

# Inter Faith Week 2011



### *Cover photo captions/ credits*

*Top: Pupils from Spring Grove Primary School making Diwali lanterns as part of one of Kirklees Faiths Forum's 'Hands on Faiths' workshops (Photo: KFF)*

*Middle: Archbishop Vincent Nichols and leading figures of the Zoroastrian community at the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe sesquicentennial celebrations (Photo: Mazur/catholicnews.org.uk)*

*Bottom: Musicians at 'Festival Night' event as part of the 'Faith in the City' exhibition organised by 3FF in partnership with Art and Christianity Enquiry, Maslaha and the Jewish Community Centre for London (JCC) (Photo: Myles Fisher, IFN)*

*IFN is grateful to events organisers for the information about, and photographs of, their events. Copyright of photographs in this report belongs to those credited in the captions and permission should be sought from them for any reproduction.*

*Myles Fisher worked as a volunteer photographer for IFN during Inter Faith Week, and took pictures at a number of events. IFN is grateful for the gift of his time.*

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

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

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# Inter Faith Week 2011



# Foreword

We are delighted that Inter Faith Week has seen a further growth and even greater impact in 2011. It is a key tool for developing greater understanding about and between faiths as well as dialogue between those of religious and those of non-religious beliefs. It is also a tremendous catalyst for greater practical cooperation between people of different backgrounds.

In Britain we are fortunate that, for the most part, we live in harmony and with a sense of common values. The Week contributes to strengthening this sense, while also being a time to remember and celebrate those aspects of our different faiths that are distinct. Inter faith interaction and cooperation is not about undermining our distinctive identities: it is about coming to know one another better and making common cause for the wider wellbeing of society and, most immediately, in our local communities.

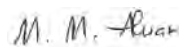
This short report looks back across some of the highlights of the 2011 Week. We are most grateful to all the participating bodies who submitted reports and images of their events. Some are drawn on here, and others in the online 2011 photo gallery or in other reporting contexts. The 'facts and figures' section of this booklet reflects the data from the surveys.

This year, 2012, is a very special one. It is the year of the Diamond Jubilee. Reflecting this, and the fact that extra

events are likely to take place for Inter Faith Week, the Week has been extended to 10 days to run from 18-27 November.

The year is also the 25th anniversary of the Inter Faith Network for the UK.

We hope that as many people as possible will take part and make this a very special year with a legacy of new relationships between faith groups; better understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs; increased numbers of people involved in the work of developing inter faith understanding; and higher awareness of the contribution that faith groups make to society.



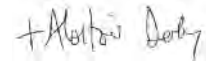
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# Inter Faith Week

Inter Faith Week began in England and Wales in November 2009, drawing on the experience of the established Scottish Inter Faith Week.

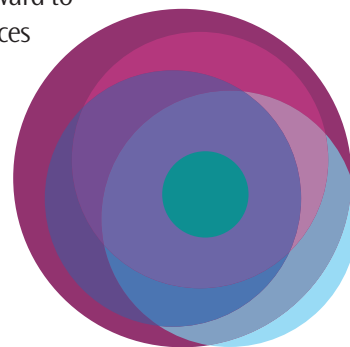
Throughout its short history, Inter Faith Week has continued to grow, in geographical reach, number of events, and media coverage.

Inter Faith Week 2011 was led by the Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN), working with its member bodies, and in consultation with the Department for Communities and Local Government; the Local Government Association; the Department for Education; and the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

In Northern Ireland and Wales, the Week was led by the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum and Inter-faith Council for Wales respectively. Regional Faith Forums in England continued to play a key role in encouraging participation at local level.

The first section of this booklet provides a brief snapshot of Inter Faith Week 2011 and the huge range of events which took place to mark it. It is hoped that these will act as inspiration, generating ideas for new ways to mark the Week this year and beyond.

The final section looks forward to this year's Week. It introduces some of the key elements of the Week and offers tips and ideas. In this Diamond Jubilee Year the 2012 Week will be a special, extended, 'Week' running from 18-27 November.



## The aims of the Week are:

- **Strengthening good inter faith relations at all levels**
- **Increasing 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**
- **Increasing understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs**

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

# Introducing Inter Faith Week 2011

Inter Faith Week 2011 took place between Sunday 20 and Saturday 26 November. Events took place across England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

A wide range of different kinds of organisation marked the Week, including: national and local faith communities; local, regional and national inter faith organisations; businesses and professional bodies; local authorities; schools and SACREs; police, fire services and hospitals; libraries and museums; Higher and Further Education institutions; student unions and societies; youth organisations; community organisations; charities; and academic institutions, among others. Quite a number of events were run in partnership by different kinds of organisation working together.

Inter Faith Week is an opportunity for groups to highlight existing programmes of work, as well as to try something different. A multitude of different kinds of events took place to mark the week, including:

- dialogue events such as panel debates, discussions and 'living libraries'
- social action events such as tree planting, neighbourhood clean-up operations and visiting the house-bound



*Musicians at 'Mayor's Multi-Faith Celebration of Community' event organised by Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource and Ipswich Borough Council (Photo: Myles Fisher, IFN)*



*Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick, Chair of World Congress of Faiths, with Paramjit Singh Kholi, Harrow Inter Faith Council and Harrow Council (Photo: Myles Fisher, IFN)*



- arts and culture events, such as concerts, gallery installations and ‘faiths festivals’
- events focused on learning and religious literacy, such as school classroom events, ‘open door days’ and academic conferences and seminars
- exhibitions, ‘faiths fairs’ and inter faith engagement in places such as further education colleges, town centres and workplace chapels
- walks and pilgrimages between different places of worship or other religiously significant sites
- events focusing on faith and food, such as ‘dine at mine’, charity fundraising dinners and multi faith menus in university and workplace canteens
- film screenings where the film acted as a catalyst for discussion.



