

Inter Faith Week

Stories from 2017, Inspiration for 2018



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no 3443823
Registered in England
2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH

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

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FRONT COVER PHOTOS

TOP LEFT: Pupils from local schools learning about Judaism at a Bolton Interfaith Council Inter Faith Week event (Photo: The Bolton News)

TOP MIDDLE: An Inter Faith Week arts competition organised by All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Suffolk (Photo: All Saints CEVA)

TOP RIGHT: Participants at an Inter Faith Week school visit organised by the LSE Faith Centre (Photo: LSE Faith Centre)

BOTTOM LEFT: Attendees at a multi-faith Remembrance service in Leicester (Photo: Sikh Welfare and Cultural Society)

BOTTOM MIDDLE: Faith leaders in Wolverhampton ahead of an Inter Faith Week school assembly (Photo: Express & Star)

BOTTOM RIGHT: Pupils at an Inter Faith Week event organised by Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Northamptonshire SACREs (Photo: IFN)

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Inter Faith Week

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

The Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN) was founded in 1987 to “advance public knowledge and mutual understanding of the teachings, traditions and practices of the different faith communities in Britain, including an awareness both of their distinctive features and their common ground and to promote good relations between persons of different faiths.”

IFN’s role is unique: linking national faith community representative bodies, local, regional and national inter faith bodies and academic and educational bodies with a focus on inter faith or multi-faith issues and working with them to deepen inter faith understanding and cooperation as part of working for the common good.

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

IFN works for the public benefit and its wide ranging activity touches the lives of many thousands of people directly and through the organisations and initiatives with which it engages. Working with its member bodies is an important part of this. Each of those makes its own contribution to inter faith understanding and cooperation in the UK.

To find out more, or to make a donation to support IFN’s work of promoting inter faith understanding and cooperation, please visit www.interfaith.org.uk.

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

Stories from 2017, Inspiration for 2018



Contents

Foreword	3
About Inter Faith Week	4
Inter Faith Week 2017 – the biggest Week yet!	5
An amazing array of activities.....	6
Inter Faith Week 2017 activities map	7
Who took part?.....	8
Types of activity	9
Spreading the word.....	10
Social media	14
Traditional media	16
Multi-faith Remembrance and peace events	17
Social action and social issues.....	18
Standing together	20
Arts, culture and music.....	22
Celebrating.....	24
Sport events	26
Sharing and learning	28
Discussion and debate	30
Women’s events.....	32
Scottish Interfaith Week	34
Three great resources.....	36

“Inter Faith Week 2017 was an inspiring effort across all neighbourhoods and faiths across the United Kingdom, in building understanding, tolerance and a sense of community. These sentiments are so important as we build a country where everyone has the chance to succeed and where no one suffers discrimination because of their background, ethnicity, religion or belief.”

THE RT HON THERESA MAY MP, PRIME MINISTER

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

LORD BOURNE OF ABERYSTWYTH, MINISTER FOR FAITH,
MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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

Foreword

Each year in November Inter Faith Week highlights the enormous contribution that faith communities make to society and the vital importance of inter faith understanding and cooperation.

Stories from 2017, Inspiration for 2018

We hope that the amazing array of activities laid out in this short report will inspire you to join the many faith and belief groups, local, regional and national inter faith organisations, charities, schools, colleges, universities, sports clubs, local authorities, government agencies, chaplaincies, businesses, and thousands of individuals who will be taking part this year!

Inter Faith Week 2018 will take place from 11-18 November in England, Wales and Northern Ireland – it will be the tenth such Week! More information about the 2018 Week can be found at www.interfaithweek.org/about

The Week begins on Remembrance Sunday – which this year is Armistice Centenary Day, marking a century since the end of the First World War. This will be an opportunity for people of many faiths and beliefs to come together to mark this, remembering the service of men and women of different backgrounds, both as combatants and non-combatants.

There are many great ways of marking the Week. This report will give you lots of ideas – as will the Inter Faith Week Toolkit, details of which are at the end of this report.

The Inter Faith Network is grateful to all who contributed to the production of this report by providing photographs and quotations, and for reporting on their experiences of the Week, whether through an online survey or in other ways¹. Most of all, IFN is grateful to those who took part in the 2017 Week and ensured that its message reached a wider audience than ever before.

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



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

1 Statistics and some quotations used in this report are drawn from this online survey of activity organisers

About Inter Faith Week

Inter Faith Week takes place every November, beginning on Remembrance Sunday and running for 8 days. Its aims are to:

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

Inter Faith Week was initiated in 2009 by the Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN), in partnership for the first year with the then Department for Communities and Local Government. It is marked in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. The Week drew inspiration from the pioneering Scottish Interfaith Week, led by Interfaith Scotland, which has run since 2004 and with which it works in close relationship².

The Week 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, working on the Week with the Northern Ireland Inter Faith Forum and the Inter-faith Council for Wales.

Inter Faith Week 2017 took place from 12–19 November. It was the ninth Week in England and Wales³, and more activities took place than ever before. The Week was a time of celebration, enquiry and learning. It was also an opportunity for people of different faiths to come together to make a positive difference in their communities. This was especially pertinent in a year that witnessed many painful moments, and where hate crime and terrorism were yet again in the news – Inter Faith Week showed how people can come together to resist the wedges of division.

The Week is part of a year-round pattern of activity. 77% of survey respondents said that they were planning a follow-up activity after the Week.

Follow Inter Faith Week on Twitter through @IFWeek, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/IFWeek or on Instagram at www.instagram.com/ifweek.



Discussion of Inter Faith Week at meeting of devolved nations inter faith linking bodies with IFN, in Belfast (Photo: IFN)

² In 2017, Scottish Interfaith Week took place at the same time as the Week in the rest of the UK. Basic details of Scottish Interfaith Week events were listed by agreement on the Inter Faith Week website. The 2018 Week in Scotland will be taking place at the same time as Inter Faith Week.

³ The eighth such Week in Northern Ireland

Inter Faith Week 2017 – the biggest Week yet!

Inter Faith Week 2017 was the largest Week to date, both in terms of activities held and people reached. 702 activities are known to have taken place across England, Northern Ireland and Wales⁴.

Many thousands of people took part in these activities, in dozens of towns and cities and in rural areas.

The Week according to participants...

“We mark Inter Faith Week every year as we believe it’s important to make sure everyone in our community can respect each other’s differences and we can all get along.”

