

# Inter Faith Week

Celebrating 2013 and planning for 2014



Cover top: Participants at 'Thank God it's Friday' event organised by University of Bristol Multifaith Chaplaincy, Islamic Society and Jewish Society (Photo: UBMC)

Cover middle: School children participating in a celebration of faiths at Allum Hall in Borehamwood, organised by Hertsmere Forum of Faiths (Photo: Peter Beal/Borehamwood Times)

Cover bottom: Christian and Hindu presenters at 'Sporting Inner Strength', arranged by the Hindu Christian Forum (Photo: HCF)

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## The Inter Faith Network for the UK

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

The Inter Faith Network for the UK 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 of their common ground" and to promote good relations between people of different faiths in this country. Its role is unique: linking national faith communities; local, regional and national inter faith bodies; and educational and academic bodies, and working with them to deepen inter faith understanding and cooperation as part of working for the common good.

It carries out its work through creating opportunities for linking and sharing of good practice, providing advice and information to help the development of new inter faith initiatives and the strengthening of existing ones. It raises awareness within wider society of the importance of inter faith issues and develops programmes to increase understanding about faith communities, including both their distinctive features and areas of common ground. Inter Faith Week is a key part of this work.

Find out more at [www.interfaith.org.uk](http://www.interfaith.org.uk)

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

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

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# Inter Faith Week

Celebrating 2013 and planning for 2014



# Contents

Foreword	2
About Inter Faith Week	3
Putting inter faith activity on the map!	4
Who marked the Week?	5
Where did events take place?	8
Types of event	9
Launchpad for new initiatives	11
Service for the common good	12
Sharing and learning	15
Discussion and debate	20
Cultural Activities	22
Sport	24
And simply celebrating and marking the Week	25
Highlighting events	27
Media coverage	29
Social Media	30
Scottish Interfaith Week	32
Inter Faith Week 2014 – Tips and ideas	33
Media tips	36

# Foreword

Inter Faith Week is a time to highlight the contribution of faith communities to our shared lives, to increase understanding between and about faiths and also between those of religious and non-religious beliefs. It provides a tremendous platform for faith groups, inter faith organisations, local authorities and other public agencies, schools, institutions of Higher and Further Education, museums, galleries, libraries, sports clubs and other cultural bodies, and businesses to get more people involved, share good practice and look at both the opportunities and challenges of living well together in our diverse society.

This brochure marks and celebrates the 2013 Week in a way which we hope will inspire you to take part in the Week this year which will run from Sunday 16 November to Saturday 22 November in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

The Inter Faith Network is grateful to all who supplied photographs of their events for use in this year's report and for the gallery on the Inter Faith Week website and other Week publicity.

IFN is also grateful to the Department for Communities and Local Government for its support of this publication.

*The Trustees of the Inter Faith Network for the UK  
June 2014*

# About Inter Faith Week

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

Inter Faith Week was initiated in 2009 by the Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN), in partnership for the first year with the Department for Communities and Local Government and in consultation with the Department for Education; the Equality and Human Rights Commission; the Local Government Association and the Community Development Foundation. It was inspired by the pioneering Scottish Interfaith Week which began in 2004 and which continues today.

Inter Faith Week is marked in the third week of November in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. It is supported and led by IFN as part of its overall work to support the development and deepening of cooperation and good relations between people of different faiths in the UK. The Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum and the Inter-faith Council for Wales lead in their respective nations.

The aims of the Week are:

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

## Inter Faith Week 2013

17–23 November

### An opportunity to:

- Strengthen good 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 their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

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

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



***“How people of different faiths and beliefs interact and cooperate is of enormous importance in our society. Inter Faith Week is an opportunity for people to come together for inter faith dialogue, learning and action. It’s a time for extending existing bonds of cooperation and friendship and creating new ones.”***

THE REVD BOB FYFFE AND MR VIVIAN WINEMAN, IFN CO-CHAIRS  
NOVEMBER 2013

# Putting inter faith activity on the map!

409 events are known to have take place across England, Northern Ireland and Wales to mark Inter Faith Week 2013: an increase of 29% on the 2012 Week.

The map on the right is based on the listings on the Inter Faith Week website [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org).

Having the widest possible range of events listed in advance of the Week on a searchable map enables members of the public, media and others to see the wide range of activities taking place, and to find details about events taking place in their locality. It helps raise interest and inspire people to take part.

An important part of providing support for the Week is encouraging advanced registration of events for the Week and ensuring details are put up quickly and accurately. By the start of the 2013 Week, 84% of the events known to have taken place were listed on the website.

The statistics for the Week are based on events which organisers were willing to list publicly. There were, additionally, a significant number of school classroom activities which were known but where the schools chose not to list these publicly.



**The Inter Faith Week website also drew more traffic this year, with an increase in overall hits during the last quarter of 2013 of 11% and an increase in unique hits of 21%.**



# Who marked the Week?

469 organisations took part in Inter Faith Week 2013 – many working in partnership, often across different sectors.

**This year the number of local faith community groups and local authorities listed as marking the Week more than doubled.**

A wide range of different kinds of organisations held events: faith community bodies; inter faith organisations; non-religious belief bodies; schools and Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs); universities and colleges; local authorities and Police and Fire and Rescue Services; hospitals; businesses; voluntary organisations; chaplaincies; museums, libraries and galleries; and others.

