

Strengthening cooperation and understanding

Inter Faith Week 2022



The Inter Faith Network for the UK

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The Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN) leads on Inter Faith Week, in consultation with the Inter-faith Council for Wales/ Cyngor Rhyng-ffydd 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 educational and academic 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. One of IFN’s best known programmes is Inter Faith Week, on which it leads.

Cover photographs

Front cover:

- Brent Multi Faith Forum Walk and Tree Planting, Saqlain Choudry
- Birmingham Inter Faith Week Bike Trail, Peter Rookees/Nishkam Centre
- Pupils at Preston Manor School, LB Brent

Back cover:

- St Albans School Inter Faith Week lesson
- Northern Rail Staff Visit to Bradford Mandir

Photos from bodies listed except where noted.

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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**Strengthening cooperation
and understanding**
Inter Faith Week 2022



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Foreword

Thousands of people took part in Inter Faith Week 2022, using it to develop and deepen understanding and cooperation between people of different faiths and beliefs and increase religious literacy. Millions encountered the Week's positive messages through social media.

Inter faith understanding and cooperation matter year-round, as do religious literacy, respectful engagement and inclusion. Inter Faith Week, however, is a very visible opportunity to highlight that in a concentrated way. It helps kickstart new conversations and learning experiences, and develop new relationships and working partnerships. It also helps to strengthen existing inter faith projects and to enable more people to learn about them and get involved.

It is striking that the Week has also developed a dimension of inter faith solidarity all of its own and has become something that many people of different faiths and beliefs actively look forward to as a positive time to come together.

Another growing dimension of the Week is its use by more and more organisations – from hospice and care providers to sports organisations – to reach out to faith groups to tell them more about what they offer and to build or deepen relationships with them.

Among the organisations that marked the 2022 Week were schools, statutory agencies, companies and workplaces, faith and inter faith organisations, chaplaincies, Further and Higher Education institutions, museums, libraries, galleries, hospitals, hospices, media organisations, voluntary groups, businesses, the emergency services and others.

For the 2022 Week, the importance of religious literacy was highlighted, including in special



Inter Faith Network for the UK Co-Chairs, Narendra Waghela and the Revd Canon Hilary Barber

messages from faith leaders, which you can see on pages 30–31.

At the Inter Faith Network for the UK, Inter Faith Week is our biggest programme. It is a year-round one: preparing for the Week in the months leading up to it, publicising and supporting the Week when it happens; working with those taking part to help them make the best use of the fantastic platform it provides for creating and strengthening relationships, and new learning and initiatives; reporting on the Week; and nurturing new initiatives that have emerged through support and advice.

This is all part of IFN's work towards a society where there is understanding of the diversity and richness of the faith communities in the UK and the contribution that they make; and where we live and work together with mutual respect and shared commitment to the common good. You can find out more about IFN at www.interfaith.org.uk. Please do consider supporting IFN's work, including Inter Faith Week, through making a donation at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/donate>.

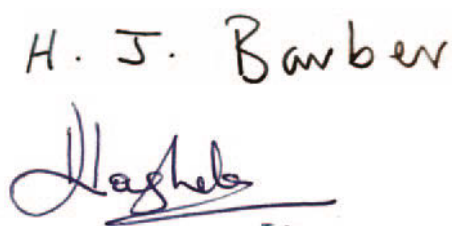
This report gives a taste of the 2022 Week through a selection of examples as well as quotes from those who kindly responded to the post Week survey and from other sources.

IFN is grateful to all who took part and gave the Week such impact: helping so many people gain a deeper understanding of the faith and beliefs that inspire and shape the lives of their fellow citizens.

Thank you to the Inlight Trust, the Sir James Roll Charitable Trust and the Souter Charitable Trust for their support toward the Inter Faith Week programme and to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and to other donors whose support towards the overall 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, FaithAction and other bodies which helped encourage and support a wide range of activities for the Week, as well, of course, as IFN's own dedicated team, including its Inter Faith Week volunteers.

We hope that you will be inspired by this report to take part in Inter Faith Week 2023.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature, 'H. J. Barber', is written in a clear, slightly cursive hand. The second signature, 'N. Waghela', is more stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Canon Hilary Barber and Mr Narendra Waghela
Co-Chairs, The Inter Faith Network for the UK

2022 INTER FAITH WEEK MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR FAITH AND COMMUNITIES

“Faith communities play an enormously important role in our communities. Inter Faith Week is a time to celebrate that and the ways that they work together for the common good, on the basis of shared values such as service. The growth of Inter Faith Week is a testament to the increasing awareness of the importance of inter faith understanding and cooperation and to interest in its themes.

Integration and cohesion are strongest where there is understanding and positive interaction between people of different religions and beliefs. Inter Faith Week is an important time for highlighting the good work that already happens and also creating new opportunities for people of all ages to meet, learn, and understand each other better.”

– BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK OBE
DEPARTMENT FOR LEVELLING UP, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES

“Inter Faith Week is providing many organisations and individuals with the opportunity to share stories that ultimately promote understanding, respect and build bridges. Much needed in difficult times.”

– TOGETHER COALITION

1. Introducing Inter Faith Week

The Story of Inter Faith Week

Inter Faith Week was established in 2009 by the Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN), in partnership for the first year with Government. It drew its inspiration from Scottish Interfaith Week, which was established by Interfaith Scotland in 2004.

Inter Faith Week takes place every November. In recent years, it has been timed to start on Remembrance Sunday to encourage remembering together of the service of people of different backgrounds and to reflect on peace.

“#InterFaithWeek highlights the good work and contributions made by local faith and faith-based groups to our communities and society enabling greater interaction between people of different backgrounds.”

– SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
ON LINKEDIN

Aims of Inter Faith Week

The aims of Inter Faith Week 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

“Many people for the first time engaged in meeting/talking and sharing food, together with people that they did not know.

Opportunities to talk with one another about belief and practice promoted understanding and sense of togetherness.”

– SURVEY RESPONDENT

The Inter Faith Network is grateful for the assistance of the Royal British Legion in developing guidance on this important dimension of the Week.

Growing participation and impact

Participation in Inter Faith Week continues to grow. Many thousands of people and hundreds of organisations participate every year. Millions of people have encountered the Week and its positive



Eden Girls School Waltham Forest Interfaith Breakfast with the Chief Rabbi, Leader of Redbridge Council and other guests and staff

twitter.com/Jas_Athwal/status/1593658375019106311

messages through social media. This helps contribute to key outcomes of the Week:

- More people have opportunities to meet and mix with people of different religion or belief backgrounds and to learn about their traditions, leading to barriers of mistrust being broken down and understanding and respect increased.
- The public is made more aware of the importance of good inter faith relations and work that is going on to develop those, with the result that more people get involved and also more support may be made available for this.
- The public is made more aware of the contribution of faith groups to society and of their cooperation for the common good.
- More faith and belief bodies develop links to deepen mutual understanding.
- A growing range of different types of statutory agencies and other organisations such as companies and sports organisations are helped to deepen religious literacy and to extend community links which foster inter faith understanding and cooperation.
- Secular agencies and faith-based social organisations develop new projects and partnerships involving faith and belief groups and other types of agencies.
- Faith and belief bodies develop and strengthen their shared social action for the common good on areas such as the environment, homelessness and health.

Inter Faith Week has had, since its outset, a close working relationship with Mitzvah Day. That is a special day of social action led by the Jewish Community but with a strong inter faith dimension. It usually takes place on the last Sunday of Inter Faith Week. Mitzvah Day and Inter Faith Week each add value to the activity and impact of the other.

“This Week allows us to recognise the ways our many faiths work together for the common good and the benefit of our community.”

– MAYOR OF KING’S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK¹

¹https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/news/article/1321/inter_faith_week_2022_marked_by_the_mayor

The role of the Inter Faith Network in supporting and developing Inter Faith Week

Supporting and growing Inter Faith Week each year is a major part of the work of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, which has worked since 1987 towards inter faith understanding and cooperation in the UK. IFN’s work on the Week includes:

Website: IFN manages, maintains and updates the Inter Faith Week website, with attention to cybersecurity and GDPR. The website includes an activities calendar, an activities counter, and an activities map showing the geographical spread of the Week. Organisations holding Inter Faith Week events are encouraged to register them on the website. As details come in, they are added to the interactive map so that the public can search by area, topic and date to find activities near them or that they can join online and so that the media can easily find information about the Week and its activities. During the Week, the team continues to add events as they come in and also to source online, and add details of, activities that were not pre-registered.

Creating resources: IFN creates new resources each year for the Week, such as activity ideas for particular types of organisations and self-print award certificates for schools. It provides registration packs, on request, to organisations which register their activities on the website. The packs include flyers, a poster, stickers, a blank Inter Faith Week social media message board and checklists and guidance for planning, running, and evaluating activities. This helps organisers to plan their events and to promote their activities, and also to raise the profile of Inter Faith Week.

Targeted encouragement to participate: From April through to October, IFN staff reach out to a wide variety of organisations to encourage them to use the Week as a platform for increasing religious literacy and awareness of the contribution of faith groups to society, promoting good inter faith relations, and celebrating and highlighting their own work.

Maximising impact through promotion and publicity: IFN promotes and publicises the Week in the months leading up to it through its dedicated website, www.interfaithweek.org, and Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram accounts.



The Inter Faith Week logo and branding are made available through the Inter Faith Week website. In the immediate run up to the Week and during it, the IFN office works to ensure maximum social media impact – for example to ensure that tweets have as wide a reach as possible – and to respond to media enquiries. (See more under Publicity and coverage at pp X-Y)

In 2022, Inter Faith Week related tweets reached a wide audience, far beyond those who participated directly in activities. Tweets about Inter Faith Week appeared on the feeds of 13 million Twitter users (the ‘potential reach’), a total of 40 million times (the ‘potential impressions’) during October, November and December. The official Inter Faith Week tag, #InterFaithWeek was used over 5,000 times across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Inter Faith Week 2022

COOPERATE/LEARN/TALK/REFLECT/APPRECIATE/RESPECT/VOLUNTEER/MAKE FRIENDS/CELEBRATE

13–20 November / www.interfaithweek.org

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

Inter Faith Week is a programme of the Inter Faith Network for the UK. Mary Summer House, 34 Tufnell Street, London SW9P 9BB 020 7739 0450 | www.interfaithweek.org.uk | ifn@interfaithweek.org
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The week of IFN is supported by faith communities, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Trusts, and other donors.

Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Participation: IFN staff members and Trustees contribute to a number of Inter Faith Week events. On pages [X – Y] is a blog by IFN’s 2022 intern who attended a number of events during the Week.

Holding events: IFN launches the Week and sometimes holds events profiling the Week in a particular way. For example, in 2022 it held an informational drop in for MPs and Peers at Portcullis House, House of Commons which was hosted by Holly Lynch MP and opened by Sir Stephen Timms in his role as Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Faith and Society.

Inter Faith Week 2022

13–22 November

An opportunity to:

- Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- Increase awareness of faith communities in the UK, 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

#Interfaithweek
COOPERATE/LEARN/RESPECT/REFLECT/APPRECIATE/TALK/VOLUNTEER/MAKE FRIENDS/CELEBRATE
www.interfaithweek.org

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

Inter Faith Week 13–22 November 2022

Join the thousands of people and organisations who will be taking part in Inter Faith Week this year: faith, belief and inter faith bodies; voluntary organisations; schools; colleges; universities; youth organisations; workplaces; chaplains; emergency services; hospitals; local authorities; museums and libraries; sports organisations; businesses; and many others. The Week is ever more important, helping people continue to come together; make new links and friendships; educate against prejudice and hatred; and volunteer together to help others. Lots of great ideas for activities – virtual and in person – at: www.interfaithweek.org/resources/ideas

Inter Faith Week begins each year on Remembrance Sunday, encouraging remembering together of the service of people of different backgrounds.

Visit www.interfaithweek.org for resources and to register and publicise your activity. And don't forget to share your activities on social media!

Inter Faith Week

Inter Faith Week is a programme of the Inter Faith Network for the UK. Mary Summer House, 34 Tufnell Street, London SW9P 9BB 020 7739 0450 | www.interfaithweek.org.uk | ifn@interfaithweek.org
 Registered charity no. 1089394 Company limited by guarantee no. 344523 Registered in England.

“So good to talk with people of different faiths and beliefs at a meeting in Parliament to celebrate #InterFaithWeek 2022. Thank you to the Inter Faith Network for facilitating this event.”

- FIONA BRUCE MP, PRIME MINISTER’S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

Analysing and reporting on the Week: After Inter Faith Week, a list of activities that have taken place is



Inter Faith Week 'drop In' for parliamentarians at Portcullis House, Houses of Parliament

drawn together. These can be seen at <https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/reports>.

IFN also undertakes detailed analysis of the Week as part of developing it to be an ever more useful platform for celebrating and strengthening inter faith relations, learning and cooperation in the UK. It reports annually based on:

- information submitted to the Inter Faith Week website about activities
- responses to the annual survey activity holder survey
- information appearing online following the Week, including reports by some activity holders
- media and social media coverage of the Week.



Summer intern Alfa Uddin with IFN Executive Director, Dr Harriet Crabtree

The report on the first year of Inter Faith Week in 2009 was an in-depth one, gathering data that could be a benchmark for Weeks in years to come². In subsequent years, while still including analysis of key data, reports have focused on patterns of involvement and types of activities that took place, identifying popular themes and concerns.

The 2022 Inter Faith Week Report covers the many different dimensions to the Week. It gives prominence, this year, to how the Week helps develop greater inter faith understanding and enables increased religious literacy.

IFN usually offers two paid internships (a short Summer internship and a longer Autumn internship) with a particular focus on Inter Faith Week. This benefits the Week and also gives young people an opportunity to gain skills and knowledge for their future careers and to benefit their communities. IFN is grateful to its 2022 interns for their role in the Week, in particular Aled Vernon-Rees for his assistance on this report.

The report celebrates the wide variety of organisations taking part. It draws on a number of examples of activities to lift up the ways that organisations are using the Week.

² www.interfaithweek.org/uploads/ifweek2009report.pdf

WHY IS INTER FAITH WEEK SO IMPORTANT?

We asked Inter Faith Week 2022 survey respondents the question ‘What is important about Inter Faith Week’. Below are some of the responses.

“Connection and community.”

“Learning and friendship.”

“Celebrating and connecting.”

“A sense of shared goals with others around the country.”

“A visible demonstration of cohesion within society.”

“Fostering good relations and doing so as equals.”

“Opportunities for building relationships and opportunities for asking questions.”

“Communication about the different religions and beliefs represented in the UK and how we can support and respect each other’s faiths whilst having meaningful dialogue.”

“Draws (positive) attention to the range of faiths in our country.”

“Raising awareness of the different faith groups within the community.”

“Encouraging people from the different faith groups to meet with each other.”

“Raising awareness of different faiths and their ability to significantly improve the way we live our lives for the communal good.”

“Portrays the depth and commitment of Faith groups to advance civic society.”

“Challenging myths and misinformation about different faiths.”

“Providing a shared platform which shows how we can and do work together.”

“Making ‘the other’ less scary.”

“Educating others about differences and similarities.”

“New and fun activities to help people engage and learn.”

“Promotion of peace.”

“It raises awareness of interfaith work. It provides an opportunity to showcase and highlight the excellent interfaith cooperation that currently exists and the valuable contribution that faith communities make to society.”

“It highlights interfaith activity as a positive experience and gives people the reason to engage.”

“Challenging intolerance and prejudice by real-world face to face social interaction.”

“Celebrating each other’s distinctiveness.”

“Challenging myths and misinformation about different faiths and providing a shared platform which shows how we can and do work together.”

“Bringing people together and enabling people to reflect on their values and others.”

“Raising awareness of common goals between beliefs.”

“Addressing misconceptions.”

“Provides an injection of energy into the work being done already and opens new avenues for connections.”

“A well-coordinated national initiative, which raises the profile of inter-faith work nationally.”

“Gives a focus for organising many events in a concentrated time – has an impact because people notice it.”

“Gives/provides a collective sprit and energy. Is a tool to get people/agencies to [have] a sense of need/want to do something.”

“The week provides an annual injection/boost to our organisation.”

“A chance to showcase our activities locally.”



IFN with Fiona Bruce MP, the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief



<https://tinyurl.com/kemcx4n4>

SNAPSHOT OF SOME KEY 2022 STATISTICS

98% of respondents found that their activity helped them to reach new people or groups.

The number of schools taking part in the Week increased by 148 or 47%.

95% of survey respondents said that their Inter Faith Week event helped participants to learn more about different faiths and beliefs

Activities organised by Higher and Further education institutions increased by 61% from 28 in 2021 to 45 in 2022.

72% of organisations used the Week as an opportunity to do something that they hadn't done before.

Figures for a range of other types of organisation (such as hospitals and hospices; local authorities; local and regional inter faith organisations; and workplace and staff networks) remained at comparable levels to 2021.

51% of survey respondents said their organisation had worked with another organisation or organisations with which they had not worked before.

Tweets about Inter Faith Week appeared on the feeds of 13 million Twitter users (the 'potential reach'), a total of 40 million times (the 'potential impressions') during October, November and December. The official Inter Faith Week tag, #InterFaithWeek was used over 5,000 times across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.

96% of survey respondents said that would definitely or probably hold an activity in 2023.

Activities are known to have been organised by 910 organisations, an increase of 49 or 6%.

966 activities are known to have taken place - an increase of 93 or 11%.

Activities focusing on religious literacy and education increased by 101 or 37%.

Note: 43 completed surveys were received from a wide spectrum of types of body. Numbers of organisations and activities are based on data gathered for listing of these.

2. Inter Faith Week 2022 – the biggest Week yet!

Who took part?

910 organisations are known to have organised activities for Inter Faith Week 2022, an increase of 6% on 2021. The chart below gives a breakdown of the organisations that took part by type.

Numbers taking part

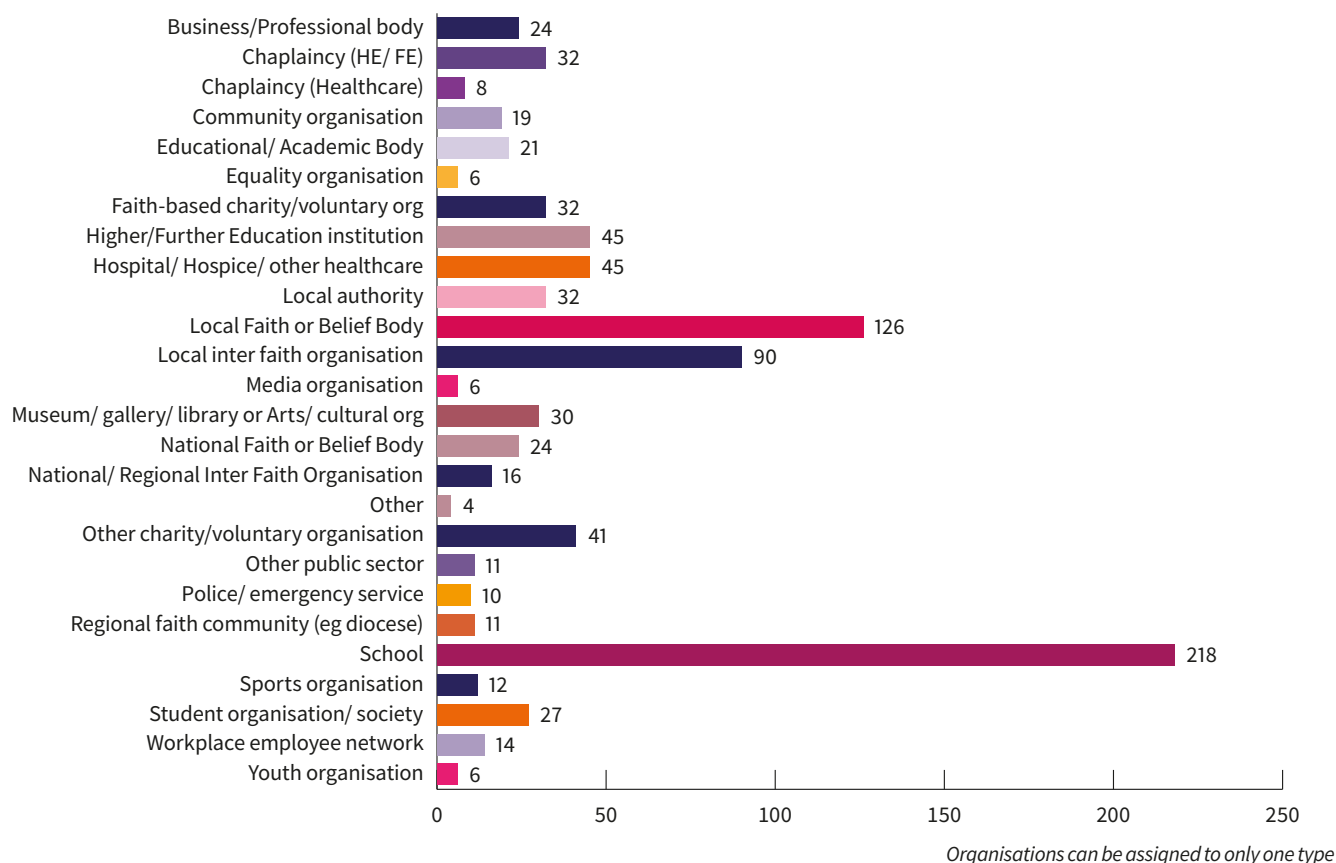
Figures for participation are based on activities registered on the Inter Faith Week website. The actual number will have been somewhat higher since some organisations did not register their activities and they were also internal to their organisations and therefore in most cases not reported on online.

It is not straightforward to extrapolate likely individual participation figures. However, based on

98% of survey respondents believed their Inter Faith Week activity help them to engage with new people/ groups

an estimate of likely attendance based on types of events and low-end estimates of attendance at those, 50,000 may have been directly involved in attending events (not including school activities which can be seen on the next page, and which may have involved up to 125,000 pupils).

Inter Faith Week 2022: Organisations by type



Patterns of participation in particular sectors

The Week saw involvement increase from a range of different organisation types. For example Higher and Further Education institutions' participation was up by 61% on 2021 figures. 133 of the Week's activities had a Higher or Further Education link. 45 HE or FE institutions, 32 chaplaincies, and 27 student organisations are known to have taken part. Local faith group participation rose by 57%, sports organisations by 50%, and libraries by 10%.

Schools are the largest and most rapidly growing constituency of the Week. In 2022, 218 schools are known to have taken part: an increase of 47% on 2021. That equates to a potential reach over 125,000 pupils. 63% of the schools were primary, 30% were secondary and 7% were independent schools that catered to both the primary and secondary age ranges. 29% of Week activities overall were held by or in partnership with schools. The RE Council for England and Wales, National Association of SACREs (NASACRE), Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE), National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and RE Online played an important role in encouraging their involvement.