*Cohesion Minister Andrew Stunell MP at Interact's 'Interaction Day' event at Kentish Town City Farm (Photo: IFN)*



*Volunteers from St Philip's Centre, Neve Shalom and Leicester's Jewish community collecting items for donation to local community groups as part of a joint Mitzvah Day and Inter Faith Week event (Photo: Will Johnston)*

Mitzvah Day again took place on the first day of Inter Faith Week, and a number of events took place to jointly mark Inter Faith Week and Mitzvah Day.

A list of all the events known to have taken place to mark Inter Faith Week 2011 can be found on the Inter Faith Week website at [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)

# Encouraging involvement

To encourage involvement in a Week such as Inter Faith Week, publicity and resources are vital.

This year, a large number of new web resources were developed to assist particular types of organisation which might want to take part: local authorities; police; fire and rescue services; hospitals; schools; Higher and Further Education institutions; local and national faith communities; and local and national inter faith organisations. Web resources are available at [www.interfaithweek.org/resources](http://www.interfaithweek.org/resources)

A report on the 2010 Week with tips and ideas for 2011 was widely distributed, including to local authorities in England and Wales. Local authorities are among those showing a growing interest in the Week.

As well as holding events themselves, national faith communities encouraged their members to join in and they put out press releases both announcing the Week and about particular events during the Week.

These factors, together with the launch of the @IFWeek Twitter account to publicise updates to the website and continuing use of traditional publicity routes, led to an increase in web traffic to the Inter Faith Week website of 400% between September and October.

A number of video interviews were carried out during the Week. See [www.interfaithweek.org/media/videos](http://www.interfaithweek.org/media/videos) Other interviews are being added in the coming months.



# Inter Faith Week 2011 – facts and figures

Inter Faith Week continued to grow apace in 2011, with 507 events known to have taken place across England, Northern Ireland and Wales. This is an increase of 44% since the first Week in 2009.

The Inter Faith Week website drew more traffic than ever, with 9,399 site hits during the actual Week (up 19% on 2010), and 38,743 hits during the fourth quarter of 2011 (up 31% on 2010). ‘Unique visits’ also rose by 20%.

For 2011, the online listing process was enhanced to include a searchable map; searchable categories, including ones for venue accessibility; and a facility enabling event organisers to submit event details via the national website. 54% of events known to have taken place were registered online. This increased the chances that members of the public could find events to attend and that journalists would pick up on the Week.

This year, the event registration form asked event organisers about venue accessibility. 37% of those registering events met a basic venue accessibility criterion of having disabled parking, wheelchair access and disabled toilet facilities. Users were able to search for events which met their particular access needs, such as hearing induction loops (18%) and braille signage (4%).



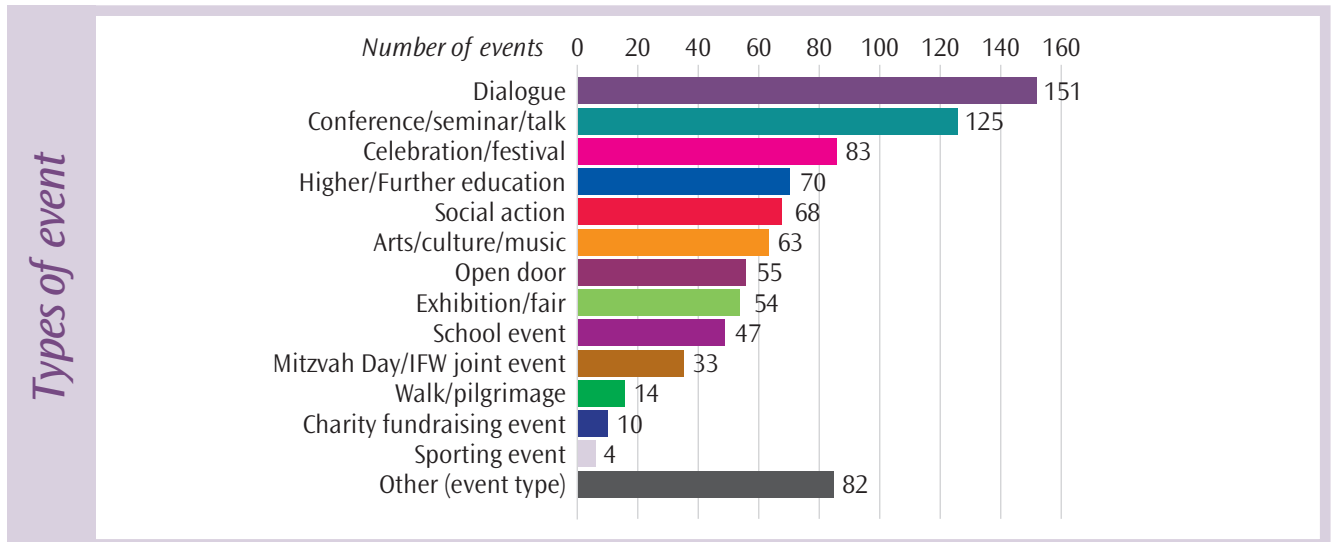
# Types of event

A wide variety of different types of event took place to mark Inter Faith Week 2011. The chart below shows numbers of events for each event type. Many events fell into more than one category; for example, 151 organisations registered their events under the heading 'dialogue', 68 under the heading 'social action', and 36 under both headings.