HEADTEACHER, RED HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, WORCESTER

“Building good relationships and working partnerships between people of different faiths and beliefs is part of the year-round work of many people and organisations across the UK. Having a special Week provides a focal point, so that more people are made aware of the importance of inter faith efforts.”

YORK INTERFAITH GROUP

“Inter Faith Week is a timely opportunity to celebrate tolerance and integration, and to build on the great relationships that already exist across Middlesbrough.”

MAYOR OF MIDDLESBROUGH

“Inter Faith Week gave a great opportunity to invite young people of different faiths to gather in friendship and openness. It was tremendously important to enable young people to express their faith and share what is important to them, and to be inspired by one another’s story and strong sense of identity, as well as rejoicing in what we hold in common.”

CHAIR, SOUTH CARDIFF INTERFAITH NETWORK

“Inter Faith Week focuses on increasing understanding, respect and co-operation between different faiths.”

COUNCILLOR, LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

“Inter Faith Week is about reflecting on our commonality as well as our diversity. This week is about fostering greater interaction between people from different backgrounds and faiths so that we can have open conversations. That doesn’t mean we should all be the same – it means we should celebrate our differences whilst having a better appreciation of each other’s beliefs.”

CHAIR, FAITHS FORUM FOR LONDON

100% of survey respondents said that their Inter Faith Week activity helped them to engage new people

4 More than 80 activities also took place to mark Scottish Interfaith Week, which is led by Interfaith Scotland.

An amazing array of activities

Inter Faith Week 2017 saw an amazing array of activities take place. They included:

- multi-faith Remembrance events and ceremonies
- dialogues and discussion
- social action projects
- faith trails, walks and pilgrimages
- peace and non-violence events
- arts, culture and music activities
- celebrations and festivals
- open door days at local places of worship
- activities at higher and further education institutions
- school activities
- inter faith sporting activities
- women's activities
- activities organised by or with local authorities and other public agencies, including the emergency services
- national initiatives and special online projects and social media campaigns.



The LSE Faith Centre Inter Faith Week programme



IFN Trustee with Lord Mayor of Leeds at 'Light for Leeds' exhibition, Kirkstall Abbey, organised by Leeds Museums and Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship (Photo: IFN)

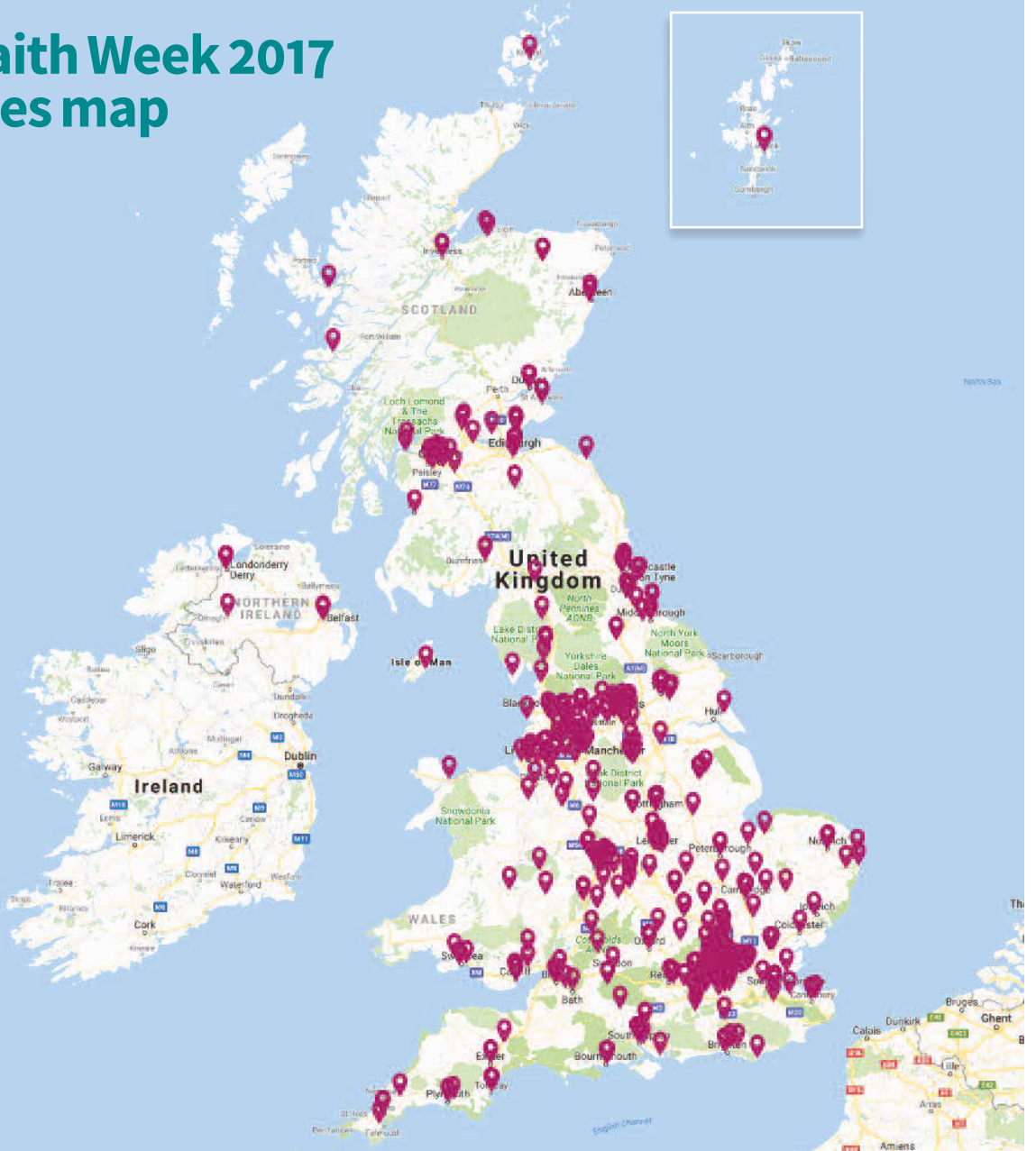
Events took place in many different kinds of venue from places of worship to museums, community centres, football stadiums, civic buildings and outdoor spaces.

The full list of events can be seen at: www.interfaithweek.org/resources/inter-faith-week-2017-list-of-activities

In Birmingham, Bolton, Kendal, Leeds, Leicester, Norwich, Preston, York and a number of other places, ambitious week-long programmes of activities were organised.