Faith organisations and inter faith organisations, equality and community organisations, businesses and workplaces, charities, media organisations, hospitals and hospices, emergency services, local authorities, educational bodies, libraries, museums, galleries and others also took part in significant numbers.

Local authorities were very active. 26 arranged activities – in the case of Kirklees, a full week's

programme (see pp 20–21). Mayors, other councillors and local authority staff took part in many more. In Birmingham, for example, the Mayor launched the Week with 25 activities coordinated by Birmingham Council of Faiths and in authorities such as Reading and King's Lynn, mayors hosted gatherings.



<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:699817211524952832>

Involvement of public figures

Local and national faith leaders were involved in many events, for example, the Archbishop of Canterbury in a Trusell Trust event on the cost of living crisis, held at Lambeth Palace and the General Secretary of Churches Together in England in an LSE Faith Centre event.



Faith leaders with Mayor of Dudley and Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands



Sarah Owen MP speaking at Luton Council of Faiths Inter Faith Week event

twitter.com/topchurchdudley/status/1592971868726001664

twitter.com/SarahOwen/status/1593377902942363648



Dean Russell MP with Watford Interfaith Association

MPs attended many events. For example, Harrow East MP Bob Blackman joined an event in his constituency; Luton MP and Shadow Faith and Communities Minister Sarah Owen MP joined Luton Council of Faiths for one of its Week events; Tracey Crouch, MP for Chatham and Aylesford, took part in an event at Aylesford School; and Dean Russell MP joined Watford Interfaith Association on its inter faith pilgrimage. Sir Stephen Timms, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Faith and Society took part in a number of events around the country.

A time for young and old

The largest number of participants in Inter Faith Week 2022 will have been between the ages of 5 and 25 because of schools and HE and FE and youth organisation participation. However, at the opposite end of the age spectrum, there were also many older people involved, including through routes like local inter faith groups and faith communities.



South Lakeland and Kendal: Jacquetta Gomes and Mgr Francis Slattery

Not just for areas of high diversity

Inter faith understanding and religious literacy are important no matter the level of diversity of a given area. In an increasingly interconnected world, people interact online and their work or social connections may also lead them to engage with those of many backgrounds. In some otherwise less diverse areas, local universities may have students from other countries bringing a greater diversity. Inter Faith Week 2022 saw high engagement in areas which are not traditionally thought of as highly diverse, such as Devon and Cumbria and towns and cities such York.

A swing back to in person meeting

Activities began to return to in person ones following the main period of the pandemic. That trajectory continued in 2022 with 80% of activities being in person by/in comparison to 74% in 2021.

“...[D]espite some people still being a little bit wary of coming out after the pandemic, we still had over 300 people visiting our events during the week.”

– LOCAL INTER FAITH ORGANISATION SURVEY RESPONDENT.

Online participation, however, remained very popular. A number of organisations held online events webinars and meetings or contributed through blogs and special posts, such as those of the National Centre for Atmospheric Science illustrated below, and Near Neighbours Lancashire/Building Bridges Burnley.

National Centre for Atmospheric Science's Post



National Centre for Atmospheric Science

3,163 followers
9mo

On [#InterFaithWeek](#), [Dr Lydia Messling](#) explores what faith means to people who work in environmental science.

Over fifty researchers shared their views the relationship between science and faith, and ways they may overlap, enhance, or challenge each other.

Listening to [NERC: Natural Environment Research Council](#) researchers, we learned that many people of faith find it difficult to talk about their faith in the research community.

Yet, faith should not be taboo - it shapes the values and behaviours of billions of people worldwide.

For many people, their identity as a person of faith coexists alongside - even enhances - their role in environmental research.

<https://lnkd.in/eTXfGgKP>



Being faithfully scientific: conversations on faith and science - NCAS
<https://ncas.ac.uk>

Working in partnership

Inter Faith Week 2022 saw many different types of organisations coming together to hold activities for the Week. 31% of all activities for 2022 were organised by two or more organisations. 30% of those jointly held activities were arranged by faith-based bodies only and 18% by secular bodies only. The majority (52%) involved partnership working between faith-based and secular bodies. Partnership work offers a particularly good opportunity for organisations to get to know each other and to develop longer term links. 51% of survey respondents worked with another organisation or organisations they had not worked with before to hold their activity.

“It [Inter Faith Week] helped us to widen our outreach, and make new contacts, which brought fresh energy, new ideas, and perspectives to work for the common good.”

– FROM A NATIONAL CHARITY SURVEY RESPONDENT



RfP UK Women of Faith Network exhibition at, and held with, the Blackley Centre, Elland



Near Neighbours

@neareighbours

[@PLumsden](#) from the Near Neighbours Lancashire hub & trustee of [@B.B_Burnley](#) talks about the work of interfaith organisations in the area and how he contributed to and celebrated [@IFWeek](#)

[#InterFaithWeek](#) [#BringingPeopleTogether](#)

near-neighbours.org.uk/blog/2022/11/1...



3. A wide range of activities

966 activities were registered as having taken place across England, Northern Ireland and Wales. The map on page 19 shows their locations. The chart below provides a breakdown of activities by type, based on the categories provided on the Inter Faith Week activity submission form.

A wide range of activities took place. These included: environmental and other social action projects; faith trails and place of worship open-door days; celebrations; festivals; exhibitions; school events and classroom learning; quizzes and competitions; services; civic receptions; conferences and seminars; discussions; sports activities; women's activities; podcasts; and much more.

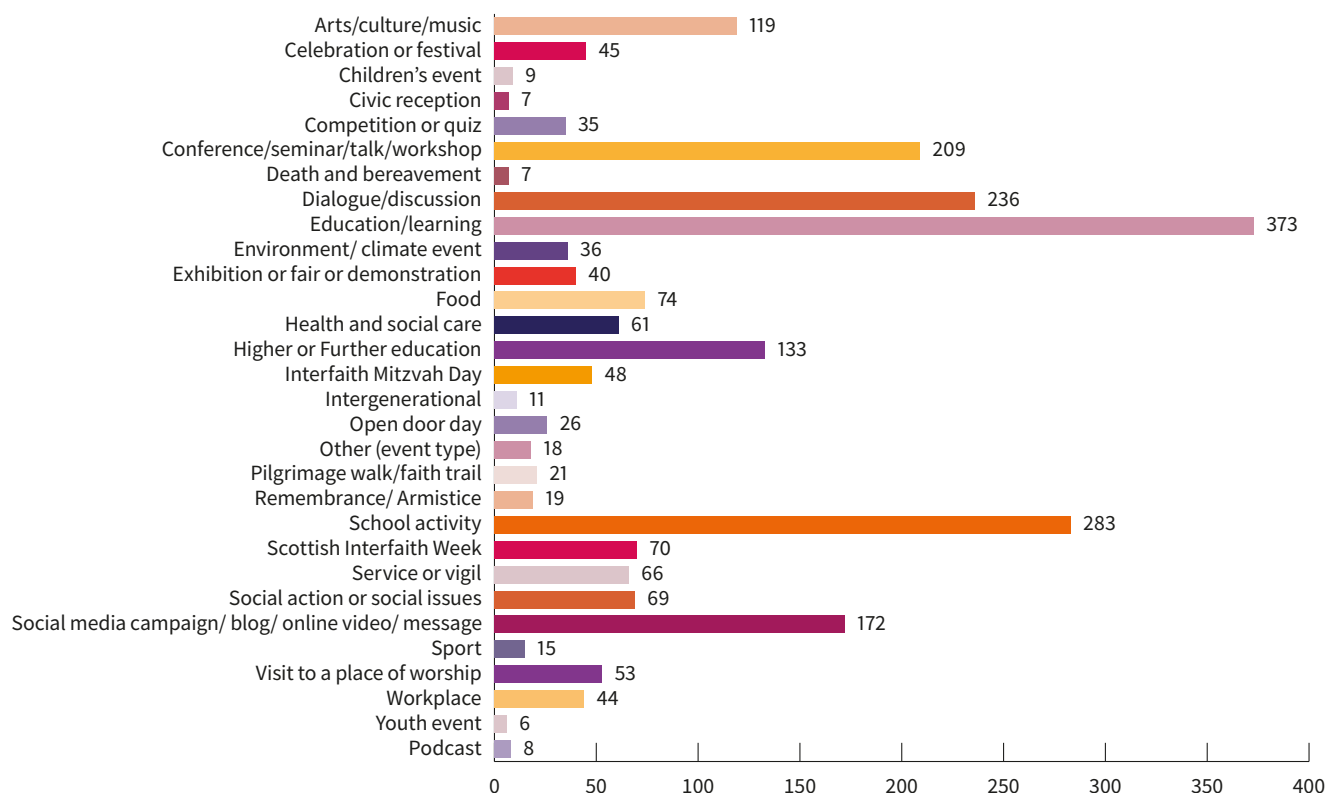
Venues included: churches; gurdwaras; mandirs; mosques; temples; synagogues; viharas; libraries and museums; schools; civic buildings; universities and colleges; hospitals; hospices; community centres; workplaces; and sports grounds.

72% of survey respondents said that they used the Week as an opportunity to do something they had not done before

A number of places saw ambitious full-week programmes in their areas. Local organisations and councils organised full-week programmes in a number of areas such as the London Boroughs of Barnet and Hillingdon, Birmingham, Kirklees (see case study on pp 20–21), North Lincolnshire and York. Full week programmes were also held on university campuses such as Cambridge and Southampton.

A full list of the Week's activities can be seen at: www.interfaithweek.org/resources/reports and a number of these were featured in highlights

Inter Faith Week 2022: Activities by type



Activities can be assigned to more than one activity category.

circulated after the Week which can be seen at <https://www.interfaithweek.org/news/news>.

Online and in-person

The reduced impact of COVID-19 meant more in-person events. However, online meetings and webinars were still popular. For example an Arcadis faith strand webinar and a Cancer Research UK 'Faith in the Workplace' session for staff to learn how to support people of faith in their team.

Inter Faith Week as a seedbed for new initiatives

A number of organisers used the Week as an opportunity to explore, launch or announce new initiatives. For example, the Sikh Defence Network announced the release of its Nitnem Gutka, the Sikh prayer book, in an operations-proof format. In Birmingham, The Feast, Legacy WM and Birmingham Council of Faiths launched a new 'Places of Worship' heritage trail (see more at page 52). A new Religion and Belief working group was launched at the Atomic Weapons Establishment. Southampton City Council launched its Interfaith, Culture and Nationalities initiative with faith leaders from various religions in the city joining staff in a multi-faith ceremony in the Lord Mayor's Parlour.

The RAF Museum and Telford & Wrekin Interfaith Council marked Inter Faith Week by signing a



Southampton City Council Interfaith, Culture and Nationalities initiative launch



Cllr Raj Mehta, Chair of Telford Wrekin Interfaith Council, and RAF Museum CEO Maggie Appleton
Photo: RAF Museum

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), reflecting their commitment and responsibility to engage with a broader range of people, across all communities.

A Week for exploring ways forward

The Week offers a good opportunity for review and development of projects. This year, for example, Camden Faith Communities Partnership, Crawley Interfaith Network and Community Action Sutton all used the Week to explore hopes and plans for future work.

A time to celebrate milestones

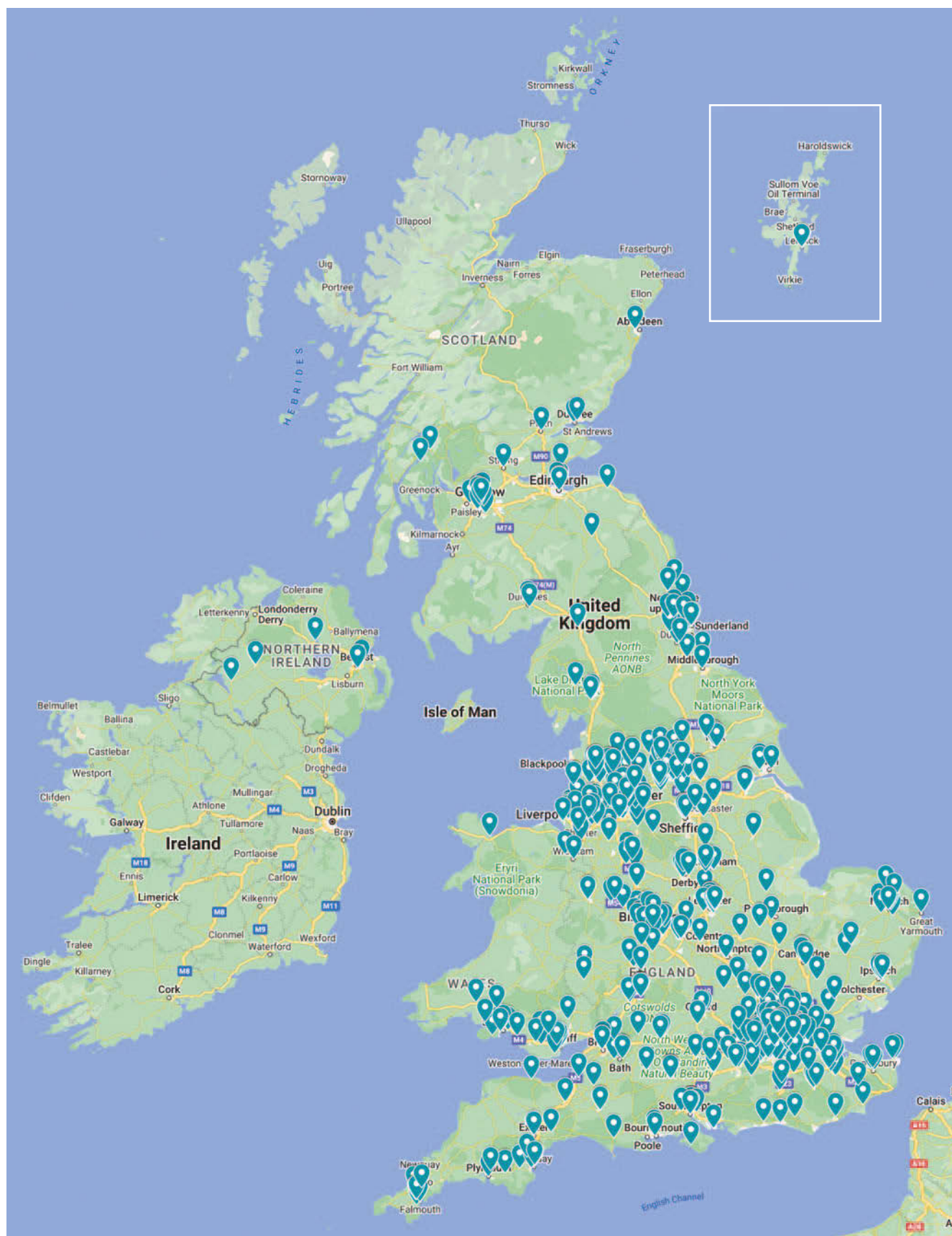
The Week is a time when organisations sometimes choose to mark particular milestones. For example, Southampton Council of Faiths celebrated its 20th anniversary and Barts NHS the first anniversary of its staff network.

Using the Week to boost diversity

A number of bodies used the Week to boost diversity in their work. For example Cambridgeshire Constabulary ran a linked recruitment feature carried by Police Services there.



INTER FAITH WEEK 2022 ACTIVITIES MAP



Activities in Scotland included by agreement with Interfaith Scotland.

Activities shown on the map are those where an address was included or where the organiser(s) have a particular location/ area of operation. Activities held entirely online by organisations without a particular area of operation are not included on the map.

The story of one local authority's Inter Faith Week: Kirklees Council

“Inter Faith Week in Kirklees has been celebrated successfully over the last several years and with interest growing from faith and non-faith organisations, representatives, stakeholders, elected members and different service partners. The local authority has always supported and encouraged communities to come together.”

– KIRKLEES COUNCIL'S COHESION OFFICER.

The Kirklees Cohesion Team works with local inter faith groups, faith communities and organisations and others to do this and ensures that the activities gain a high profile. It reports that 3,600 people from across Kirklees, 34 different faith groups and organisations from all backgrounds and 25 schools took part in Inter Faith Week 2022.

This case study looks at examples of different kinds of activities held in the area and draws on reflections from an interview with Kirklees Cohesion's team and members of the local faith forums. Each activity played a role in fostering a deeper sense of community and inter faith understanding.

Remembrance Events

The Week started with a number of Remembrance events where “representatives from across the community and many faiths including Christian, Sikh, Muslim faiths, and also the Jamaican community, came together to show respect and reflect on those who lost their lives in war”.

The Remembrance events also involved local schools and the Royal British Legion. The Co-Vice Chair of North Kirklees (NK) InterFaith reflected, “I think the Remembrance events

with involvement of children from many schools in Batley are uplifting and very moving. I think anybody who sees those can't help but be moved and see how good it is. The kids don't have any biases or prejudices, they work together and it's wonderful to watch.”

Kirklees Community Quilt

The Kirklees Community Quilt was a project centred around the Week which brought different groups together. In the weeks leading up to Inter Faith Week, different groups and individuals from around Kirklees, including Huddersfield Parish Church, Dewsbury Minster, Warwick Road Parents Forum, One World Craft

Group and Batley Library Knitting Group created squares on the theme “What does home mean to you?”

The quilt brought different communities

and groups across Kirklees together, enabling them to make new connections. Though the quilt was launched during the Week, the conversation about the quilt and its theme continues in the community.

Roses for Peace

Across Kirklees, a ‘Roses for Peace’ activity was held. At least 1500 white roses with words of peace and friendship attached were handed out in six of the local towns. In Dewsbury, NK

<https://twitter.com/KirkleesCI/status/1593515242016890880>



InterFaith worked together with Muslims and Christians preparing and then giving out 250 individual roses in the town centre. Cards were attached to each rose with both Christian and Muslim verses about peace. School children and teachers



helped. NK InterFaith's Co-Vice Chair said, "We hope that the initiative helped break down barriers and show friendship between people of different backgrounds."

This initiative has been happening annually during Inter Faith Week for a number of years. It initially started in North Kirklees. However, over the past two years the Council has enabled it to take place in South Kirklees as well. There, the messages of peace included ones from the Hindu faith and the Sikh faith in order to reflect the area's different demographic.

Faith Trail

The Week saw the resuscitation of a faith trail in South Kirklees. It had not been possible to run that in the area for seven or eight years. The faith trail visited places of worship across Huddersfield: Masjid Usman at Springwood, Guru Nanak Sikh Temple, St Peter's Church and the Hindu Temple. The Vicar of Huddersfield commented that the trail had seen "people from different communities coming together and brilliant conversations being had."

School Events

In Golcar, local schools came together for an Inter Faith Week Festival of Peace, featuring art,

reflections, and song from St John's School, Wellhouse School, Golcar School and Clough Head School. Pennine Learning organised a 'Faith at Home' event for schools for which representatives from local faith communities produced films explaining how they practise faith in their homes.

Other Events

A number of other activities happened in Kirklees during the Week, including activities held at the local libraries, an inter faith foodbank, poetry, film screenings, inter faith chat, a Boccia event, cricket tournament and much more.

Working together for an inspiring and important week

Partnership and community were key to Kirklees celebration of the Week. Kirklees Council's Cohesion Officer spoke of the importance of this: "As a local authority, one of the things we are very keen on is that it's not led by the local authority, it's working with communities, with faith groups, to get on board and allowing that creativity where everyone can get involved."

The inter faith groups highlighted the importance of the Week in giving a focus for these events to take place. The Co-Vice Chair of North Kirklees said, "We need to be more active at other times in the year, but this is the one Week when we will not forget the importance of working with others and coming together". The Vicar of Huddersfield said, "It feels like we're at the start of a journey of rebuilding in our area at the moment and that Inter Faith Week forms a sort of cornerstone in the year for that, that enables us all to come together".

Looking forward to 2023

Kirklees Cohesion Team and the members of the faith forum are already looking forward to, and have started planning for, Inter Faith Week 2023.

Somerset Diverse Communities – an example of an ambitious county-wide Inter Faith Week programme

Somerset Diverse Communities (part of Community Council for Somerset) held a wide range of activities during Inter Faith Week.

Inter Faith Week Roadshow



The roadshow made visits to Glastonbury, Taunton and Yeovil Library, aiming to share, celebrate and educate. At each library they organised a range of activities including learning about other faiths, family and children's activities, talks, living books, meeting new communities, stalls and Buddhist meditation.

During the Week, SDC's Inter Faith Coordinator spoke with BBC Somerset about the Inter Faith Roadshow and Inter Faith Week. She also spoke about the roadshow on an episode of The Somerset Emotional Wellbeing Podcast.

'Natural Reflections'

SDC worked with Yeovil Art Space, on a new special exhibition in the town centre gallery for the Week. The exhibition showcased artworks from several artists from across Somerset, sharing their different creative interpretations of faith, belief, and their connections to the natural world, giving insight into how various

faith/belief traditions teach about caring for the earth and our environment.

Tree Planting Family Day

A tree planting family day was organised for the Week, sponsored by Exmoor Coast Project (part of the National Trust). Families came together to plant saplings on The Gatehouse Holnicote estate, helping to contribute to the restoration of the forest and to reverse the decline of nature.

"Inter Faith Week UK invited people to be curious about the faiths or beliefs that seem different from our own. We all embrace something because of love or because it offers us a sense of belonging. This time has allowed us to begin to understand what gives others a sense of belonging."

– COMMUNITY COUNCIL SOMERSET

<https://ccslovesomerset.org/interfaith-belief-network/>



Somerset Diverse Communities Inter Faith Week Tree Planting Family Day

Celebrating Inter Faith Week in Fermanagh and Omagh



Coffee Conversation and Quiz in Irvinestown

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council held a number of activities for Inter Faith Week.

Coffee, Conversation and Inter Faith Quiz

In partnership with Fermanagh and Omagh Interfaith group, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council held a coffee and conversation event which was followed by an inter faith quiz. During the event participants were given the opportunity to learn about other faith traditions and have further discussions to find out more about each other's faiths.

Footprints for the Future

The Council held a ceremony to celebrate the diversity of cultures and faiths that exist in the area by planting trees and burying a time capsule for future generations to enjoy and learn from. The trees were planted in a diversity garden by staff, members of Fermanagh and Omagh Interfaith group and local volunteers. Following the tree planting, a time capsule containing artefacts from a variety of faiths and cultures in the district was buried to be opened in 100 years' time.



Planting trees and burying a time capsule



Illuminations

To mark the Week the Council also illuminated Enniskillen Castle and Strule Arts Centre in yellow.

"It was really encouraging to see many people from different cultures and faiths come together to celebrate the diversity of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area."