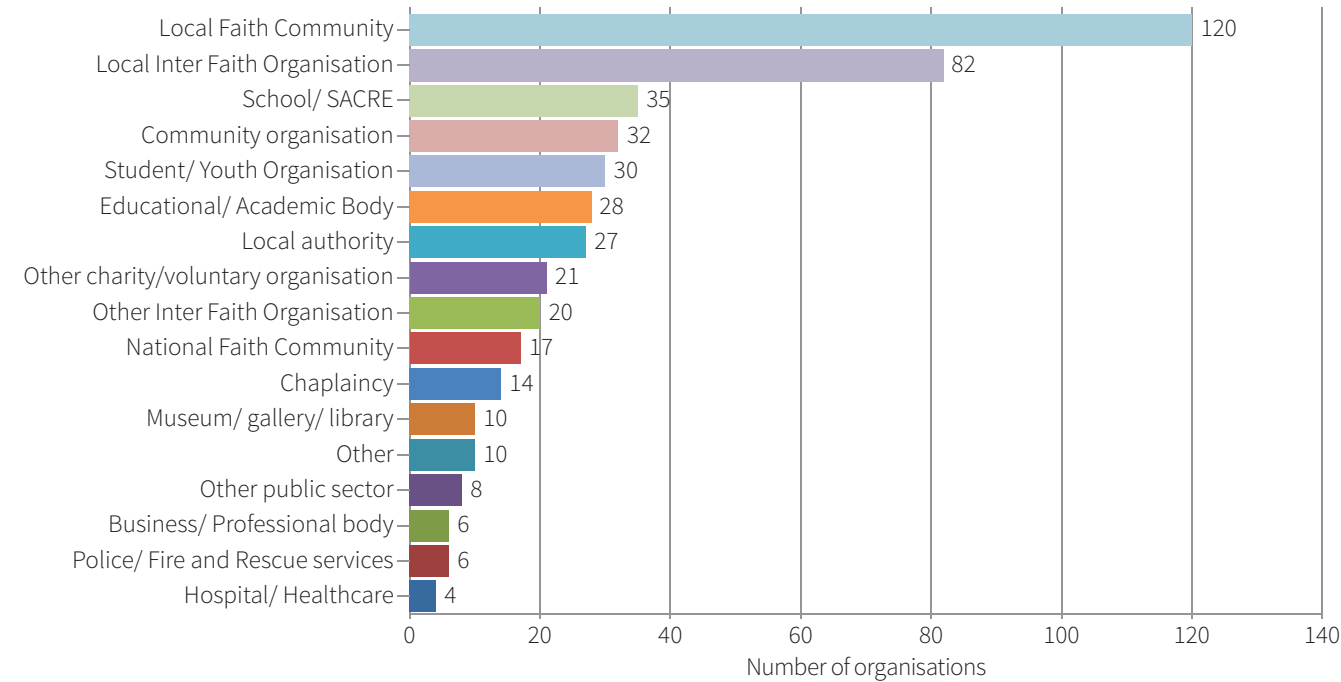


1 Safer Transport Team of the Metropolitan Police running an inter faith event in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (Photo: Safer Transport Team)

2 Rt Hon Baroness Warsi, Faith and Communities Minister, DCLG, keynote speaker at the Focus on Faith lecture organised by Kirklees Faiths Forum at the University of Huddersfield (Photo: KFF)



Number of organisations marking Inter Faith Week by type



This chart shows how many of each type of organisation was involved in running an Inter Faith Week event. This information is drawn from event submission forms, as well as event information found during research after the Week.

Details of bodies holding or sponsoring events only gives part of the picture of the multiple new connections and shared learning happening during the Week. For example, individual members of

organisations such as the police and the NHS contributed as speakers to events and the participants at many events were drawn from many different backgrounds. Some organisations supported the Week in other ways, such as encouraging involvement and publicising the events of others through their networks. SACREs, local authorities and national faith community bodies in particular did this. Not every event

submission listed every organisation involved. For example, events organised by local inter faith organisations do not always list all of their member faith communities locally who may have contributed, and schools in particular often chose not to publicise their events beyond the school community.

***“Our Faiths Together in Lambeth event, with almost 100 people attending [and] 17 stalls from different faith groups and other organisations aimed to strengthen ties not only with Lambeth Council but also with the NHS in Lambeth and all aspects of the wider community.”***

FAITHS TOGETHER IN LAMBETH



- 1 'Pop-up-shop' for Inter Faith Week organised by Dudley Borough Interfaith Network and Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (Photo: DMBC)

- 2 The Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby teamed up with the NHS Blood and Transplant Service, Derby City Council; Derby Open Centre; and the Ukrainian Association GB – Derby branch to encourage minority ethnic communities to consider signing up to the transplant register (Photo: MFC Derby)

# Where did events take place?

Events took place in an amazing variety of places: from local places of worship to schools, campuses, libraries, museums, civic centres, shopping malls, and the Houses of Parliament.

In a number of towns and cities a whole week of events of different kinds took place. These ambitious programmes drew in many organisations and took place in a range of locations.



1 A dancer at the 'Rudra – emotive flight' organised by Manasamitra at York Minster (Photo: YM)



2 Leicester Council of Faiths and Leicester City Council exhibition on faiths at Highcross shopping centre (Photo: IFN)

3 Kirklees Faiths Forum programme

4 Coventry Inter Faith Network programme

# Types of event

When organisers registered their events on the Inter Faith Week website they could choose from a number of categories to describe their event. Some chose multiple categories. The chart on the next page shows a breakdown of these categories under which events were registered.

Within these broad categories many sorts of events were listed such as:

- Talks and discussions
- Concerts, exhibitions and hands-on art and craft opportunities
- Exhibitions/ fairs/ demonstrations
- Open door days
- Inter faith walks, pilgrimages and faith trails
- Collections for those in need and charity fundraising
- Whole school and classroom activities
- Quizzes and talent competition
- Sporting events
- Intergenerational events

