

# Inter Faith Week

Stories from 2016, inspiration for 2017



Published 2017 by the Inter Faith Network  
for the UK  
ISBN: 1 902906 72 1

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Registered charity no 1068934  
Company limited by guarantee  
no 3443823  
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The work of IFN is supported by faith communities, trusts, other donors and the Department for Communities and Local Government.



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

#### FRONT COVER PHOTOS

**Top left:** Participants at the 3FF Parlia Mentors' Youth Interfaith Summit discussing 'Faith on Campus' (Photo: 3FF)

**Top middle:** Participants at a multi faith football tournament organised by Shapla Sports and Sporting Equals in Bradford to mark Inter Faith Week (Photo: Shapla Sports)

**Top right:** Noor-ul-Islam and Waltham Forest Faith Communities Forum's 'Interfaith Friends Dinner' (Photo: IFN)

**Bottom left:** Attendees at a Slough Faith Partnership Inter Faith Week event (Photo: Slough Faith Partnership)

**Bottom middle:** Organisers at the 'Indian Soldiers' event at the Zoroastrian Centre, Harrow, held by Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe and the Golden Tours Foundation (Photo: V Kumar Photography)

**Bottom right:** A tour of Bristol Progressive Synagogue as part of Bristol Multi Faith Forum's 'Faith Walks' (Photo: IFN)

Design: Tattersall Hammarling & Silk Ltd

# The Inter Faith Network for the UK

Inter Faith Week is a programme of the Inter Faith Network for the UK.

The Inter Faith Network for the UK (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, local, regional and national inter faith bodies, 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 as part of working for the common good.

IFN carries out its work through raising awareness within wider society of the importance of inter faith issues, creating opportunities for linking and sharing of good practice, and providing advice and information to help the development of new inter faith initiatives and the strengthening of existing ones. Inter Faith Week is one of IFN's major programmes.

IFN works for the public benefit and its wide ranging activity touches the lives of many thousands of people directly and through the organisations and initiatives with which it engages. Working with its 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 make a donation to support IFN's work of promoting inter faith understanding and cooperation, please visit [www.interfaith.org.uk](http://www.interfaith.org.uk).

# Inter Faith Week

Stories from 2016, inspiration for 2017



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*“Inter faith understanding and cooperation are a vital part of living well together in our increasingly diverse United Kingdom. Inter Faith Week is an excellent time to highlight this and to widen involvement in joint social action projects, dialogue and learning.”*

THE TRUSTEES OF THE INTER FAITH NETWORK

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

# Foreword

Inter Faith Week is a time each year when the spotlight falls on faith and belief and on the importance of inter faith understanding and cooperation. It is a special time for creating new connections, tackling prejudice and suspicion, deepening mutual understanding and making common cause for the benefit of our neighbourhoods and wider society.

This short report celebrates Inter Faith Week 2016, which took place from 13-20 November. This was the ninth such Week in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with more events than ever before. As usual it was also a time for finding out more about each others' faiths and beliefs, getting involved in practical multi faith social action projects and enjoying many cultural and social events. And in a year which saw spikes in hate crime and many challenges, the Week was also a chance for many to lift up their commitment to a shared society characterised by neighbourliness that resists the wedges of division.

We hope you will be inspired to take part in the next Inter Faith Week, and that the Week can continue to grow and to help draw even more people of all ages and backgrounds to get involved.

The Inter Faith Network is grateful to all who contributed to the production of this report by providing photographs and quotations, and for reporting on their experiences of the Week, whether through an online survey or in other ways.

Most of all, IFN is grateful to those who took part in the Week and ensured that its message reached a wider audience than ever before.

Inter Faith Week 2017 will take place from Sunday 12 November to Sunday 19 November. This booklet ends with links to resources to plan your event. We do hope that you will take part!

## From the Co-Chairs of the Inter Faith Network for the UK



Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE and Jatinder Singh Birdi, Co-Chairs, Inter Faith Network (Photo: Myles Fisher for IFN)

# About Inter Faith Week

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

The Week is supported and led by the Inter Faith Network as part of its overall work to support the development and deepening of cooperation and good relations between people of different faiths in the UK, working with the Northern Ireland Inter Faith Forum and the Inter-faith Council for Wales.<sup>1</sup>

Inter Faith Week takes place every November. Its aims are 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

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

*“We are greatly enriched by the diversity of faiths that call our country home, all of whom play an integral part in their local communities. Inter Faith Week is a terrific way for people to learn from one another and celebrate the tremendous amount we have in common.”*

LORD BOURNE OF ABERYSTWYTH, MINISTER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR FAITH AND INTEGRATION AND COHESION AT THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

*“Inter Faith Week is all about bringing people together to help improve understanding of different faiths and share what we have in common.”*

THE RT HON SAJID JAVID MP, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

*“Inter Faith Week is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the incredible diversity and richness of faith communities in Britain. It is also a chance for people of all faiths to come together and to highlight the invaluable contribution they collectively make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society.”*

THE RT HON THERESA MAY MP, PRIME MINISTER

<sup>1</sup> In 2016, for the first time, Scottish Interfaith Week took place at the same time as the Week elsewhere in the UK, and the website listed events in all four nations.