– CHAIR OF FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL⁴

⁴ <https://www.impartialreporter.com/news/23129624.time-capsule-tree-planting-key-parts-interfaith-week>

PARTICULARLY POSITIVE ABOUT THE 2022 WEEK

Survey respondents were asked what they thought had been particularly positive about Inter Faith Week 2022. Here are some of their responses.

“Felt connected to the wider UK community.”

“Many people showed that it is possible to mix.”

“The camaraderie between people of different faiths.”

“The wide range and reach of the event throughout communities nationally.”

“The range of groups and organisations taking part.”

“Building new relationships across faiths.”

“The number of workplace initiatives.”

A chance to meet after COVID.”

“More people/officers are aware of the Week.”

“Increased participation”.

“So much to celebrate, so much commonality.”

“We built on the success of previous years.”

“Allowed children of different faiths to feel included.”

“More parents willingly participated.”

“All the activities.”

“The positive feedback we received from our staff across the organisation.”

“Our Inter Faith Panel was really great.”

“New connections.”

“Bringing people together.”

“It was fun! Hopefully those people we met were inspired to learn more and improve the quality of their lives.”

“Excellent resources from IFN and all the information it provided.”

“...The messages from the IFN chairs – very positive and inclusive”.

“Excellent PR about the week.”

“The fact I seem to be seeing more faith related webinars and initiatives, especially with organisations such as enei [the Employers Network for Equality and Inclusion].”



<https://twitter.com/calumburke/status/1593893396430585858>

4. Publicity and coverage

Social media

Social media is central to spreading positive messaging about the Week and inter faith activity in general, including to those who do not organise or directly take part in Inter Faith Week activities.

The annual Inter Faith Week social media campaign encourages participants to write messages on #InterFaithWeek branded message boards. Many write messages about what inter faith and Inter Faith Week means to them, and upload photos of these to social media.



The Inter Faith Network posts on its Inter Faith Week accounts on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter leading up to, during and after the Week. The posts include links to resources and ideas for activities. During the Week it shares on a rolling basis posts from other organisations to highlight the variety of initiatives taking place.

During Inter Faith Week 2022, several organisations ran social media campaigns, posting regular content through the Week. Some, such as Halsbury School Travel, ran daily posts for the Week.



twitter.com/NSB_Boys/status/1594383581538820096

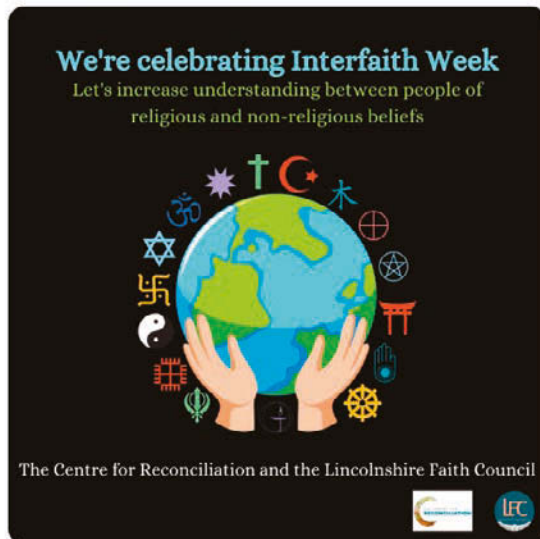


A number of bodies featured videos. For example, the RfP UK Youth Interfaith Network posted a YouTube series about Youth Leadership through Service and Redbridge Faith Forum put up daily video clips from its Trustees of different faiths on how faith communities could support people during the cost-of-living crisis.



The Centre for Reconciliation (TC... @TCReconc... · Nov 13, 2022

Held in the second week of November, Inter Faith Week aims to strengthen good Interfaith relations, increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities, and increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs. [#interfaithweek](#)



Equality Diversity Inclusion Sunderland Uni @EdiSunderland

Just finished another podcast recording for [#interfaithweek](#) for [@sunderlanduni](#) with some of our fantastic chaplaincy team. [@AJustChurch](#)



RfP UK Youth Interfaith Network Inter Week series

Television, radio and podcasts

The BBC featured on Morning Live the Burnley Building Bridges and Burnley FC inter faith football tournament (see more on page 59).

There were a number of radio programmes about the importance of the themes of Inter Faith Week and the activities happening for it. It was featured on local radio stations such as Radio Humberside. On Unity FM 93.5 there was a discussion on the importance and impact of Inter Faith Week with the Secretary of Birmingham Council of Faiths, and the Parkes Institute at the University of Southampton discussed its Inter Faith Week programme on BBC Radio Solent.

These activities raised awareness of the Week, expanding its platform to a wider audience.

Naj Modak @NajModakBBC · Nov 15, 2022

As part of [@IFWeek](#) events are taking place across [#Scunthorpe](#). I'm at [@UCNLofficial](#) where they are 'Exploring Different Faiths'. Catch up with me on the [@bbcburnsby](#) show today [@RadioHumberside](#) right here after 10am. [bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0d...](#) [#interfaith](#) [#ucnl](#) [#northlincolnshire](#)



bbc.co.uk
BBC Radio Humberside - David Burns, 15/11/2022
The soaring cost of electric cars; a dramatic laser show at Hull Minster; Rewind after 1.



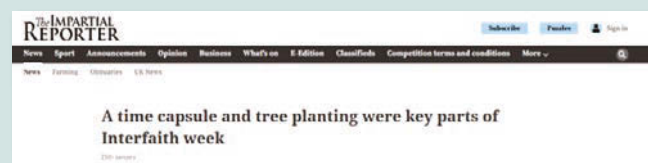
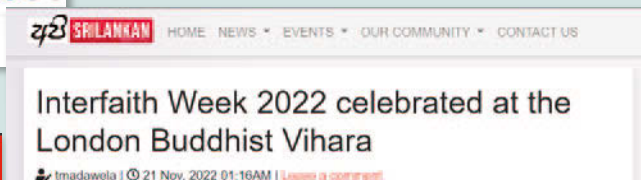
Faith & Belief Forum Breakfast Forum Podcast

Inter Faith Week was also the theme of some podcasts during the Week. The RE Podcast discussed what multi faith RE looks like and the University of Sunderland created a podcast with their chaplaincy team on Inter Faith Week and the work of their chaplaincy.

In the News

The Church Times carried a feature on the Week and religious literacy.

Inter Faith Week was picked up by a number of local news outlets such as the Havering Daily and Burnley Express.



Flyers and posters





Plymouth Interfaith Celebration

In the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Devon

Monday 14th November 2022

Interfaith Week is an international festival to celebrate and strengthen inter faith relations. Following its 20th anniversary celebrations, ECECD are hosting an afternoon of performances and presentations including Bahá'í, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jew, Muslim, Sikh and Unitarian. Please come along and bring your friends and family too!

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Lower Guildhall, Guildhall Square, Plymouth, PL1 2BJ

Be a voice for Plymouth's amazing diversity!

info@plymouthinterfaith.org.uk

www.plymouthinterfaith.org.uk

Inter Faith Week

Inter Faith Week at the University of Southampton
13 – 20th November 2022

- Monday 14th 6:30-4pm**
Student society social run by the Student Christian Movement, meet students from different faiths, with food and games, at the Faith and Reflection Centre
- Tuesday 15th 10am-5pm**
Open day at the Faith and Reflection Centre, with coffee and cake
- Tuesday 15th 6-7:30pm**
Parkes Institute Inter Faith Lecture "After Belief: Christian Encounters with Jews in the Aftermath of the Holocaust" by Robert Thompson. Lecture Theatre C with refreshments and online. Register via QR code below
- Wednesday 16th 2-4pm**
"Faith, Peace and Faith" volunteering workshop with the Social Impact Lab and Homage to community garden at the Faith and Reflection Centre
- Thursday 17th 2-3:30pm**
Lunchtime panel discussion on "Faith and Mental Health" with Muslim Faith Advisor Ameen Ameen and the University Wellbeing team, room 80-2207
- Thursday 17th 6-7:30pm**
"What does peace mean to you?" A Faith and Reflection Centre Interfaith Event Run by Greater Faith Advisors (email: gfaadvisors@outlook.com to attend)
- Friday 18th 7:30pm**
Friday Night Dinner with the Jewish Society at Faith & Reflection Centre. Open to all. Email: gfaadvisors@outlook.com for more information or to register for any event. Email: gfaadvisors@outlook.com with any



GOGLEDD CYMRU 2022 FFORWM RHYNG-FFYDD

Dydd Iau Tachwedd 17eg
7:00-9:00pm ar Zoom

2022 NORTH WALES INTERFAITH FORUM

Thursday November 17th
7:00-9:00pm on Zoom

Yn cofio'r gynul gan Gynghraeth Glynidwr
"Hydym ni'n credu yn baid yn wael gyda'n gilydd"
Hosted by Glynidwr Chaplaincy
"We believe we are better together"

WOMEN OF FAITH IN LEADERSHIP

TALIESIN MALL ROOM

Nov 16

Free Entry
Book via link below

Schedule:

- 6pm - Refreshments
- 6:30pm - Discussion
- 8pm - Finish

DISCUSSION PANEL

The Right Revd Cherry Vann
Anglican Bishop of Exeter

Zera Mohammed
Secretary General of Muslim Council of Britain

Carolyn Harrison
SGLUK Women's Division General HQ Leader for South Wales and the

Cambridge Interfaith Programme
Catalysing interfaith progress since 1988

Join us for UK Inter Faith Week 13-20 November 2022

Inter Faith Week

13th - 20th November 2022

Managing Faith and Spiritual Wellbeing in the workplace

WEDNESDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2022
9:00AM - 1:00PM

**CONNECT CHURCH,
ASHBY RD, SCUNTHORPE, DN16 1NR**

Book your **Free** place on the following Workshops:
<https://www.connectchurchsuite.com/events/115mcubw>

Respect and value for difference

Unconscious Bias, Prejudice & Stereotyping (A belief perspective)

Myth-busting and stigma

Why we feel uncomfortable and how to address this in the workplace

Why should I bother?

The Equality Act 2010 & Requirements of law

or further details contact: arazna.khanum@connectchurchsuite.com

Refreshments / Lunch

INTERFAITH WEEK

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

Exploring the Journey of different Faiths

Sunday 13th November
"The Sacred (Bible of Dave Reed)"
10am-12pm
Lancaster Leisure Centre
100k Tyneside
207 Tyneside Road, DN10 1TB

Wednesday 16th November
"Managing Faith & Spiritual Wellbeing"
9am-11am
Connect Church, Ashby Road, DN16 1NR

Thursday 17th November
"Faith in Focus" Online
10am-12pm
Zoom link: <https://us02zoom.us/j/9111111111>

Thursday 17th November
"The Path to Peace" Online
10am-12pm
Zoom link: <https://us02zoom.us/j/9111111111>

Sunday 13th
10am-12pm

Monday 14th
10am-12pm

Tuesday 15th November
"Exploring the Journey of different Faiths"
10am-12pm
Lancaster Leisure Centre
100k Tyneside
207 Tyneside Road, DN10 1TB

Wednesday 16th November
"Managing Faith & Spiritual Wellbeing"
9am-11am
Connect Church, Ashby Road, DN16 1NR

Thursday 17th November
"Faith in Focus" Online
10am-12pm
Zoom link: <https://us02zoom.us/j/9111111111>

Friday 18th November
"Faith in Focus" Online
10am-12pm
Zoom link: <https://us02zoom.us/j/9111111111>

Sunday 20th November
"Exploring the Journey of different Faiths"
10am-12pm
Lancaster Leisure Centre
100k Tyneside
207 Tyneside Road, DN10 1TB

INTERFAITH WEEK EVENTS:

Cyngor Rhyngffydd Cymru

Interfaith Council for Wales

09.11.2022 - 7.30 P.M
VIA ZOOM

10.11.2022 - 6.30 P.M
VIA ZOOM

16.11.2022 - 7.30 P.M
STARTS FROM MASJID ABU BAKR MOSQUE

WELSH READING FROM DIFFERENT FAITHS HOSTED BY THE CARDIFF BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY.

DISCUSSION ON THE CANDLES LIGHTING UP THE JEWISH LIFE

INTERFAITH WALK

Woolf Institute Conference

Faith, Trust & Relationships

15 - 16 November 2022

A two-day academic conference in Cambridge exploring harmony and tension between faith communities, people of no faith, and social, political and cultural environments.

WOOLF INSTITUTE

You are Warmly invited to a

TEA PARTY

Hosted by
Rotherham Interfaith Group

to give thanks for our natural world

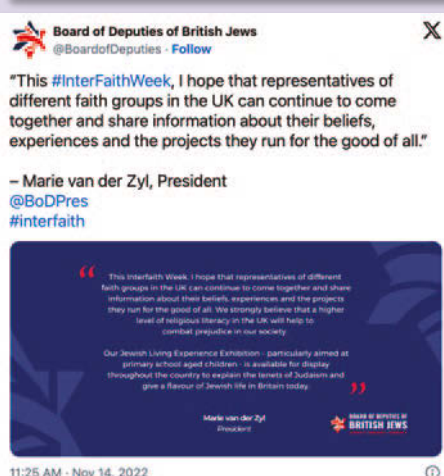
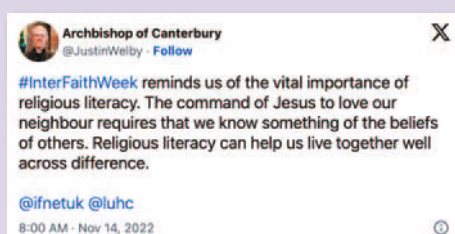
in The Unity Centre
St Leonard's Road S65 1DW
4 - 5.30pm Tuesday 15th November
To Celebrate Interfaith Week

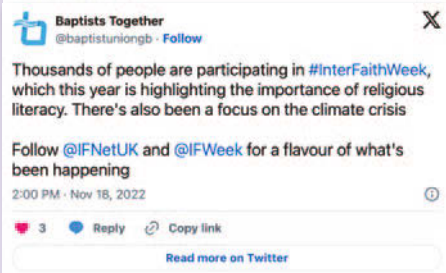
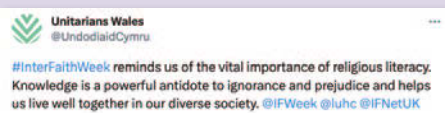
Come and meet our small group
thankful for our natural environment

Further info. Contact Gill 01709 542571

Inter Faith Week messages from faith leaders about religious literacy

The Inter Faith Network for the UK Faith Communities Forum invited national faith community leaders to share messages about the importance of religious literacy. You can see their messages at: <https://www.interfaithweek.org/news/reflections-from-national-faith-communities-and-their-leaders-2022>.





5. Increasing ‘religious literacy’ and inter faith understanding

95% of 2022 survey respondents said Inter Faith Week had helped participants to learn about different faiths and beliefs.

The Aims of Inter Faith Week (below) interconnect. Good inter faith relations – including relations between those of religious and non-religious beliefs – are more likely where there is a foundation of understanding, awareness and respect.

- 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

Awareness and understanding are helped by learning in contexts such as RE in schools or courses in later life, for example in the workplace. However, they also come from the chance to meet and interact with people of different backgrounds: to learn more about the beliefs and practices that provide a framework for their thinking about life and their actions. Such encounters can also enable others to gain a similar awareness of one’s own faith or belief.

This kind of understanding – including skills for interpretation and interaction – is sometimes called ‘religious literacy’ or ‘religion and belief literacy’. This literacy is vital in a diverse society; it is one important factor which increases the likelihood of positive and respectful coexistence.

Inter Faith Week presents a tremendous opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to learn more about each other’s faiths and beliefs and to get past negative stereotypes and misconceptions.

During Inter Faith Week 2022, a wide range of organisations held activities designed to help people learn more about the faiths, beliefs and cultures of those from a different background to themselves. This section looks at some of these, including: learning activities in schools; exploration of faith and belief themes in workplaces and other contexts such as local authorities and HE; exhibitions and displays; and competitions and quizzes. Learning can also happen through other routes such as those covered in subsequent sections.

Inter Faith Week learning in schools

Schools, and in particular Religious Education, make a vital contribution year-round to religious literacy and to helping pupils develop dialogue skills for living together well in our diverse society. Many schools use Inter Faith Week to add value to that and to engage with a variety of different faiths and beliefs and develop new community links.

Exploring living together well

A number of schools marked the Week through special sessions or projects in RE which explored aspects of living together well in a religiously diverse society and the values that underpin that. For example: values of tolerance and mutual respect and the importance of freedom of religion and belief were



Edgar Wood Academy, Oldham, pupils taking part in ‘scavenger hunt’

<https://tinyurl.com/5fu4h4j>

https://twitter.com/OhgsRS/status/1593317098301915145



https://twitter.com/PrestonManorSch/status/1593182765784371200



https://twitter.com/StMaryB17/status/1594735646769307649



https://twitter.com/LlansannorPS/status/1592488662721495040



https://twitter.com/habsboys/status/1594632660986437632

part of the learning at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Harborne in Birmingham; Llansannor & Llanharry C/W Primary School had Inter Faith Week 'talking circles'; RE A-Level students at Preston Manor School in the London Borough of Brent discussed the benefits of living in a diverse community; and Kings Norton Girls' School in Birmingham hosted a Faith Forum for Year 8, GCSE and A-Level RE students where faith leaders from local communities responded to questions on the topic 'Can faiths live in harmony?'

Deepening understanding about particular faiths and beliefs

Inter Faith Week lessons often focused on particular faiths, such as Sikhism, at Grange School, Morpeth, and Judaism at St Albans School in Hertfordshire. Non-religious beliefs were also covered by some schools. For example, at Ashurst Primary School in St Helens, Merseyside, students learnt about Humanism and what Humanists believe.

Grange View Church of England First School is 🙏 feeling thankful.
19 November 2022 · 🌐

Just reflecting on a truly fantastic interfaith week. We chose this year to focus on Sikhism - as a church school it is so important to us to develop understanding of other cultures and build acceptance and diversity.

Many thanks firstly to Jaswinder from the **North East Sikh Service**. His workshops in each class on Monday were a wonderful launch to the religion and built a great understand of their selfless service.

Later in the week each class learnt Bhangra dancing with Suzie from **GemArts** - the children had a wonderful time.

Finally, massive appreciation to our lovely Sikh family for selflessly providing Henna Patterns for every child and the delicious food at the end of our day to share a communal meal.

What a wonderful week we have had!



<https://twitter.com/SASHerts/status/1592921075016675330>

Religious festivals were a particularly popular topic. For example, at Trinity and St Michael's CE/Methodist Primary School Croston, students were introduced to Passover and the significance of its celebration, while at Shipton Bellinger Primary School near Tidworth, pupils explored Diwali, Eid-Al-Fitr, Loy Karthong and Wesak.

Welcoming visitors

"During [this] motivational week, the children in school learned about religions and beliefs in our local area. We met a variety of visitors, looked at religious buildings, learnt about festivals, held a Diwali dance workshop and looked at different views people of religion or people of no faith may hold. We held an exhibition of our work and invited members of our local community to share their thoughts about faith with us over a cup of coffee!"

– ST LAURENCE CHURCH JUNIOR SCHOOL, NORTHFIELD, BIRMINGHAM

<https://www.stlaurencechurchjuniorschool.co.uk/interfaith-week/>

Inter Faith Week always sees schools welcoming many visitors from different faith communities and belief groups to speak with their students. In 2022, for example, Broadway Junior School in Sunderland welcomed guest speakers to talk about Christianity, Quakerism and Islam. Brighstone CE Primary School on the Isle of Wight welcomed a number of visitors from different faith traditions, including an ex-pupil

How one local inter faith organisation supported schools' Inter Faith Week Activities: Maidstone Inter Faith Network

Maidstone Inter Faith Network held a range of different activities during the Week which included a significant piece of work with schools in its area. Faith representatives worked with teachers at Langley Park Primary School, Beckenham, St Augustine Academy in Maidstone and Aylesford School to provide different activities at each school.

At St Augustine Academy they helped pupils explore different faith perspectives on the idea of 'nativity', with artwork and poetry activities. At Aylesford School, the faith representatives took part in a panel discussion which was chaired by Tracey Crouch MP. The class then split into groups and rotated between each

faith representative to hear about the theme of 'moral codes' and to ask questions.

At Langley Park Primary Academy the faith representatives held a joint assembly and visited a series of classes to share information about their faiths and answer questions.

The faith representatives who had taken part spoke afterwards about the positive experience that they had working with the schools, including the chance to work with every year group as part of the overall pattern of visits. They commented on how Inter Faith Week had helped them build upon their relationships with the schools they worked with, as well as other schools in the local area. They are continuing to carry out visits with the schools they attended during the Week. A number of other schools have since asked them to come into their schools and do a talk.

The Assistant Principal at Langley Park Primary Academy noted the positive impact that the activities held by Maidstone Inter Faith Network had had on the pupils. She commented that the range of knowledge from the faith representatives about the different faiths "really broadened the children's realisation of the wider world around them" and that they had had the chance to explore other faiths to which they may not have been exposed before.



who spoke to the pupils about festivals in his own, Hindu, tradition..

At Leicester College. Year 7 and 8 students celebrated Inter Faith Week by taking part in a 'human library'. Twelve different faith visitors shared why their religion is important and answered questions put to them by the students.

Several schools used the Week as an opportunity to work with and build connections with local inter faith

organisations. For example, Norton Juxta Kempsey Primary School worked with the Worcestershire Inter Faith Forum, speakers from Telford Interfaith were invited to visit St Matthew's CE – Aided Primary School and Nursery Centre in Donnington, where question and answer sessions were held for the pupils. At Our Lady and St John Catholic College in Blackburn they were joined by members of the Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Forum who took part in an inter faith breakfast session with the students.

“On Tuesday, Mark our curate and Sarah our youth and community worker went into City of Leicester College with the Faith and Friendship Tent. They took part in a “human library” where students got to speak to visitors of several different faiths. They answered questions as part of a panel and listened to students talk about their own religious traditions. It was an absolute delight and we look forward to working more with City of Leicester College in future.”

– ST MARK’S EVINGTON, LEICESTER

<https://stdenys.org.uk/category/uncategorised/>

School linking

The Week also saw a number of ‘school linking’ visits such as those between Forest School and Eden Girls School in the London Borough of Waltham Forest as part of a Faith and Belief Forum programme and Millbrook Primary and Gurukula, the Hare Krishna Primary School in Cheshunt.



Saint John Henry Newman Catholic School assembly with Sikh speaker

Assemblies

Inter Faith Week themed assemblies provided another opportunity for school learning. For example, St Clement Danes C of E Primary School in London held an assembly with students and chaplains from the LSE Faith Centre who shared personal stories about their own faith with the children; and Saint John Henry Newman Catholic School in Stevenage, held an assembly featuring Jewish and Sikh speakers.