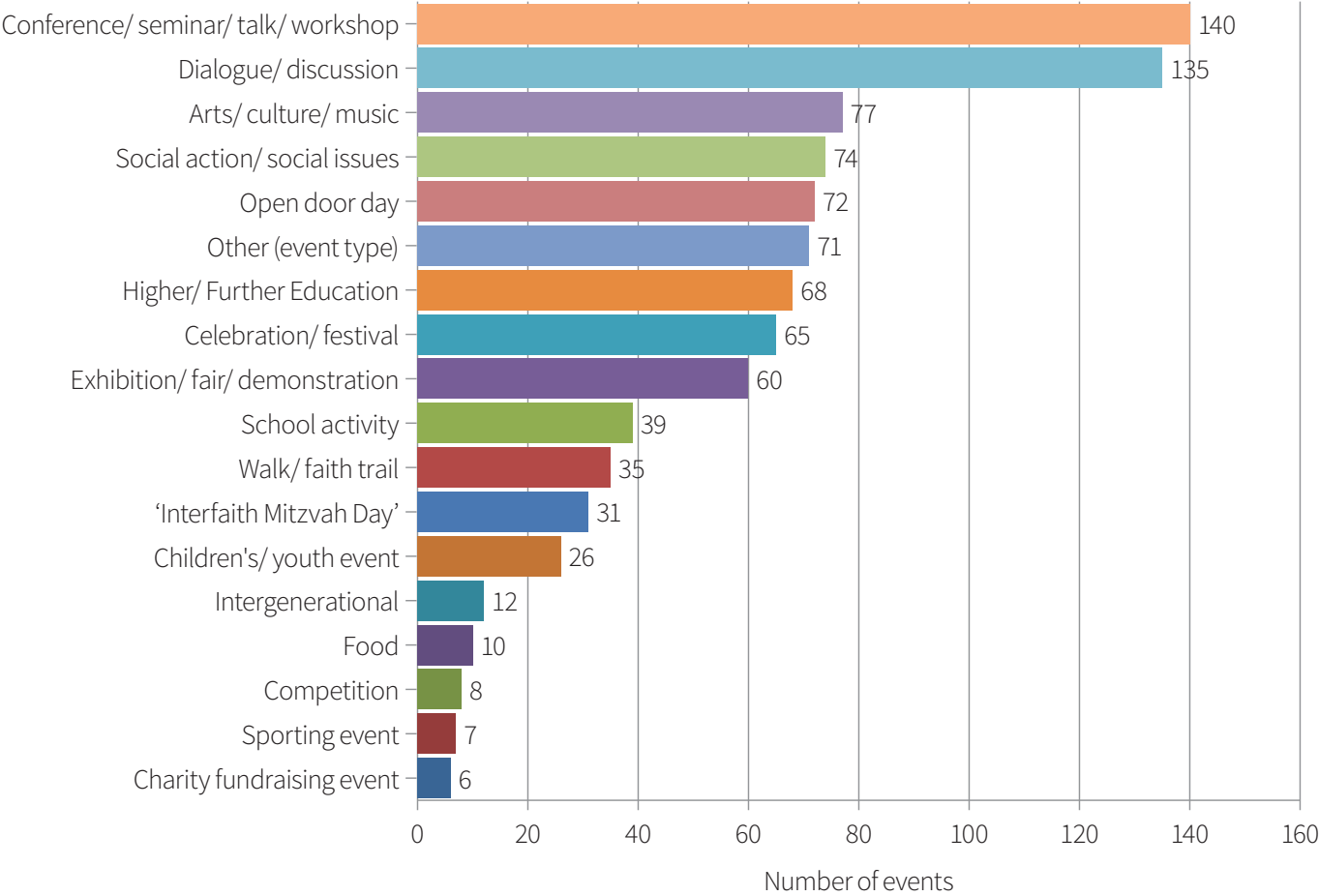
- Children's/ youth events
- 'Interfaith Mitzvah Days'
- Celebrations/ festivals
- Conferences/ seminars/ talks/ workshops



5 St Philip's Centre; Visit Leicester; Semaine de Rencontres Islamo-Chrétiennes; Near Neighbours; and Leicestershire County Council programme

6 Preston Faiths Forum programme

Types of event: number listed under each category





# Launchpad for new initiatives

In a numbers of areas the Week was used to launch new initiatives.



*“Inter Faith Week 2013 was special in Cornwall as the county’s Faith Forum hosted the first interfaith conference west of the Tamar River. Made possible by sponsorship from the Big Lottery (Awards for All) and Cornwall Council we welcomed speakers from Plymouth, Bradford and Bristol who joined delegates from across Cornwall to share a day of exploration and learning. Called ‘Sharing and Shaping’ the event shared: how seven faith groups – Bahai, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Pagan – have come to work together in Cornwall through developing practical interfaith relations in a unique rural environment; and how the project to build an interfaith centre in the heart of Cornwall, called ‘Dor Kemmyn’ (Cornish for ‘Common Ground’) is breaking new ground in terms of both architecture and concept; and experiences of interfaith work from other places and perspectives, learning from similarities and differences”.*

CORNWALL FAITH FORUM

# Service for the common good

For people of faith, their religious tradition is a deep well of inspiration to serve others.

Those of non-religious beliefs are likewise inspired by their ethical principles.

Acts of service to the community have been a part of Inter Faith Week since its beginnings, and these again contributed to Inter Faith Week in 2013. Examples included blood donation; tree and hedge planting; litter picking; campus clean-ups; and collecting toiletries and food for those in need. There were, too, a number of charity fundraising activities for good causes.

The Week was also used by many as an opportunity to raise awareness of ongoing social action projects – such as exhibitions about community initiatives supported by the Near Neighbours programme – and to hold discussions and debates on social issues such as social justice and climate change; gangs and faith; homelessness; community cohesion; tackling extremism, and how faith communities can work together with other civil society bodies to make a difference locally. Health care featured significantly this year, as did faith responses to bereavement and thinking about end of life issues.





Mitzvah Day, a day of service led by the Jewish Community, takes place on the first day of Inter Faith Week and encourages projects which include members of other faith communities – or none. In 2013, these were freshly branded by the Mitzvah Day as ‘Inter Faith Mitzvah Day’ events in conjunction with Inter Faith Week, reflecting the close and very positive link between the two initiatives.



Inter Faith Week was chosen by the Government as the time to launch ‘Together in Service’: a programme and small grants fund being delivered for DCLG by Faith Action.



1 Members of Buckinghamshire New University Students’ Union Christian and Islamic Societies taking part in a litter pick in High Wycombe (Photo: Stephen Taylor, BNU)

2 Launch of a new year of the Catalyst Near Neighbours Young Leaders Programme in Bradford Cathedral (Photo: NN)

3 Inter Faith Mitzvah Day ‘Give Away Your Lunch’ event organised by the Borough of Poole and Faith Links (Photo: Mitzvah Day)

*“Inter faith social action brings our communities closer together and Inter Faith Week is a terrific opportunity to highlight this, whilst celebrating the practical contribution that our faith groups make to society....”Inter Faith Week, and the wider work of the Inter Faith Network in the UK, showcases perfectly what can be achieved when those of faith and those of none work together using a combination of social action and practical activities. Hopefully this Week will inspire many more people to get involved.”*

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
RT HON ERIC PICKLES MP



1 Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP speaking at the launch of the Together in Service programme during Inter Faith Week at Westminster Cathedral Hall (Photo: TIS)

2 Watford Inter Faith Pilgrimage organised by Watford Interfaith Association (Photo: WIFA)

# Sharing and learning

## Community sharing and learning

Many events to promote learning and mutual understanding within the local community took place. These included: talks; exhibitions with stalls prepared and minded by members of local faith communities and belief groups; faith trails, peace walks and open-door days where places of worship open their venues to the public; learning events

focused around shared meals; and events where members of other faiths were invited to attend and observe religious worship, festivities or business proceedings.

