

INTERFAITH NEWSLETTER POST- PENTECOST 2018

Welcome to the Post- Pentecost edition of the Diocesan Interfaith Newsletter

Interfaith as a branch of the Diocesan Commission for Dialogue and Unity works towards realising that part of the Church's Mission which is to enter into dialogue with those of other faiths in order to promote peace, justice and goodwill within our communities. Pope Francis has emphasised this mission often during his Pontificate and at the beginning of the Year of Mercy wrote of the importance of fostering encounters with Judaism, Islam and "other noble religious traditions...so that we might know and understand one another better..eliminate every form of close-mindedness and disrespect, and drive out every form of violence and discrimination." (Misericordiae Vultus para 23).

RAMADAN began on 16/17th May and lasts until Eid-ul-Fitr a month later. The actual dates depend on the sighting of the moon. Ramadan is the Holy Month when Muslims fast from food and drink from dawn to sunset. As with our Lent it is a period of spiritual reflection and acts of piety and almsgiving. We send our best wishes at this time to our Muslim neighbours that it may be for them a time of blessing and renewal.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

This notice has been received from Swindon Interfaith Group:

Swindon Interfaith Group – Charity Fast 2018

To coincide with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the Swindon Interfaith Group are inviting friends to fast for one day in order to,

- Raise awareness about hunger and poverty both nationally and internationally
- Experience the health and spiritual benefits that can be gained from fasting
- Raise funds for the "Swindon Homeless Volunteers".

Everyone that takes part in the fast will be sponsored by members of the Swindon Muslim Community.

The day of the fast will be Wednesday 6th June and will end in a dinner at the Broad Green Community Centre.

Instructions for fasting.

Muslims will be fasting from dawn until sunset (2.57am till 9.23pm), without any food or water, but as most people will not have fasted before, or infrequently, the instructions for the charity fast are as follows,

- Eat your usual breakfast meal at no later than 8.00am
- You may not eat anything until we break the fast at 9.23pm
- If you feel thirsty, you may drink some water only, but try not to drink too much.
- Please continue to take any prescribed or necessary medication.

Go about your usual routine, but if you can, try and take time to pray or meditate at least once during the day.

Arrive at the Broad Green Centre by 8.30pm where there will be a short discussion on Ramadan and fasting and also a short address by the new Mayor of Swindon prior to the breaking of the fast.

If you would like to participate in the fast, please email w.ahmad36@gmail.com so that we can collate numbers for the dinner and also add numbers for the “Just Giving” page.

Thank You
Mervyn
Swindon Interfaith Group

And from Bristol Multi-Faith Forum

Our quarterly Open Forum meetings are open to all and are an opportunity for partnership working, discussion, consultation and debate. To get regular information about them and all our other activities, please sign up to our mailing list. Contact Lily Khandker at info@bristolmultifaithforum.org.uk or 07789 040267 (mobile)

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 30 May - Multi Faith Trail: Part of Bristol Walk Fest 2018

From 9.30am to 1.30pm, visit venues and greet faith leaders from 4 different religions. Meet at 9.30am at the Hindu Temple, 163 Church Road, BS5 9LA;
10.30am at Bristol Bahá'í Centre, 8 Church Road, BS5 9JA;
11.30am at Bristol Central Mosque, Chelsea Road, BS5 6AP;
12.30pm at Jewish Progressive Synagogue, 43/47 Bannerman Rd, BS5 0RR.

This walk is open to all. Please note, this walk is not circular, although leaders can help direct you back to the start. For more information including access and walk routes see: <http://bristolmultifaithforum.org.uk/bristol-walk-fest-multi-faith-trail-30th-may-2018/>. Or contact info@bristolmultifaithforum.org.uk or 07789 040267, or 0117 352 1283 / 07810 506 738.

Monday 4 June - Bristol Inter-Faith Group discusses Anti-Semitism

This Bristol Inter-Faith Group meeting will take place at the Unitarian Meeting House, Brunswick Square, BS2 8PE, with refreshments available from 7pm and starting at 7.30pm. The Committee have decided to hold two meetings on overcoming prejudice and this first one will tackle the subject of Anti-Semitism. It will be introduced by Cllr Tom Aditya, who is also Vice Chair of Bristol Multi-Faith Forum and there will be a panel of Jewish speakers who will respond to comments and questions. All are welcome. For more information email graham.davey29@yahoo.co.uk

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THE BATH INTER FAITHYH GROUP have send information of their programme:

Mon 25th June, 7pm, Christian Science Church, Claverton St, Widcombe, Bath BA2 4LE

‘Women in Religion’ – with speakers including:

Elvira Pearson of the Seventh Day Adventist Church who will talk about their founder Ellen G White;

Sue Dawkins from 'Amma UK' will talk about Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma), more popularly known as the Hugging Saint and a renowned humanitarian (<https://amma.com.my/>).

A member of the Church of Christ, Scientist will speak about the founder Mary Baker Eddy who established the Church of Christ, Scientist, as a Christian denomination and worldwide movement of spiritual healers

NEWS AND REPORTS OF EVENTS TAKEN PLACE:

Bristol Multi-Faith Forum have sent this account of Bristol Diverse Doors Open Day 2018 which took place on Sunday 25 February from 10.30am to 4pm. This is an annual event, offering the opportunity to visit a range of places of worship. It aims to give a flavour of the many faiths in the city of Bristol.

Over the years many places of worship have opened their doors to the general public as part of this event, which is unique to Bristol, organised by us, here at Bristol Multi-Faith Forum and supported by Bristol City Council. This year a total of 16 places of worship opened their doors. In addition, 7 of the 16 venues formed a designated 'Faith Trail', each representing a different faith. At each of these 7 core venues there was an opportunity to participate in a discussion. See photos from the event here: <http://bristolmultifaithforum.org.uk/galleries/diverse-doors-open-day-2018/>.

If you are involved with a place of worship that would like to participate next year, please do contact us.

We had three 'trail buses' taking visitors on the 'Faith Trail'. The 7 core venues were: Bristol Bahá'í Centre, Amitabha Buddhist Centre, Bristol and West Progressive Synagogue, Bristol Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, Shri Guru Nanak Prakash Singh Sabha Gurdwara (Bristol Sikh Temple), Shah Jalal Jame Mosque and Bristol Hindu Temple.

Our 2018 Information Leaflet gives a full list of all participating venues. You can see it by following this link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cz5kUBBNCIz1vPBpmBE6AzpVsljdg04M/view>

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NATIONAL INTERFAITH WEEK 2018perhaps it is not too early to start thinking about ways in which your Parish may mark this important week(11-17 November) And should you wish to discuss this or any Interfaith matter or have an event to publicise please contact the Interfaith Officer: Carlotta Kramskoy on 07881780457; email carlotta.kramskoy@cliftdiocese.com

Later newsletters will explore the way in which the Church's approach to relations with other faiths has evolved, especially since the Second Vatican Council and the document Nostra Aetate and offer suggestions as to how, as individuals and parishes we might enter into a greater understanding of other faiths whilst sharing ours through dialogue and example. There will also be short articles on other faiths particularly their feasts and practices which should in turn inform and help understanding.

Forthcoming events, courses and conferences will be included in the newsletters as well as advertised on the Interfaith Webpage www.cliftdiocese.com/interfaith

The next Newsletter will be published in September and if there are any items etc.for inclusion please send by email to carlotta.kramskoy@cliftdiocese.com

Wishing everyone a happy and blessed Summer.

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