Learning online

There were a number of virtual activities in schools during Inter Faith Week 2022. For example, Cornwall Faith Forum worked with various Church primary schools in Cornwall to provide online engagement with young people from the Hindu, Jewish and Muslim faith communities; and South Gloucestershire Council held a virtual ‘Inter Faith Day’ across schools, with storytelling and classroom activities to enable pupils to explore different faiths and beliefs.

In Rotherham, Laughton All Saints C of E Primary School took part in a multi faith Zoom call where they listened to people from different faiths talk about their beliefs.

Gurukula The Hare Krishna School
@GurukulaThe

Thank you for the this wonderful opportunity and your hospitality @Millbrook_Sch

One of the many purposes of Interfaith week is bringing together communities through education and learning and we were honoured to share our religious tradition and beliefs with you. @IFWeek

Millbrook Primary School @Millbrook_Sch · Nov 16, 2022

One of the nicest and most interesting visits we've had was from Gurukula Hare Krishna Primary School today. We learned all about their school, God and religion. Thank you for visiting us and we hope to see you soon 🙏



12:12 PM · Nov 17, 2022

Eden Girls' School, Waltham Forest
@edengirlsWF

As part of @IFWeek, some of our Year 8 pupils enjoyed their first link day today at @ForestSchoolE17 as part of the @faithbelieforum schools interfaith linking programme. They learnt a lot about each other's identities, cultures and faiths.

#InterfaithWeek #faith #walthamforest



9:03 AM · Nov 16, 2022

Connecting virtually: The Virtual Voices in Religious Education (VVR) Project, Cumbria

The Virtual Voices in Religious Education (VVR) Project organised a series of virtual activities during Inter Faith Week with a focus on sixth form students and teachers. The VVR project helps young people in schools across Cumbria to meet different 'voices' who are connected to Cumbria and have something to say about their personal and shared religion and worldview.

Year 12 students from West Lakes Academy in Egremont were joined during an assembly by a group of eight 'voices' from Jewish, Buddhist, Baha'i, and Muslim worldviews, and four different denominations of Christianity. They watched a Theos animation called *Worlds Apart: Science and Religion*. The animation travels through a 'whirlwind of questions' surrounding the science and religion debate. The students then discussed the questions raised in the film they were most interested in and heard from the 'voices'. The 'voices' then gave responses to the 'big' question of the session: Science and Religion – is there a conflict? At the end of the session, the students were able to use a specially created digital resource where they could access other VVR recordings and materials for Inter Faith Week.

Students from Year 11 and Year 12 classes at William Howard School in Brampton were joined by the same group of voices. Prior to the

event, their RE teacher worked with them to come up with ten questions relating to areas of study for both GCSE RE and A Level Philosophy. The students voted on which questions they would be most interested to hear responses to from the 'voices'. The event started with medical ethics, with questions around whether the 'voices' thought that assisted dying should be legally permitted and whether religious views should affect the law on abortion. The 'voices' then responded to questions around whether war and violence are justified, whether it is right to use religious teachings to justify the oppression of groups, and how the 'voices' might try to argue against extremist views about their religion. The session finished with a question about extra-terrestrials and life on other planets from a faith perspective.

Further classroom discussion enabled the students to compare and contrast the responses to their questions, alongside consideration of their own thinking and beliefs.

For more information about the project, which is supported by Culham St Gabriel's, visit:

<https://www.cdec.org.uk/what-we-offer/projects/cumbria-virtual-voices-in-religious-education/>

Based on items in Cumbria SACRE Newsletter Autumn 2022

Deepening literacy through dialogue

Throughout the Week, many different dialogues took place which helped deepen people's understanding about others' faith and beliefs. For example, in Chester, leaders of the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths came together to explore the meaning of divine love at a meeting at Chester Cathedral's Chapter House. At the St Philip's Centre in Leicester, a multi faith panel talked about role of prophecy and revelation in relationships with the wider community and people and institutions of authority.

The Inter Faith Network for the UK's Inter Faith Buddies scheme <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/inter-faith-buddies> involves two people of different faiths or of a particular faith and of a non-religious belief choosing and discussing questions on which to share their thoughts and experiences. IFN worked with Humanists UK to enable a number of Humanists and those of different faiths to create 'buddy' dialogues. There were also many more informal inter faith dialogues such as one held by the Children of Artemis Divine Moon Moot at a pub in Walsall.

Exploring faith and belief themes together in the workplace

There is increasing recognition of the importance of understanding, in the workplace, of religion and belief. This is both as part of developing good inter faith relations but also of ensuring that people can bring their ‘whole selves’ to work. In this context, Inter Faith Week is becoming a fixture in the diversity and inclusion calendars of a growing number of companies and workplaces.

Some workplaces held week-long programmes for Inter Faith Week. For example, Cancer Research UK (CRUK) held daily activities: an HR panel discussion; a podcast where staff responded to a series of questions relating to their faith or belief; a coffee drop in; a panel event on religious inclusivity in the workplace; and the uploading of an article about a recent visit by CRUK’s Faith and Belief Committee to London Central Mosque.

“It was great to see over 100 people joining our discussion on faith in the workplace”

– HEAD OF FUNDRAISING CANCER RESEARCH UK

“We successfully celebrated Inter-Faith week at Direct Line Group. Our DNA Belief strand members shared a variety of content last week! We have quizzes, myth busting, vodcast and 2 live sessions. The live sessions were ‘Encountering Faiths & Beliefs’ where we heard lived experiences from guests and DLG staff, talking about their faiths & beliefs.

It was a great week, and I’m very proud to work with my colleagues to share learnings on such an important subject.”

– DIRECT LINE GROUP EMPLOYEE

Many of the workplace learning opportunities took the form of a talk or panel discussion. For example, the National Physical Laboratory, in partnership with University of Leeds Muslim staff network and the Office for National Statistics, held a talk on ‘Religious Diversity in the Workplace’ and invited representatives from different UK institutions to share their experiences of supporting organisational and cultural change.



<https://twitter.com/StnCdrHonington/status/1592225798731468800>

A number of organisations arranged discussions about faith and belief in their workplace. For example, the Financial Ombudsman Service held an event hosted by its Muslim Network where it invited all the faith networks at the organisation (Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh) to take part in a discussion about “religion and what it means to us” with an aim to “bring together people of all faiths and beliefs and

'Religious Diversity in the Workplace'

Inter Faith Week
13-20 November
www.interfaithweek.org

In our multi-cultural society, we regularly interact with people who have different religions, faiths, or non-religious core-beliefs. Unfortunately, UK culture has historically avoided talking about this topic, resulting in wide-spread misinformation, prejudice, and discrimination.

We will hear from panellists who will share their experiences of supporting organisational and cultural change.

Panelists:
Maria Hussain - University of Leeds
Steve Martin-Drury - Office for National Statistics
Sebastian Wood - National Physical Laboratory

Please sign-up here:
 shorturl.at/qwAFZ

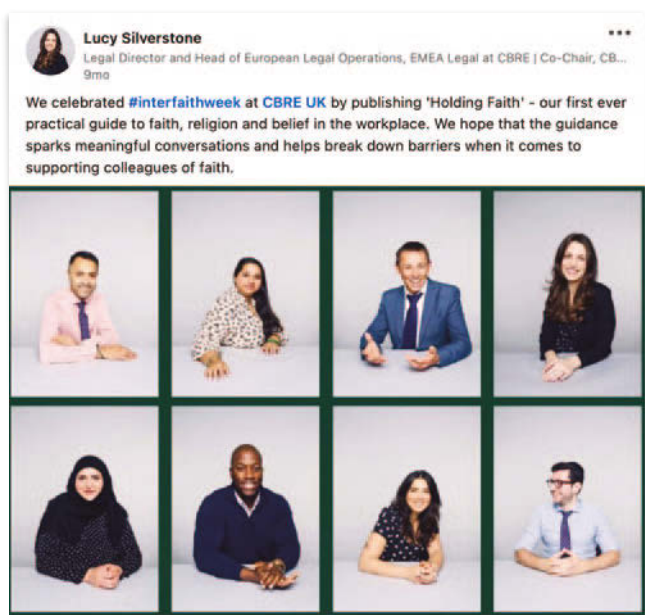
PANEL DISCUSSION AND Q&A
TUESDAY 15TH NOV 2022
12:00 - 13:00 GMT

Open to all in the Civil Service, NPL and the University of Leeds.

to celebrate our similarities but also to value and appreciate what makes us all different and unique”.

Many Government Departments and Civil Service staff networks used the Week to explore faith and belief issues. In some cases, these events marked both Inter Faith Week and Islamophobia Awareness Month. For example, the Department for Work and Pensions Muslim Staff Network held an event in collaboration with the DWP Faith and Belief Staff network on the First Pillar of Islam.

Companies also used the Week to develop and launch projects. For example, CBRE launched a new employer guide.



Learning in other contexts

Talks, workshops and discussions in a number of other contexts also addressed faith and belief themes.

Local authorities

Suffolk County Council held an inter faith panel with members of staff and the community representing many different religions and belief systems. The panel discussed practical considerations for the services provided by the council, some of the challenges faced by different groups and the connections between the religions and belief systems represented in the room. It also organised a display at its Ipswich office, including video recordings with people from different faiths/beliefs and provided packs for teams who wished to talk about faith as part of their team meetings. Thurrock Council celebrated



Suffolk County Council Inter Faith Week panel

Inter Faith Week by hosting a marketplace event with services and faith groups and networking.

Hospitals and hospices.

Hospitals and hospices used the Week in many creative ways to increase understanding about different faiths and beliefs and to highlight the importance of that and of caring appropriately for patients and staff of different backgrounds. See the special focus spread overleaf

HE and FE Institutions

A number of Higher Education institutions held talks and panel discussions during the Week, with week-long programmes at a number of these such as at the Universities of Cambridge and Southampton. Through these, there was exploration of many different aspects of faith and belief in the UK and globally.

For example, Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme held a number of events, such as one where they partnered with the University of Cambridge Divinity Society for a panel discussion exploring the intersection of religion, faith and culture. The Cambridge-based Woolf Institute's activities included a conference which explored harmony and tension between 'faith communities, people of no faith none, or between people of faith, and social, political and cultural environments'.

Students used a number of ways to increase awareness about their different faiths and beliefs. At a number of universities, student religion or belief societies held awareness raising events. For example, at Durham University, the Hindu Society arranged an 'Introduction to Hinduism' talk. St Mary's University and Richmond Interfaith Forum put on a Speed

Hospitals and hospices and Inter Faith Week

Inter Faith Week was used creatively in a range of ways by over 30 hospitals and hospices as an opportunity to increase understanding about different faiths and beliefs amongst both staff and patients.

“Celebrating Inter Faith Week is a fantastic opportunity to reconnect, learn and bring together individuals from diverse religious and spiritual beliefs.”

– HEAD OF PATIENT EXPERIENCE, MID YORKS NHS

Some hospitals such as Stockport NHS Trust ran multiple events during the Week.

Inter Faith Week 13-20 November 2022				
Monday 14th Nov 2022 MULTI FAITH RESEMBLANCE <p>Today Stockport Hospice will have a special afternoon for all faiths and beliefs. We will have a display in the Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care centre on this theme.</p> <p>Today there will be a display in the Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care centre on this theme.</p>	Tuesday 15th Nov 2022 HATS OF FAITH <p>Patients & staff will be invited to bring in their hats and share them with the children. We will have a display in the Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care centre on this theme.</p> <p>Today we will visit the Stockport unit and carry out an activity with the children focusing on the shared values of love and respect for all different faiths.</p> <p>We will take part in their planned activities for the week.</p>	Wednesday 16th Nov 2022 CHAPLAINCY AND SPIRITUAL CARE TEAM <p>Today we will have a meeting with all staff and share across the Trust.</p> <p>The new 'Haven' room will be opened in a space within the Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care for reflection.</p> <p>We will visit all areas and provide updated posters and leaflets.</p>	Thursday 17th Nov 2022 HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE <p>Today we will have a meeting with all staff and share across the Trust.</p> <p>The new 'Haven' room will be opened in a space within the Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care for reflection.</p> <p>We will visit all areas and provide updated posters and leaflets.</p>	Friday 18th Nov 2022 SPIRITUAL CARE RESOURCE BOXES <p>Today we will deliver the boxes to ward areas (including Respite Care, Stockport unit). The boxes contain lots of helpful resources to support meet a person's spiritual care needs.</p>
MEET YOUR CHAPLAINCY AND SPIRITUAL CARE TEAM <p>Every day during interfaith week a profile of each team member will be shared so you can meet your Champions. A display will be outside of the restaurant on Friday to collect some information about the chaplaincy service.</p>				
<p>Interfaith week takes place every year in November. It's a great opportunity to get to know the chaplaincy team at the hospital and to show how we can all support the spiritual care of patients, their visitors and staff of all faiths and beliefs, both religious and non-religious.</p> <p>We look forward to meeting you at some of the Inter Faith Week events over the next week.</p> <p>The Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care Centre is on the main corridor at Stockport HSC. Just before the display there will be a phone call in. The centre can be contacted Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm on 0161 419 5889 (ext. 233888) or Chaplaincy.Spiritualcare@stockportnhs.uk</p>				

Highlighting staff members' faiths and beliefs

A number of hospitals featured staff members on social media posts and in YouTube videos, talking about their faith and beliefs and about the importance of those in their working lives.

Barts NHS Trust did a series of videos with staff from across its hospitals.



<https://twitter.com/IFWeek/status/1591849783513468930>

Exhibitions, stalls and fairs

Inter Faith Week was marked also with special exhibitions, stalls and fairs to share information about the faiths and beliefs of patients and staff, helping increase understanding about those. For example, St Clare's Hospice in Hastingwood, Essex hosted an event at which members of different faith communities, and those with non-religious beliefs, gathered to host an afternoon of interactive stalls – sharing beliefs, celebrating culture and in particular discussing different faith's traditions around death and dying.

St Margaret's Hospice in Somerset collaborated with the Interfaith and Belief Network – Somerset Diverse Communities, NHS Somerset Trust and Taunton Library and Community Council for Somerset on an ambitious roadshow designed to increase religious literacy and increase cohesion (see more about this on page 22).

At King's College London Hospital, Guru Nanak's birthday provided an opportunity both for celebration and learning.



Awareness raising presentations

Online and in person presentations by practitioners of different faiths were also a feature of the Week, helping boost religious literacy of staff. For example, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust arranged talks on the Baha'i faith and the Catholic Christian faith, for staff to learn relevant ways to improve the experience of patients. The East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust Chaplains hosted talks throughout the Week such as on how hospitals should care for Jehovah's Witness and Muslim patients.



The Healthcare Research Authority used the week to share, daily, recent research relevant to faith in healthcare.

"This Inter Faith Week, we are celebrating how we all work together across different religions to provide the best service we can."

– LIZ MAITLAND, LEAD CHAPLAIN AT AIREDALE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST





Quiz arranged by the Spiritual, Pastoral and Religious Care (SPaRC), Bradford Teaching Hospitals

Quizzes

Some hospitals and NHS Trusts, such as Mid & South Essex NHS Trust and Bradford used quizzes to engage staff, patients and visitors.



Highlighting the role and resources of chaplaincy

Many hospitals used the Week as an opportunity to highlight the work of their chaplains and the faith resources they have available. For example, Barnsley NHST Trust featured a number of its chaplains in



Leicester Chaplaincy
@Leic_Chaplaincy

For #InterFaithWeek take a moment to express appreciation for your colleagues from different #Faith or #Belief communities. This week is an opportunity to learn, connect and value the wonderful diversity in your team. #Together #Values #Respect #NHS @Leic_hospital @LPTnhs



"Every member of our Chaplaincy team adds a richness of knowledge, wisdom, and experience. We have so many shared values and yet many unique ways in which we live out and express those values. I feel genuinely proud to lead such a diverse team but also knowing that each of us are united by a deep sense of care and compassion for our fellow humans."

Kartar Singh Bring, Sikh

1:31 PM · Nov 15, 2022 from Leicester, England

posts during the Week as did a number of other hospitals.

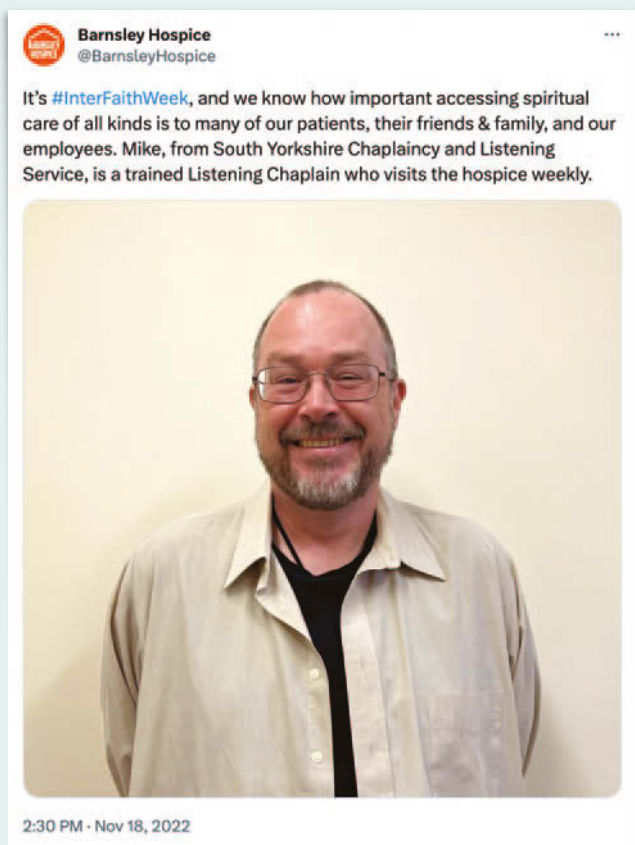
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals held an event at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital for people to meet the chaplains who provide pastoral, spiritual and religious care at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals and to learn about the world religions and how the chaplains work in collaboration as faith leaders in a clinical setting.

Medway NHS Foundation Trust had their Chaplaincy Team in their Atrium every morning to highlight the



Milton Keynes Hospital Walk reaches the Murugan Hindu Temple

https://twitter.com/BarnsleyHospice/status/1593612554185891840



presence of the team in the hospital and provide information about how they make sure the religious needs of all people are met.

The Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Chaplaincy Team took part in a sponsored walk around faith communities and stopped at each place of worship to speak to worshippers about making their chaplaincy more diverse and also to fundraise.

A number of hospitals used Inter Faith Week as an opportunity to launch new initiatives. For example, the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust held the first meeting of their Faith and Belief Network and Bradford Teaching Hospitals Spiritual, Pastoral and Religious Care Team (SPaRC) released their new SPaRC web app to allow patients to access directly spiritual, pastoral and religious care resources and support. Airedale Hospital NHSFT welcomed a new Buddhist Chaplain to the team. Stockport NHS Foundation Trust opened a new 'haven' room in the Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care area.

Ambulance Services

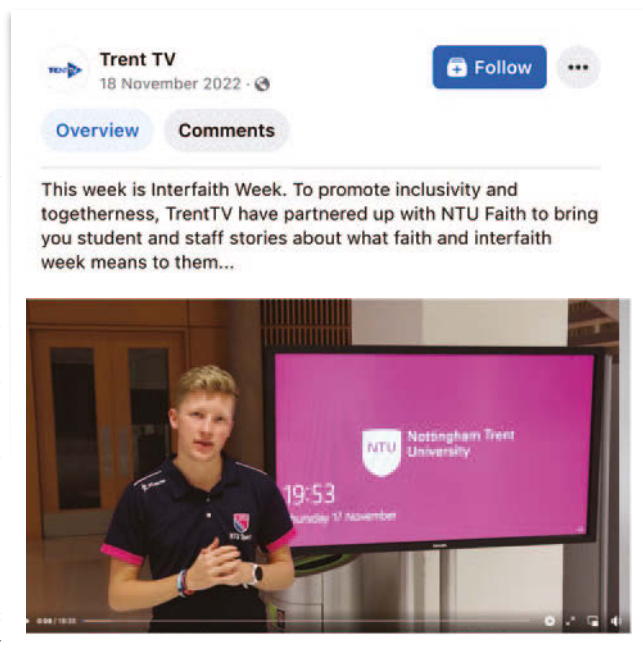
Some Ambulance Services also marked the week and used it as a way to increase religious literacy.

https://twitter.com/PennineCareNHS/status/1592083666766897155



https://twitter.com/NEAmbulance/status/1594254220110319617

https://www.facebook.com/trenttvuk/videos/109771180896298/



Dialogue event where students had the opportunity to meet and share perspectives with a number of different faiths and beliefs through a 'speed dating' format. Carmel College in St Helens and Cambridge University (through the SU) held similar events.

https://tinyurl.com/mr2495t2



The Union of Jewish Students held a student panel with the Faith and Belief Forum where the speakers discussed their experiences of practising faith at university.

Others used media as a way to share their learning. For example, Trent TV, the official TV Station of Nottingham Trent University (NTU), partnered with the NTU Faith team to create a video where students and staff had the opportunity to share their faith and experience of faith with the wider university.

There were many other examples of talks, workshops and discussion focused on religious literacy. For example, a representative from the Bahá'í community in Tower Hamlets spoke on ATN Bangla UK television's Education Hour about Inter Faith Week and the importance of religious literacy.

Libraries and learning

A number of libraries used Inter Faith Week to help people learn about faiths and beliefs as well as to highlight the variety of resources they have available.

There were curated book displays at a number of public libraries including: Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Libraries; Kirklees Libraries; Margate Library; Shrewsbury and Telford Health Libraries; Sevenoaks Libraries; Swanley Library;



https://twitter.com/RuralSomerset/status/1587399196939796484



Shrewsbury and Telford Health Libraries

Westgate Library; and York Explore Library and Archive.

Some university and college libraries also held exhibitions. Leeds Trinity University Library for example, set up a display of their classroom resources about different religious traditions; and Ashton Sixth Form College used the Week to highlight, through daily social media posts, some of the books on religion in its library.

Quizzes and competitions

It has been said that the British are quiz obsessed! Quizzes are certainly particularly popular in Inter Faith Week and they are a great way of getting people interested in 'faith facts' and also bringing people of different backgrounds together online or in person. From local inter faith groups, to universities, schools and hospitals – people in dozens of groups pitted their wits against each other and learnt more about each other's faiths and beliefs. A few examples are below.

The Havering Interfaith Forum hosted an Interfaith Quiz night at The Salvation Army in Romford, with questions covering a range of topics about nine faiths and beliefs, including Humanism.