These kinds of event enable members of the public to encounter people from other faiths and beliefs, and to learn and make new friendships in a welcoming environment.







*“The exhibition [at the Merrion Centre] took place on 21st November. This was the culmination of a number of inter faith events organised to celebrate the National Inter Faith Week. Leeds Faiths Forum once again took the lead in this project with support from Concord and the exhibition was opened by the Lord Mayor of Leeds with the Lady Mayoress and included choirs from various schools in Leeds as well as information stalls run by the faith communities. There were times when worship took place led by several of the faith groups and a great deal of interest was shown by members of the public passing through the shopping mall.”*

LEEDS FAITHS FORUM



1 ‘Faiths on Display in Leeds’ event at the Merrion Centre, organised by Leeds Faiths Forum with Leeds Concord and local schools (Photo: LFF)

2 Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints with their information display at the Devon Festival of Faith and Belief (Photo: Devon Faith and Belief Forum)



## Events in educational establishments

Many events took place in schools and institutions of Further and Higher Education. Some of these were organised by teaching staff, chaplaincies and students. Others were run by, or in partnership with, local and national inter faith organisations, local faith communities, SACREs, local authorities and other public and third sector bodies. Students also went out and about, visiting faith community open door events and learning about a faith community from the perspective of its members.

As part of its Interfaith/belief Project, the National Union of Students made funding available to assist students' unions to create activities to celebrate Inter Faith Week and Scottish Interfaith Week and a number of unions held events or week-long event programmes.

The Inter Faith Youth Trust again ran a small grants programme for Inter Faith Week which funded a number of projects involving young people.

3 Guide leaflet for 'Good Neighbour Days 2013' organised by Hounslow Friends of Faith; Hounslow Jamia Masjid; Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha; Laxmi Narayan Hindu Mandir and St Paul's Church in Chiswick

4 Sarah Thorley looking at a special IFW exhibition to mark 16 years of inter faith walks organised by South London Inter Faith Group (Photo: IFN)

5 'The Significance of Faith Festivals' discussion event by Harrow Interfaith Council at Middlesex New Synagogue (Photo: IFN)



- 1 Inter Faith Week at Kent Union
- 2 Logo for the Interfaith Explorers 'Inter Faith Week Challenge' for primary schools, a programme of the Maimonides Interfaith Foundation
- 3 Headteachers' Breakfast event at the Houses of Parliament organised by 3FF (Photo: 3FF)
- 4 Participants in photography competition event held by Harlow College, Harlow Council and Harlow Art Trust (Photo: Harlow College)
- 5 Year 7 pupils from Moseley School visiting places of worship in Birmingham. Organised by The Feast (Photo: The Feast)
- 6 REinHull webpage about Inter Faith Week event organised by Hull and East Riding Interfaith (Image: REinHull)
- 7 The Revd Alan Bayes, Chair of the Inter-faith Council for Wales, giving a Collective Worship talk on heroes to Christchurch Primary School in Swansea as part of Inter Faith Week (Photo: Christchurch Primary School)
- 8 One of a number of blogs produced by pupils at Fulham Cross Girls' School to mark Inter Faith Week (Image: FCGS website)

## Students in Liverpool tell their Inter Faith Week story

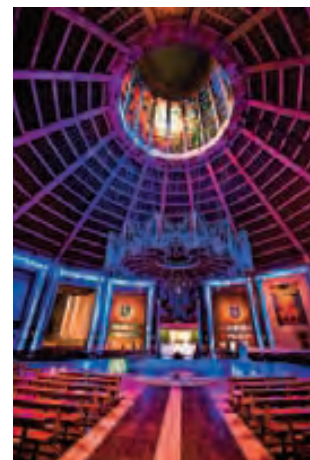
*“Over hundreds of years, the thousands of migrants and sailors passing through Liverpool resulted in a religious diversity that still remains today. This is reflected in the diverse collection of Liverpool’s places of worship, which, as some of the most incredible pieces of architecture in the city, are recognised worldwide... Reflective of this multi-cultural city, our University is home to students of all faiths. The Guild of Students has a number of student-led faith groups who run events and fundraising projects throughout the year to raise awareness and make a positive impact on the community. Regardless of scripture or origin, this shared passion for goodwill unites faith groups – and it is this union which we celebrate during Inter Faith Week. In addition to celebrating cooperation and understanding between religious groups, Inter Faith Week also enables people to share and explore different beliefs on campus...*

*Working with several of our Societies, the Guild hosted a week of spiritual exploration from 17th – 24th November including trips to the beautiful places of worship around the city, and society-led workshops from Hindu Soc, Jewish Soc, Sikh Soc, Islamic Soc, Cath Soc and Christian Union. Wednesday was the peak of the week, where at 1pm Faith societies, Faith Express and all students came together in the Guild for a day of spiritual*

*exploration beginning with a “Walk of Faith” at 1.45pm. The Walk visited Houses of Worship across the campus and city, including the Al-Rahma Mosque, Princes Road Synagogue and Catherine Street Catholic Church. After building up an appetite, everybody was welcomed back to the Guild at 5.30pm to explore the Hindu and Sikh religions, and to enjoy a variety of cultural dishes at our “Faith Food Feast” before testing their knowledge to win some excellent prizes at our Inter Faith Quiz!*

*Events were free all week, and all participants found the week both enjoyable and enlightening. Not only is Inter Faith Week a wonderful example of unity within the student body, but it works towards achieving the wider aim of social cohesion, where every individual is not just respectful of each other’s beliefs, but continues to gain the knowledge and understanding essential for achieving happiness and solidarity in our multi-cultural society.”*

LIVERPOOL GUILD OF STUDENTS





# Discussion and debate

Discussion and dialogue between people of different religious beliefs and also between people of religious and non-religious beliefs is an important feature of Inter Faith Week. This year this ranged from energetic debates to discussion of sacred texts or dialogue about particular issues such as science, faith and the ethical issues surrounding biotechnologies such as stem cell therapies.

People around the three nations used the opportunity of Inter Faith Week events to explore areas of distinctiveness of their different beliefs and histories and also common ground and shared values.