A report on the range of activities that took place to mark Scottish Interfaith Week can be seen at scottishinterfaithweek.org/the-story-of-sifw17.

Inter Faith Week 2017 activities map



A map showing the location of activities that took place to mark Inter Faith Week 2017 in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. Scottish Interfaith Week events are also marked.

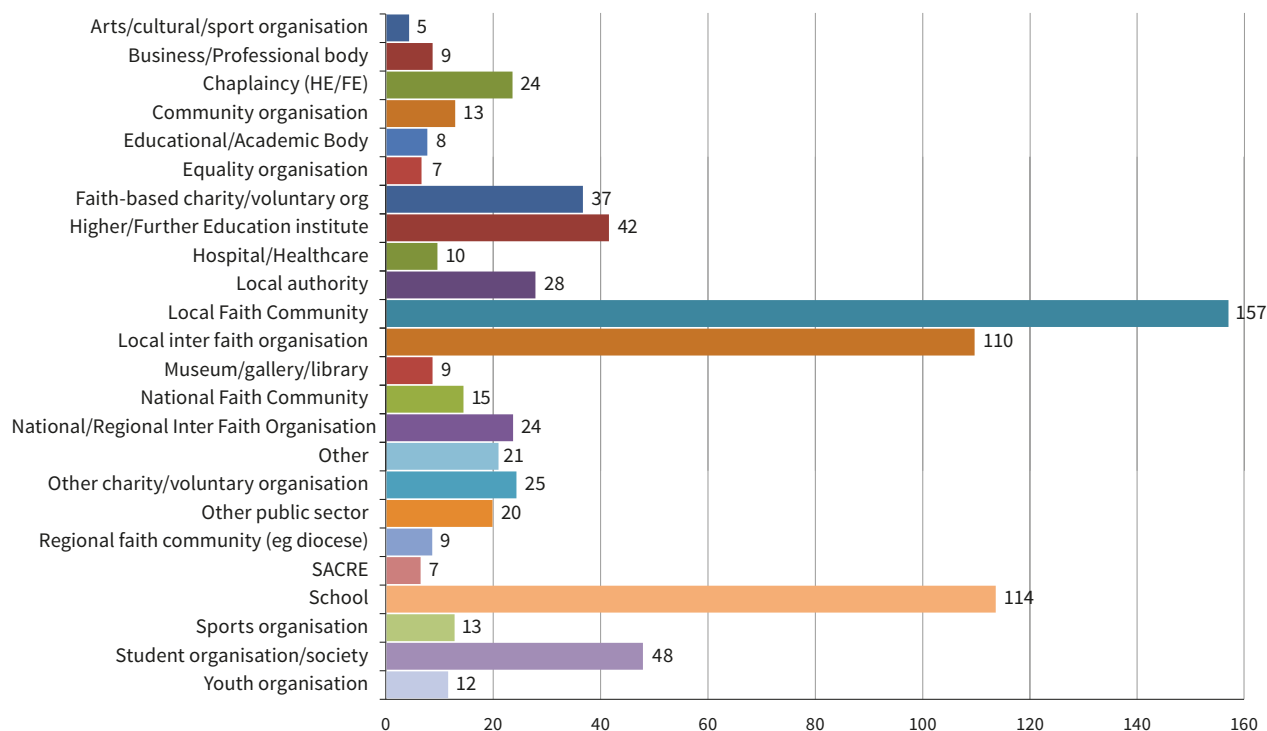
Who took part?

The 702 activities that took place to mark the Week in England, Wales and Northern Ireland involved over 750 organisations of many kinds. The chart below shows a breakdown of organisations by type.⁵ In addition to those organisations that directly contributed to events, others supported the Week by encouraging participation. This includes media organisations, local and national faith-based bodies,

businesses and not-for-profit organisations; sports bodies and SACREs, among others. 53% of survey respondents worked with new partners for the first time during the Week.

The Near Neighbours Programme of the Church Urban Fund and the Inter Faith Youth Trust supported with grants a number of events during the Week.

Inter Faith Week 2017: Organisations by type



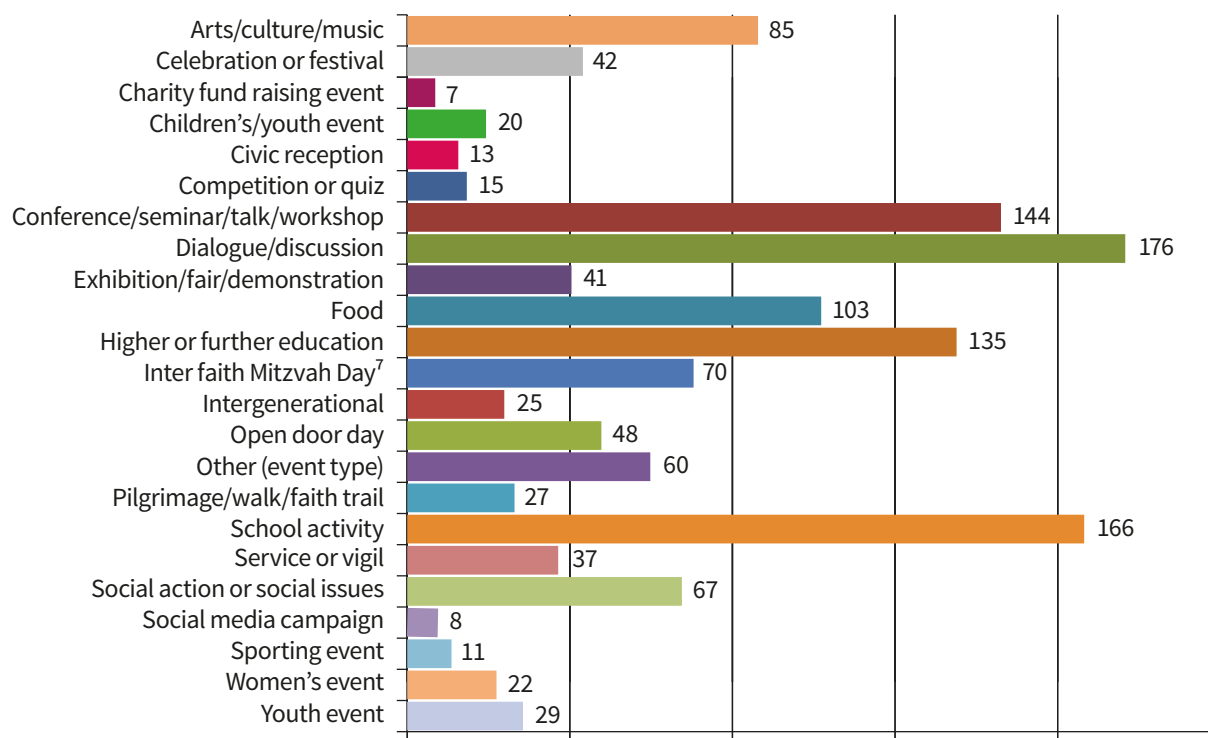
⁵ Organisations are assigned to one category only, based on the closest match.