# Inter Faith Week 2016 – a big impact

Inter Faith Week 2016 was the biggest Week to date. 573 events are known to have taken place across England, Northern Ireland and Wales. 70 events took place in the same week to mark Scottish Interfaith Week.

Thousands of people took part in these events, many of which involved several different activities.

## The importance of the Week in the words of participants...

*“I believe events like Inter Faith Week are very important in terms of promoting cohesion and understanding between different communities and faith groups.”*

CEO, KENT EQUALITY COHESION COUNCIL

*“Participation seems to be increasing year on year, with an ever-widening range of activities linked to the Week. From Facebook postings we can see that this has really taken off nationwide.”*

GUILDFORD & GODALMING INTERFAITH FORUM

*“The Week allowed not only an opportunity to get involved in activities with colleagues who are members of different faiths, but equally as importantly the activities provided an excellent forum to talk to others who we might not normally get to.”*

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

*“The most important thing about Inter Faith Week is the opportunity it provides to learn about and celebrate the diversity of religions in Northern Ireland today.”*

LOCAL AUTHORITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

*“Inter Faith Week encourages you to link with other faith based organisations to jointly work on a project and organise activities. It bonds people of different faiths together for the common good.”*

ZOROASTRIAN TRUST FUNDS OF EUROPE

*“It is the highlight of the whole year.”*

PRESTON FAITH FORUM

*“Inter Faith Week is all about bringing communities together to celebrate our differences and our similarities. It’s about working together, developing new partnerships and new friendships, gaining greater understanding of one another and what is important to each other. Inter Faith Week is about inclusion.”*

PAGAN FEDERATION MEMBER WRITING IN PAGAN DAWN

*“National Inter Faith Week gives us a further opportunity to cement and enhance the work we do in Bolton.”*

BOLTON INTERFAITH COUNCIL

# A fantastic spread of events

Activities which took place during the Week were wide-ranging. They included: multi faith Remembrance events; peace and non-violence events; activities highlighting the arts, culture and music of the UK's faith communities; celebrations and festivals; pilgrimages, walks, faith trails and open door days; dialogues and discussions; events at higher and further education institutions; those promoting increased religious literacy; school activities; social action projects; sporting activities; women's events; those held by local authorities and public agencies; national events and initiatives and special projects in the media, online and on social media.

Events took place in many different kinds of places: places of worship; schools; campuses; libraries; civic buildings; museums; outdoor spaces such as woods; sports grounds and even inside the Houses of Parliament.

In several towns and cities, such as York, Birmingham, Norwich, Leicester and Southampton, a whole week-long programme of events was organised.

This short report gives a flavour of the events. For more detailed information visit [www.interfaithweek.org/resources/2016-snapshots](http://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/2016-snapshots).



To view a report of events and activities that took place to mark Scottish Interfaith Week, visit [www.interfaithscotland.org/scottish-interfaith-week](http://www.interfaithscotland.org/scottish-interfaith-week).

***“The events of Inter Faith Week are public indicators of Britain’s substantial interethnic and interfaith solidarity all fifty-two weeks of the year.”***

PROFESSOR ELEANOR NESBITT, LSE BLOG



Visitors to York Mosque during Inter Faith Week pose for a photograph (Photo: York Interfaith Group)

***“Inter Faith Week is a high profile burst of activity which transcends religious & cultural barriers. Against a backdrop of increased anxiety, Inter Faith Week allows us to get to know people we wouldn't normally meet.”***