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- 1 Young speaker at 'Celebration of Diversity to Establish Peace and Harmony in Society' event of London Buddhist Vihara and Sri Lankan Sangha Sabba GB (Photo: LBV)
- 2 Attendees at 'Women and Faith' event organised by Woking People of Faith and supported by Surrey County Council (Photo: the Revd P Ross-McCabe, WPoF)
- 3 'Science and Faith: Are we Playing God?' event organised by Birmingham Council of Faiths; Christians in Science (Birmingham); and the University of Birmingham Atheist, Secular & Humanist Society (Photo: BCoF)
- 4 Jeff Cuthbert AM, Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty, Welsh Government; Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster; Saleem Kidwai, Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Wales and Shaykh Dr Asim Yusuf at lecture hosted by the Muslim Council of Wales (Photo: MCW)
- 5 'Thank God it's Friday' event organised by University of Bristol Multifaith Chaplaincy, Jewish Society and Islamic Society (Photo: UBMC)

# Cultural activities

Inter Faith Week 2013 saw art exhibitions; films; dance and musical events; shared meals; storytellings; puppet shows and poetry recitals. Embroidery, knitting, and other crafts too, were a focus of events.

Music ranged from rap to classical; and from a Baha'i evening of music and reflection to multi faith choirs, a multi faith 'soul jam' and a campus 'Desert Island Discs' session with chaplains of different faiths.

These events demonstrated the potential of artistic and cultural expression to bring diverse groups of people together, as well as highlighting the cultural richness of different traditions.

The Inter Faith Network contributed again this year to the Congregational and General Insurance Faith Through a Lens photography competition, through its judging panel.



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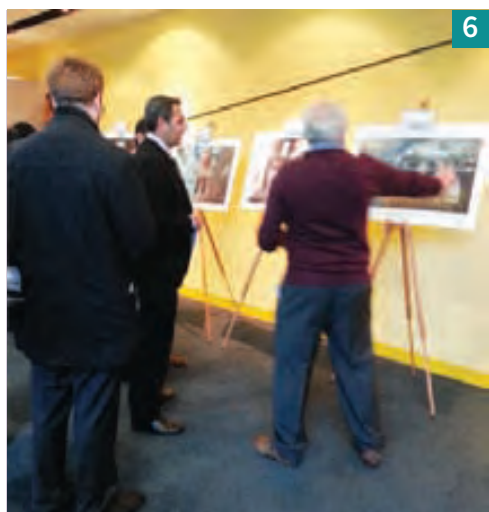


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- 1 Participants at a Sikh 'Hands-on-Faith' workshop at Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Huddersfield, organised by Kirklees Faiths Forum (Photo: KFF)
- 2 Participants in a Faith in Dance workshop in Halifax (Photo: Annapurna Indian Dance Company)
- 3 Singers at 'Space for Peace' event organised by University of Southampton Chaplaincy; Southampton Council of Faiths; and the Vedic Society Hindu Temple (Photo: VSHT)
- 4 Part of the 'Qalam: the art of beautiful writing' exhibition at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (Photo: Birmingham Museums)
- 5 Work from local children that was submitted for the Children's Art and Craft Exhibition at Leicester Cathedral organised by Leicester Cathedral; Near Neighbours; and the St Phillip's Centre (Photo: IFN)
- 6 People viewing the finalists' entries into the Faith Through a Lens photography competition, organised by Congregational and General Insurance (Photo: IFN)
- 7 Dr Margaret Bonney at the Children's and Art and Craft Exhibition at Leicester Cathedral (Photo: IFN)

# Sport

In a number of areas, the topic of sport was used as a basis for inter faith dialogue and sports were also a way to bring people of different backgrounds together.

The Centre for Spirituality and Cultural Advancement organised an inter faith football match between members of CSCA and West London Youth Club (coaches). This event brought together people from diverse backgrounds in the spirit of friendly competition to promote sportsmanship, understanding, and good will.



1 An inter faith football match between the Centre for Spirituality and Cultural Advancement and West London Youth Club (coaches)(Photo: CSCA)

2 Christian and Hindu presenters at 'Sporting Inner Strength', arranged by the Hindu Christian Forum (Photo: HCF)

3 Participants in an interfaith netball tournament in Windsor organised by individuals from Thames Valley Police and Aik Saath (Photo: Baylis Media Ltd)

# And simply celebrating and marking the Week...

Inter Faith Week is also a time when in some areas people simply choose to celebrate their shared lives together as communities where people of different backgrounds live well together and have a commitment to deepening bonds of friendship and understanding. A number of such events took place.

Festivals of particular faiths were also marked during the Week with celebrations linked to Eid, Diwali and the Birthday of Guru Nanak and the switching on of the Christmas lights in some towns.



4 One of a number of events linked to One Britain, One Nation, some of which were timed to link with Inter Faith Week. This event was organised by the Sikh Welfare and Cultural Society, Leicester and OBON (Photo: SWCS)

5 An Inter Faith Week cake used as part of 'Harlow Interfaith Celebration' event at Harlow College, organised by Harlow Council, Harlow College and Harlow Art Trust (Photo: Harlow College)

6 The 'Celebrating Our Faiths' event, organised by South Lakeland Interfaith Group, included opportunities to play The Diversity Game, which is designed and produced by Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource (Photo: SLIG)





1 Attendees at the Inter Faith Week Celebration of 150th Anniversary of the birth of Swami Vivekananda event; Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (ZTFE); Hindu Christian Forum; supported by Hindu Forum of Britain; and the Jain Network (Photo: HCF)

2 Mayor of London Boris Johnson with Venerable Nagase of the London Peace Pagoda, at an Inter Faith Week reception hosted by the Mayor and the Faiths Forum for London (Photo: Jewish Volunteering Network)

3 Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Faith and Society, speaking at the launch of Together in Service at Westminster Cathedral (Photo: IFN)