The category 'Other' was used by 82 organisers who registered events. Within it were events such as radio broadcasts, singing, film screenings, story-telling, local launch events and workshops.



*A Christian storyteller as part of 'Sea of Stories' organised by the London Interfaith Centre and St Ethelburga's (Photo: St Ethelburga's)*



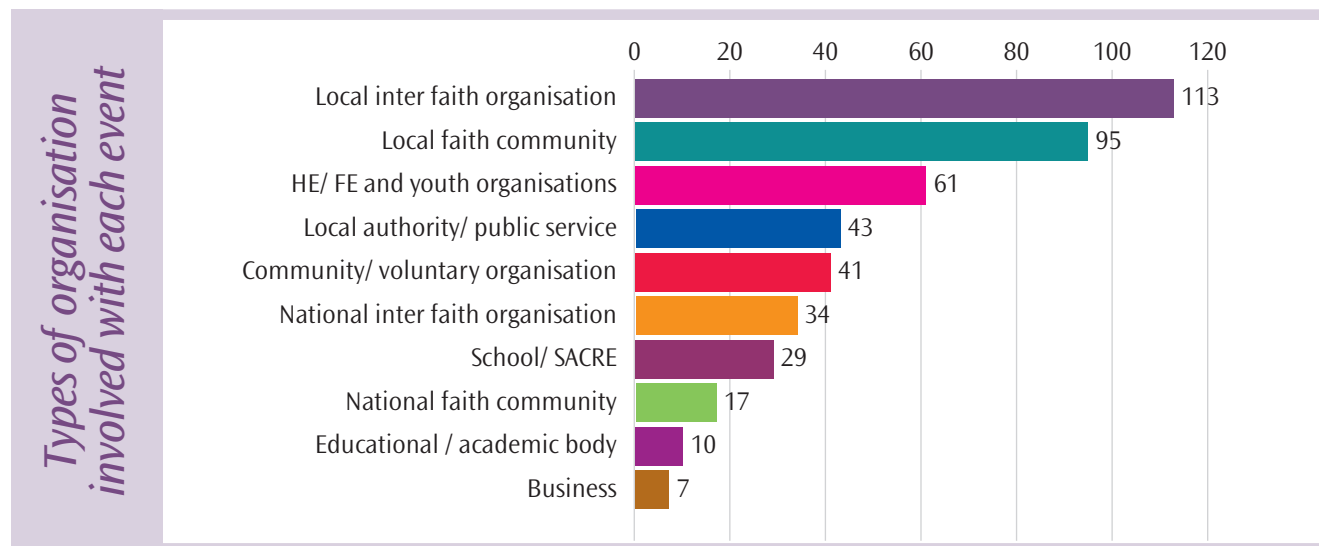
# Who marked the Week?

Over 500 events, organised by 450 organisations, took place to mark the Week, bringing together thousands of people from all ages and backgrounds. Many different types of organisation held events. A number did so in partnership – often working together for the first time.

The chart below is based on information about the events known to IFN to have taken place and where the organisations were listed as having played an organisational role. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some events took place that were not publicised, particularly where these were not aimed at members of the public, such as workplace or classroom activities. The chart,

however, does not include these events as fuller information was unavailable. A number of bodies chose to focus on encouraging participation of their constituencies in the Week rather than marking it directly with their own events. Among these were many national and regional faith and inter faith organisations, SACREs and the National Union of Students.

This year, the Week again saw a great deal of cross-sector participation, with speakers and participants from many different backgrounds, including mayors, councillors and local authority staff joining faith leaders and others on panels, in discussions and other events.



## Just a few of the local events survey respondents described:

*“Events at Bolton included two major faith trails with schools, an open day and a faith walk, which included many people from all walks of life... A very rewarding week.”*

*Bolton Inter Faith Council*

*“We marked Inter Faith Week... [with an event at] Halifax Minster... [on] the theme of ‘Building Trust’... The programme was attended by 250 people including children from different schools across the Borough...”*

*Calderdale Interfaith Council*

*“A small partnership working group from the Council and local faith communities organised a multi faith event – Southend Faith Communities – supporting the wider community. ... An inter faith working group involving local faith representatives and the Council has been set up to deliver agreed actions following the event.”*

*Southend Council*

*“This was the official launch and first AGM of Salford Interfaith Network; more people attended than expected. We enjoyed the Mayor’s support and great cooperation between the faith communities involved. It was also a good way to bring together various chaplaincies, eg university, health service, prison and Media City...”*

*Salford Faith Network*

*“We organised a pilgrimage to five places of worship in the Watford town centre. As it was Mitzvah Day, the Jewish community provided us with drinks and kosher cakes before we started and the Sikhs provided hot food at the end of the walk.”*