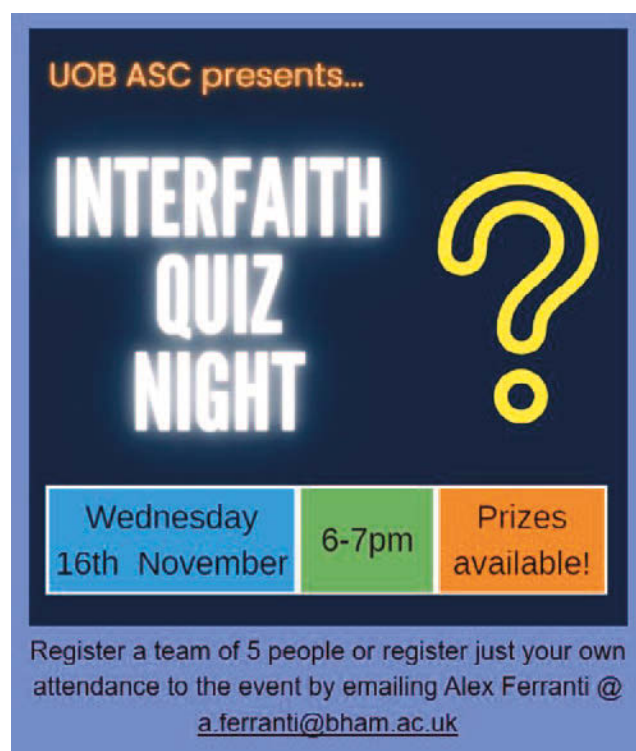


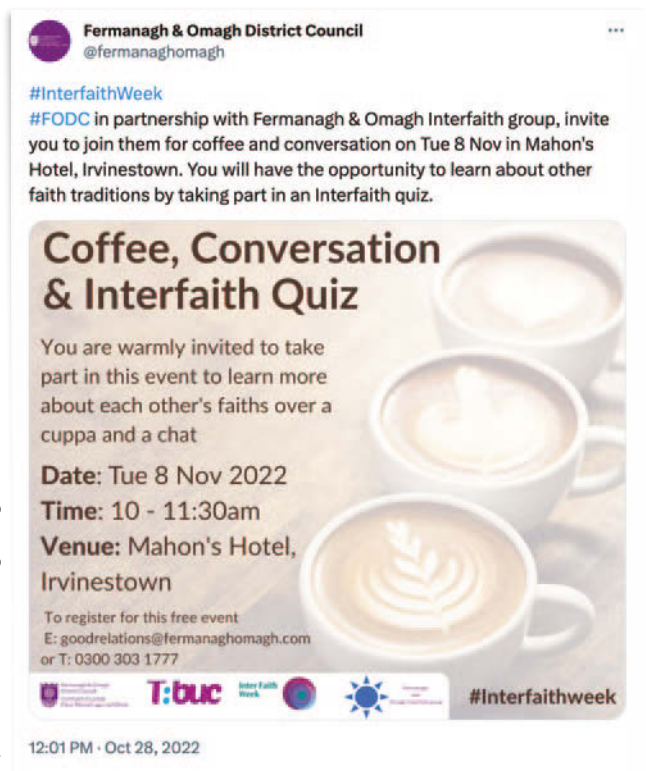
Havering Interfaith Forum Inter Faith Week quiz
Photo: Havering Daily

Swansea Interfaith Forum and Swansea University hosted a 'pub-style quiz.' In Irvinestown, Enniskillen, a quiz was put on in partnership by Fermanagh and Omagh Council and Fermanagh & Omagh Interfaith.

At the University of Birmingham Multifaith Chaplaincy, the Chaplaincy Team and the Seventh-day Adventists hosted an Interfaith Quiz Night, as did the Chaplain at Medway Campus, University of Kent. Liverpool John Moores University Quiz Society hosted a quiz for students to test their knowledge and learn more about the many faiths and cultures around the world; at the University of Manchester, the Council of Christians and Jews hosted a quiz at the Milk and Honey Cafe at St Peter's House; and Durham Interfaith Student Network and Durham University Chaplaincy Network held a 'Tea, cake and quiz' evening.

Bradford Teaching Hospital's Spiritual, Pastoral and Religious Care Team held a quiz at their Inter Faith





Week stall for visitors to expand their knowledge of different faiths and beliefs. So, too, did a number of other hospitals such as East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust.

Many schools, such as Solihull School and St Gregory's Catholic School in Warrington, held quizzes. Competitions were also used by a number of schools to increase levels of religious literacy. For example, Malmesbury School held both an inter faith logo competition and an Interfaith House Competition on the question 'How do animals provide a life purpose?' and an inter faith logo was also the focus of a competition run by York Interfaith with the SACRE and local schools..

At Eden Girls' school in Slough, students took part in a competition where they were challenged to 'learn about thy neighbour' by interviewing one person from a different faith. At Ormiston Bushfield Academy in Peterborough pupils from KS 3-4 were set a competition to select 10 films with a connection to worldviews, philosophy and/or theology and to explain the link. At the George Eliot Academy in Nuneaton, there was a photo competition for students. The photos had to express something about the student's faith or something that was special to them.

Pershore High School in Worcestershire developed a multi layered challenge called 'Think like a scholar'



Edgar Wood Academy

with activities including creating an acrostic poem using the words Inter Faith Week; taking a photo which expressed the pupil's faith or worldview; reflecting on the importance of faith based charity work; looking at the Golden Rule for different faiths/worldviews; and reading about times different faiths have worked together.

6. Opening doors to learning: visiting places of worship

Inter Faith Week is a great time to learn about places of worship and their importance in the lives of local faith communities as well as to meet members of their congregations and learn about different faith traditions.

Visits to places of worship were very popular during the 2022 Week – through open door days; specially arranged visits to particular places of worship; faith trails; and stops on inter faith walks and pilgrimages.

Open Door Days

Open Door Days are where places of worship welcome visitors, offering guided tours and respond to questions.

In London, the Borough of Barking and Dagenham's Inter Faith Week programme saw residents invited to

drop into open days held by St Margaret's Parish Church, Al Madina Mosque and Barking Gurdwara Singh Sabha as an opportunity to strengthen inter faith relations and learn more.

“Inter Faith Week is a chance for us all to celebrate the vibrant, diverse community we are proud to have here in the borough.

There's something so special about coming together to share beliefs and values with each other, no matter where you are from, and it's a great opportunity to mix and learn in our neighbourhoods, schools, workplaces and communities.”

– DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT,
LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING AND DAGENHAM

In Cheltenham, ‘Sharing our Spiritual Homes’

The University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham InterFaith and Cheltenham Borough Council got together to hold a special programme for Inter Faith Week: ‘Sharing our Spiritual Homes’.

Various Cheltenham faith groups opened their doors to welcome visitors between 14 and 18 November. The organisers hoped that this would “help us to deepen our understanding of different faiths and to reflect on our own beliefs”.

There were visits to Gas Green Baptist Church, St Gregory's Roman Catholic Church, the Hindu Community Centre, the Kadampa Buddhist Centre, the local Baha'i community, the Lower High Street Mosque and Cheltenham Orthodox Jewish Community. Visits had to be booked on Eventbrite to ensure numbers of visitors matched the capacity of particular sites, but,



subject to availability, people could book as many visits as they wished.

The week of visits culminated in a gathering at the Cheltenham Hindu Centre on the first Monday after the Week for those who had taken part to share experiences and to share a free vegetarian curry together.

Cheltenham Borough Council website

12-20 NOVEMBER 2022
INTERFAITH WEEK

Saturday 12th
11am - 12.30pm
Event: Shabbat Morning Service followed by Q & A
Ark Synagogue, 18-24 Oakland Gates, Northwood, HA6 3AA
Contact: Rabbi Aaron, rabbi@aaronsynpl.org.uk

Monday 14th
12noon - 1pm
Seminar: A Christian Theology of Interfaith Relations
St Margaret's Church, Windsor Street, Uxbridge
Contact: secretary@uxbridgeparish.org

Tuesday 15th
11am - 12noon
Event: Open place of worship
Sikh Gurudwara, The Sikh Temple Golden Crescent, Hayes UB3 1AQ
Contact: dalipsambhi@gmail.com

10am - 1pm
Event: Exhibition and Q & A
The Quakers, Friends Meeting House, Belmont Road, Uxbridge
Contact: Mike Beranek - uxbridgequakersoffice@gmail.com

10.30am & 1.30pm
Event: Guided Tours with Q & A's
Guided tour start times are 10.30am & 1.30pm
Christ Church, Redford Way, Uxbridge
Contact: publicity@christchurchoxbridge.org.uk

Wed 16th
10.30 - 11.30am
Event: Open place of worship and Q & A
Roman Catholic Church, Osborne Road, Uxbridge
Contact: uxbridge@rcdow.org.uk

Friday 18th
11.30am - 3pm
Event: To be guest observers of Friday prayers
Hayes Muslim Centre, 3 Pump Ln, Hayes Town, Hayes UB3 3NB
Contact: contactjazz@hotmail.com

Sunday 20th
2 - 3pm
Event: Introduction to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and Q&A
Baitul Amn Mosque, Royal Lane, Uxbridge, UB8 3QU
Contact: mansur.amj@gmail.com


HILLINGDON
INTERFAITH
COMMUNITY

The London Borough of Hillingdon Interfaith Community's open door programme had an added dimension which was that people could observe worship at the different places.

North Lincolnshire Council and University Campus North Lincolnshire partnered with a number of places of worship which opened their doors for tours of their buildings, Q&A sessions and talks: St Hybald's Orthodox Church, St Lawrence's Church, Scunthorpe Central Mosque, Guru Nanak Sikh Temple and Connect Church Scunthorpe.



Essex Police Visit to BAPS Mandir, Chigwell

Specially arranged visits

Sometimes organisations like workplace staff networks and schools arrange visits to particular places of worship. Inter Faith Week 2022 saw a number of such visits. For example, City University of London Chaplaincy invited students to join them on visits to Central London Synagogue, St Paul's and Radha-Krishna Temple. Essex Police visited Chigwell Swaminarayan Mandir and the Multicultural and Hindu Networks at NatWest Group organised an educational and cultural trip for members of staff and their friends and families to Neasden Temple.



NatWest Group staff visit to Neasden Temple



Christ Church CE Primary School, Birmingham pupils visit Singers Hill Synagogue

Robert Clack pupils' Inter Faith Week experience

During the Inter Faith Week celebrations this week those who won the IFW art competition in Key Stage 3 (Green Lane + Lymington Fields) were invited to a local Gurdwara. A Gurdwara is a place of assembly and worship for Sikhs. People from all faiths are welcomed in a Gurdwara. Robert Clack School has a large Sikh Community so pupils learnt all about their culture and even had a chance to be involved in the Langar Kitchen!

Here is what the pupils had to say:

Simran (Year 7) – “It was nice to see my friends enjoy the experiences that I have every day”

Brogan (Year 9) – “The Gurdwara had really welcoming energy. It is incredible that they feed people regardless of your background”

Taren (Year 7) – “I really enjoyed the free food”

Sophia (Year 7) – “Really fun and interesting

Leah (Year 8) – “A good experience”

Oliver (Year 7) – “I would go again”

Devonte (Year 7) – “It was really intriguing and they taught us lots of facts”



Well done to all the pupils who were involved and the Gurdwara staff for taking care of us. We hope to continue this trip every year!

Robert Clack School Religious Education Department

<https://www.robertclack.co.uk/robert-clack-school-visits-gurdwara-for-inter-faith-week>

“It was an absolute pleasure to be able to connect with people of different faiths/backgrounds and to be able to facilitate a fantastic opportunity to learn about Hindu beliefs and practices.

– NATWEST GROUP INTER FAITH WEEK VISIT ORGANISER

Visits to places of worship were also popular amongst schools. For example, Christ Church CE Primary School in Sparkbrook, Birmingham visited St Agatha's Church, Sparkbrook Mosque, Sparkhill Gurdwara, Singers Hill Synagogue and the Peace Pagoda (Birmingham Buddhist Vihara) and pupils from Manchester Islamic High School for Girls visited the local Hindu Temple, a Sikh Gurdwara and Chorlton Central Church.



Manchester Islamic High School for Girls visit Gurdwara

<https://tinyurl.com/4nvxtma>



Sunderland Inter Faith Forum 10th Friendship Walk

Multi faith ‘pilgrimages’ and walks

Inter faith pilgrimages and walks, where people travel together and visit places of worship along the way, provide a great opportunity to learn about the places visited but also to get to know fellow walkers. They are also a very visible symbol of friendship and solidarity.



Brent Multi Faith Forum Walk and Tree Planting
Photo: Saqlain Choudry

Some inter faith pilgrimages and walks take place annually in Inter Faith Week, for example those of Watford Interfaith Association, Sunderland Inter Faith Forum and Brent Multi-Faith Forum.

“The interfaith walk [in Byfleet] enabled people to talk informally to each other while walking, develop understanding and give public witness to people of faiths walking together.”

– SURREY INTER FAITH LINKS NEWSLETTER

Brent Multi-Faith Forum’s Peace Walk took place for the first time since before COVID. It wound its way

Interfaith Walk

.Weds 16th Nov 7.30pm – 9.30pm

PLEASE JOIN US – ALL WELCOME!

Finishing with free refreshments
at the Shree Swaminarayan Hindu
Temple Cardiff



Meet 7.30pm at the Masjid Abu Bakr MOSQUE, Clydach Street, Riverside, Cardiff CF11 7AE for visit and talk.

15-20 min walk
Arrive 8.00/8.10pm
Sri Dasmals Singh Sabha SIKH GURDWARA
Cardiff, 97 Tudor St, Cardiff CF11 6AE for visit and talk.

2-5 min walk
Arrive 8.30/8.40pm
Shree Swaminarayan HINDU TEMPLE, 4 Merches Place, Riverside, Cardiff CF11 6RD.

Torchlight will be provided but depending on numbers would be great if you could bring your own candles in jars.

between St John’s Church Wembley, Stanley Avenue Masjid, Brahma Kumaris Innerspace and Shri Vallabh Nidhi Mandir. The walk ended with a tree planting ceremony and speeches from the Co-Chair of the Brent Multi-Faith Forum, the Mayor of Brent and other civic leaders.

North Kent Interfaith and local faith groups organised an inter faith walk in Gravesend visiting the Hindu Mandir, St John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Albion Terrace Mosque and the Gurdwara. There were also faith walks in a number of other areas such as Croydon (see IFN intern’s blog on pages 64–66), Huddersfield (see the special feature on Kirklees on pages 20–21) and Maidenhead.

Woking People of Faith held an inter faith pilgrimage which visited Byfleet Methodist Church and Black Pentecostal church, St Mary’s Church and Surrey Hindu Cultural Association.

The Inter Faith Council for Wales organised a faith walk around Cardiff visiting Masjid Abu Bakr Mosque, Sri Dasmals Singh Sabha Sikh Gurdwara and Shree Swaminarayan Hindu Temple.

Though many chose to walk, some groups chose other ways to travel. Newcastle Council of Faiths held

Inter faith learning on the move in Derby

“On Saturday 12th of November, we gathered with people of faith and no faith and embarked on an Interfaith walk, visiting different faith centres in the community. We visited the New Life Church, Jamia Mosque, Guru Arjan Dev Ji Gurdwara, Geeta Bhawan Hindu Temple and this was followed by lunch at the Pakastani Community Centre. At each venue, we received a warm welcome and hospitality, learned more about the city’s diverse faiths and gained an

insight into the valuable role that each place of worship plays in their neighbourhoods.

The inspiring morning was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to walk and talk, make inter faith connections for community harmony, spark new friendships, increase mutual understanding and enrich their own spiritual journeys.”

The Multifaith Centre at the University of Derby

its second Inter Faith Week ‘Faith Coach: Friendship through Faith’ event, where participants travelled to Newcastle’s places of worship on a coach. In Birmingham, the Nishkam Centre and the Bahu Trust decided that two wheels was best and held an Inter Faith Week bike ride which stopped off at places of worship on their route.



Birmingham Inter Faith Week Bike Trail
Photo: Peter Rookes/Nishkam Centre



INTERFAITH WEEK

Byfleet Pilgrimage – Woking People of Faith

Come and join a lovely walk around Byfleet, talk with people of faith and learn about different places of worship.

Saturday 12 November – 10.30 am – 3.30pm
Meet at Byfleet Methodist Church (KY34 3LL)

For more information contact our Faith Links Adviser, Kawther Hashmi - email kawtherh@snf.org.uk or call 07827 974792



Newcastle Council of Faiths Friendship through Faith coach tour visit to Newcastle Cathedral

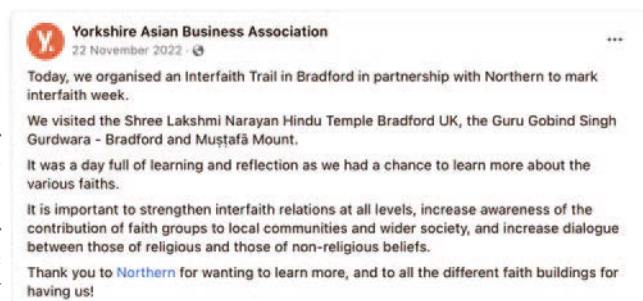


Northern Railways and Yorkshire Asian Business Assoc Inter Faith Week visit to Rawda Mosque, Bradford Photo YABA

Several universities held faith walks to places of worship during the Week. The York University Chaplaincy and York Interfaith held a City Centre Churches Tour which visited York Minster, and a number of local churches. The University of Bristol Multifaith Chaplaincy held a 'Faith Crawl' event, visiting the Shah Jalal Jame Mosque, the Bristol and West Progressive Synagogue and the Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha.

Faith trails

A number of 'faith trails' also took place. For example, in Bradford, staff from Northern (Rail) visited, as a group, the Shree Lakshmi Narayan Hindu temple (Bradford Mandir), the Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara – Bradford, and the Rawda Mosque with the Yorkshire Asian Business Association (YABA).

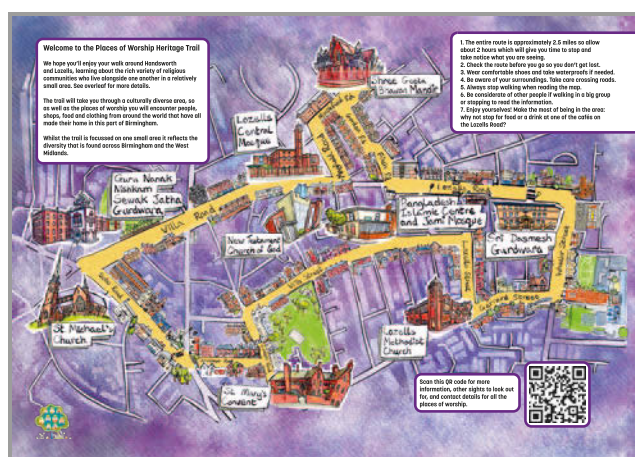


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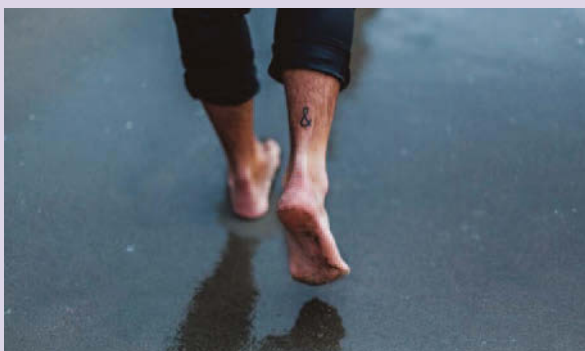


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A new faith trail around places of worship in Lozells and Handsworth was launched during the Week in Birmingham.



‘Walking Together as people of faith’



An Inter Faith Week blog by Lynda Williams of the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (Quakers in Britain).

“There are so many exciting and unexpected activities going on across the country during Inter Faith Week: tree planting, radiant heart prayer craft, mantra chanting, poetry sharing and interfaith cafés. Alongside these, I notice once again that many communities are holding interfaith pilgrimages or ‘walks for peace’.

Inter Faith Week began as a way to help strengthen good inter faith relations and increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK. Local groups organise events to celebrate and build on the contribution different faith groups make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society. The Week also hopes to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

Since the first Inter Faith Week in 2009, inter faith friends have chosen to ‘walk’ together, often visiting each other’s places of worship and hearing of each other’s practices.

Walking and talking together

There is something so basic and simple about walking and talking together. In past years in York, I have had some wondrously deep conversations with Mormons, Unitarians, Pagans and Bahá’is to name just a few, as we wandered the ancient streets of York together hearing each other’s personal journeys of life in the Spirit. What a delight it was and there was so much laughter on the way.

Perhaps what makes the literal walking together feel so potent is the underlying metaphor of this inter faith activity, the learning through sharing as we move along our journey of faith alongside others of faith. Interfaith stories in the media so often focus on the divisions and difficulties in those relationships whereas when we metaphorically walk alongside those of other faiths, we come to find the commonality of our values and can celebrate the diversity. The inter faith journey is not one of moving into any sort of unification of faith but is one of joyful exploration of each other’s spiritual lives.

Developing mutual friendship

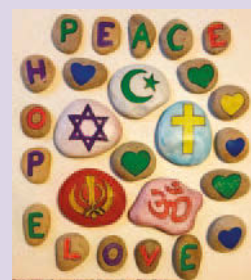
The journey often begins in ignorance of another’s faith and then moves along through listening and sharing to places of understanding and tolerance and finally through walking and working together comes to a place of mutual friendship and acceptance. There is such delight in discovering the sheer diversity of belief, the challenges faced by some faith groups and yet finding commonality in loving compassion and the Oneness of the Spirit.

In this year of commemoration of the death of the Quaker John Woolman in York 250 years ago, I am reminded of his words:

‘There is a principle which is pure, placed in the human mind, which in different places and ages hath different names, it is however pure and proceeds from God. It is deep and inward, confined to no forms of religion or excluded from any where the heart stands in perfect sincerity.

In whomsoever this takes root and grows of what nation soever, they become brethren;

Let’s make the most of Inter Faith Week and walk together as brothers, sisters and siblings.”



7. Connection and learning through culture and sport

Culture and sport provide important routes for people of different backgrounds to learn about each other's faiths, beliefs and cultures and develop new connections and friendships.

Music, dance and poetry

Music featured in a number of activities which were held during the Week. For example, the All Faiths Network hosted an evening of music, song, dance, and prayer from people of many different faiths and Inter Faith Milton Keynes held an Inter Faith Week celebration with Milton Keynes Islamic Arts and



Culture which featured poetry, music, culture and reflective conversations.

Dance is significant in a number of religious traditions and helps enact and convey key stories and principles. It can be an important window into traditions and cultures and, as such, contributes to both religious literacy and cultural understanding and appreciation. This was reflected in number of events for Inter Faith Week 2022. For example, at Lady Eleanor Holles Junior School in Hampton students performed a Bharatanatyam dance during their Inter Faith Week assembly and for Diwali and Inter Faith Week pupils

Friends in Faith

By Mohamed Saloo

A conviction, a hope, a faith
A declaration of living
The simplicity of what we gave
In the act of our being
Defines the who we are
In our different and our same
Our ways are not that far
In the virtue of our aim

The harmony of an everyday street
Is built through charity and care
From the methods of how we may greet
To compassion, kindness and prayer
In the arms of commonality
Is the embrace of togetherness
Belonging is a want of normality
That lives in each and every one of us

In the principles that we hold tight
Of unity, respect and peace
Where communities of differing sights
Share understanding, learning and ease
Building the tomorrow by hand
Through gestures of friendship in waves
Together in our commitment we stand
Side by side as friends in faith..