IFN MEMBER BODY

# Events Map



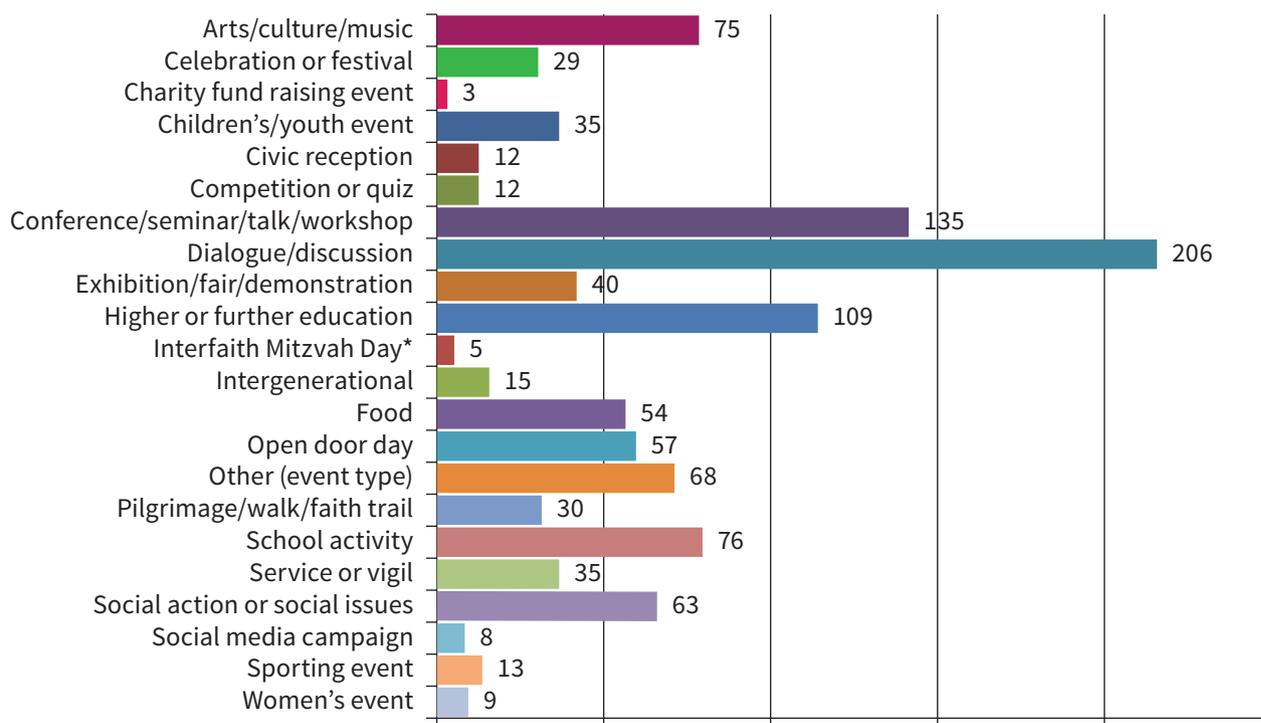
A map showing the location of all events that took place to mark Inter Faith Week 2016 in England, Northern Ireland and Wales

# Types of event

A wide variety of events are known by IFN to have taken place to mark Inter Faith Week 2016. The chart below shows the number and types of events held in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is based on the categories of event on the Inter Faith Week website event submission form.<sup>2</sup>

The category 'other' has been used to describe 68 events such as radio broadcasts, film screenings and awards ceremonies.

## Inter Faith Week 2016 – Types of Event



\*Mitzvah Day 2016 took place on Sunday 27 November. Because this year it fell a week after Inter Faith Week, its many events with an inter faith dimension are not included (as they were in previous years). However, a small number of Mitzvah Day events which were held early, during Inter Faith Week, are reflected in the chart above.

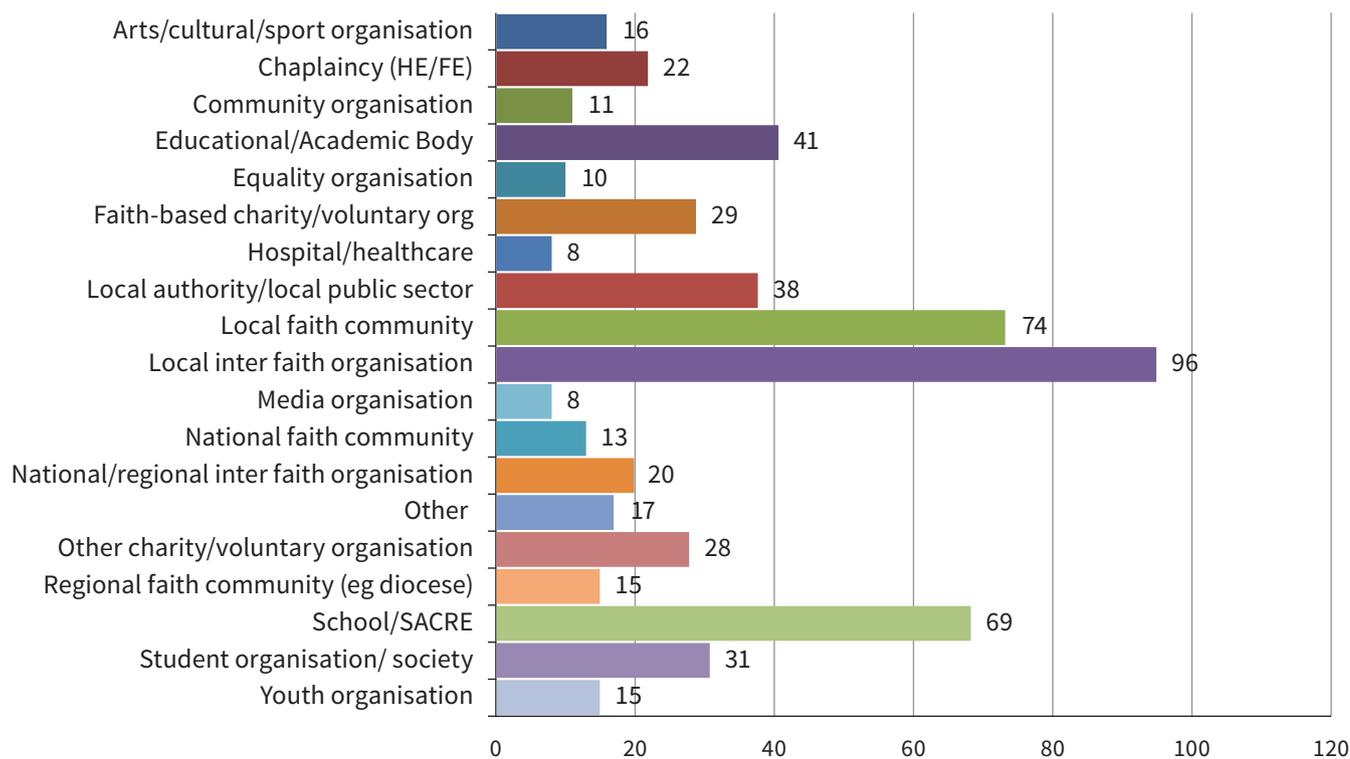
<sup>2</sup> Events can be assigned to multiple categories, so the total is not equal to the total number of events.