- 1 'Faith and Food Extravaganza' organised by Wisbech Interfaith Forum with Wisbech Catholic Church and Rosmini Centre
- 2 'Interfaith Walk' organised by Basingstoke Multicultural Forum; with Basingstoke Faith Leaders; and the Youth of Peace
- 3 'Multifaith Forest Garden workday' organised by Pagan Pathways; Islamic Society of Britain; British Humanist Association; the Blue Loop; Burngreave Ashram; Grow Sheffield; Sheffield Interfaith; Hindu Samaj; Sheffield City Council; and Shirley House Interfaith Centre
- 4 'Sharing and shaping inter faith in a rural setting: Challenges and opportunities' organised by Cornwall Faith Forum
- 5 'Torah, Testament and Qur'an' organised by Multifaith chapel and Library Burngreave Ashram and Sheffield Interfaith
- 6 Exploring our Faiths Together - a programme of talks running between Inter Faith Week 2013 and 2014 by the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum
- 7 "Celebrating Small Kindnesses" organised by the Amina Trust; the Zawiya; and Islamic Vision (IPCI)
- 8 'Religion, War and Peace' organised by Diocese of Newcastle; Northumbria University and Newcastle Council of Faiths
- 9 'Christian Muslim Relations – opportunities and challenges' organised by Preston Faith Forum and University of Central Lancashire

## Light and Wonder - Free Planetarium Show for Inter Faith Week 2013

Glyndwr University Chaplaincy  
Monday, 18 November 2013 from 11:00 to 18:00 (GMT)  
Wrexham, United Kingdom



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## Devon Festival of Faith & Belief 2013

Saturday 23rd November  
10am - 3pm Paignton Library

Interfaith and multi-faith communities in Devon, Torbay and Devon, contribute and building on the tradition of the Devon Festival of Faith & Belief. The festival is a celebration of the rich and diverse religious and spiritual traditions of the region. It is a chance for people of all faiths to come together and share their beliefs and traditions. The festival will include a variety of activities, including talks, workshops, and performances. For more information please call FREE on 08000 520 029 or visit [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)

2

## National Inter Faith Week 2013

SUNDAY 17th to SUNDAY 24th NOVEMBER  
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY - BUILDING COMMUNITY - PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING  
What's on in Nottingham? Check our website: [www.interfaithnottingham.org.uk](http://www.interfaithnottingham.org.uk)

Sun 17th Nov - Mizwah Day Sunday Funday:  
Nottingham Muslim Community, 10.00am to 12.00pm  
Sun 17th Nov - Mizwah Day Sunday Funday:  
Nottingham Muslim Community, 10.00am to 12.00pm

Sun 17th Nov - Mizwah Day Music and Food Collection  
Nottingham Muslim Community, 10.00am to 12.00pm

The 19th Nov - Inter Faiths 'Got Talent'  
Nottingham Muslim Community, 10.00am to 12.00pm

Wed 20th Nov - Faiths in Action - Discussion on Social Issues  
Nottingham Muslim Community, 10.00am to 12.00pm

The 21st Nov - Faiths Fair  
Nottingham Muslim Community, 10.00am to 12.00pm

For more information see any of the above events  
Call in These Nottingham Inter Faith Group on 0114 252 841  
Or email [office@nottinghaminterfaith.org.uk](mailto:office@nottinghaminterfaith.org.uk)

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- Glyndwr University Chaplaincy Light and Wonder planetarium show
- 'Devon Festival of Faith and Belief', Torbay Inter-Faith Forum; Paignton Library; Healthwatch Torbay and local faith communities.

- Programme by Nottingham Inter Faith Council and member faith communities

- Inter Faith Week programme by Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre; Lancashire County Council and Near Neighbours

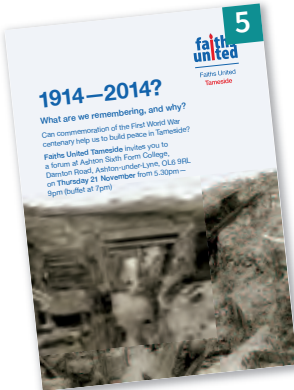
- '1914-2014: What are we remembering and why?' Faiths United (Tameside)

- 'Christians and Interfaith Dialogue: The experience of Carmelite Friars in Indonesia', York Carmelite Spirituality Group

- 'In Pursuit Of Happiness' organised by Northampton Inter Faith Forum with BBC Northampton

- 'A Good Death?' Council of Christians and Jews in Oxford; Oxford Brookes University; and the CCJ national Side by Side Programme

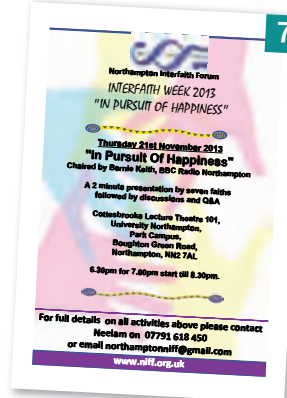
- 'Welcoming the convert in Wales' flyer of Evangelical Alliance Wales; Alliance for Peace; the Middle Path and Cardiff City of Sanctuary



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# Media coverage

Inter Faith Week 2013 was reported in a number of national religious and community papers; local and regional press and blogs.





# Social media



Inter Faith Week increased its use of Twitter in 2013, tweeting as @IFWeek and encouraging the use of the hashtag #IFWeek. A large number of organisations and individuals followed the account, added it to faith-related lists, tweeted about the Week and re-tweeted event information to their own followers.

Some sample tweets:

“Wishing everyone a soulful @IFWeek – more details on fantastic #interfaith events here: <http://tinyurl.com/coj kf3> #IFWeek”  
[@SayeedaWarsi](#) Nov 20

“Greatly enjoyed inter-faith week visit as @CommunitiesUK Minister to Hounslow Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha [pic.twitter.com/QdV77gZXE1](http://pic.twitter.com/QdV77gZXE1)”  
[@swilliamsmp](#) 19 Nov 2014

“Encouraging young people 2 view the exploration of religious/cultural diversity as a fun/exciting endeavour! <http://bit.ly/1922clr> #IFweek”  
[Interfaith Explorers](#) @faithexplorers Nov 19

“This week is Inter Faith Week! Full details of all #NearNeighbours events can be found here: [http://www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours/Inter-Faith-Week-2013 ...](http://www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours/Inter-Faith-Week-2013...) #IFWeek”  
[@nearneighbours](#) Nov 19

“Cake, netball and prayer all hits in interfaith week #ifweek, #interfaithnews pt 4 <http://buff.ly/1b0pClo> @karimianotts @ChirpyBirdy007”  
[Christian Muslim](#) @ChrisMusForum Nov 28