Types of activity

An enormous range of activities was held to mark Inter Faith Week. The chart below shows activities according to number and type held in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.⁶

The category 'other' includes 60 activities such as media broadcasts, film screenings, displays or the publication of online resources. 70% of survey respondents did something they had not done before during the Week.

Inter Faith Week 2017: Activity by type



⁶ This is based on the categories of event on the Inter Faith Week website event submission form. Activities are sometimes assigned to multiple categories, so the total is not equal to the total number of events.

⁷ Mitzvah Day 2017 took place on Sunday 19 November, the final day of Inter Faith Week. Mitzvah Day activities with an inter faith dimension were listed on the Inter Faith Week website by agreement.

Spreading the word

The Inter Faith Network for the UK publicised the Week throughout the preceding months, using a dedicated website www.interfaithweek.org, targeted mailings, a widely distributed flyer, badges, Twitter and Facebook and, for the first time, Instagram.

The Inter Faith Week branding was available for download on the Inter Faith Week website to assist with publicity, and this was widely used.

Activity holders promoted their activities online and with many colourful flyers and posters, some of which can be seen below:

Inter Faith Week 2017

12–19 November

An opportunity to:

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

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

www.interfaithweek.org

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





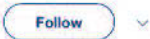
Participants were also invited to show their support through a social media campaign, using special cards to show what the Week meant to them.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Representative of Blackpool Faith Forum; The Inter Faith Network for the UK; the Pagan Federation; the National Union of Students; Interfaith Scotland; North Kirklees Inter Faith Council and Oldham Interfaith Forum; Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe; Faith Network 4 Manchester; Jain Network and Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha of Great Britain; Bolton Interfaith Young Ambassadors, Bolton Interfaith Council, and Wakefield Interfaith Network (Photos: IFN)

Many organisations used social media to show their support for Inter Faith Week by posting images of staff, students and others holding downloadable photo cards.



Dee Collins
@WYPDeeCollins



Lots of conversations taking place across @WestYorksPolice and with our communities & partners during #InterFaithWeek #IFWeek I'm encouraging all to go out & find out about our differences to better understand perspectives/views #itsgoodtotalk



3:51 am - 14 Nov 2017

84% of survey respondents said that their Inter Faith Week activity had helped to raise the profile of their work



Marie Curie Cymru
@MarieCurieCymru



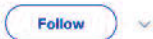
Our Occupational Therapists want to meet the needs of all patients this #InterfaithWeek #IFweek



12:00 PM - 14 Nov 2017



Cheshire Police
@cheshirepolice



This week is #InterFaithWeek, an opportunity to build relationships within our communities and increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs #CheshireTogether #HereForAllCommunities



Many activity holders also purchased specially designed badges for the Week, which further raised the profile of activities. These were widely used.



Batley Poets publicising an Inter Faith Week event (Photo: Batley Poets)



Inter Faith Week badges (Photo: IFN)



Representatives of the Union of Jewish Students at a special Barnet Multi Faith Forum, Middlesex University London, Yad Vashem UK and Faith Matters Inter Faith Week event looking at 'Muslims who rescued Jews during the Holocaust' (Photo: IFN)

Social media

Inter Faith Week 2017 was the biggest Week to date on social media, with Twitter, Facebook and Instagram being widely used to spread the message of the Week, as well as news and information about events and activities.

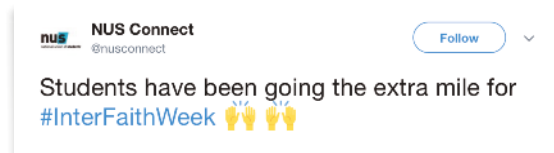
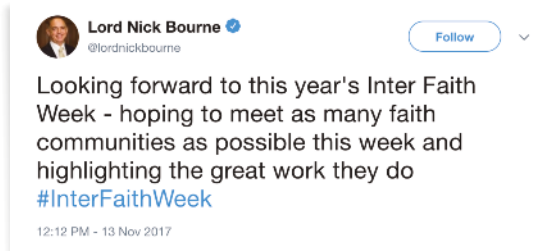
Inter Faith Week was active on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram in the build up to the Week and throughout the Week itself. Inter Faith week is at 'IFWeek' on all three platforms.

On Twitter, use of the hashtags #InterFaithWeek and #IFWeek was encouraged, with the former being most widely used. In total, tweets about the Week had a potential reach of 13.4 million Twitter users, the most to date, registering around 40.4 million potential impressions. On Facebook, people were encouraged to 'like' the Inter Faith Week page.

Prominent figures and organisations tweeted and posted about the Week, including the Prime Minister, Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, the Mayor of London, the Chief Rabbi, a number of government departments, and many IFN member bodies.

Inter Faith Week also worked with the National Union of Students to run a special social media campaign, #IFWCoffeeconvo, encouraging informal conversations about faith and belief during the Week.