*Watford Interfaith Association*

*“Nottingham Inter Faith’s Got Talent – a now annual inter faith concert – a full and varied programme of talented acts supported by an enthusiastic audience.”*

*Nottingham Inter Faith Council*

*“Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board hosted a safeguarding children conference ... Over 50 people from a wide range of faith based organisations attended.”*

*Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board*

*“[We held] a consultation on the impact and future direction of the Council of Faiths.”*

*Bedford Council of Faiths*

*“[Our] Inter Faith Week ‘Meet the Rabbi’ event helped to raise the profile of our new rabbi with other local faith communities.”*

*United Hebrew Congregation Newcastle*

*“We worked with international partners to organise...a conference at Lambeth Palace on social innovation and social action. This gave an opportunity for those in single faith action organisations a chance to learn from the best practice of others and to explore opportunities for collaboration....”*

*Faiths Forum for London*

*“Management at Highcross (shopping centre) which hosted our week-long exhibition [about different faiths in Leicester] told us that the exhibition had a footfall of around 300,000 over the week.”*

*Leicester Council of Faiths*

*“Europe House hosted London Borough Faith Network’s Lunch in MultiFaith Europe. People from over 30 organisations in London came along – great for information sharing, networking and exploring the creation of a European Network on Religion and Belief.”*

*London Borough Faith Network*

*“An evening on Spirituality and the Earth ...inspiring and educational with lecture, song and poetry. Wonderful!”*

*West Somerset Multi-Faith Forum*

*“...Tree planting promoted jointly by the local Jewish community and the local council of faiths. It involves young and old and ...encourages new friendships.”*

*Oxford Council of Faiths [Also linked to Mitzvah Day]*

*“...Stories were shared, and craft skills exchanged as people of all faiths and ages came together to enjoy a day of story telling, crafts and performance to mark Inter Faith Week... The event, attended by over 450 people took place at Hounslow Civic Centre. The BBC Radio 4 Sunday programme included a short report on our event as an example of interfaith gatherings.”*

*Hounslow Friends of Faith, London Borough of Hounslow and Hounslow Libraries.*

1) Pathways Roadshow at Holy Trinity CofE Primary School in Hampstead (Photo: Pathways)

2) Attenders at the 'Meet the Rabbi' event hosted by CCJ North East and United Hebrew Congregation Newcastle (Photo: UHCN)

3) Lanterns used as part of York Interfaith's candlelit walk (Photo: British Province of Carmelites)

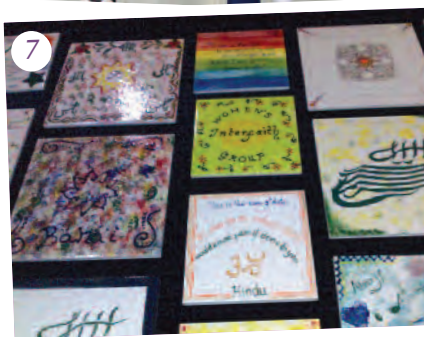
4) Attenders at 'Hands Together for Inter Faith Week' run by Cheltenham Inter Faith, Cheltenham Borough Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery and the University of Gloucestershire (Photo: John Ryan)

5) Young people's 'special walk' as part of Everton FC's Kickz and Positive Futures project to celebrate Inter Faith Week (Photo: Everton FC).

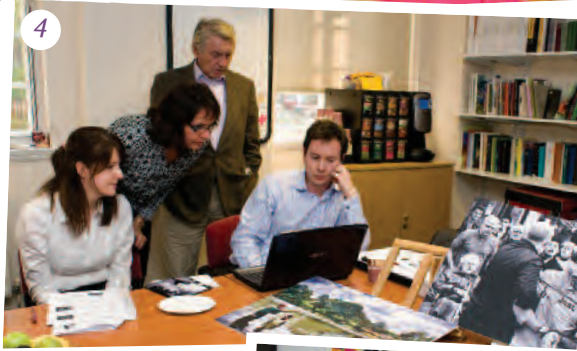
6) Display at Sheffield Students' Union (Photo: Activities Officer, SSU)

7) Tiles created by Calderdale Interfaith Council Women's Interfaith Group. Displayed at IFW event at Halifax Minster (Photo: IFN)

8) Archbishop of Wales, Barry Morgan; Sheikh Ibrahim Mogra; First Minister Carwyn Jones and Saleem Kidwai at a Muslim Council of Wales and Church in Wales event (Photo: MCW)







1) Students at Weston College as part of their 'Celebration of Religions' event (Photo: Weston College)

2) Lunch in Multi Faith Europe' event, organised by London Boroughs Faiths Network (Photo: Christopher Moore, LBFN)

3) Attender at Kirklees Faiths Forum event (Photo: KFF)

4) Judges deliberating as part of the 'Faith Through the Lens' photography competition of Ecclesiastical and General Insurance (Photo: Myles Fisher, IFN)

5) Ugur Tok, Shirley McMichael, Junior Minister Jonathan Bell, Edwin Graham and Dr Ahmed Helmy at Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum's 'Faith Diversity' event with the Northern Ireland Assembly (Photo: IFN)

6) Attenders at Dudley Borough Interfaith Network's AGM event which included story-telling from different traditions (Photo: Dudley CVS)