“All set to go @KirkFaithsForum #IFWeek [pic.twitter.com/GN9by2Zerq](http://pic.twitter.com/GN9by2Zerq)”  
[KirkleesFaithsForum](#) @KirkFaithsForum Nov 18

“Inter Faith Week happening now. Find out more here: [http://www.fbrn.org.uk/events/inter-faith-week-2013 ...](http://www.fbrn.org.uk/events/inter-faith-week-2013...) #IFWeek”  
[FbRN](#) @FbRNuk Nov 18

“HMA Baker reminds of the vital good that #interfaith dialogue can bring in his latest blog post <http://tinyurl.com/nw5qand> #IFWeek”  
[UK in Holy See](#) @UKinHolySee Nov 18

“We’re happy to be participating in National Interfaith Week with various events over the coming days #IFWeek @IFWeek [pic.twitter.com/ToGRZj8ipW](http://pic.twitter.com/ToGRZj8ipW)”  
[Neasden Temple](#) @NeasdenTemple Nov 18

“Start of Inter Faith Week today – faith communities play a key role in responding to #disasters. Thank you all! @IFWeek #IFWeek”  
[London Prepared](#) @LDN\_prepared Nov 17

“Help celebrate Inter Faith Week 17-23 Nov in #Hertsmere, lots going on promoting working together in harmony #IFWeek  
<http://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/News/Articles/November/Working-in-harmony.aspx> ...”  
 HertsmereCouncil @HertsmereBC Nov 7

“Apply for £1000 for an interfaith project at your union by 5pm tomorrow  
<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/news/article/fairh/NUS-Interfaith-and-Belief-Funding-201314/> ... Promote engagement and dialogue this #IFweek”  
 NUS Connect @nusconnect Oct 22

“Last night @JVN\_org\_uk director, Leonie Lewis, introduced @MayorofLondon at the @LondonFaiths launch of #IFWeek  
<http://www.interfaithweek.org.uk/>”  
 @JVN\_org\_uk Nov 19

*“England and Wales celebrate Inter-Faith week this week (Scotland celebrates a week later to coincide with St Andrew’s Day). When it comes to the relations between the world’s great religions, we tend to hear more about the bad news than the good. This breeds mistrust and reinforces prejudice and ignorance... Inter faith dialogue rarely – perhaps never – leads to instant results. Setbacks, especially when we face violence committed in the name of religion, are common. All the more reason to persevere. It is a task in which all who believe in multi-faith coexistence in society can and should engage.”*

NIGEL BAKER, UK AMBASSADOR TO THE HOLY SEE  
 BLOGS.FCO.GOV.UK/NIGELBAKER/2013/11/18/WHY-WE-NEED-INTER-RELIGIOUS-DIALOGUE/



# Scottish Interfaith Week



The theme for Scottish Interfaith Week in 2013 was 'Values and Visions for Scotland'. With the Scottish Referendum approaching in 2014, it was designed to provide an opportunity for inter faith groups across Scotland to think about the kind of Scotland that they would like to see now and in the future, regardless of the political outcome.

60 events took place across Scotland, including events in Shetland and Skye. Further information about events in Scotland can be found on the Interfaith Scotland website at [www.interfaithscotland.org/our-activities/scottish-interfaith-week/](http://www.interfaithscotland.org/our-activities/scottish-interfaith-week/)

Scottish Interfaith Week in 2014 will run from 23–30 November, on the theme 'Journeys', looking at journeys of faith, for example stories of pilgrimage or inner journeys. Further information can be found at the link above or by emailing Frances Hume on [frances@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:frances@interfaithscotland.org).



# Inter Faith Week 2014: 16–22 November – Tips and ideas

Inter Faith Week 2014 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will run from Sunday 16–Saturday 22 November.

You may already be planning to take part in Inter Faith Week this year. If not, we hope you may have been inspired by this report to do so! Some tips and ideas can be found below. For more ideas and inspiration, visit the reports and event lists page on the website to see what other people have done to mark Inter Faith Week in previous years. There are also dedicated materials for schools and FE colleges, universities and local authorities.

Inter Faith Week 2013 saw a rise in the numbers of events involving young people or with an intergenerational nature. This will be a special focus in 2014 and some ideas are included in the list below for those who would like to pick up this dimension in their events. People of different ages have much to learn from one another, both about their own traditions and about their experiences of engagement with people of other faiths and beliefs. Faith communities are inherently intergenerational, with people of all ages playing an active role in the life of the community. Inter Faith Week provides an excellent opportunity to extend this involvement, and to draw a wider section of the community into inter faith engagement, allowing everyone to participate to their full potential through enjoyment, learning, sharing skills, talking to each other and making time for each other. So, if you are planning

an event, you might like to consider how you might give in an intergenerational dimension!

If you plan to run an event in 2014, please let the IFN office know through the Inter Faith Week website: [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org), or by writing to the IFN office.

You will be able to register your event on the website from July.

**Follow Inter Faith Week on Twitter via @IFWeek; on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/IFWeek](http://www.facebook.com/IFWeek); and on Pinterest at [www.pinterest.com/IFWeek](http://www.pinterest.com/IFWeek).**

## Tips and ideas for Inter Faith Week events

Many different kinds of events are organised for Inter Faith Week. Here is a list of a few ideas to give inspiration to those considering running an event:

- A church and a gurdwara arrange exchange visits for their congregations
- A mandir hosts an inter faith dialogue event, inviting members of other local communities
- A local inter faith organisation and local faith groups hire a coach to do a ‘faith trail’ visiting five places of worship in their city
- Two local faith schools of different faiths hold an inter faith sports event



- A restaurant features for a week special dishes linked to each of the faiths in its area
- A vihara or synagogue arranges a special open day event
- A school works with its local SACRE and local inter faith group to host an 'inter faith day' with opportunities to talk with local members of different faiths about why good inter faith relations are important
- A national faith community representative body develops a short leaflet about the basis for involvement by its members in inter faith activity
- A student union works with all the student religious groups in its university to put on a forum on 'What our faiths say about the environment'
- A regional faith forum holds an event involving faith groups across its region
- A mosque hosts a Muslim-Christian dialogue event
- A faith based charity holds a joint fundraising event with a charity from a different faith tradition
- A local inter faith group holds a joint event with a local Humanist group on 'What do I believe and why?'
- A multi faith chaplaincy in a college of Further Education works with students and staff to put on a special inter faith week exhibition
- A 'dine at mine' event with people of different faiths coming together for a meal
- The local paper and radio station host daily slots during the Week for presenters of different faiths to talk about their faith and also what this teaches them about getting on well with people of other faith
- An academic centre runs workshops on 'scriptural reasoning'
- A national inter faith organisation runs a series of talks on university campuses
- A gardening/ horticultural workshop in which older members teach younger members of the community on how to grow their own fruit and vegetables.
- A skill share week, in which different skills are shared with different age groups in the community such as baking, ICT skills, jam making, gardening, mechanics or photography