# Who marked the Week?

The 573 events that took place to mark the Week in England, Wales and Northern Ireland involved over 560 organisations of many kinds. The chart below gives a breakdown of those known to have organised events.<sup>3</sup>

In addition to those organisations that directly contributed to events, others are known to have supported the Week by encouraging participation. This includes media organisations; professional bodies; sports bodies; prominent individuals and SACREs among others.

## Types of organisations marking Inter Faith Week 2016



<sup>3</sup> Organisations are listed according to their main characteristic

# Multi Faith remembrance and peace events

The Inter Faith Network Board of Trustees decided that Inter Faith Week 2016 would begin on Remembrance Sunday, encouraging people of different backgrounds to mark it together, particularly at this time of commemorating World War I in which people of many faiths and beliefs served.

## Remembrance events

A number of Inter Faith Week multi faith remembrance events took place, some in places of worship, some at war memorials and in other public spaces. Many organisations were involved. There were also events that focused on particular aspects of remembrance, such as the historic contribution of ethnic minority soldiers.



Attendees at a multi faith Remembrance Service at the Gurdwara Gur Panth Parkash, Leicester during Inter Faith Week (Photo: Sikh Welfare and Cultural Society)



Servicemen and women at an event in Smethwick to remember the contributions of people of many faiths, beliefs and nationalities that served the UK during times of war (Photo: Ruth Burgess)



Organisers at the 'Indian Soldiers' event at the Zoroastrian Centre, Harrow, held by Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe and the Golden Tours Foundation (Photo: V Kumar Photography)



Participants at an East Northants Faith Group and Northampton Inter Faith Forum walk during Inter Faith Week, which included an act of remembrance (Photo: Northampton Inter Faith Forum)



Caption: Attendees in discussion at a Stafford and District Friends of Faith 'Festival of Peace' during Inter Faith Week (Photo: Stafford and District Friends of Faith)

## Peace events

Some events were also organised with a focus on peace or non-violence through services and vigils or celebrations and festivals.



A candle for peace at 'Space for Peace', an event held at the Vedic Society Hindu Temple, Southampton (Photo: The Parkes Institute at the University of Southampton)

# National events

A number of 'national' level events took place, along with events that reflected a UK-wide focus, such as the launches of a number of projects or parliamentary events. The Week was also chosen by some national faith communities and other bodies as the time to launch a number of significant initiatives.



Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Sajid Javid MP speaking at an event held by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Faith and Society during Inter Faith Week



Attendees with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth at the launch of the 'In Good Faith' initiative during Inter Faith Week (Photo: Lambeth Palace)



Caption: Members of the Northern Ireland Inter Faith Forum meeting the Lord Mayor of Belfast during Inter Faith Week (Photo: Northern Ireland Inter Faith Forum)



The All Party Parliamentary Interfaith Group with the Inter Faith Network, Inter Faith Week event at the Houses of Parliament, Westminster (Photo: IFN)

# Social action and social issues

Inter Faith Week is a time of the year that brings faith communities together, and many choose to celebrate through practical cooperation for the common good.

An array of multi faith social action events took place. Popular initiatives included helping the homeless; campaigning for environmental change; improving public spaces; and action to support refugees, migrants and asylum seekers.

A huge variety of organisations took part, including places of worship; national faith community bodies; inter faith bodies; voluntary organisations such as those working with refugees and the homeless and public agencies. Some organisations and projects, such as Near Neighbours programme of the Church Urban Fund and the Church of England, organised and encouraged events held by many others.

Mitzvah Day took place close to Inter Faith Week and some inter faith Mitzvah Day activities were held early, during the Week. Mitzvah Day is led by the Jewish community and is one of three annual major days of faith-linked social action throughout the year, along with Sewa Day and Sadaqa Day which fall earlier in the year.



A multi faith tree planting organised by Wakefield Interfaith Group  
(Photo: Wakefield Interfaith Group)



Members of Northampton Inter Faith Forum and the Midland Langar Sewa Society serving food and donating clothing to the needy (Photo: Northampton Inter Faith Forum)



Members of Leicester City Council's 'Interfaith Taskforce' on a social action project (Photo: Leicester City Council)



A 'Walk of Witness' in solidarity with refugees in Plymouth. (Photo: Diocese of Exeter)



Tulip Siddiq MP and others cooking at the Jewish Arts, Culture and Community Centre as part of Mitzvah Day and Inter Faith Week (Photo: Mitzvah Day)

# Arts, culture and music

Inter Faith Week provided a great opportunity for events showcasing the arts, culture and music of faith communities across the UK.

