

# Newsletter

**March 2017**

Keeping you up to date with  
Hounslow Friends of Faith

## Refugees Welcome Hounslow



Progress is being made to welcome up to 10 families from Syria who Hounslow Council have promised to take as part of the Government's grant aided resettlement scheme.

A committee and sub-groups have been set up to look after housing, publicity, a welcoming group, finances and education and employment. LB Hounslow are recruiting a staff member to lead on supporting the families and be the link with the volunteers from the community.

The search is on for properties which could be offered for up to two years. As soon as one is found, a family will be selected by the UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) from long term refugee camps in the region. Families will receive guaranteed housing benefit and there would be no agents' fees to pay.

Do get in touch if you can help with this or in any other way. Contact Alison Tsang, Refugees Welcome Hounslow on [refugeeswelcomehounslow@gmail.com](mailto:refugeeswelcomehounslow@gmail.com) or Tom Gillum on 07825 041432 or email [tom.gillum@london.anglican.org](mailto:tom.gillum@london.anglican.org)

## Women's Discussion Group Outing

Join us on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March at the Victoria and Albert Museum to see the exhibition on Lockwood Kipling: Arts and crafts in the Punjab and London. This tells the story of the life, work and lasting impact of John Lockwood Kipling (1837-1911) artist, teacher, curator and influential figure in the Arts and Crafts movement.

We also hope to visit the Hindu and Jameel Islamic Galleries.

Meet at Hounslow West Tube station 11am or at the V&A main entrance, Cromwell Road, South Kensington SW7 2RL at 12 noon. Bring a snack or tea is available at the V&A cafe.

Admission free. Please let us know you are coming by ringing 07812 833635

## Scriptural Reasoning

Scriptural Reasoning is a way to deepen one's own faith commitment through reflecting on one's scriptures in company of members of other faiths.

The first of what is hoped to be a series of Scriptural Reasoning sessions is taking place on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm at St Peter's Church, Southfield Road, Acton Green W4 1BB. Nearest tube Turnham Green or E3 bus. The theme will be Hospitality. People of all faiths are invited, to share what their faiths say on this topic.

For further details contact Father Pesce on 020 8884 4281 or by email [parishoffice@stpetersactongreen.co.uk](mailto:parishoffice@stpetersactongreen.co.uk)

## **West London Humanists and Secularists**

Two interesting discussions are coming up organised by the West London Humanists and Secularists.

### **1. Transhumanism and Artificial Intelligence**

Will we one day eliminate ageing, faulty memory, diseases, and wayward and unwanted emotions? Could AI (artificial intelligence) change us? Should we do this on moral grounds, even if it became possible? Who would gain and lose in such a future?

Two mini-documentaries will be shown to help guide the discussion.

Thursday March 16th at Ealing Quaker Meeting House, Woodville Road, W5 2SE 7:15 for 7:30 pm.

**2. Gambling, the most addictive drug?** April 20<sup>th</sup>, also at Ealing Quaker Meeting House, 7:15 for 7:30 pm. A session led by Runit Somaiya

## **Change of Clergy in Brentford**

After 21 years in Brentford, Rector Derek Simpson is moving on. A service to bid farewell and thank you is taking place at St Paul's Church, St Paul's Road TW8 0PN on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 11am.

In addition to his role as rector, Derek has also served as Area Dean. HFOF thank Derek for his support and send every good wish for the next step in his ministry.

The parish remains in the care of Team Vicar Oli Douglas-Pennant.

## **Provision for Spiritual Health**

Overall health can be greatly helped if spiritual needs are met. For example, people experiencing a life-changing event may be more resilient and able to deal with their situation in a more positive manner if they have support and opportunities to express their spiritual needs. This may be through traditional faith practices or in other ways.

Hounslow Health Watch are inviting people concerned for this area of provision, both in hospital and in the community, to attend their meeting on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. It takes place at the Civic Centre in Lampton Road, Hounslow and starts at 6pm.

## **An Evening with Eva Schloss Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 4.30pm Whitton**

It is a very significant honour to be hosting a talk offered by Holocaust survivor Eva Schloss, the step-sister to the famous diarist Ann Frank. The event takes place in the Parish Hall of St Philip and St James Church, Vicarage Road, Whitton TW2 7BY.

To book contact Ken Riley Tel: 0208 898 0901 or email: [k.riley209@btinternet.com](mailto:k.riley209@btinternet.com)

Tickets £1 (to cover costs, payable on the door). Eva's own books will be on sale and there will be a retiring collection.

## **Red Nose Day Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

HFOF will be running a stall at the Red Nose Day event at Cranford Community College. This great event for all the community is being run by Heston West Big Local (also known as Heston West Community Partnership) who are

inspiring local people to do great things for the area. The event runs from 5.30 – 7.30pm. Come and check us out!

### **Vaisakhi Procession 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017**

Vaisakhi is a key Sikh festival which commemorates the initiation of the first five members of the brotherhood of the Khalsa on April 13, 1699, a significant date in the development of the faith.

The celebration will start in Hounslow on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April when the Sikh Holy Book, Sri Guru Granth Sahib, which Sikhs consider as the Living Guru, will lead a procession known as Nagar Kirtan. Leaving the Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Alice Way TW3 3UA at 1pm, the route is by way of Hibernia Road, Staines Road, Wellington Road North, Bath Road, Martindale Road and back via Staines Road.

### **Other Celebrations**

Best wishes and greetings to members of all faiths celebrating festivals in March and April. These include among others the Hindu festival of Holi on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March, the Theravedin New Year marked by Buddhists from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Burma, Cambodia and Laos on 11<sup>th</sup> April and the Jewish festival of Passover between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April. Christians celebrate Good Friday and Easter Sunday on 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April after the six week period of Lent.

### **Science and Religion 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

Human questioning of all the dimensions we know e.g. physical, mental, and spiritual is part of our innate nature particularly when we are feeling unsure. How can science and religion help?

A conference to look at fundamental questions such as human identity, meaning, purpose, evidence for the existence of God and God's nature is being arranged for Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at the Zoroastrian Centre, Zartoshty Brothers Hall, 440 Alexandra Avenue, Harrow, HA2 9TL from 3 – 7pm. Nearest tube Rayners Lane.

The event is preceded at 2pm by a talk on the Zoroastrian religion and a tour of centre. It is organised by the World Congress of Faiths.

*Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind - Albert Einstein*

For more information and to book contact [pejman\\_khojasteh@btinternet.com](mailto:pejman_khojasteh@btinternet.com)

### **Places of Worship Security scheme**

Any place of worship wishing to increase their security due to persistent hate crime may like to know that grants are still available through the [Places of Worship: Security Funding Scheme](#) (which leads you to the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website) The next round of funding is expected to commence on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

### **We are on Facebook!**

Hounslow Friends of Faith now have a Facebook Page. You can find us by clicking <https://www.facebook.com/Hounslow-Friends-of-Faith-724712751039387>

Please take a look, 'like' us and tell all your friends. If you would like us to promote any of your events, do send us details or a link and we will hope to promote it on Facebook.

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For further information on these stories: **020 8560 5887 or 07812 833635**  
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