7) Pupils from Red Hill and Feckenham schools enjoy foods from different cultures as part of their 'curry and ice cream to celebrate faiths' event (Photo: John Anyon, Worcester News)

*Images from the  
2011 Week*

1) Participants in a candle-lit walk through York, organised by York Interfaith Group (Photo: British Province of Carmelites)

2) Participants at 'Human Library' event by Wycombe Sharing of Faiths, Bucks CC, Library Service Bucks New University (Photo: WSF)

3) Dancers at an inter faith gathering at Plymouth University organised by Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity, University of Plymouth Multi-Faith Chaplaincy, Torbay Inter-Faith Forum, Devon Faith and Belief Forum, and Faithnetsouthwest (Photo: PCFCD)

4) Members of Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Faith Leaders Group at the launch of the Birmingham Faith Map (Photo: Birmingham Council of Faiths)

5) Participants sharing challah at 'Mothers of Faiths' event by Joseph Interfaith Foundation with Lotus Life (Photo: JIF)

6) Speaker at 'Bridging the Gap' event, organised by Cheshire and Warrington Interfaith Network with Warrington Borough Council (Photo: CWIN)

7) Workshop on social action at Jain Network event (Photo: JN)





1) Coventry Inter Faith Week flyer

2) Celebration of the Rainbow Nations of Wisbech (Wisbech Interfaith Forum, Wisbech One World Week, The Rosmini Centre, Our Lady and St Charles RC Church)

3) Faith and Film events (Malaria No More UK)

4) Cardiff University flyer

5) Rhythms of the Heart (Wellingborough Inter Faith Group, Wellingborough United Reformed Church, Borough Council of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire Community Foundation, Constance Travis Charitable Trust)

6) Pledge a Pound – Lose a Luxury (Kirklees Faiths Forum)

7) 'Share the Wisdom of the World's Faiths' (Kendal Unitarian Chapel)

8) Urban Dialogues Exhibition: 'Faith in the City' (3FF, Art and Christianity Enquiry, Maslaha and the Jewish Community Centre for London)

9) Faith Leaders Conference (Thurrock Faith Matters and Thurrock Council)

10) A Feast of Cultures (Golcar Together)

# National faith communities conversation event

In 2010, the Inter Faith Network worked with DCLG on a Government reception for Inter Faith Week, highlighting and celebrating the work of local inter faith activists. This year, the spotlight moved to national faith communities to mark the Week. IFN organised a national faith communities conversation on “Living well together in Britain today”.

The event on 21 November at Central Hall Westminster drew together senior leaders and included opening reflections from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams; Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks; and Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP. Videos of the three presentations can be found at [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)

Participants from all the faith communities represented shared their reflections on a number of aspects of living well together as people of faith in the UK today as well as engaging with wider society for the common good.



*The Lord Singh of Wimbledon, Vivian Wineman and Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams at the national faith communities conversation event (Photo: IFN)*



*Participants in the national faith communities conversation event at Westminster Central Hall (Photo: IFN)*

Part of the planning process for this event included the development of a set of questions on the theme “Living well together in Britain today”. These were widely distributed to local and national faith and inter faith bodies, and were included on the Inter Faith Week website at [www.interfaithweek.org/resources/living-well-together](http://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/living-well-together). These questions are reproduced overleaf.



*Bishop Alastair Redfern, Dr Manazir Ahsan, Dr Harriet Crabtree, Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks, Dr Girdari Bhan and Dr Natubhai Shah at national faith communities conversation event (Photo: IFN)*



*Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks and Communities Secretary Eric Pickles MP at the national faith communities conversation event (Photo: IFN)*

The questions were designed for discussion not just during Inter Faith Week but throughout 2012, and the IFN office will be pleased to hear from groups who are making use of them for events.



*Participants in the national faith communities conversation event at Westminster Central Hall (Photo: IFN)*

# ‘Living well together’ in Britain today

In Britain today, people of many different backgrounds live side by side as part of a shared society. Inter Faith Week is an opportunity to discuss and debate how we ‘live well together’. The following questions have been developed in connection with a national faith communities’ conversation happening during the 2011 Week and are offered for others who would like to draw on them to do so.

- a. What does it mean to live well together?
- b. What are the distinctive contributions that faith communities bring to the wellbeing of our shared society, both in Britain and globally?
- c. How do we discern and agree values held in common that underpin our shared society?
- d. How do we live out, with commitment and integrity, our faith/beliefs in a diverse society and in a society where religion is often misunderstood?
- e. How do we negotiate our differences effectively and courteously?
- f. Where best can religious communities work together for the good of our wider society?
- g. How can people of religious beliefs and non-religious beliefs engage constructively on issues of common concern and work for greater mutual understanding?
- h. What resources can we draw on from our religious traditions for positive engagement with our wider society?
- i. What are the teachings in our faith community which inspire service to others?
- j. How do faith communities’ responses to events such as the August riots demonstrate their role at the heart of local communities?
- k. How can faith communities and Government engage effectively, respectfully and yet critically for the common good?
- l. How can we engage with those from within our communities who do not wish to work positively with other communities or our wider society?
- m. As part of strengthening the fabric of our society, how can faith groups, educators and others work to help increase understanding about beliefs and practices of different faiths and tackle misunderstandings of their teachings?
- n. How does education within faith communities, Religious Education and Citizenship Education help strengthen inter faith understanding and cooperation?
- o. How can Inter Faith Week, and other special days and weeks related to inter faith engagement help raise the profile of inter faith dialogue and action for the common good?