Poem by Batley poet, Mohamed Saloo

from Meadows Primary School and Nursery in Telford learnt about the Ramayana with the help of a dance group from West End in Schools.

Batley Poets held an Inter Faith Week poetry session at Batley library, inviting those attending to "perform a poem you've written, one you like, or sit back and



Hindu dancers at All Faiths Network Inter Faith Week event



Child of Empire VR Experience. Photo: Bradford Cathedral

enjoy the afternoon with a cuppa and meet some new friends”.

Film

Film is a medium which lends itself well to learning and dialogue and it was used in a number of Inter Faith Week events such as Barnet Multi Faith Forum and Middlesex Inter Faith Network’s Faith and Film discussion; a Cathsoc and Falmouth University Multifaith Chaplaincy Inter Faith Week film night at the University’s School of Film and Television; and Swansea University and Swansea Interfaith Forum’s Inter Faith Film Night featuring ‘The Sultan and the Saint’.

Bradford Cathedral’s Artspace Project hosted the animated virtual reality docudrama *Child of Empire* which immerses viewers in the Partition story. There were daily showings in the cathedral’s North

transept. A special closing event on the Saturday included the showing of some short films called *Lost Migrations* – a three-part animated anthology exploring, through the voices of the colonised, the memory, loss, and trauma that accompanied the Partition of British India.

Get the Trolls Out, a campaign against anti-religious hate speech online and in European media, ran a special competition during Inter Faith Week calling for art and video submissions on the theme of ‘religion and diversity’.

Artefacts, architecture and historical images

The Week is a time when many museums and archives draw together specially curated offerings from their collections to highlight different aspects of faith and belief.

The Harris Museum in Preston commissioned a special Inter Faith Week blog (see overleaf).

The National Multifaith Youth Centre ran an in-person event at the Museum of London titled: “Faith Collections Community Open Day: An Exclusive Look at the New Museum’s Faith Display Plans” where



attendees were able to speak with the museum team and share their thoughts on the museum’s faith objects.

The Harris Museum marks Inter Faith Week with a special guest blog

To celebrate Inter Faith Week 2022, our aim to inspire a dialogue with art and audiences. We've caught up with Fareeda Khan who has selected a few artworks and objects from the Harris collection to initiate the conversation by exploring key themes of faith and identity.

**Guest blog written by Fareeda Khan,
Art Curator, Theatre Producer**

As a curator, I find that art is a conduit prompting us to reflect on our lives internally and externally, enabling us to find meaning during a process of exploring broader aspects of our existence. To me, art is cognizance, a means of comprehending our multiple realities and intersecting the realm of the imagination.

This moment of reflection and connectivity harks to a time when, as a child growing up in Preston, I would make numerous visits the Harris Museum and Art Gallery. There were a number of artworks I appreciated for different reasons that provided me with a sense of peace, self-reflection, belonging and escapism, forging lasting and happy memories.

For Inter Faith Week, and as part of the forthcoming *Under the Crescent Moon* exhibition, I have delved into the collections to explore some artworks that resonate with the theme of faith and identity to foreground diversity in creative practice and to encourage active audience participation. I selected some artworks looking across the different aspects of the Gallery's collection from the range of artists, period and subject matter to provenance as well as styles.



The pictures selected were Her Head, by Dhruv Mistry; Interior of the Grand Mosque Damascas, (1873–75), Frederic Leighton; Resurrection, Hill of Zion, Stanley Spencer; and Study for Sultan, Bridget Riley, Gouache and pencil.

Read more at:

<https://www.theharris.org.uk/press-news/inter-faith-week/>

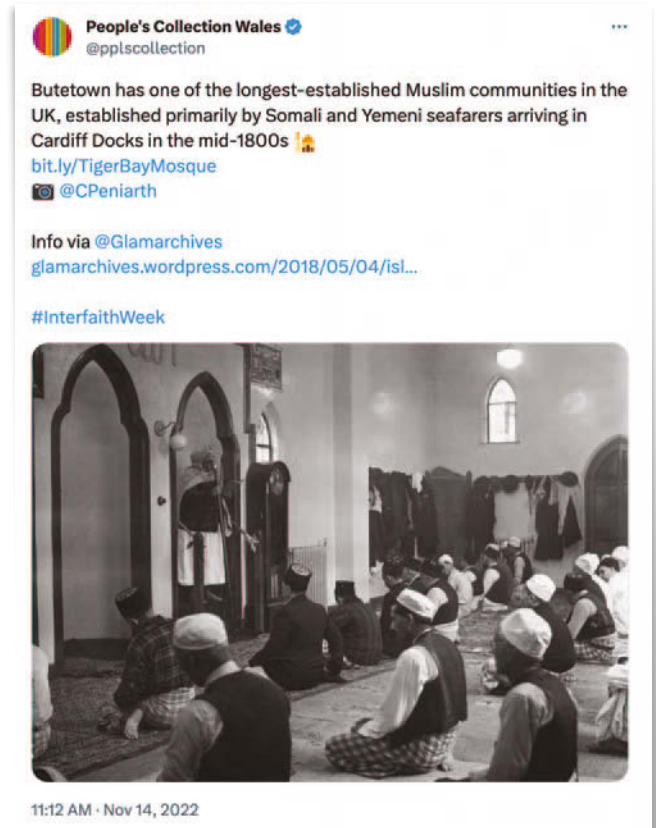
<https://twitter.com/HarrisPreston/status/1593573483266514945>



Headstone Manor Museum, worked with the local inter faith body, Interfaith Harrow to create an exhibition on inter faith engagement in the borough. The different faith groups also created an exhibition with tables about each of their faiths.

Leeds Museums worked with local faith and inter faith organisations on an annual Light for Leeds festival. Featuring representatives of both religious and non-religious beliefs and value systems, the day included activities, music, and food, as well as chance for meditation and reflection.

There were also a number of small scale exhibitions such as a mini exhibition representing major world faiths' put on by the chaplaincy at the University of Sheffield.



Exhibitions were a popular way for schools to highlight the work of their pupils. For example, local primary schools worked with the Wirral Deen Centre to create a 'Trees, Faith and Life' exhibition at Birkenhead Central Library and St Laurence Church Junior School in Birmingham held an inter faith exhibition of their pupils' work from the Week.

Museums also hosted Inter Faith Week visits, such as the one illustrated to the left to the Manchester Jewish Museum by students from Great Marsden St John's Primary Academy.

There were a number of online exhibitions. Epping Forest Museum held an online exhibition on its website <https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/museum/> which was also displayed digitally at the museum, allowing visitors to learn more about faiths within the Epping Forest District. Ahead of the exhibition, the Museum identified gaps in its photograph collection. It worked alongside Chabad Lubavitch Buckhurst Hill and other members of the Jewish community to collect photographs, including photographs of Jewish holidays and menorah lightings throughout the





district, to ensure the collection remains relevant and reflective of the district's community.

Some archives used the Week to highlight their collections and also, in the case of Surrey History Centre, to seek to expand them.

Arts and crafts

Arts and crafts-based activities from drawing to quilting were used by a number of those taking part in the Week as a way to learn about different faiths, cultures and beliefs. For example, in Cambridge, the Fitzwilliam Museum gave Cambridge University Students' Union access to its religious art collection as an inspiration for a creative, conversation and drawing session. In Darwen, the Darwen Asylum and Refugee Enterprise (DARE), IMO and Madina Mosque held an inter faith arts, crafts and activities morning at Central URC Church. York Baha'i group held a craft session, decorating prayers and quotations from Holy Writings, while exploring what it means to possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart.

Arts and crafts-based activities were particularly popular with schools during the Week. For example, at St Andrews C of E Primary School in Bebington, the Wirral pupils were invited to bring in pictures, models and collages of the places that mattered to them and about their beliefs.

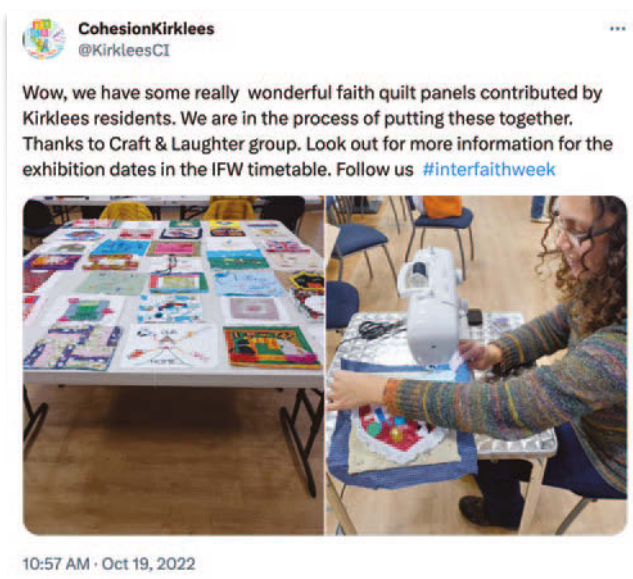
As part of its Inter Faith Week celebrations, 'Faith Ambassadors' from Holy Cross College were invited by the Bury Faith Forum to run a Faith Arts and Craft workshop for primary and secondary pupils at its



Focus on Faith Event held at Guardian Angels Parish Church in Bury. The pupils could then ask their Faith Ambassadors questions about Islam, Christianity, Sikhism and Judaism and took away with them Ramadan and Eid celebration colouring pages, Sikhism word searches, church stain glass windows made of tissue paper and Hanukkah Dreidels made of card.

Other types of organisations also got involved with arts and crafts during the Week. For example, members of the Ab Phab Youth Club in Dagenham created flags while they held discussions about different faiths and cultures.

A special community quilt was created in Kirklees (see page 20 for more on that).



Sport

Sport and physical activity have great potential to foster inter faith connection and friendship. A number of 2022 activities reflected that.

Building Bridges Burnley and Burnley FC in the Community invited children from Barden Primary School, St John's School CE Cliviger, and Daneshouse FC to take part in an inter faith football tournament at the Leisure Box Brierfield. Pupils had the chance to get to know each other as well as to enjoy playing together. The children and their families were then given free tickets to see Burnley FC play at Turf Moor. The BBC featured the activity on the 'This Morning Live' television show shortly after the Week.

Some members of Berks & Bucks FA visited Singh Sabha Slough FC to meet its youth team, composed of individuals from predominantly Sikh, Muslim, Hindu and Christian backgrounds. BBFA carried an article about this: Breaking Barriers Singh Sabha



Burnley FC in the Community and Building Bridges in Burnley tournament



Slough Berks & Bucks FA (<https://www.berks-bucksfa.com/>) showing how sport has the ability to break down barriers and foster inter faith understanding

In Sunderland, a match was held between two teams of Sunderland Samba FC players and friends to celebrate their commitment to bringing people together and to encourage learning and understanding.

Kirklees Cohesion, the Yorkshire Cricket Club and local faith groups organised an indoor cricket tournament in Batley sports hall. A number of teams took part and every individual was given a certificate for participating. Kirklees Cohesion also arranged, with Kumon Y'all, a short Boccia tournament (an accessible form of indoor bowling suitable for all ages and abilities which was designed specifically for athletes with a disability affecting locomotor function) in Mirfield.



Kirklees Cohesion Inter Faith Week cricket tournament



England and Wales Cricket Board visit to Baitul Futuh Mosque

The England and Wales Cricket Board shared a blog post on their website celebrating Inter Faith Week by asking individuals across the organisation about the importance of their faith in relation to sport. Members of their communications team also visited the Baitul Futuh Mosque.

The Muslim Sports Foundation marked the culmination of Inter Faith Week by posting an article by their chairman about the historical barriers separating his community from physical activity.

Gloucester Rugby Foundation hosted an event which highlighted the rich heritage of diversity in the community and invited locals to visit the stadium. This was followed by a Q & A session with one of Gloucester's players.

Leicester Tigers welcomed students to Mattioli Woods Welford Road to take part in a Project Rugby Festival celebrating the Week (using the name 'Multi Faith Week'). In partnership with Premiership Rugby, Project Rugby is a competition wide initiative, delivered by each club with the aim of promoting inclusion in the game for 14–24-year-olds from different ethnicities, low-socio economic areas and /or with additional needs. Students from a range of religions such as Islam, Hinduism, Christianity and more attended the festival, showcasing the work of the Leicester Tigers Project Rugby team.

As part of Inter Faith Week, Active Black Country and Get Out Get Active (GOGA) Wolverhampton created a new free website for faith groups to help communities to be more active.



Gloucester Rugby Foundation Inter Faith Week session



8. Spotlighting faith action on social issues and for the common good

The social justice work of faith communities is carried out year-round, as is volunteering by their members. However, the Week provides a very helpful platform for highlighting the ways that faith communities contribute to their local communities and to society more widely. It also helps spotlight their cooperation in working together for the common good.

A number of the 2022 volunteering activities marked both Inter Faith Week and Mitzvah Day. Mitzvah Day is a special day of social action led by the Jewish Community, but with many activities held on an inter faith basis. Inter Faith Week has had, since its outset, a close working relationship with Mitzvah Day – which usually happens on the first or last Sunday of Inter Faith Week. Each adds value and impact to the other.

Faiths working for social justice

Environment and climate change

A significant number of the talks, seminars, panels, conferences, and dialogue opportunities organised for the 2022 Week focused on responding to climate change.

Faith and community leaders came together in a number of areas to discuss how they can work together to help the environment. For example, the Bolton Unity Project and Bolton Council of Mosques

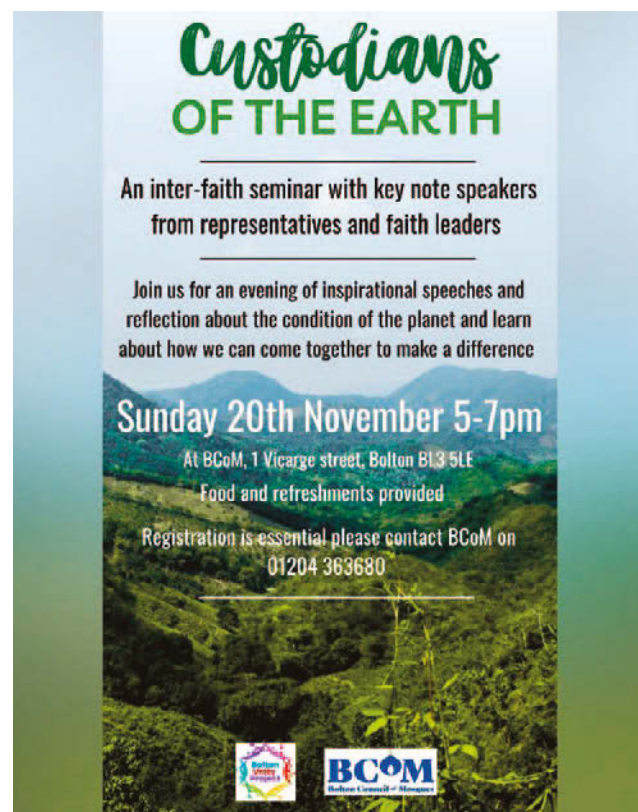
held an inter faith seminar at which local faith leaders reflected on the condition of the planet and ways that people can come together to make a difference. In Walsall, Minhaj ul Quran Mosque arranged a meet up/chat plus panel discussion on climate change, the environment and how to improve the local neighbourhood.



<https://twitter.com/CAFODprayer/status/1592072343731462144>



<https://tinyurl.com/mrxawsk8>



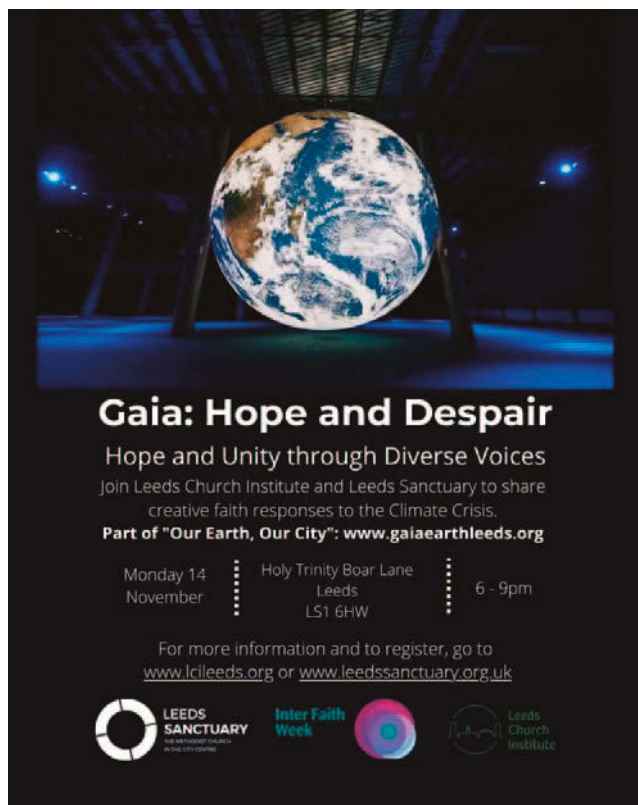
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Bishop of Norwich and other faith leaders' Inter Faith Week discussion on the climate and biodiversity

The Anglican Diocese of Norwich marked Inter Faith Week and COP27 by bringing together representatives from nine faiths for a breakfast discussion about working together for the good of the climate and for biodiversity in Norfolk.

Altrincham Interfaith Group invited the UK-nominated Lead Author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on Climate Change to speak on the subject of 'Climate Change, Religion and Ethics' and Norwich InterFaith Link invited a trustee of the Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences. Leeds Church Institute



Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

The BIG Debate: Faith and the Climate Crisis

Tuesday 15th November, 2022
University Centre Warrington, Time Square
5-8pm

A diverse panel of regional faith leaders and practitioners, University students and staff, and representatives from faith-based charities and climate action groups come together to debate this crucial issue.

Vegan refreshments will be supplied
FREE ADMISSION

Staff and students can catch the University bus from Chester to Warrington for free!
To book your seat, please email Hannah Bacon
h.bacon@chester.ac.uk

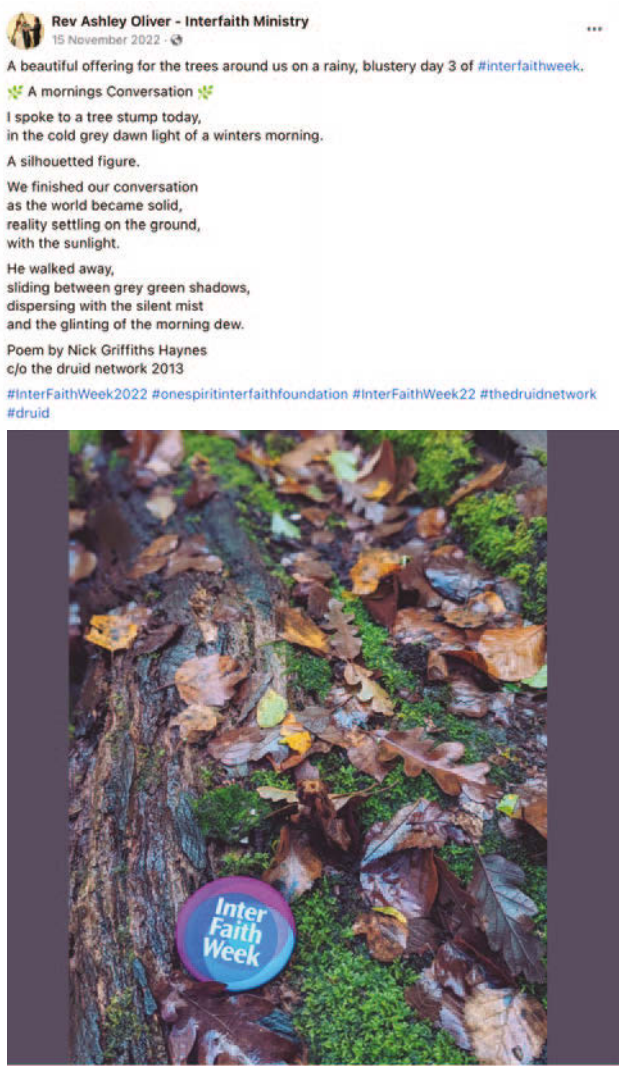
Warrington Council of Faiths Faiths4Change University of Chester

and Leeds Sanctuary held an immersive evening of diverse voices and creative responses to climate change with the backdrop of a special Gaia artwork installation.

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Chester worked with Warrington Council of Faiths and Faiths4Change to bring together regional faith leaders and practitioners, representatives from faith-based charities and climate action groups, and members of university staff and students for an inter faith debate on the climate crisis.

Discussions on environmental issues also took place on a number of campuses such as at Falmouth Exeter Plus Multifaith Chaplaincy (which serves students from both Falmouth University and University of Exeter) and at the University of Warwick chaplaincy.

Many local authorities supported or took part in environment-focused Inter Faith Week activities. London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and Climate Action Richmond held a talk on sustainability and faith, looking at the ways in which the council can work with faith groups and communities to act on the global climate crisis; and Wandsworth Council held an online lunch and learn session looking at the intersection between faith and climate action.



Southwark Council invited representatives from local faith communities for a conference on climate change and the cost-of-living crisis.

Sandwell Council, Balaji Temple and Together in Action marked the Week by holding a celebration and review of Sandwell's 'Faith Communities for Clean Air' project. Different places of worship had been equipped with information about improving air quality and various actions had been taken to reduce this issue. This included Balaji Temple, which, in 2022, planted 500 trees and installed a ground source heat pump, solar panels and energy efficient lighting.

Schools also engaged with faith and climate change. For example, at Tonyrefail Community School in Rhondda Cynon Taf, middle school pupils discussed the topic of inter faith and climate change; Penygawsi Primary School, Llantrisant did an Inter Faith Week litter pick; and at St Laurence C of E School in Chorley pupils composed songs urging action against climate injustice.