People also used art, culture and music to remind one another of the things that unite people of different faiths, and to explore and display harmony and common ground.

Members of the public experienced the art, culture and music of faith communities by visiting a place of worship or going on a faith trail. People of different faiths also came together to produce art as part of a joint social action project to raise awareness of issues such as hate crime, or the refugee crisis.



Attendee at the awards ceremony of the 'Faith Through a Lens' photography competition, which takes place annually during Inter Faith Week (Photo: Faith Through a Lens/Congregational Insurance)



Right: Participants at a 'Day of Craft for Women' in Feltham, West London, organised by Hounslow Friends of Faith (Photo: Hounslow Friends of Faith)

Left: Storytelling as part of the Jewish Museum's Inter Faith Week 'Inter Faith Celebration Day', London (Photo: Jewish Museum London)

# Discussion and debate

Inter Faith Week saw many events encouraging dialogue, discussion and debate between people of different faiths and beliefs.

These included informal discussion or exploration of particular commonalities and differences. In a number of cases, a 'debate' format was used to explore different perspectives on challenging issues.



Participants in discussion during a Council of Christians and Jews dialogue on the story of Cain and Abel, held at the London School of Economics (Photo: CCJ)



Panellists at an Interfaith 'Question Time' organised by Cardiff University Chaplaincy (Photo: Cardiff University Chaplaincy)



Participants at the 3FF Parlia Mentors' youth Interfaith Summit discussing 'Faith on Campus' (Photo: 3FF)



An Inter Faith Week panel discussion at Blue Coat School, Coventry (Photo: Blue Coat School)

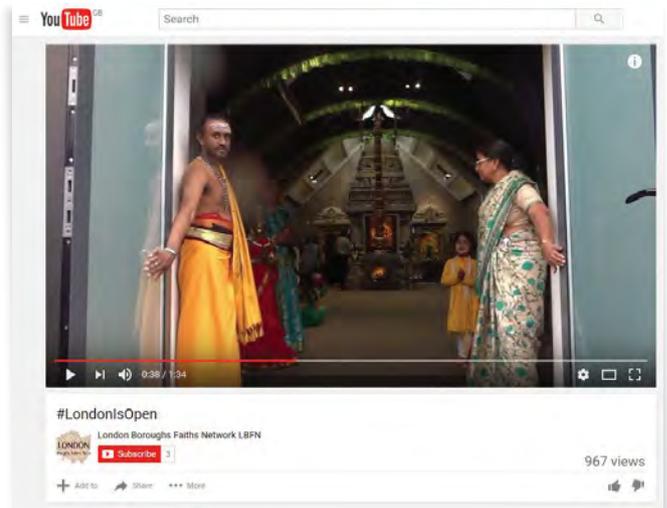
# Sharing and learning

Inter Faith Week provides a great opportunity to increase religious literacy. Many events advance awareness, as people learn more about one another's beliefs and something of the contribution that others make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society. This happens through conversation, dialogues, visits to places of worship, hands on learning experiences and more.

Faith communities opened their doors for people of other backgrounds and the public to come in and learn about different traditions, and places of worship. Faith-based organisations and local inter faith groups invited speakers in to increase awareness of a particular tradition or traditions. Some also chose to learn about other faiths by going on a pilgrimage, walk, or faith trail.



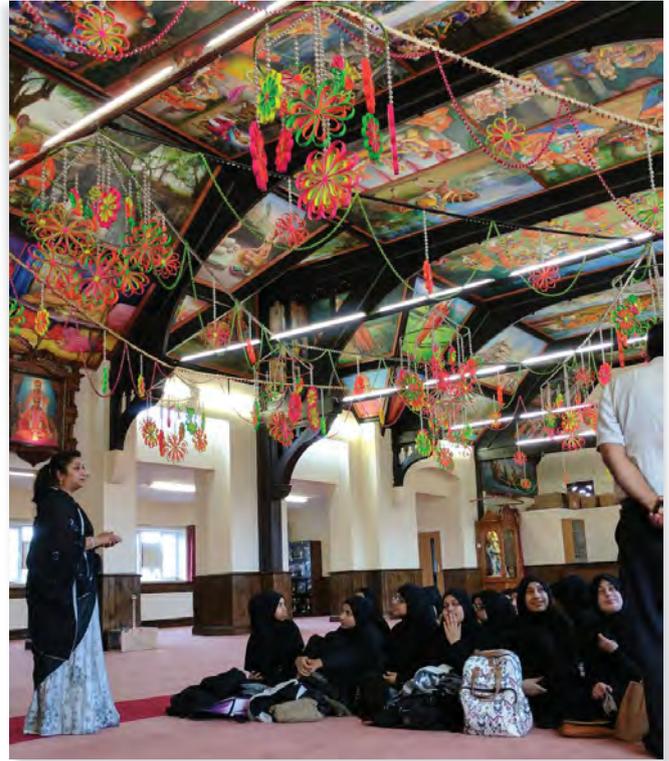
A 'Speed Faithing' event organised by Leeds University Student Union during Inter Faith Week (Photo: Leeds University Interfaith)