*Inter Faith Network for the UK, 2011*

# What event organisers are saying...

After Inter Faith Week, organisations who had registered their event online at [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org) were invited to take part in a survey gauging reactions to it.

18% of those who registered an event in advance of the Week responded to the survey.

**96% of respondents feel Inter Faith Week raises the profile of their work**

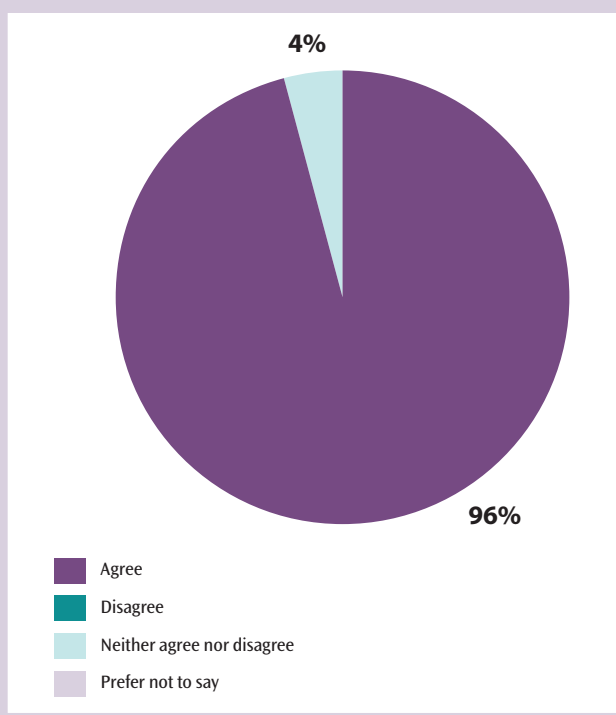
Feedback was generally very positive. 96% of respondents felt that Inter Faith Week raised the profile of their work and 98% of respondents indicated that they were either already planning events for 2012 or were likely to do so.

Nearly all respondents felt that Inter Faith Week was an important tool for bringing about its aims (see page 21).

'Increasing understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs' was identified as the aim remaining in need of most development.

**98% of respondents would mark the Week again**

*'I/We held an event(s) for Inter Faith Week this year or in past years and think it helped raise the profile of our work'*



## Some of the things organisers said they liked about the Week:

*“Meeting people and getting to know them better”*

*“Seeing people from various backgrounds coming together”*

*“That Inter Faith Week happens all around the country. It promotes a sense of belonging as well as affirmation.”*

*“It is important that one week a year we ALL emphasise the value of inter faith work in every place possible. ...”*

*“Helps to build relationships with all in the community and strengthens RE provision through work with teachers, SACRE and local faith communities.”*

*“A good way to encourage people to get involved... especially if it is for the first time”*

*“The sense of...seeing new faces, particularly those who are not faith ‘professionals’”*

*“The...interest the Week has attracted, both locally and nationally”*

*“Really enjoyed knowing lots of similar organisations were carrying out work at the same time.”*

*“It gives us a focus for our ongoing day to day work...”*

*“...the Week galvanises people’s efforts”*

*“It gives a focus for planning an event and getting the local authority involved...”*

*“...awareness of local inter faith [activity]”*

*“The plethora of events on offer which celebrate both the similarities and differences between various faith traditions in an interesting manner.”*

*“Watching inter faith engagement/conversations happen – especially with children asking questions. Being in the midst of such engagement, the energy and fun.”*



## And some thoughts about developing the Week:

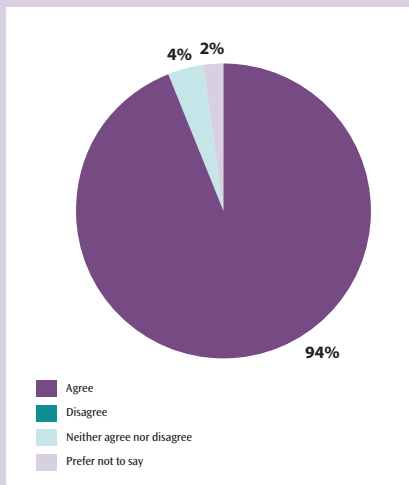
Some ideas from survey respondents included: ‘more media coverage’; ‘an annual theme’; ‘funding’; ‘a more attractive multiplatform, interactive online resource’ for IFW; ‘encouragement of participation with young offenders’ institutions and organisations like the Anne Frank Trust’.

Additionally, there were some reflections on the need to make the Week more inclusive, particularly in relation to those with non-religious beliefs.

