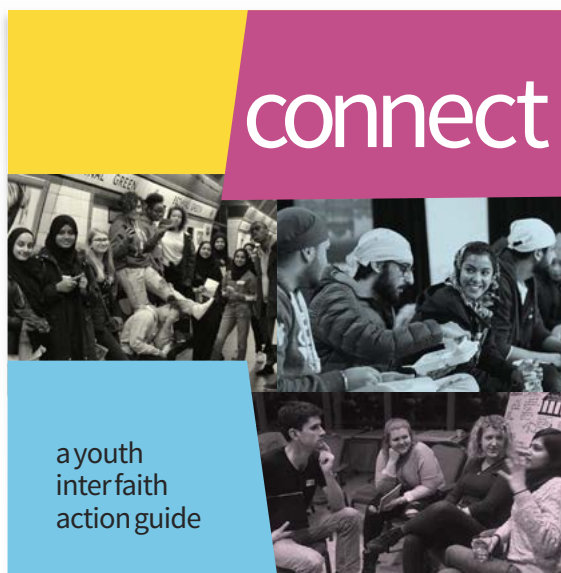
You can download *Let's Talk* at:
www.interfaith.org.uk/uploads/LetsTalk2017web.pdf



Connect: A Youth Inter Faith Action Guide

Connect: A Youth Inter Faith Action Guide was released in July 2018, and is aimed at helping young people to engage in inter faith activity. It includes activity ideas, tips on how to engage in positive dialogue, and examples of Inter Faith activities other young people and youth groups have engaged in. It also includes a checklist for planning your own activities, advice on how to use social media to promote inter faith cooperation and to advertise events, and an explanation of how to provide food that can be eaten by people of all faiths. As well as this, the Connect Guide includes advice on staying safe online and links to inter faith resources created for young people.

Download *Connect* here:
www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/connect



Looking After One Another: The safety and security of our faith communities

This short document contains guidance on responding jointly to attacks on places of worship; working for calm at times of tension; and working to build on and strengthen existing good inter faith relations. It contains material about how and where to report hate incidents, cyber-attacks, and actual or suspected terrorist activity; where to find information on strengthening the security of buildings; and where to find information about working to build – and strengthen – good inter faith relations locally.

Download a copy at

www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/looking-after-one-another-the-safety-and-security-of-our-faith-communities-2017



And finally

Whatever you do, we hope it is successful and enjoyable and do take the time to tell us about it.

www.interfaithweek.org

See you in November!



Participants at the Inter Faith Week Celebration in Nature organised by the London Wildlife Trust at Walthamstow Wetlands

ALTRINCHAM AMBLESIDE ASHFORD ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE AUDLEM
AYLESBURY BANBURY BARNSLEY BASILDON BASINGSTOKE BATLEY
BEACONSFIELD BECCLES BEDFORD BELFAST BIGGLESWADE
BIRKENHEAD BIRMINGHAM BLACKBURN BOLDON COLLIERY BOLTON
BOREHAMWOOD BOURNEMOUTH BOWNESS-ON-WINDERMERE
BRADFORD BRAINTREE BRAUNSTONE TOWN BRIGHTON BRIGHTON AND
HOVE BRISTOL BROMSGROVE BURNLEY BURY BUSHEY CAMBRIDGE
CANTERBURY CARDIFF CARLISLE CARNFORTH CHEADLE CHELMSFORD
CHELTENHAM CHESTER CHICHESTER CHORLEY CLEETHORPES
CLITHEROE COBHAM COVENTRY COWBRIDGE CRAWLEY CROPTHORNE
DALKEITH DARLINGTON DERBY DEWSBURY DUDLEY DURHAM
ELLESMERE PORT ELSTREE ESSEX EXETER FARNHAM FORDINGBRIDGE
GILLINGHAM GLOUCESTER GODALMING GRAVESEND GREAT MALVERN
GREAT YARMOUTH GUILDFORD HALE HALE BARNs HALIFAX HAMBLE
HARTFORD HAVERING HAWKSHEAD HITCHIN HOVE HUDDERSFIELD
HULL IPSWICH KENDAL LANCASTER LEAMINGTON SPA LEEDS
LEICESTER LEWES LICHFIELD LIVERPOOL LONDON (BARKING AND
DAGENHAM) LONDON (BARNET) LONDON (BEXLEY) LONDON (BRENT)
LONDON (CAMDEN) LONDON (CITY OF WESTMINSTER) LONDON (CITY)
LONDON (EALING) LONDON (ENFIELD) LONDON (GREENWICH) LONDON
(HACKNEY) LONDON (HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM) LONDON (HARINGEY)
LONDON (HARROW) LONDON (HENDON) LONDON (HILLINGDON)
LONDON (HOUNSLOW) LONDON (ISLINGTON) LONDON (KENSINGTON AND
CHELSEA) LONDON (LAMBETH) LONDON (LEWISHAM) LONDON (MERTON)
LONDON (NEWHAM) LONDON (REDBRIDGE) LONDON (RICHMOND)
LONDON (SOUTHWARK) LONDON (TOWER HAMLETS) LONDON (WALTHAM
FOREST) LONDON (WANDSWORTH) LOUGHBOROUGH LUTON
MAIDENHEAD MAIDSTONE MANCHESTER MANSFIELD MATLOCK
MIDDLESBROUGH MILTON KEYNES MIRFIELD NELSON NEWCASTLE
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NORFOLK NORWICH NOTTINGHAM NUNEATON
OLDHAM ORMSKIRK OXFORD PENRYN PETERBOROUGH PLYMOUTH
PORTSMOUTH POTTERS BAR PRESTON RADLETT RAMSGATE READING
REDCAR REDDITCH ROCHDALE ROMFORD ROTHERHAM RUGBY
RUNCORN SAFFRON WALDEN SALFORD SALISBURY SCUNTHORPE
SHEFFIELD SKIRLAUGH SLOUGH SMETHWICK SOLIHULL
SOUTHAMPTON STALBANS ST HELENS STAFFORD STEVENAGE
STOCKPORT SUNDERLAND SURREY SWANSEA SWINDON TETBURY
TODMORDEN TORQUAY TROWBRIDGE TRURO UFFCULME WAKEFIELD
WALSALL WARRINGTON WARWICK WATFORD WELLINGBOROUGH
WELLS WESTON-SUPER-MARE WICKFORD WIGSTON WILMSLOW
WISBECH WOKING WOLVERHAMPTON WOODFORD WORCESTER YORK

Published 2019 by the Inter Faith Network for the UK
Registered charity no 1068934
Company limited by guarantee no 3443823
Registered in England

ISBN 1 902906 86 1

The work of the Inter Faith Network for the UK is supported by faith communities, government, trusts and other donors.



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Photo: David Allan Photography
for Sunderland Interfaith Forum