A YouTube video produced by the London Boroughs Faiths Network in support of the Mayor of London's #LondonIsOpen campaign. The video can be watched at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=bExx8ZzfAnw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bExx8ZzfAnw). (Photo: London Boroughs Faiths Network)



Students from Edge Hill University visit the Guru Harkrishan Sahib Gurdwara in Manchester during Inter Faith Week (Photo: Paul Smalley)



Pupils from Bolton Muslim Girls' School on a Faith Trail during Inter Faith Week organised by Bolton Interfaith Council (Photo: Bolton Muslim Girls' School)



A tour of Bristol Progressive Synagogue as part of Bristol Multi Faith Forum's 'Faith Walks' (Photo: IFN)



Police officers from Surrey Police in conversation during a visit to Wat Phra Dammakaya

# Celebrating

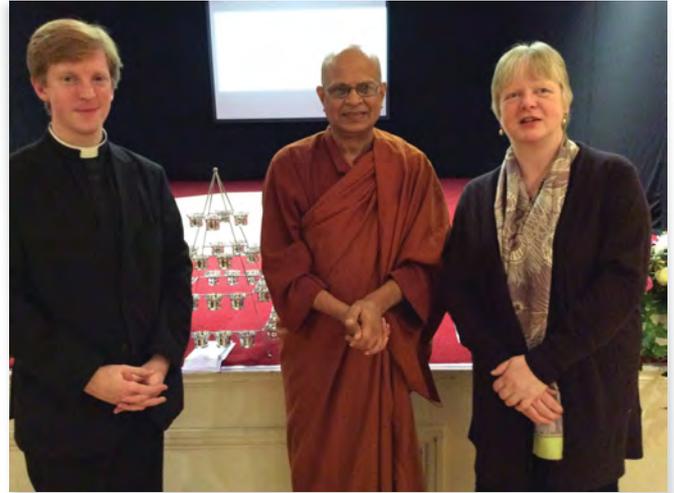
For many participants, Inter Faith Week was a time to celebrate the diversity of their communities, the contributions that faith groups make to their localities or particular achievements such as those of young people.

Celebratory events were held by such bodies as inter faith organisations; local inter faith groups; local authorities; schools; higher and further education institutions and faith communities themselves. Some events celebrated particular themes such as 'unity' or 'peace', while others saw faith communities welcoming members of the public in to celebrate a particular festival or occasion.

Some events also included awards ceremonies, where those that have made a particular impact were recognised and their work celebrated.

***“Inter Faith Week ... is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the work done by local faith and interfaith groups, increase awareness of interfaith learning and cooperation, celebrate diversity and commonality and open up new avenues for communication and partnership.”***

***Baha’i Community of the UK***



An Inter Faith Week event at the London Buddhist Vihara (Photo: Amal Abeyawardene)



A shared meal at an Inter Faith Week 'Interfaith Friends Dinner' in East London organised by Waltham Forest Faith Communities Forum and Noor-ul-Islam (Photo: Waltham Forest Faith Communities Forum)



School pupils light candles as part of the Birmingham Council of Faiths Inter Faith Week launch held at Birmingham City Hall (Photo: Birmingham Council of Faiths)



Above: Attendees in discussion at the Portsmouth University Chaplaincy's 'Festival of Light' (Photo: Portsmouth University Chaplaincy)

Left: A stall representing the Pagan community at the Inter Faith Week 'Light for Leeds' exhibition at Kirkstall Abbey



Students from Bradford University on a Faith Walk (Photo: Bradford University Chaplaincy)

# Sporting events

Sport is increasingly seen as a good way to bring people of different faiths and beliefs together, fostering community cohesion and mutual respect between people of different faiths. A number of Inter Faith Week sports events brought people together to enjoy each other's company and learn from one another. These were organised by local inter faith groups, sports clubs, charities such as Sporting Equals, Shapla and The Feast, university Students' Unions or faith and belief societies as well as faith communities.

Sports played during Inter Faith Week included football, badminton, netball, swimming, volleyball, tennis and dodgeball.



The Ryman League promoting Inter Faith Week on Facebook

Sports grounds were also used as event venues: for example the stadium of Rochdale FC, and a number of clubs and leagues helped to raise awareness of the Week.

(Right) An inter-school sports challenge organised by The Feast at Eden Boys' School, Birmingham



Participants at a multi faith football tournament organised by Shapla Sports and Sporting Equals in Bradford to mark Inter Faith Week (Photo: Shapla Sports)



# Publicity for the Week

The Inter Faith Network for the UK publicised the Week across the months leading up to it, using a dedicated website [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org), target mailings, a widely distributed flyer and social media.