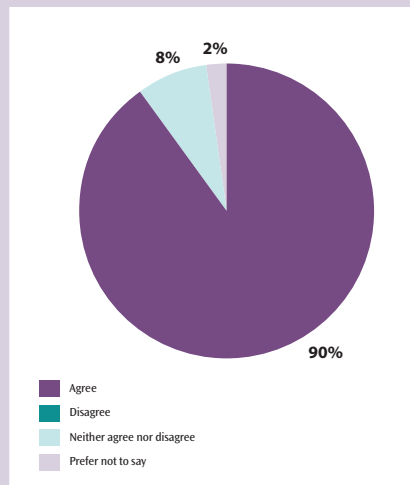


Part of a series of faith exhibitions throughout the Week organised by York Interfaith, York Explore, and City of York Council (Photo: York Carmelite Spirituality Group)

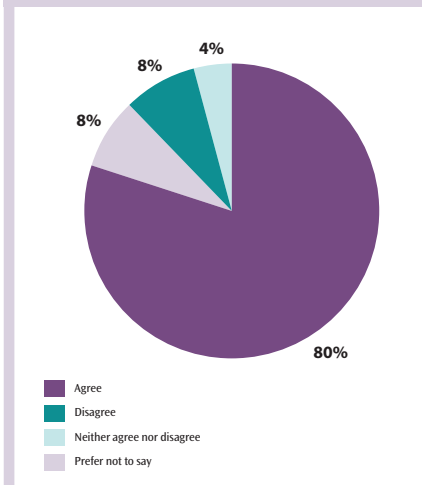
*‘I/We think that Inter Faith Week is an important tool for raising the profile of work to promote inter faith understanding and cooperation’*



*‘I/We think that Inter Faith Week is an important tool for raising awareness about the contribution which faith communities make – singly and together – to the wellbeing of society’*



*‘I/We think that: Inter Faith Week is an important tool for encouraging dialogue between those of religious beliefs and those of non-religious beliefs’*



# Media coverage of the 2011 Week

2011 saw a considerable increase in media coverage of the Week compared to previous years.

Inter Faith Week was reported in the national press, including a half-page spread in the *Times* entitled 'Seven days to strengthen ties between religions'; a number of national religious and community papers; local and regional press and blogs. National radio coverage included a special piece on the BBC's *Sunday Programme*. Selected media coverage of the Week can be found on the Inter Faith Week website at [www.interfaithweek.org/media/2011-media-coverage](http://www.interfaithweek.org/media/2011-media-coverage)

## Social Media



Inter Faith Week made use of Twitter for the first time in 2011, tweeting as **@IFWeek** and encouraging the use of the hashtag **#IFWeek**. A large number of organisations and individuals followed the account, added it to faith-related lists, tweeted about the Week and re-tweeted event information to their own followers. Work to build on this will continue in the run up to the 2012 Week.



# Inter Faith Week 2012 – a 10 day Week!

In this Diamond Jubilee year, there will be a special extended Inter Faith Week in England, Northern Ireland and Wales running from 18 to 27 November.

This is in anticipation of additional activities taking place because of the Jubilee, including some with a link both to the Week and to the 'A Year of Service' programme.

'A Year of Service' is an exciting project dedicated to highlighting the role of faith in charitable and social action work, with faith communities hosting a day or days of volunteering each month throughout 2012. The Year is linked to the Diamond Jubilee and reflects the fact that 'service' has been a key theme of Her Majesty The Queen's reign. <http://ayearofservice.org.uk/>

## Scottish Inter Faith Week

Scottish Inter Faith Week has, since its establishment in 2004, fallen at the turn of November and December because it is linked to St Andrew's Day on 30 November. This year the Week will run from 25 November to 1 December. It will be of the normal one week duration. Further information is available from the Scottish Inter Faith Council [www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org](http://www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org)

*“Inter Faith Week strengthens relations, increases awareness of our different faith communities and is a great opportunity to celebrate the remarkable practical contribution that faith groups make, inspiring great numbers of people to public service. We would be poorer by far without their contribution.”*

*Eric Pickles MP*



*Attendees at the 'How can faith communities work together to enhance quality of life?' panel discussion event organised by the Nishkam Civic Association (Photo: Nishkam Centre)*

# Planning tips for Inter Faith Week

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

- Fit in a planning meeting early in the year to decide what kind of event you might hold
- Look at the resources available on the Inter Faith Week website [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)
- Register your event as early as possible at [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)
- Think early on about how you might evaluate the impact of your events once they are done
- Where appropriate, consider inviting civic leaders and/or other key figures in your community and contact them well in advance
- If you are running a whole programme of events, consider spreading them across the Week
- Bear in mind the times which members of some faiths may not be able to attend events because of their own days and times of religious observance

## Make your event count!

register it online at [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)



*Liverpool Community Spirit Youth Council member leads a mehndi workshop. Event led by Liverpool Community Spirit with Calderstones School and Liverpool SACRE (Photo: Joshua Terry, LCS)*

- Make someone in charge of taking photographs at your event and getting people's permission to use these
- Make use of social networking sites to boost awareness of your event
- Tweet about your event using the #IFWeek tag so that other users can quickly find information about Inter Faith Week events
- Invite journalists to attend and cover your event well in advance

- After your event, send photographs and a press release to media and to enquiries@interfaithweek.org
- If you are taking part in the Big Jubilee Lunch on 3 June ([www.thebiglunch.com/join-in/jubilee-2012.php](http://www.thebiglunch.com/join-in/jubilee-2012.php)) why not invite members of other local faith communities to join you and brainstorm over the lunch about your plans for Inter Faith Week.

The Inter Faith Week website includes lots of useful planning resources, including many developed specifically for schools, local authorities, faith communities, inter faith groups, colleges and universities, police, fire and rescue services and hospitals, as well as many other useful resources. Please visit [www.interfaithweek.org/resources](http://www.interfaithweek.org/resources)



Follow @IFWeek for announcements about the Week and use #IFWeek to talk about your event.