A number of environmental volunteering activities took place during the Week. Tree and bulb planting activities were particularly popular. For example, East Anglia's Children's Hospice planted bulbs in Framingham Earl to mark the Week. Fruit trees were planted by Stafford and District Friends of Faith and also by Muslim and Jewish women of Nisa-Nashim West Midlands, in partnership with Fruit & Nut Village. There was also a day of conservation volunteering at Walthamstow Wetlands organised by the London Wildlife Trust. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in York invited people to come and help in the community by taking part in a park 'tidy up' and in the city's Clifton Bridge area members of York

INTER FAITH WEEK BLOG FROM IFN INTERNALED VERNON-REES

In my role as an intern at the Inter Faith Network for the UK, I had the opportunity to contribute to Inter Faith Week 2022 by undertaking various tasks that helped to promote participation and engagement from different organisations and communities. From reaching out to local authorities to researching and adding unregistered activities to the website, to creating social media posts to raise awareness about the Week, my experience as an intern allowed me to play an active role in supporting the Week's promotion of inter faith understanding.

During the Week, I had the opportunity to attend a range of different activities which covered themes such as the environment, mental health and peace. It was a great opportunity to be able to encounter and be involved in inter faith activities.

SUNDAY

I started the Week by attending the launch event for Scottish Interfaith Week. Scottish Interfaith Week was the inspiration for the Inter Faith Network for the UK's Inter Faith Week initiative. It was great to be able to attend their vibrant launch event at the Scottish Storytelling Centre in Edinburgh, on theme for their Week: 'Storytelling' and to meet many of the story tellers.

The event began with an opportunity to view the Faces of Faith photography and storytelling exhibition. It was inspiring to hear the stories from people of a variety of different faith and beliefs backgrounds.

We then sat down to listen to a variety of talks and performances which included readings from Interfaith Scotland's recently published poetry book and musical interludes of traditional Scottish music.

TUESDAY

On Tuesday, The Inter Faith Network for the UK held an Inter Faith Week information 'drop' for MPs and peers at Portcullis House in the Houses of Parliament. This was sponsored by Holly Lynch, MP for Halifax, with opening words from the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group



caption

for Faith and Society, Sir Stephen Timms OBE.

I had the opportunity to be involved in the planning and organising of the event and on the day, I assisted on set up. It was a privilege to be involved and it was great to see a number of MPs engaging with the IFN's staff and trustees, hearing about the positive inter faith work which happens up and down the country.

WEDNESDAY

On Wednesday I was honoured to have the opportunity to attend the annual Ahimsa Day celebration at Portcullis House, where the Ahimsa award was presented to author Kumarpal Bhai Desai by Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE, Minister for Faith and Communities. The Ahimsa Day celebration is organised by the Institute of Jainology and sponsored by the Jain All-Party Parliamentary Group. It seeks to "underline the universality of Jainism and publicly identify it with the concept of non-violence".

I listened to talks from members of the Jain APPG, Office for National Statistics and others. Many of the topics discussed related to the aims of Inter Faith Week, such as religious literacy. For example, presenters from the University of Birmingham's Department of Theology and Religion spoke about the launch of its new Jain Studies programme. This sparked a discussion

on the importance of religious education in increasing awareness of faith communities in the UK.

THURSDAY

On Thursday I went to the University of Southampton to attend a couple of activities from their week-long programme led by The Parkes Institute. In the afternoon, I attended a talk on the topic of 'Faith and Mental Health', led by the Muslim Faith Advisor for the University. We also heard from the University of Southampton Wellbeing Team. It was great to hear wide and in-depth discussion about the topic of faith and mental health and the work of the University in this area.

In the evening I attended an inter faith Quaker reflection at the University of Southampton's Faith and Reflection Centre, run by the university's Quaker faith advisors. After a time of silence, which is central to Quaker worship, we spoke in turn about what peace means to us. Then we shared food and discussed the topic of peace and inter faith.

FRIDAY

On Friday I went to Middlesex University in Hendon to see the Eco Show and Tell – Sustainability Fair, an event held in partnership with Middlesex University Inter Faith Network and Barnet Multifaith Forum.

As I walked around the fair I learned about local sustainable initiatives and inter faith networks which are carrying out such activities as:



Middlesex University Eco Show and Tell Fair



<https://tinyurl.com/4hyep6sh>

educating young people about nature; producing locally sourced honey; tending to apple orchards; improving recycling and waste collection; and encouraging exercise. I had the chance for a number of interesting conversations about the different ways that faith and sustainability intersect.

SATURDAY

On Saturday morning I joined an inter faith walk in the London Borough of Croydon organised by Faiths Together in Croydon. We began by visiting a new Hindu Temple in Lohana Community Complex where one of its members told us about the establishment of the Temple and the meaning behind the statues in the shrine.

We then walked to Croydon Minster, where we were given a short talk about the history of the building and then the opportunity to have a look around the cathedral and ask questions. Before we left, we came together and listened to a short prayer.

Our next stop was Old Town Mosque, where we heard a talk about the history of the building and the congregation's plans for the future. A representative from the Dialogue Society talked about the story of Noah's Pudding – which is thought to be the oldest dessert in the world – from the unexpected but successful combination of ingredients in which, the Society draws a lesson about the enrichment that diversity brings. I was a bit apprehensive about a dessert with chickpeas in, but I was pleasantly surprised! You can read about the pudding at: <http://www.dialoguesociety.org/publications/community/Noahs-Pudding.pdf>. We were then invited to watch members of Mosque partake in

their prayers.

The walk finished at Siri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara. We were invited to the upstairs of the building where a service was being held for the celebration of Guru Nanak's birthday. We were then welcomed to come and join in langar, which is the free food (and the kitchen from which it comes) which the Sikh community provide to all wishing to come and eat. This tradition of providing free meals goes back to Guru Nanak himself.

At the end of the dinner there were speeches from The Elected Mayor of Croydon, the local MP and from Strengthening Faith Institutions.

SUNDAY

I finished the Week by joining Hertsmere Forum of Faiths' Inter Faith Week and Mitzvah Day tree planting at the Well End Scout Centre in

Borehamwood. We planted 30 tree saplings across the site for The Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

CLOSING REFLECTION

The Week gave me a unique opportunity to learn and connect with many people from different faith backgrounds. It was inspiring to see people coming together to share their experiences, learn from one another, and celebrate their differences.

Throughout the Week, I took part in events that helped to promote inter faith dialogue and understanding. The range of these and the diverse communities involved made the Week a fascinating and enriching experience. It was one through which I gained a deeper understanding of the diverse religious traditions in our society and the value of inter faith cooperation.



Harrow Ahimsa Peace Garden event Photo: SRMD UK

In Harrow, Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur UK, Harrow Interfaith and Harrow Recreation Ground Community Gardeners held an event celebrating unity in diversity at the Ahimsa Peace Garden. A specially commissioned stone sculpture titled 'Unity in Diversity' was unveiled and there were activities for the community including bulb planting and writing messages of peace.

Canterbury and District Interfaith Action arranged a walk through Blean woods with text readings from a range of religious and non-religious sources reflecting thoughts on trees and woodlands.

Responding to the cost of living crisis

The Week saw a number of activities focusing on the cost of living crisis and also on how faith communities could help during a time of rising energy and food prices.

Inter Faith Week happens at a cold time of year and keeping warm is much on people's minds. Building Bridges in Burnley held 'Keeping Warm', a panel discussion with speakers from different faith backgrounds. In Stockport, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Stockport Interfaith, and Friends of Stockport Interfaith got together to collect coats for the Wrap Up Manchester initiative.

Interfaith and friends weeded, planted and cleared existing 'inter faith plots'.

At the University of Wolverhampton, students and staff gathered to celebrate the dedication of a small area of garden at the Multi Faith Chaplaincy. This was accompanied by discussion about a 'rewilded campus' and a talk about steps all could take to encourage nature for the wellbeing of the planet and ourselves. The Black Country and Birmingham Wildlife Trusts were on hand to assist. After the dedication there was a short series of readings from different faith traditions about the value of the natural world.

https://tinyurl.com/4nmy672d



Building Bridges Burnley Keeping Warm event



Merton Citizens and Merton Faith and Belief Forum inter faith discussion on poverty using Scriptural Reasoning

https://twitter.com/mertoncitizens/status/1592950399417593856

https://twitter.com/HassanJoudi_/status/1592518103489212417



https://twitter.com/BMFForum/status/1589299083876917248



The Deputy Mayor of London brought faith leaders and inter faith practitioners together for a discussion on the community and faith response to the cost of living crisis. Barnet Multi Faith Forum held a discussion on the same issue, with faith contributors, the Leader of Barnet Council and the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Faith and Society.

The Trussell Trust supports a nationwide network of food banks – providing emergency food and support to people facing hardship – and campaigns for change to end the need for food banks in the UK. It held an Inter Faith Week discussion at Lambeth Palace, at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, with faith groups which focused on responding to the cost of living crisis.

A number of food bank collections were held during the Week to help those struggling with the cost of living crisis. At the English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College in Hartlepool, a food collection was organised for St Aidan's Kitchen. In Kirklees, the Dewsbury South Community Support Covid-19 Multifaith Community Group used the Week as an opportunity to call for volunteers for their Multifaith Foodbank.

Leeds Diocese C of E Diocesan Interfaith Adviser organised an inter faith cooking event hosted by the Immanuel Project in Bradford for Mitzvah Day and Inter Faith Week. A small group of members from the Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities, led by the Near Neighbours West Yorkshire Coordinator, spent a morning cooking curry for one hundred guests.

Marking Mitzvah Day with an inter faith activity, York Liberal Jewish Community set up a stand at a local supermarket and invited shoppers to donate items for redistribution to York Foodbank. Many other inter faith Mitzvah Day events took place. Read more at:

MD-2022-Annual-Impact-Report.pdf
(mitzvahday.org.uk)

Also linked to the Week, Near Neighbours East London offered leadership training workshops for volunteers involved in running food banks.

Wellsprings Together and the Leeds Community Foundation held a workshop looking at funding support and opportunities for UKME (UK Minority Ethnic heritage) led/faith-based community groups which help people in Leeds and to understand the barriers groups face when applying for funding.

Durham County Faiths Network held an evening of inter faith encounter on the theme of 'Helping those in need: a personal faith perspective'. Merton Citizens joined with Merton Council and Merton Faith and Belief Forum for an Inter Faith Week and Living Wage Week 'scriptural reasoning' session on poverty at the Salvation Army centre.

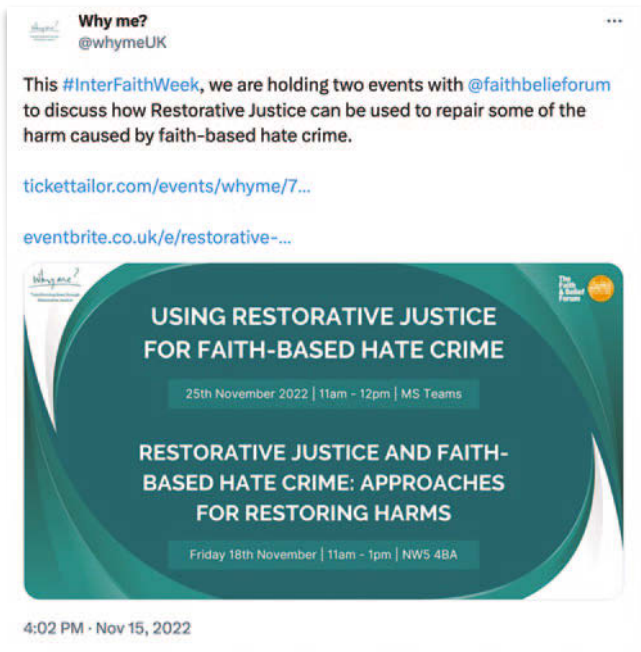
Hate Crime

Hate crime linked to religious identity is a serious problem which affects members of faith communities. Religious hate crimes recorded by the Police in England and Wales in 2021–22 increased by 37 per cent (to 8,730 offences) on the previous year; this was the highest number of religious hate crimes recorded since 2012. A number of organisations used Inter Faith Week to address aspects of hate crime and its prevention.

The London Disciplinary School held a talk with The Board of Deputies of British Jews' Communities Manager and the Founding Director of The SHIFT

(Social Harmony, Intercultural & Faith Training) talking about their work with the UN tackling hate speech, and about the importance of building feminist alliances to tackle Islamophobia, Antisemitism and misogyny.

The Woolf Institute hosted an Inter Faith Week session for the staff at the charity Mind where they discussed Antisemitism, Islamophobia and the experiences of those affected.



The Faith and Belief Forum and Why Me? held a workshop on 'Restorative Justice and Faith-based Hate Crime' to explore how such a practice could look in their communities, as well as the potential for collaboration.

Inter Faith Week takes place at the same time as Islamophobia Awareness Month and, in 2022, as Anti-Bullying Week. The Youth and Partnerships Director at Solutions Not Sides wrote a blog with reflections sparked by the convergence of Inter Faith Week, Anti-Bullying Week, and Islamophobia Awareness Month.



"Interfaith is vital in fostering cohesive communities in which everyone feels that they belong; however, the worrying upward trend of hate crimes and hate becoming somewhat mainstream is an indication of how much work we and our partners still have left to do."

– ALI AMLA, SOLUTIONS NOT SIDES

<https://solutionsnotsides.co.uk/blog/2022/ali-interfaith-bullying-islamophobia>

https://twitter.com/AktharHussain/status/159400970779373569



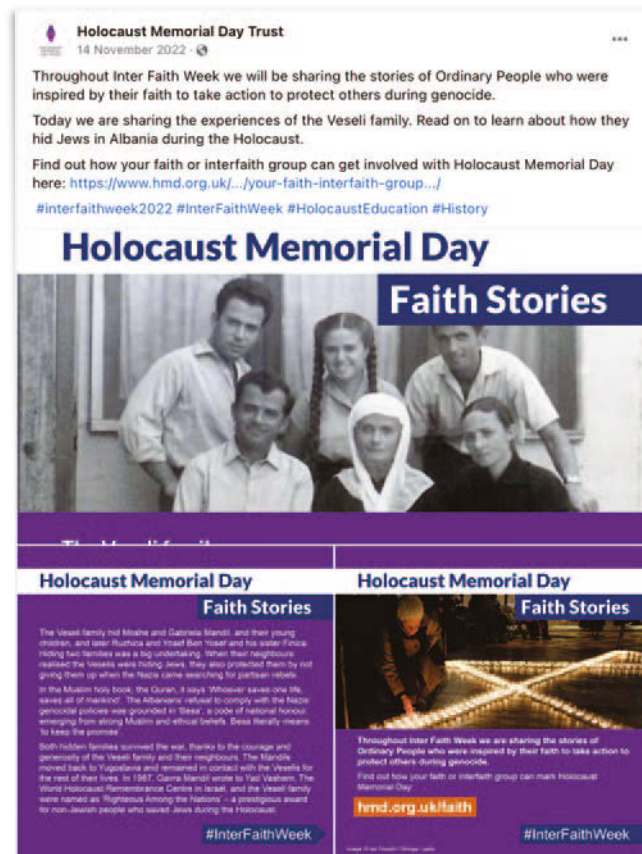
At John Moores University in Liverpool the Islamic Society held a special edition of their Islamic Circles which looked at Islamophobia through the lens of Islam which was open to all.

Inter Faith Week was, itself, the occasion of a possible hate crime when Network Rail's staff network multi faith IFW banners at King's Cross were vandalised.

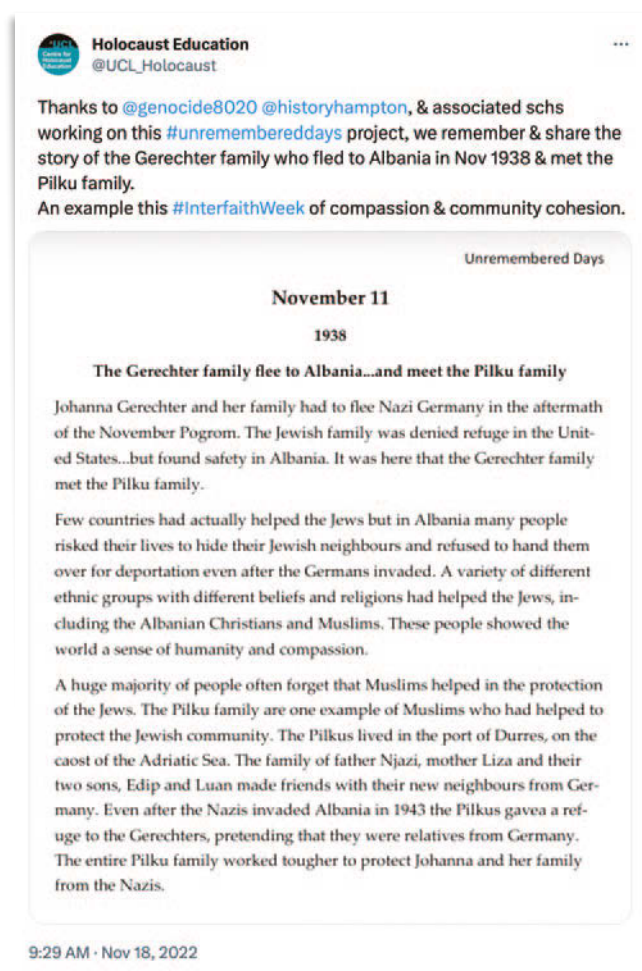
Learning from genocide

Some organisations marked the Week by hosting events which sought to strengthen the lessons learnt from genocide. For example, the Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations at the University of Southampton, held a lecture called 'After Belsen: Christian Encounters with Jews in the Aftermath of the Holocaust' which explored some of

https://twitter.com/ParkesInstitute/status/1590716377803132928



https://tinyurl.com/4ehybuhr



https://twitter.com/UCL_Holocaust/status/1593536741289259008

the unique stories of Christian–Jewish encounters in the wake of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) held an online event called Stories of Faith: Victims; Survivors and Rescuers which explored the stories and experiences of different faith groups and individuals of faith during the Holocaust, Nazi persecutions and genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Throughout Inter Faith Week HMDT also shared stories of Ordinary People who were inspired by their faith to take action to protect others during genocide. The Holocaust Centre at UCL also used social media in this way.

Violence and Domestic abuse

In Leicester, a ‘Faith and Domestic Abuse Conference’ raised awareness about the relation between domestic abuse and faith.

The West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership hosted a national webinar about faith-based approaches to violence reduction.

FAITH & DOMESTIC ABUSE CONFERENCE IN LEICESTER

DURING INTERFAITH WEEK WE WILL BE HOSTING A FREE CONFERENCE WITH THE AIM TO RAISE AWARENESS AROUND DOMESTIC ABUSE AND FAITH.

SPEAKERS CONFIRMED ARE BELOW WITH MORE TO BE ADDED.

ALL WELCOME. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.

Speakers:

- COUNCILLOR ASHERJI JOEL
- COUNCILLOR MANJIT KAUR SAINI
- COUNCILLOR NITA SOLANKI
- MEENA KUMARI HOPE, TRAINING & CONSULTANCY
- KARAN SINGH BRONG, HEAD OF CHAPLAINCY
- SUPERINTENDENT MANJIT ATHWAL, QPM HEAD OF DELIVERY - VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (COLLEGE OF POLICING)

THE DETAILS

SATURDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2022
10-12PM

BELGRAVE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
BUTLEY STREET, LEICESTER, LE4 4LF

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE EMAIL: MANJIT.KAURSAINI@LEICESTER.GOV.UK

Health issues

Another area where Inter Faith Week helps focus attention is health, wellbeing and faith. Some faith communities bodies held activities with this focus, for example the British Sikh Consultative Forum which held an ‘Inter Faith Wellbeing Event’.

A number of national agencies such as NHS Blood and Transplant used the Week to engage with faith communities, as do local health providers.

The 2022 Week saw a number of activities focusing on faith and mental health. For example at the University of Southampton the Muslim Faith Advisor and the University Wellbeing Team held a discussion on that

https://twitter.com/revdbutterworth/status/159117143158851714

David Butterworth
@revdbutterworth

#InterFaithWeek @WestMidsVRP hosts a National webinar to demonstrate how faith-based approaches to violence reduction intersect with and compliment the widely adopted public health approach. Diverse voices share how faith communities can help make society safer for #YoungPeople.

#BelieveInHope
@WestMidsVRP

Chaplaincy Everywhere and 9 others

8:50 PM · Nov 11, 2022

NHS Organ Donation
@NHSOrganDonor

This #InterFaithWeek, watch videos giving a religious perspective on organ donation in our YouTube playlists.

All the major religions in the UK support the idea of organ donation, and our films explain why and share some amazing stories.

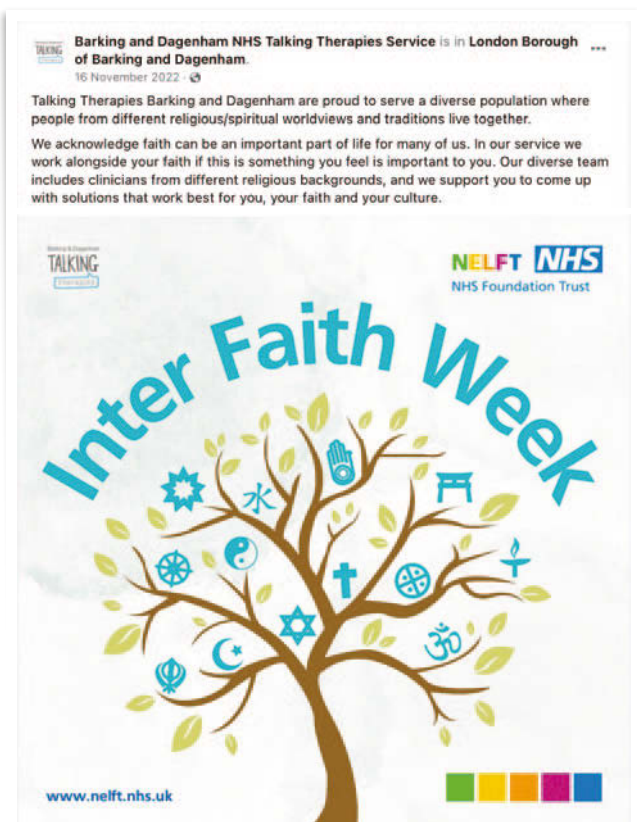
Click here bit.ly/3USJvpr

NHS
Organ Donation

10:05 AM · Nov 18, 2022

https://twitter.com/NHSOrganDonor/status/1593545824029532160

https://tinyurl.com/ykms6hm



https://tinyurl.com/37a73694



https://tinyurl.com/273tkw5w



topic, as did the national charity 'Mind' for its staff. The Cellar Trust, which offers mental health support to people across the Bradford area, featured a special blog by one of its volunteers about growing up in Bradford, his Muslim faith and his volunteering (<https://www.thecellartrust.org/inter-faith-week/>).

See also the extended section on hospitals, hospices and religious literacy on pages 40–43



https://twitter.com/kessler_ed/status/1592125835523547137



https://twitter.com/THInterFaith/status/1592867666020421633

Chaplaincy

Some organisations used the Week to hold events which shared information and resources about chaplaincies or explored their work. For example, the East of England Faiths Agency (EEFA) held an event called 'Chaplaincy for All', a conference focusing on the changing face of chaplaincy for those involved in chaplaincy, human resources and all concerned with the well-being of others.