Event organisers publicised their events online and with many colourful flyers and posters, a selection of which can be seen below:

## Inter Faith Week 2016

13–20 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](http://www.interfaithweek.org)

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




Posters from (left to right): York Interfaith Group; Newcastle University Students' Union; Cherwell District Council; Lancashire Police Chaplaincy; Nishkam Centre; Sporting Equals; As-Suffa Institute; BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir; Near Neighbours; Methodist Church London District; University of Gloucestershire; Middlesex University Students' Union



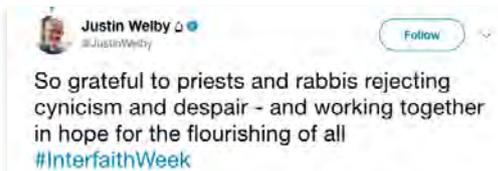
# Social media and online

Inter Faith Week 2016 was marked by a high social media buzz, and the week was also promoted through the Inter Faith Week website, [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org).

Inter Faith Week was active on Twitter and Facebook in the build up to the Week and throughout the Week itself. Inter Faith Week tweets @IFWeek and is on Facebook at 'Inter Faith Week'.

On Twitter, use of the hashtag #ifweek was encouraged. In total, tweets about the Week reached 5.9 million Twitter users, the most to date, registering around 19.7 million impressions. On Facebook, people were encouraged to 'like' the Inter Faith Week page.

Some examples of tweets shared during the Week are below:





*“The #IFWeek hashtag was well used and the @IFWeek account was busy from before the Week started and a great source of quick information & photos. Linking to the Facebook page was also good. Connecting on social media created a 'festival' atmosphere, bringing together many different activities and groups.”*

LONDON BOROUGH'S FAITHS NETWORK

In addition, a new Inter Faith Week website was launched on the first day of the Week, which can be visited at [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org). This includes additional ways to view event information, a simpler event submission form and improved security. The website is also fully compatible with mobile and tablet devices. The website is packed with information and ideas about how to get involved in the Week.

During 2016, the Inter Faith Week website saw the highest number of unique visits, and first time visits to date, with over 20,000 people visiting the site including 8,179 page views during the Week itself.



# Traditional media

The impact of events held for Inter Faith Week is significantly increased by media coverage. Hearing about and seeing images from events encourages people to take part and also to plan events for the coming year. It also prompts some people to consider getting involved in inter faith activity for the first time.

As noted in the preceding pages, Inter Faith Week 2016 was widely publicised on social media, and this was a significant growth area. The Week also continued to receive good coverage from traditional media, particularly from local news organisations, and faith and cultural news outlets. In addition, a number of people and organisations blogged about the Week, such as a series of blog posts featured in the Jewish News.

## PRESS CLIPPINGS (TOP TO BOTTOM)

[An article on Inter Faith Week from the Sunderland Echo](#)

[A report on an Inter Faith Week event by the Ely Standard](#)

[A report on the Week in the Bolton News](#)

[A report on an Inter Faith Week event in Norwich from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Newsroom](#)

[A blog on Inter Faith Week in the Huffington Post](#)

[A Jewish News Inter Faith Week blog](#)

## Interfaith Week celebrates diversity and vibrancy of Sunderland's religious communities

### Cambs Fire & Rescue station commander visits Witchford Village College as part of Inter Faith Week

PUBLISHED: 16:51 18 November 2016 | UPDATED: 16:51 18 November 2016 [Ben Jolley](#)

12th November 2016

### Bolton celebrates Interfaith Week with those of all faiths and none

### Norwich Joins in National Interfaith Week

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Norwich, Norfolk area recently took part in the National Interfaith Week by holding a sports event at the chapel, participating in a progressive meal at various places of worship in the city and joining an Interfaith Choir. The choir performed at the Norwich Anglican Cathedral and featured representatives from many faiths, including Buddhist, Jewish, Church of England and Spiritualist.

**MULTIMEDIA**



**THE BLOG**

### Interfaith Week: The Value Of Religious Dialogue In An Increasingly Secular Age

22/11/2016 12:18

## Building strong friendships between Britain's faith communities

# Scottish Interfaith Week

Scottish Interfaith Week has taken place since 2004 and is led by Interfaith Scotland with great success.

The theme for Scottish Interfaith Week 2016 was 'Religion and the Media'. 70 events took place across Scotland.

For more information about Scottish Interfaith Week, visit [www.interfaithscotland.org/scottish-interfaith-week/](http://www.interfaithscotland.org/scottish-interfaith-week/).

Scottish Interfaith Week and Inter Faith Week work closely together and in 2016 their dates were the same.



 **InterfaithScotland**  
@InterfaithScot

[Follow](#)

Tune in now to [@BBCRadioScot](#) to hear Dr Maureen Sier speak about [@InterfaithWeek](#)



Photographs from the launch of Scottish Interfaith Week 2016, Paisley Town Hall (Photos: Interfaith Scotland)

# Inter Faith Week 2017

Inter Faith Week 2017 will take place from 12-19 November in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Scottish Interfaith Week will also take place during the same week.

We hope that this short report has inspired you to take part in the Week this year, either by attending an event or becoming an event organiser.

Join the many faith, belief and inter faith bodies, community and voluntary organisations, workplaces, local authorities, emergency services, SACREs, schools, colleges, universities, chaplaincies, sports organisations and others who will be taking part this year! The Week runs from a Sunday to a Sunday, beginning on Remembrance Sunday.