2

- 1 Planning for 2014: Areeba Wajid and Ashley Beck at the Inter Faith Network office
- 2 Participants in 'Fear and Freedom of Speech' event organised by Slough Faith Partnership and held at Iqra School (Photo: SFP)



3

- 3 Winners of the 'Bolton Mayor for a Day' competition with the Mayor of Bolton at the Diversity Day event organised by Bolton Interfaith Council; Bolton University; Bolton Council of Mosques; Bolton Hindu Forum; One Bolton; Bolton Christian Community Cohesion; Bolton Interfaith council; and Asian Elders Resource Centre (Photo: BIC)



4

- 4 Participants in an inter faith walk, organised with the University of Sunderland Chaplaincy and Sunderland Interfaith Forum (Photo: USC)

# Media tips

There are a number of simple ways to raise the profile of your organisation and your activities during Inter Faith Week.

## 1. Build relationships with journalists and editors

In many cases, the only time people deal with journalists is when they are trying to react to an event. It is far better to build long-term relationships with media staff as they are more likely to connect with people they know – get to know the journalists and reporters who are in your local area. Where feasible, invite news editors to events as guests as well as for reporting purposes.

## 2. Expertise at your doorstep – take advice

Ask around in your local community and you will be surprised how much expertise exists – people are willing to share their knowledge, especially if it is for a good cause. There are specialists from all types of media who are interested to work on voluntary projects.

## 3. Social media

Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are extremely popular tools for getting your message across and can help a great deal in raising awareness of your event. In the modern era, it is essential to utilise these tools. They hardly cost anything and are extremely popular with young people.

## 4. E-Bulletins

Electronic newsletters and flyers help you to get the message across with minimal costs and in less time compared to expensive direct mail campaigns. The information that is produced can further be archived in your website.

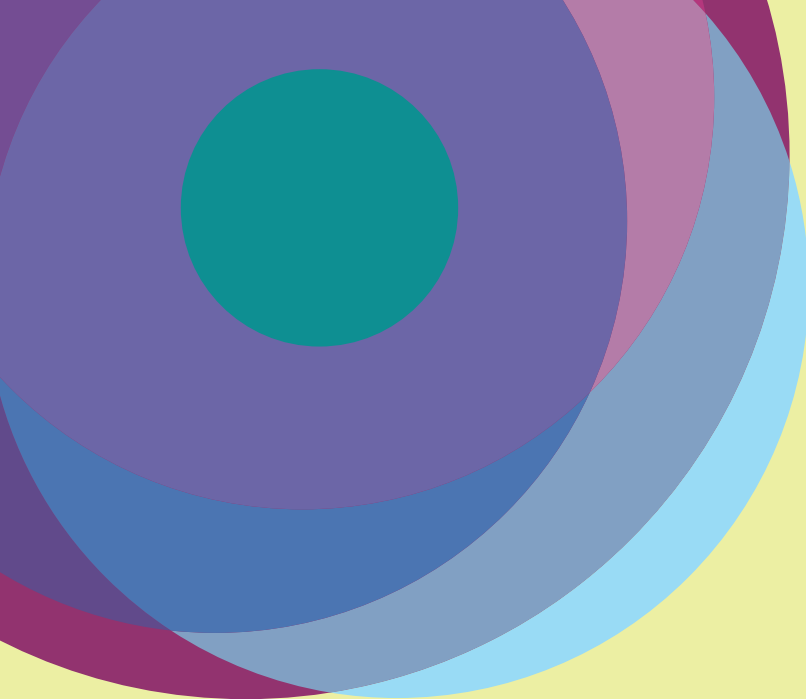
## 5. Getting the message across

When writing press releases, or creating flyers and leaflets, it is important to follow some basic rules. These are:

- a. Write concisely and in a simple style. People are busy and do not have time to decipher information – your message needs to be understood in a matter of seconds.
- b. Where possible, use photographs or video links as readers tend to like visual material. However, do not send large photo files by email as they can be difficult to open. It is useful to inform the media if there is a photo opportunity or whether you can provide photos.
- c. Always give contact details and particularly website links in an easily accessible manner. You want people to remember your website link.
- d. If you are linking to an article with a very long web address, consider using a shortening service like <http://bit.ly> or [www.tinyurl.com](http://www.tinyurl.com).

- e. Your material needs to be a good size and in a clear font so it is easily comprehensible. Do not cram in too much information – it is not good for the eyes and people will most likely not read it.
- f. Think of catchy lines that will help to get your message across.
- g. Journalists will want to know who they can interview and if there are any good photo opportunities and case studies. As time is of the essence, they will need the information very quickly if they contact you.
- h. You do not need to send your News Release at the time you are busiest with the event – you can send it earlier and embargo it so the media does not use it until the appropriate time. The news desk receive hundreds of press releases weekly, so it is essential that what you are offering is suitable and eye catching. Be creative!
- i. Use the same message and adapt it for different media platforms, for example, the local press will want a local angle of your story and the national press would like something that will appeal to people all across the country. In other words, you need to understand your market!
- j. Do not always try to aim to get your story in the national press – local coverage in a niche market can be just as effective and your chances of getting some coverage will be higher.
- k. Make sure your contact details are clearly visible, including a phone number. If the press decide to run your story, they may need to contact you quickly and at short notice.
- l. If you don't get coverage, try the next time – do not give up! It is about building a relationship and understanding the processes.





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

Inter Faith Week is a key way that people of all faiths – and none – can make new connections, share ideas for shaping their local communities, and learn about the range of faiths and beliefs in our diverse society and about how faith communities contribute to the wellbeing of society. This short report shows some of the ways the 2013 Week was marked in England, Northern Ireland and Wales and opens the door to Inter Faith Week 2014 with ideas for the Week.

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

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



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