A number of HE events also shone a light on chaplains (and equivalents) and the role they play. For example, the Faith Centre at the University of Salford held a 'Meet and Greet' event where students and staff could come and talk to chaplains of five different faith and beliefs.

An inter faith exploration of social justice issues

St Albans Abbey invited people from all faiths, and also those affiliated to no particular faith, to join together for an evening of “sharing together stories and practical examples of living well together as good neighbours and also serving God’s justice TOGETHER in our one and only beautiful world”.

This was an opportunity to:

- Acknowledge the plight of refugees and asylum seekers, the impact and multiple disadvantages of war and other violent conflicts going on in the world
- Share inspiration from different faith perspectives to address contemporary issues of racial, environmental, economic, political and social injustices in the world
- Meet and network with friends and invited guests from different faiths, cultures and ethnicities from across St Albans

As well as input from different faiths, St Albans Abbey musicians played instrumental music and one of the school pupils who was part of the event also made a presentation.



St Albans Abbey Inter Faith Week event
Photo: David Kesterton

The Bishop of Bedford Right Revd Richard Atkinson said, “As a diocese, we are committed to engaging with and partnering with members of other faith communities for pursuing the common good. Faith motivates and inspires our social action. How much more could we accomplish if we all worked together to address issues like racism, poverty, and climate change – this year’s Inter Faith Week Event focused exactly on that.”

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10159070833710418&set=pcb.101590708336350418>

Linda Grace Peall (She/Her) ❤️
@LindaPeall

Excited to be at the EEFA conference – “Chaplaincy For All” today with chaplaincy colleagues thinking about the changing face of chaplaincy in the UK @Team_ESNEFT @WeChaplains @HealthChaplains @UKBHC1 #InterFaithWeek



10:17 AM · Nov 15, 2022

Staff at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities invited a prison chaplain to share his engagement with prisoners and staff and how chaplaincy works to prepare inmates for life back in the community following release.

Explorations of multiple social issues

There were also a small number of events where participants discussed a wide range of different social issues. An example of this was St Albans Diocese event in partnership with Luton based community initiative called GRASSROOTS Programme: ‘God’s Justice in our World’.

<https://twitter.com/LindaPeall/status/1592461783351980032>

Partnership working: local authorities and faith communities

Each year, Inter Faith Week provides an opportunity for local authorities to highlight and strengthen their links with faith communities and to raise awareness of the important contribution that faith communities make to wider society and in tackling social ills.

Many local faith groups are involved in social action, and partnership working is vital for generating ideas, designing engagement activity; and pooling skills, knowledge, and resources to make a difference. Successful partnership working can allow faith to play an even bigger role in the future success of all communities who live and work here. For these reasons, Tower Hamlets invited local residents to come and hear from a panel of experts and local groups to identify strategies, challenges, and solutions.

Birmingham, the first city to sign a Faith Covenant with its local authority in 2014, used the Week to extend the Covenant to include other statutory organisations such as the Police, Crown Prosecution Service, NHS Integrated Care System and VCFS organisations such as Birmingham Voluntary Services Council and Healthwatch Birmingham and Solihull.

The Faith Covenant framework was developed by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APGG) on Faith and Society assisted by FaithAction which provides the secretariat for the APPG. The Faith Covenant is a joint commitment between faith communities and local authorities to a set of principles that guide



<https://twitter.com/THInterFaith/status/159286766020421633>



<https://tinyurl.com/y4yfasz9>

engagement, aiming to remove some of the mistrust that exists and to promote open, practical working on all levels. More information about this can be found at: <https://www.faithandsociety.org/covenant/>



<https://twitter.com/THInterFaith/status/1592445582156910592>

"It is very appropriate that we should be signing this Faith Covenant at the start of Interfaith Week, coordinated by Birmingham Council of Faiths, during which Birmingham has 25 events taking place between people of different faiths and with people of no faith."

"Four out of five Birmingham people claim a faith affiliation, which is underpinned by the values of love, compassion and integrity. This is why people of faith are in the forefront in serving the most vulnerable people in our society."

– DR PETER ROOKES, BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL OF FAITHS

9. Remembrance and Reflection

Inter Faith Week begins each year on Remembrance Sunday to encourage people to remember together the service of people of different faiths and beliefs.

The Week also sees other services and times of prayer or meditation where people come together to reflect on what it means to live together well as people of different faiths and beliefs.

Remembering together the service of those of many backgrounds

Many different bodies held multi-faith remembrance services and events at the start of the Week. Faith and local inter faith bodies also took part in civic services, alongside civic leaders, members of the armed services, veterans, the Royal British Legion and others. In some areas, churches and others led on services with a multi faith dimension, for example Blackburn Cathedral.


Watford marks Remembrance Sunday with return of historic parade

Hundreds came together in the town centre on Remembrance Sunday, to pay their respects to the fallen; lining the streets to support a parade and gathering at the Peace Memorial for two minutes silence

This year's tribute included a parade, which made its return after 50 years and involved hundreds of marchers, led by the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire from St Mary's Church. The marchers include the flag-bearers from the Royal British Legion and local scout groups.

After parading through the town, the large group made their way to Peace Memorial for the two minutes' silence, wreath laying and a service led by Elected Mayor of Watford Peter Taylor and Chairman of the Council, Councillor Amanda Grimston. The event was also supported by the Watford Band, who played the Last Post during the service.

Other organisations to lay wreaths included Croxley British Legion, representatives from each of the emergency services, Gurkha ex-servicemen and the Interfaith Association.




<https://twitter.com/jonhammondtweet/status/1588865784813846528>

Faith leaders also took part in events such as dedication of a Garden of Remembrance in Dewsbury Memorial Gardens.

Faiths Together in Croydon held a 'Remembrance Peace Event for All Faiths' with contributions from the Mayor and the Civic Mayor of Croydon, the Lord Lieutenant of Croydon, and faith leaders from Croydon. They, and a number of other inter faith groups such as those in Bedford, Preston and York, also laid wreaths.



<https://twitter.com/KirkleesCI/status/1590314318800699393>



Faiths Together in Croydon Remembrance Wreath



Inter Faith Armistice Assembly at Ravenscroft Junior School

A number of schools held, or participated in, remembrance activities. For example Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel held a special inter faith service of remembrance which featured Rosslyn Hill Chapel Choir and Channing Junior School Choir; and Surrey Heath Multifaith Forum held an Inter Faith Armistice Assembly at Ravenscroft Junior School where they were joined by members of the armed forces.



Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel inter faith Remembrance service

In Belfast, the local 'stake' of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints held a remembrance service with a multi faith dimension.

"The Stake Remembrance Service began a number of years ago as an event to primarily remember those members from the Belfast Stake who have been lost in conflict. Traditionally each Remembrance Sunday is also the beginning of UK Interfaith week, and the Stake has incorporated this into their remembrance service by inviting local dignitaries, including MPs, local government officials, community leaders and those from other faiths and traditions

...Bishop White gave those from the Northern Ireland Interfaith Forum a guided tour of the church building, including the Family History Centre. Members, friends and family were all grateful for the spirit of remembrance, gratitude and fellowship that was present during the evening..."

<https://news-ie.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/belfast-northern-ireland-stake-hosts-annual-remembrance-service>]

In Leicester, the Sikh Welfare and Cultural Society, in partnership with the Brahma Kumaris and ABF, held a service of remembrance which included inter faith prayers.



<https://twitter.com/DrOpinderjit/status/1591867302689087490>



Tell Mama UK posted a video on their social media reflecting on the many faiths of those who served during World War I and World War II.

The Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester hosted an event with a speaker exploring relations between Jews and Muslims and their solidarity in Britain against the rise of Facism/Nazism c1944-45.

Inter Faith Week services and prayers

Services are a less common feature of Inter Faith Week. However, some organisations do mark the Week by organising inter faith and multi faith services



where members of different faiths and beliefs come together for prayers, reflection and sometimes thanksgiving for good inter faith relations in their areas.

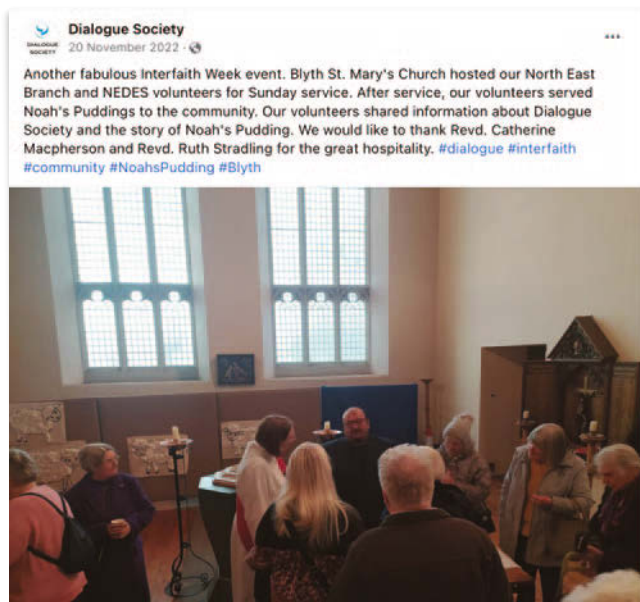
The 2022 Week saw a number of such services. For example, the Shree Ghanapathy Mandir in Wimbledon held an

inter faith service with contributions of readings and music from representatives of faith communities in the London Borough of Merton and Mansfield Interfaith Group held an inter faith service at the Unitarian Old Meeting House. The Cardiff Baha'i community organised online Inter Faith Devotional with readings from different faiths read in Welsh with English translation provided.

Some Inter Faith Week services, such as those in Ashford, Greater Yarmouth, Guildford and Godalming and Truro, focused on 'peace'. Cornwall Faith Forum's event took the form of an early Advent 'spiral' on which people lit a candle and shared a thought,



<https://tinyurl.com/yct7uzvjy>

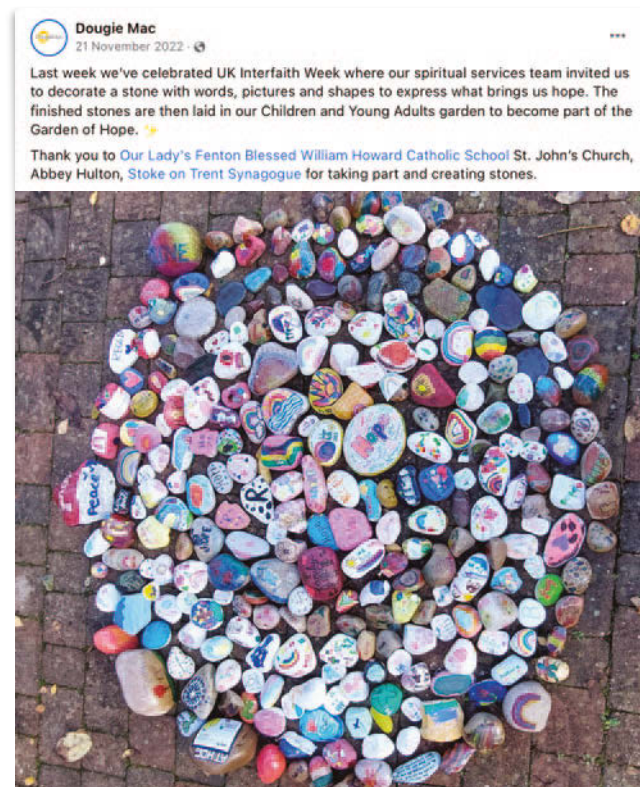


reflection, reading or prayer on the theme a 'Pathway to Peace'.

Unity was another theme explored during the Week, for example by the West Midlands Chapters of Women's Federation for World Peace and UPF who held an inter faith service at the Al Mahdi Institute in Selly Oak, Birmingham, on the topic of 'United we stand, divided we fall'. In Brighton and Hove, 'Welcoming Friends' was the theme.

The Animal Interfaith Alliance held an Inter Faith Week service on Zoom celebrating the principal of Ahimsa (non-violence or no-harm) and extending the Golden Rule to all life. In Rawtenstall, the Unitarian Church in Rawtenstall and Near Neighbours held a special service on 'The Place of Animals in Religions' to which they invited people from different religious traditions, asking them to bring a reading from their respective religious texts and other kinds of contribution.

Some places of worship invited speakers to join their services. For example, several churches of different denominations hosted the Dialogue's North East Branch and NEDES volunteers for Sunday service.



<https://tinyurl.com/4shmpw2h>



<https://tinyurl.com/mr3s7zaw>

10. Food, faith and friendship

Food is at the heart of much Inter Faith Week sharing and celebration: from tea and cake at inter faith conversations and quizzes to refreshment provided by places of worship and lunches and dinners where participants of different faiths bring and share food. Food is both a medium of exchange and friendship and a simple opener to conversation through which participants can learn more about each other's faith and belief.

Food and dialogue

During the Week, a number of organisations chose to hold events where participants shared a communal meal as a way of facilitating discussion. For example, Sheffield Interfaith held a 'Food and Friendship' activity where participants brought in vegetarian food to share and during the meal learnt about each other's faith traditions. Leicester Council of Faiths held an Inter Faith Food Sharing Festival.



Leicester Council of Faiths food sharing event

Meals were also at the centre of wider conversations. For example, Newham Council in London invited faith leaders to join an Inter Faith Supper at Stratford Town Hall, to explore the 'future of faiths', with table discussions and interactive tasks.

In Halifax, imams and Christian clergy came to share a meal and talk about ways to work together towards creating community cohesion in Calderdale, West Yorkshire.



6:43 PM · Nov 15, 2022 from Stratford, London



Cardiff Met 'Faith for thought' menus

Eden Girls School in the London Borough of Waltham Forest held an 'Inter Faith Breakfast 2022' event, inviting faith leaders, community representatives, local schoolteachers and pupils to engage in inter faith dialogue and discussion, group activities and networking.

Cardiff Metropolitan University celebrated Inter Faith Week with an event where students and staff put on faith stalls, heard presentations about inter faith working in Wales and had discussions over an inter

faith dinner. For the dinner, students created special 'Food for Thought' menus with conversation prompts for each course.

At the University of Kent, a series of mini talks by representatives of various faith traditions on the theme of 'Faith and Food' was followed by conversation over a vegan buffet to share and learn more about how different faiths celebrate with food through feasting and fasting.

Food and hospitality

Scunthorpe Gurdwara invited visitors to celebrate the Gurmurb (birthday) of Guru Nanak and provided langar; and in Manchester, the Central Gurdwara welcomed visiting students from Holy Cross College.

"Students enjoyed a trip to our local Sikh Gurdwara in Cheetham Hill, learning about the core principles of the Sikh faith and enjoyed 'langar' the traditional hospitable meal offered to all who come to the Gurdwara. Balbir, our host who gave our talk, reminded us that human beings have so much more in common than the things that make us different."

– HOLY CROSS COLLEGE, BURY



Enjoying curry at Cardiff Hindu Temple at end of the Inter Faith Council for Wales Interfaith Walk



In Cardiff, the Hindu Temple provided a meal for those taking part in the Inter Faith Council for Wales Inter Faith Walk.

Student Jewish Societies at the Universities of Bristol, Durham and Southampton invited others to join them for their Friday night meal.

Loughborough Council of Faiths held a 'Feast of Faiths'. Churches Together in Carlisle, Carlisle One World Centre and Carlisle Refugee Action Group invited people to a 'Bring and Share' inter faith meal with children's entertainment. Church and mosque leaders were present and a rabbi joined virtually, connecting the gathering in with Mitzvah Day.

Lewisham Unity rounded off Inter Faith Week with a post-Week event, 'Peace of Cake' with discussion of the importance of inter faith activity, and the opportunity to chat and eat cake with local people of different faiths and beliefs.

Food and learning

At Kepier Academy in Houghton Le Spring, the chef also got involved in the Week, serving an extra choice on the menu each day reflecting different faith traditions.

At the Al-Hikmah Centre in Batley, there was an end of Inter Faith Week celebration with a "Bring and share" session where "Our ladies brought in a favourite dish, shared recipes and stories centred around their childhood memories of cooking and baking with family members".



Food and fundraising

Building Bridges Burnley, supported by Near Neighbours, held a fundraising dinner at a local restaurant to start Inter Faith Week.

Food for those in need

Inter Faith Week was also a time when people of different faiths focused on the need of others for food, with food bank collections and delivery of food (this is covered further in the section on social issues and social action).



Leeds Conversations on 'Food, Faith and Unity'



During Interfaith week, Leeds artist and food blogger Freda Shafi has been working with Leeds Church Institute on a faith and food inspired project.

Freda has been meeting with people across the city of Leeds, having conversations within several faith settings this week. “As part of this project, I have spoken with groups of Jewish, Muslim and Catholic women and listened to stories about food scarcity and how that is connected to religious beliefs and the special role favoured dishes have in community connections. Food stories can unite communities, even though they will have we all may have different ways of practicing our faith”

Freda will be producing artwork inspired by her conversations with the groups she has met during Interfaith week, “I have enjoyed hearing how food can bring people together, and there are some dishes that reach across religious and cultural divides. I have discovered that food is more than just nourishment. My conversations with the faith groups have been enlightening and poetic. I have learnt so much about how, for many faiths, food relates to the earths bounty through seasonal festivals and more. There is a genuine and real sense of community, camaraderie and synergies across faiths. Food is indeed a natural conduit to unite people and humanity

Looking forward to Inter Faith Week 2023

12–19 November 2023 www.interfaithweek.org

98% of 2022 Inter Faith Week survey respondents said that their Inter Faith Week event had helped participants to learn more about different faiths and beliefs and 95% said that their activity had helped them to reach new people or groups.

Inter Faith Week is a tremendous platform for increasing inter faith understanding and cooperation, creating new connections and friendships, deepening partnership work on social projects – and so much more.

If you would like to take part in next year's Week, visit www.interfaithweek.org where you will find a variety of activity ideas; branding items such as flyers, posters and downloadable logo; and details on how to register your activity and request a registration pack.

If you are in Scotland, check out: <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/> to take part in Scottish Inter Faith Week, which runs on the same dates.

Good wishes for whatever you may do!

ALDERMASTON ALTRINCHAM AMBLESIDE AMMANFORD ANDOVER ASHFORD
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE AYLESFORD BANGOR BARNLEY BARRY BASILDON BASINGSTOKE
BATH BATLEY BEDFORD BELFAST BIRKENHEAD BIRMINGHAM BLACKBURN BLYTH BOLTON
BOREHAMWOOD BOURNE BOURNEMOUTH BRACKNELL BRADFORD BRAINTREE BRENTWOOD
BRIDGEND BRIGHTON BRISTOL BROMSGROVE BUCKINGHAM BURNLEY BURY
BURY ST EDMUNDS BUSHEY CAMBERLEY CAMBRIDGE CANTERBURY CARDIFF CARLISLE
CARMARTHEN CHATHAM CHELMSFORD CHELTENHAM CHESHAM CHESHUNT CHESTER
CHIGWELL CHORLEY CHRISTCHURCH CLITHEROE COVENTRY COWBRIDGE CRAWLEY
DARRINGTON DARWEN DERBY DEVIZES DEWSBURY DONCASTER DORCHESTER DUDLEY
DURHAM ELLAND ELLESMERE PORT ELSTREE ENNISKILLEN ESSEX EXETER FALMOUTH
FARNBOROUGH GILLINGHAM GLASTONBURY GLOUCESTER GRAVESEND GRAYS
GREAT YARMOUTH GUILFORD HALESOWEN HALIFAX HARROGATE HARTLEPOOL HASTINGS
HASTINGWOOD HATFIELD HERFORD HEYWOOD HIGH WYCOMBE HIGHBRIDGE HODDESDON
HOVE HUDDERSFIELD HULL HYDE ILFORD ILKLEY IPSWICH KEELE KEIGHLEY KENDAL
KETTERING LEEDS LEICESTER LEIGHTON BUZZARD LEWES LEYLAND LINCOLN LIVERPOOL
LIVERSEDGE LONDON (BARKING AND DAGENHAM) LONDON (BARNET) LONDON (BRENT)
LONDON (BROMLEY) LONDON (CAMDEN) LONDON (CITY OF LONDON)
LONDON (CITY OF WESTMINSTER) LONDON (CROYDON) LONDON (EALING) LONDON (ENFIELD)
LONDON (HARROW) LONDON (HILLINGDON) LONDON (HOUNSLOW) LONDON (ISLINGTON)
LONDON (KINGSTON) LONDON (LAMBETH) LONDON (LEWISHAM) LONDON (MERTON)
LONDON (NEWHAM) LONDON (REDBRIDGE) LONDON (RICHMOND) LONDON (SOUTHWARK)
LONDON (SUTTON) LONDON (TOWER HAMLETS) LONDON (WALTHAM FOREST)
LONDON (WANDSWORTH) LOUGHBOROUGH LUTON MAIDENHEAD MAIDSTONE MALMESBURY
MANCHESTER MANSFIELD MARGATE MIDDLESBROUGH MILTON KEYNES MINEHEAD MIRFIELD
MORPETH NELSON NEW ROMNEY NEWBURY NEWCASTLE NEWPORT NEWTON ABBOT
NORMANTON NORTHAMPTON NORTHWICH NORWICH NOTTINGHAM NUNEATON OADBY
OLDHAM OMAGH OTLEY OTTERY ST MARY OXFORD OXTED PAIGNTON PENRYN PERSHORE
PETERBOROUGH PLYMOUTH PONTEFRAC T PONTYCLUN PONTYPOOL PONTYPRIDD POOLE
PORT TALBOT PORTH PORTSMOUTH PRESTON PWLL RAINHAM RAWMARSH RAWTENSTALL
READING REDDITCH ROCHDALE ROCHESTER ROMFORD ROTHERHAM RUGBY RUNCORN
SALFORD SCUNTHORPE SEVENOAKS SHEFFIELD SHIPLEY SHREWSBURY SLOUGH SOLIHULL
SOUTH SHIELDS SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHPORT ST ALBANS ST HELENS STAFFORD
STALYBRIDGE STANLEY STEVENAGE STOCKPORT STOCKTON-ON-TEES STOKE-ON-TRENT
SUNDERLAND SURREY SWANLEY SWANSEA SWINDON TAUNTON TELFORD TIDWORTH
TODMORDEN TORQUAY TOTNES TRURO TUNBRIDGE WELLS WAKEFIELD WALSALL
WALTHAM ABBEY WALTON ON THAMES WARRINGTON WARWICK WASHINGTON WATFORD
WESTGATE-ON-SEA WHARTON WIDNES WINCHESTER WINSFORD WIRRAL WOKING
WOLVERHAMPTON WORCESTER WORTHING WREXHAM YEOVIL YORK

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