Some examples of tweets shared during the Week are below:





Mayor of London 
@MayorofLondon

Follow

London is one of the most diverse places on earth. Here, Muslims, Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Sikhs and other faith communities don't simply tolerate each other, they respect and celebrate each other [#InterFaithWeek](#) [#LondonIsOpen](#) [interfaithweek.org](#)



DfE 
@educationgovuk

Follow

[#interfaithweek](#) - "inter faith round table yesterday reflecting vital importance of good [#InterFaith](#) relations in [#HE](#) & [#FE](#) contexts [@IFWeek](#)
If interested to see what is going on in [#HE](#) & [#FE](#) for [#InterFaithWeek](#) click here [ow.ly/dijv30gzcpn](#)



SNU Spiritualism
@SpiritualistSNU

Follow

[#IFWeek](#) is in its 9th year. SNU are proud to be part of [@IFNetUK](#) building bridges between faith communities. All Brothers & Sisters [#PrinciplesOfSpiritualism](#) [#Interfaithweek2017](#)



UK Civil Service 
@UKCivilService

Follow

It's [#InterFaithWeek](#) – find out what events are being held near you to help build interfaith relations. Many events being held across the Civil Service. [@IFWeek](#) [#faith](#) [#diversity](#)



Surrey FA 
@surreyfa

Follow

It's Interfaith Week! We'll be celebrating in different ways over the coming days, but in the meantime, head to [interfaithweek.org](#) to find out more! [#IFWeek](#)



UnitedReformedChurch
@urcmedia

Follow

[.@IFWeek](#) launches at [@urcmedia](#) [#Church](#) [#House](#) where more than thirty members of the Inter Faith Network's Faith Communities Forum, gathered [ow.ly/lr0p30gxjHr](#)



Chief Rabbi Mirvis 
@chiefrabbi

Follow

Inter Faith Week is a wonderful opportunity for us to build greater cooperation and understanding between people of different faiths. "Who acts from love is greater than who acts from fear." - (Talmud) [#InterFaithWeek](#) [#IFWeek](#)



Traditional media

Inter Faith Week has a strongly local focus and in 2017 the Week received excellent coverage in numerous local newspapers and on local radio. Many articles were also written about Inter Faith Week activities by member bodies and others online. There was also some coverage in national newspapers and faith and cultural news outlets.

Local news coverage significantly increases the impact of activities and strengthens programmes of work conducted for the Week. It also prompts some people to consider getting involved in inter faith activity for the first time, and encourages participation in future years.

BELOW: A press release issued at the start of Inter Faith Week



ARTICLE HEADLINES TOP TO BOTTOM: The Press, York; Bournemouth Echo; St Helens Council; Watford Observer; The Westmoreland Gazette; The Bolton News; Surrey Football Association; Council of Christians and Jews.

Many faiths at event to launch week

Faiths come together for "incredible" event in Bournemouth

Council supports national Interfaith Week

Pilgrims tour places of worship for Interfaith Week

Friendship between faiths celebrated during week of Kendal events

Bolton Interfaith Week was truly inspiring

**INTERFAITH WEEK
TOURNAMENT A
SUCCESS**

Surrey FA's Youth Forum delivered a 5 a-side Inter-Faith Football Tournament on Saturday 18th November at Carshalton Athletic FC during...

CCJ Student Leaders prepare for Interfaith Week

We're looking forward to interfaith Week when our Student Leaders will be holding launch events at their universities.

Multi faith Remembrance and peace events

The Inter Faith Network Board of Trustees decided that Inter Faith Week would begin on Remembrance Sunday and it has done so since 2016. The Week is arranged to begin on that day to allow people of different faiths and beliefs to mark this together, remembering the service of soldiers and civilians of many faiths.

Many Inter Faith Week Remembrance events were held, including some at war memorials and places of worship. Multi faith events were held by many different organisations. Some events had a specific focus, such as looking at themes of war and peace within religions.

“Inter Faith Week begins each year with Remembrance Sunday and provides an opportunity for many different beliefs to gather and remember as well as network, connect and understand one another.”

MARIE CURIE BLOG



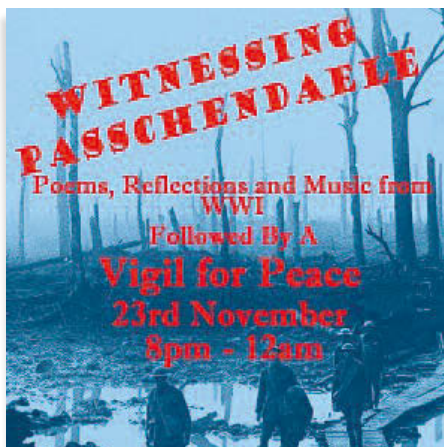
Woolf Institute
@Woolf_Institute

Follow

This @IFWeek we will be holding an #interfaith remembrance day commemoration: woolf.cam.ac.uk/whats-on/event... ... #EveryonesWelcome



ABOVE: Attendees at a multi-faith Remembrance service in Leicester (Photo: Sikh Welfare and Cultural Society)



LEFT: Publicity for a Norwich InterFaith Link event marking the centenary of the Battle of Passchendaele

Social action and social issues

The Week was marked in a number of areas through multi-faith social action projects helping local communities through practical activities such as collecting and distributing clothing and toiletries for refugees; meals for the homeless; and improving local parks and other social amenities.

Many were joint projects to mark both Inter Faith Week and Mitzvah Day, which took place on the last day of the Week. Inter Faith Week works closely with Mitzvah Day which, led by the Jewish community, is one of three major days of faith-linked social action in the year, along with Sewa Day and Sadaqa Day.

The Week also saw a wide range of discussions and workshops looking from a religion and belief perspective at such issues such as hate crime, religious discrimination, segregation, health, environmentalism, and refugees and migration.



A Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum discussion on faith and the environment, 'Caring for our Common Home' (Photo: NIFF)



Qari Asim MBE showing support for Inter Faith Week (Photo: IFN)



Multi-faith social action to mark Mitzvah Day and Inter Faith Week (Photo: Mitzvah Day)



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



A discussion on faith in the hospice environment at Myton Hospices, Warwickshire (Photo: Myton Hospices)

Standing together

During 2017 there were terrorist attacks at the Manchester Arena and in London at Westminster Bridge, London Bridge, Finsbury Park and Parsons Green.

Several Inter Faith Week events had strong ‘standing together’ dimensions or tackled issues around hate crime, which had spiked in some areas in the wake of attacks.

There was discussion about hate crime and how to report it, the role that faith communities have to play in tackling hate crime and also prejudice, and how young people can come together to stand up against these. In some areas, such as Cheshire, the police led on such events and discussions.

Earlier in the year IFN had published ‘Looking After One Another: The Safety and Security of our Faith Communities’ in partnership with the Crown Prosecution Service, the then Department of Communities and Local Government, the Home Office, the National Fire Chiefs’ Council and the National Police Chiefs’ Council. Copies of this were made available for Inter Faith Week events. The resource can be downloaded at www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/looking-after-one-another-the-safety-and-security-of-our-faith-communities-2017.