## FIND OUT MORE

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

To register an event for 2017, go to [www.interfaithweek.org/events/submit](http://www.interfaithweek.org/events/submit)

Follow Inter Faith Week on Twitter through [@IFWeek](https://twitter.com/IFWeek) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/IFWeek](https://www.facebook.com/IFWeek)

## Inter Faith Week 2017

12–19 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

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# Three great resources

## The Inter Faith Week Toolkit

A special new resource was developed for Inter Faith Week to encourage even more people to take part and give them tips and ideas for doing so.

*The Inter Faith Week Toolkit* is packed with suggestions for marking the Week as well as examples and illustrations drawn from the many successful activities held for the Week to date. It can be downloaded at [www.interfaithweek.org/resources/toolkit](http://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/toolkit)



The second resource produced with a link to the Week is:

## Inter Faith Learning, Dialogue and Cooperation: Next Steps

This was published immediately after Inter Faith Week 2016 as a resource for people who have attended an event or followed the Week on social media and want to get further involved in inter faith activity.

The booklet was developed with the member bodies of the Inter Faith Network and includes information and pointers about different ways to get further involved with inter faith activity. *Next Steps* can be downloaded at [www.interfaithweek.org/resources/next-steps](http://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/next-steps)



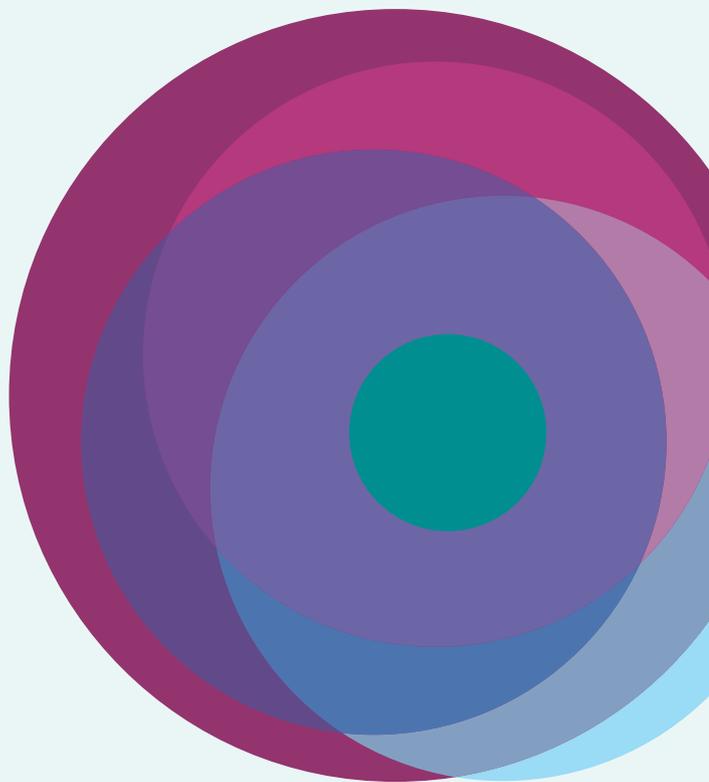
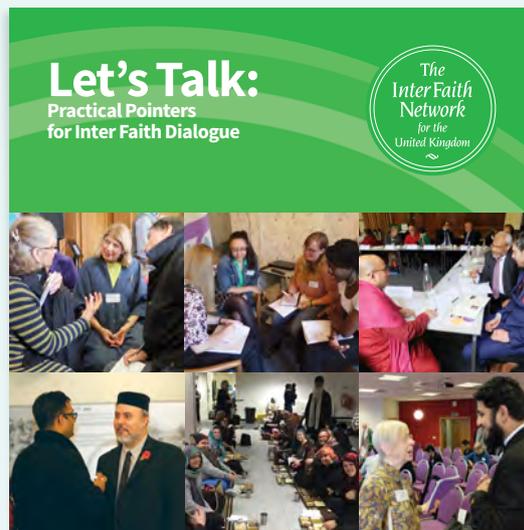
A third resource that readers may find useful is:

## Let's Talk: Practical pointers for inter faith dialogue

This was published by the Inter Faith Network in March 2017 as a resource for those wishing to deepen their engagement with inter faith activity by getting involved in dialogue with people of different faiths and beliefs.

The booklet offers some short reflections and examples drawn from the work of IFN and its member bodies, with the aim of inspiring and encouraging further discussion and engagement. It contains practical pointers for dialogue, and includes sections on some of the practicalities of dialogue, such as what may make for effective and successful dialogues and how difficult issues may best be approached. *Let's Talk* can be downloaded at [www.interfaith.org.uk/uploads/LetsTalk2017web.pdf](http://www.interfaith.org.uk/uploads/LetsTalk2017web.pdf)

Hard copies of all three publications are available on request from the IFN office.





Published 2017 by the Inter Faith Network for the UK  
Registered charity no 1068934  
Company limited by guarantee no 3443823  
Registered in England

ISBN 1 902906 72 1

The work of IFN is supported by faith communities, trusts, other donors and the Department for Communities and Local Government.



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