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



*Baha'i singers at an exhibition on worship and singing at Leeds City Museum organised by Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship (Photo: IFN)*

# Some ideas for Inter Faith Week 2012

- A new local inter faith body chooses the Week as the time for its formal launch
- Places of worship in the town hold 'open door days' and welcome members of the public to look around
- A local inter faith group arranges a faith walk between places of worship in the area
- Local faith communities choose to mark the Diamond Jubilee by working with schools and youth organisations in their area to put on a cross-generational event exploring inter faith issues
- A faith school with pupils mainly of one faith arranges a day of joint activities with a faith school with pupils of a different faith background
- A local faith community runs a volunteering day linked to 'A Year of Service' and invites members of other faiths to join in (<http://ayearofservice.org.uk>)
- a centre runs a conference on the basis for volunteering in different religious and non-religious traditions
- A students' union organises a 'faith fair' event where faith societies and local faith groups run stalls introducing their faith tradition
- A business and a national inter faith organisation organise a conference on workplace ethics



*Pandit Madhubhai V Shashtri and Baroness Kathleen Richardson at national launch of the Hindu Christian Forum at Lambeth Palace (Photo: Myles Fisher, IFN)*

- Women of different faiths get together for an inter faith coffee morning to discuss the role of women in their faith communities
- A university chaplaincy organises an 'inter faith pot lunch' event where people of different faiths bring a special dish to share

- An academic body organises a day conference exploring issues of inter faith dialogue and religious scholarship
- A national faith community launches a new resource pack on inter faith issues for its members
- A regional faith forum holds a pre-Week briefing day for local groups in its region
- A national faith body holds an event to kick-start a new dialogue process with another tradition with which it has not previously been in formal dialogue
- A community organisation holds a workshop exploring causes of community tensions and ways of mediating these
- A SACRE and local inter faith group work with local schools to provide panellists for RE students to ask questions
- Youth groups from two different local faith communities organise a 5-a-side football match during the Week
- A local community organisation invites members of local faith communities to a conversation event exploring the use of sport in neighbourhood regeneration, drawing on experience of the Olympics
- A community choir event is held with singers from different religious and non-religious backgrounds
- A local inter faith organisation invites all the places of worship in its area to join together in a celebration event and fundraises for a local cause



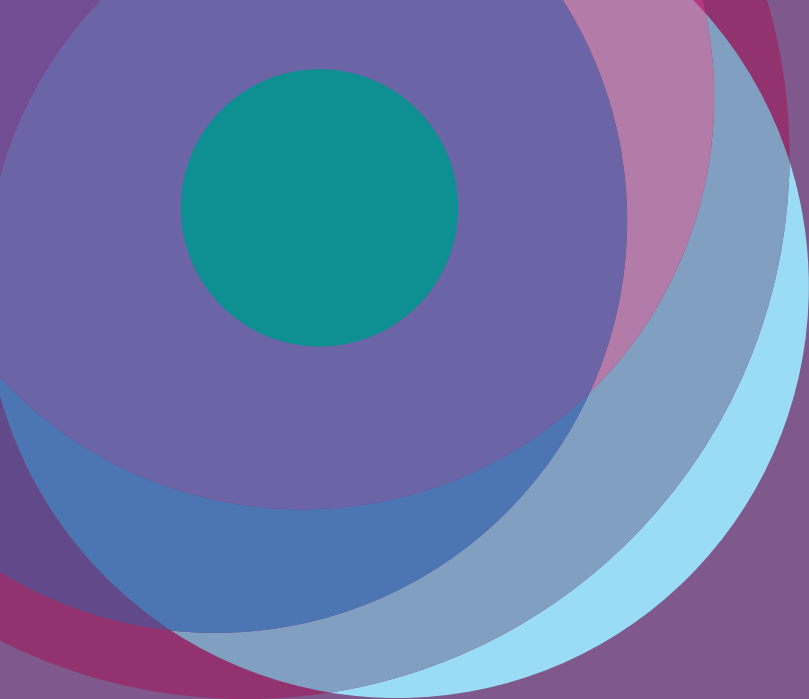
*The Mayor of Preston at opening of a 'Multifaith Exhibition' with displays produced by students at Broughton Business and Enterprise College at the Harris Museum Library, Preston. Organised by Preston Faith Forum, Lancashire Forum of Faiths, Preston City Council, Lancashire County Council and the Harris Library. (Photo: PFF)*



*Liverpool Community Spirit Youth Council member leads a mehndi workshop (Photo: Joshua Terry, Liverpool Community Spirit)*







The Inter Faith Network for the UK has worked since 1987 to promote inter faith understanding and cooperation in the UK. Inter Faith Week helps carry forward this vital work and to increase awareness of the importance of mutual understanding and joint action for the common good.

Inter Faith Week is a key way that people of all faiths – and none – can make new connections, share ideas for shaping their local communities, and learn about the range of faiths and beliefs in our diverse society and about how faith communities contribute to the wellbeing of society. This short report shows some of the ways the 2011 Week was marked in England and opens the door to Inter Faith Week 2012 with ideas for the Week.

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

- Promoting good inter faith relations
- Highlighting the contribution of faiths to building community
- Increasing understanding between faiths and wider society



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