“In recent months we have seen how faith communities have come together to offer help to people caught up in appalling incidents and tragedies – literally throwing open their doors to offer sanctuary. They have been superb.

Inter Faith Week gives us an opportunity to celebrate the contribution that faith communities make and show how that can be strengthened by working together.”

LORD BOURNE OF ABERYSTWYTH, MINISTER FOR FAITH





A discussion on the theme of 'Strengthening Communities Through Faith' organised by Hammersmith & Fulham Council (Photo: Hammersmith & Fulham Council)



Publicity for a Bristol Multi Faith Forum discussion on 'The role of faith communities in tackling hate crime'



An Inter-faith Council for Wales event at Dar-Ul-Isra mosque, Cardiff on the theme of 'Hate Crime – What it is and how to report it' (Photo: Inter-faith Council for Wales)

Arts, culture and music

For many participants, Inter Faith Week is an opportunity to display the arts, culture, and music of different faith communities.

People of different faiths and beliefs came together in schools and universities, places of worship, and arts institutions to both create and celebrate religion and the arts with workshops, exhibitions, musical and cultural performances and art and photography competitions.



An Inter Faith Week arts competition organised by All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Suffolk (Photo: All Saints CEVA)



Multi-faith storytelling with the Khayyal Theatre Company, organised by Grassroots Luton (Photo: Luton Council of Faiths and Grassroots Luton)



Inter Faith Week
@IFWeek

Follow

Dance has been a key part of many #interfaithweek events this week. @DISHemel ladies dance group at the Dacorum Inter faith Network #InterFaithWeek event today.



0:06 95 views



An inter faith 'Variety of Performance' organised by Solihull Faiths Forum (Photo: Solihull Faiths Forum)

batleypoets.co.uk

BATLEY LIBRARY & ART GALLERY
SATURDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2.00-4.00PM

PRESENT



ANYTHING GOES

BATLEY POETS
#BATLEypoETS

If you've got a favourite poem (that may also have a special memory for you) or you've written a poem yourself please share it. Come and join us in **Batley Library** for a cuppa and a chat between 2.00 PM and 4.00 PM on the 18th November for **ANYTHING GOES** The Batley Poets.



plus THE BATLEY TWITTERY PRIZE

for poetry tweets featuring the #batleypoets twitter hashtag
twitter: @BatleyPoets

Pop in for a cuppa and a cake

Inter Faith Week 2017

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

Henna Hand Designs

by Sophie Patel



BATLEY TOWN CENTRE
"The most authentic Victorian and Edwardian town centre in the whole of Great Yorkshire"
MAGGIE H. HUGHES, BATLEY FROM LONDON



#MORE IN COMMON





Supporting Inter Faith Week

12th-19th November 2017








Publicity for the Batley Poets' 'Anything Goes' Inter Faith Week event

Celebrating

Inter Faith Week provides an excellent opportunity for communities to celebrate their diversity and the contributions made by faith groups and inter faith organisations to their communities. Events were organised by faith groups, inter faith bodies, local authorities and many others.

Celebrations took place at schools, colleges and universities and at places of worship and museums. Activities focused on bringing people together to learn about different faiths and beliefs, and to recognise the positive contributions that they make to communities.

Beyond the UK, Gibraltar organised its own special celebration to mark the Week, and the British High Commission in Hyderabad, India, organised a week-long programme of activities.

“Inter Faith Week allows us to come together to celebrate and acknowledge religious diversity in our borough.”

COUNCILLOR, ST HELENS COUNCIL



Bolton Interfaith Council celebrating ‘Unity in the Community’ (Photo: The Bolton News)



Organisers of an Inter Faith Week event at Kendal Unitarian Chapel (Photo: Buddhist Group of Kendal)



Participants at a ‘Celebration of World Faiths’ organised by East Lancashire Scouts (Photo: East Lancashire Scouts)



Children at Little Gonerby Infant School, Grantham, celebrating Inter Faith Week (Photo: Little Gonerby Infant School)



Newman College
@Newman_College

Follow

For [@IFWeek](#) we have been celebrating the various [#faiths](#) & [#cultures](#) that make up our college community. Today the Exhibition Hall was bustling with music performances, food samples, Henna tattoos, a [@CAFOD](#) bake sale, a Body Shop sale & belly dancing! [#InterFaithWeek](#)



5:55 am - 16 Nov 2017



Your Gibraltar TV
@YourGibraltarTV

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Her Worship the [@GibraltarMayor](#) celebrated Inter Faith Week with a short service today:



9:06 am - 16 Nov 2017

Sport events

Inter Faith Week saw a number of sporting events being held, encouraging the building of mutual respect and understanding through physical activity. Multi-faith sporting activities are an excellent way to bring together people from different backgrounds, and can contribute to fostering positive relations between people of different faiths and beliefs within communities.

Events included inter faith football matches, such as those organised by Surrey FA Youth Forum, Carshalton Athletic FC, Manchester Jewish Soccer League, the Abu Hanifah Foundation and others. Other events included a cycle ride around places of worship, organised by Westminster City Council along with the Westminster Faith Exchange and Cycle Confident, a Kabaddi tournament and a yoga session.



Surrey FA Youth Forum: @SurreyFA_YF
Palace For Life: @CPFC_Foundation

Surrey FA Youth Forum & Palace For Life invite you to...

INTERFAITH WEEK TOURNAMENT

Date: 18th November 2017
Time: 2-5pm
Cost: FREE

Team Age Groups: U16 & U23
Venue: Carshalton Athletic FC
SMS 2PW

We are hosting a friendly tournament for male & female players, providing an opportunity for individuals of all faiths to play football. The tournament shall be 5-A-Side, with a max. of 8 per team. There will be workshops, guest speakers- PLUS a chance to win tickets to Crystal Palace FC Kick It Out match against Stoke FC.

BOOK A SPACE FOR YOUR TEAM, EMAIL SEAN.LOFTING@SURREYFA.COM

In partnership with the Interfaith Youth Trust - @IFYouthTrust

Publicity for an Inter Faith Week football tournament organised by the Surrey FA Youth Forum



An inter faith football match in Manchester organised by Youth on Solid Ground (Photo: Youth on Solid Ground)

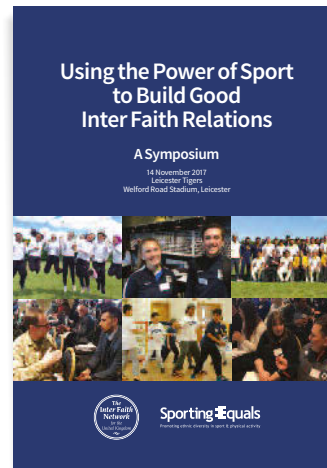
Using the Power of Sport to Build Good Inter Faith Relations

On 14 November the Inter Faith Network for the UK, in partnership with Sporting Equals, held a special Inter Faith Week symposium entitled ‘Using the Power of Sport to Build Good Inter Faith Relations’.

The symposium provided an excellent opportunity for practitioners from the world of sport and from inter faith initiatives to explore how sport can help people of different backgrounds to meet one another, come to understand each other better, develop skills for cooperation and build stronger inter faith relations.

The event was held at Leicester Tigers’ stadium and participants came from national sports organisations, regional sports clubs, public sector organisations, and faith and inter faith bodies. Presenters at the symposium in plenary and in workshops were: Arsenal FC in the Community; Association of Muslim Schools Inter Faith Games Programme; Burnley Football Club; Building Bridges in Burnley; Essex County Cricket Club; Gwent Police Multi Faith Panel; the Inter Faith Network for the UK; Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government; Near Neighbours programme of the Church Urban Fund; Premiership Rugby; Sporting Equals; the English Federation of Disability Sport; University of Leicester Unit for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement; Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum; and the Women in Sport Project, Manchester.

The report on the symposium can be downloaded at: www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/using-the-power-of-sport-to-build-good-inter-faith-relations.



“Sport is not always recognised for its wider benefits. Sport is a great tool to build social interaction between communities particularly those that have little engagement or understanding. It provides a platform for real dialogue and discussion of sensitive issues to help break down myths and barriers”.

DENSIGN WHITE, CHAIRMAN, SPORTING EQUALS UK



Participants in discussion at IFN and Sporting Equals’ joint symposium on ‘Using the Power of Sport to Build Good Inter Faith Relations’ (Photo: IFN)

Sharing and learning

Inter Faith Week is a great way to boost religious literacy; a time for people to learn about the faith and beliefs that their neighbours hold dear and that help shape their lives.

In 2017 numerous activities were held where people shared their own beliefs alongside learning about the beliefs of others. This happened in the context of visits to places of worship, multi-faith discussion panels, dialogues and multi-faith meals as well as university 'speed faithing' encounters.

Other organisers celebrating Inter Faith Week chose to run fairs, inviting communities to showcase their faith and beliefs to members of the public and passers-by.

At some of the more formal events, representatives of faith communities shared what their faith means to them, and speakers were invited to raise awareness of particular traditions or beliefs.

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Minister for Faith, chose the Week to launch a tour of 42 places of worship.

“Inter Faith Week plays a huge part in bringing people from all faiths and none together. Through learning about the faiths of others we are able to embrace not only our strong British values but those beliefs and values that the community in Gravesham hold dearly.”

COUNCILLOR, GRAVESHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

“We live in challenging times and the Week offers a wonderful opportunity to create and demonstrate friendship and solidarity, as well as to learn about the different faiths and beliefs of other people.”

WARRINGTON COUNCIL OF FAITHS



Participants in an Inter Faith Week school visit organised by the LSE Faith Centre (Photo: LSE Faith Centre)





An event on the theme of 'Bringing communities together through inter faith dialogue' at the London Buddhist Vihara (Photo: IFN)



Participants in the 'Faith, Forces and Food' project in Leicester organised by the 7th Infantry Brigade and the St Philips Centre (Photo: 7th Infantry Brigade)



A school visit during Inter Faith Week to Neasden Temple (Photo: BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha)



Participants in an inter faith service held by the York Liberal Jewish Community for Inter Faith Week (Photo: The Press, York)



Students at Carmel College, St Helens, spelling 'IFWeek' during an event learning about different faiths (Photo: Carmel College Chaplaincy)

86% of survey respondents said that their Inter Faith Week activity helped participants to learn more about people of different faiths and beliefs

Discussion and debate

Inter Faith Week 2017 provided an opportunity for people of different faiths and beliefs to talk together about many issues such as:

- making a difference together to their local community and neighbourhoods
- breaking down of stereotypes and tackling prejudice
- widening involvement
- how to build positive relations between faith communities in the UK
- conflict resolution
- and building understanding between faith communities and non-religious belief groups



A YouTube video showing 'The Archbishop's Big Conversation', a Q & A with the Archbishop of Canterbury held in Leicester during Inter Faith Week



A graphic promoting the Inter Faith Week and National Union of Students #IFWcoffeconvos social media campaign



Participants in discussion during a Watford Interfaith Association tour of places of worship (Photo: Watford Interfaith Association)



Participants in dialogue at the Faith and Belief Forum 'Interfaith Summit', held annually during Inter Faith Week (Photo: Faith and Belief Forum)



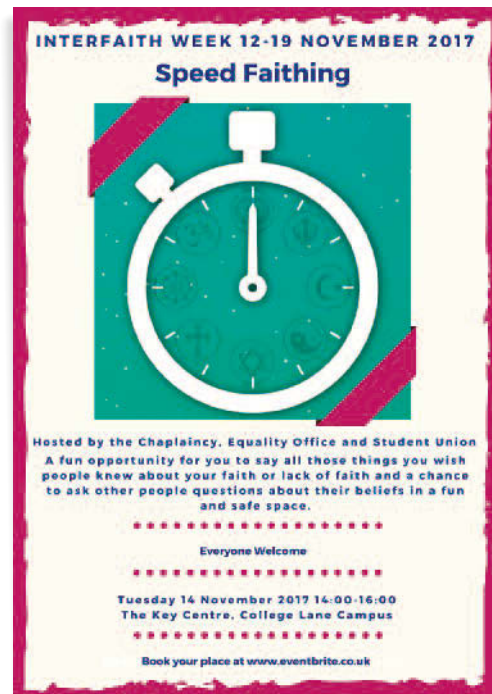
A faith leaders panel with local schools organised by Gravesham Borough Council (Photo: Gravesham Borough Council)



Participants in dialogue at a South Cardiff Interfaith Network event on the theme of 'Young, free and religious' (Photo: IFN)



A Joseph Interfaith Foundation panel discussion at the Jewish Community Secondary School (Photo: Joseph Interfaith Foundation)



A 'speed faithing' dialogue activity organised at the University of Hertfordshire



An Inter Faith Week discussion on the theme of 'Breaking down Barriers: Youth Perspectives' organised by Initiatives of Change UK (Photo: IFN)

Women's events

Many Inter Faith Week events provided an opportunity for women of faith to come together for dialogue, discussion and social action. The Week saw women of different faiths meeting to learn from one another, form new friendships and discuss issues of common concern.

Activities included a bring and share meal, a yoga session, multi-faith storytelling and discussion of social issues such as combatting hate crime and the importance of standing together.

Faith groups come together for a feast to celebrate in Preston

Posted on 12th November, 2017 4:32pm | Author: Amy Fairhead | Posted in: Churches, City Centre, Events, News, Observations, Preston, City Centre



Interfaith feast in Shepherds Street

An Inter Faith Week blog from the Sisters4Sisters women's group, Preston



A women and girls Inter Faith Week 'Film and Food' night organised by Touchstone Bradford (Photo: Touchstone Bradford)



An Inter Faith Week tour of places of worship for women of different faiths in Sandwell organised by Near Neighbours (Photo: Near Neighbours)



Tooting Christian-Muslim Women's Group (Photo: IFN)



A discussion on 'The Status and Role of Women: Sikh and Muslim Perspectives' organised by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association South London (Photo: AMWA South London)



Waltham Forest Faith Communities Forum added 3 new photos.

27 November 2017

#IFWeek. The Sri Sathya Sai Centre together with the Hindu Temples of Walthamstow hosted a Womens Interfaith Lunch at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Wanstead bringing women of different faiths together during Interfaith week.



WOMENS INTERFAITH FORUM
Presents

Get to know your Neighbour



SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER
1PM-3PM

ST MARYS COMMUNITY CENTRE
BRAMALL LANE, SHEFFIELD, S2 4QZ

Refreshments will be available!

- ❖ Women of all faiths or no faith are welcome.
- ❖ Open and group discussions on faith issues & women.
- ❖ Personal accounts from Muslim & Christian women of 'what faith means to them'.

Contact:

- Revd Claire Dawson – 0114 272 4987
- Maryam Akhtar - 07491299463

In Association with:

W: www.stmarys-church.co.uk

E: Claire.dawson@Sheffield.Anglican.org

E: minhajistersheffield@gmail.com

FB: [MinhajSisters Sheffield](https://www.facebook.com/MinhajSistersSheffield)



Publicity for a Sheffield Women's Interfaith Forum event on the theme of 'Get to Know Your Neighbour'

Scottish Interfaith Week

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

The theme for Scottish Interfaith Week 2017 was 'Creativity and the Arts'. Over 80 activities took place across Scotland.

Scottish Interfaith Week was launched at a special event at Discovery Point in Dundee.

A new dedicated Scottish Interfaith Week website was launched ahead of the Week, along with new social media accounts. This is at www.scottishinterfaithweek.org. It is also on Twitter at @FollowSIFW and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FollowSIFW/.

Scottish Interfaith Week and Inter Faith Week work closely together and in 2017 their dates were the same.

Scottish Interfaith Week will take place from 11–18 November 2018. Its theme will be 'Connecting Generations'.



The poster for Scottish Interfaith Week 2017 features the title 'Scottish Interfaith Week' in large blue letters, with the subtitle 'Creativity and the arts' and dates '12th - 19th November 2017'. Below the text is a photograph of a group of people, including a woman in a red headscarf, painting the word 'COMMUNITY' on a brick wall. The wall is covered in various colorful graffiti and drawings. At the bottom of the poster, there is text describing the event's purpose: 'Breaking down barriers through the arts, sharing stories, poetry, performance, music and dialogue'. It also includes the website 'scottishinterfaithweek.org' and three bullet points: '// Participate', '// Hold an event', and '// See what is on in your region'. The bottom of the poster features logos for SIFW, social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and a logo for Interfaith Scotland.

Scottish Interfaith Week
Creativity and the arts
12th - 19th November 2017

Breaking down barriers through the arts, sharing stories, poetry, performance, music and dialogue

scottishinterfaithweek.org

- // Participate
- // Hold an event
- // See what is on in your region

SIFW Scottish Interfaith Week

Follow us on
Facebook Twitter Instagram

In association with
Interfaith Scotland
Scottish Charitable Foundation
Charity Number 1022946

 **Scottish Interfaith Week**
10 November 2017 · ©

Tune in to **BBC Radio Scotland** today at 3pm to hear our very own Dr Maureen Sier discuss #SIFW17 and all the amazing events we have planned!



Participants at Scottish Interfaith Week events (Photos: Interfaith Scotland)

Three great resources

89% of 2017 Inter Faith Week survey respondents indicated that they were definitely or likely to mark the Week in 2018. Whether you have held an event before, or are planning one for the first time, here are some helpful resources to assist with this:

The Inter Faith Week Toolkit

'The Inter Faith Week Toolkit' is packed with activity ideas for marking the Week as well as examples and illustrations drawn from the many successful activities held for the Week in previous years.

'The Toolkit' can be downloaded at www.interfaithweek.org/resources/toolkit



Inter Faith Learning, Dialogue and Cooperation: Next Steps

'Inter Faith Learning, Dialogue and Cooperation: Next Steps' is a resource for people who have attended an event or followed the Week on social media and want to get further involved in inter faith activity.

'Next Steps' can be downloaded at www.interfaithweek.org/resources/next-steps



Let's Talk: Practical pointers for inter faith dialogue

'Let's Talk: Practical pointers for inter faith dialogue' contains short reflections and examples drawn from the work of the Inter Faith Network for the UK and its member bodies, with the aim of inspiring and encouraging further discussion and engagement. It also contains practical pointers for dialogue, and includes sections on what makes for effective and successful dialogues and how difficult issues may best be approached. 'Let's Talk' can be downloaded at www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/lets-talk-practical-pointers-for-inter-faith-dialogue



All three resources are also available in hard copy on request from the IFN office.

Inter Faith Week 2018

11–18 November

An opportunity to:

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

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

www.interfaithweek.org

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



Flyer promoting Inter Faith Week 2018

Visit www.interfaithweek.org/about

To register an event for 2018, go to www.interfaithweek.org/events/submit

Follow Inter Faith Week on Twitter through @IFWeek, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/IFWeek or on Instagram at www.instagram.com/IFWeek

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Ministry of Housing,
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