

Newsletter

May 2017

Keeping you up to date with
Hounslow Friends of Faith

General Election

With the date of the General Election set for 8th June, now it the time to encourage everyone to make use of their vote. There are three candidates standing in the Brentford and Isleworth constituency and five in Feltham and Heston.

For information on the candidates see https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20043/elections_and_voting.

Refugees Welcome Hounslow



Refugees Welcome Hounslow is making progress with preparations to welcome up to 10 families from Syria coming to Hounslow borough as part of the Government's Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme.

We are still looking for offers of one or two bedroomed properties which could be rented 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. Each

family will have a support group of volunteers to help them settle in.

A committee has been formed to plan for the arrival of the families and a fundraising drive launched. If you'd like to run an event or make a donation, please contact the treasurer on treasurer.rwh@gmail.com.

For further information on how to get involved contact Refugees Welcome Hounslow on refugeeswelcomehounslow@gmail.com

Refugee Week 19 – 24 June

Refugee Week is the UK's largest festival celebrating the contribution of refugees and promoting understanding of why people seek sanctuary.

Refugee Week 2017 events can be found on <http://refugeeweek.org.uk>.

Walk of Peace and Friendship

Our annual Walk takes place this year on Saturday 1st July. This enjoyable event is our regular chance to visit different places of worship, hear informal talks about faith and share with people from different communities in our richly diverse borough.

We meet at 11am at the Hanuman Hindu Temple in Beech Avenue in Brentford TW8 8NQ. This centre opened officially this year after extensive building and renovation work.

A short bus journey takes us to Gunnersbury and a visit at 1pm to the richly decorated Russian Orthodox

Cathedral in Harvard Road, Chiswick W4 4ED where we will have lunch.

From there the Walk continues to Christ Church, Turnham Green, a lively Anglican church in Town Hall Avenue W4 5UJ at 2.45pm.

The final venue is the London Buddhist Vihara, a Sri Lankan Theravada community in The Avenue in Chiswick W4 1UD at 4pm.

The event is open to all and is free. Voluntary donations are welcome towards the cost of the lunch. If you need help with transport, please let us know on 07812 833635. The number on the day is 07904 105422.

Talk on Sikhism and Christianity 13th July 2017

What can we learn from the leaders of the great religions, even if we are not of that faith? Rev Dr John Parry, a United Reformed Minister, who has studied and lectured on Sikhism for over 30 years is coming to Hounslow to talk on what can be learnt from the teachings of Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th and last spiritual leader and the founder of the Khalsa, the Sikh community.

Dr Parry has written 'The Word of God is not Bound, the encounter of Sikhs and Christians in India and the UK'. He will be talking on this topic on Thursday 13th July at the Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha in Alice Way, Hounslow TW3 3UE at 7pm.

The talk will be preceded at 6.30 pm by the Hounslow Friends of Faith AGM. Food is available in the langar hall from 6pm and light refreshments after the talk.

Visit of Coptic Pope to Hounslow

On his first pastoral visit to this country, His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, 118th Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of Saint Mark, has recently been visiting Coptic Orthodox parishes and meeting with communities across the United Kingdom. He was welcomed at Lambeth Palace by the Archbishop of Canterbury and attended a joint service of evensong with him at Westminster Abbey. He also met the Queen and Prince Charles.

It was therefore a particular delight for the members of St Mary and Pope Kyrillos Coptic Church in Hounslow to welcome Pope Tawadros II to consecrate their new building.

The Pope and other clergy spread the holy oil on the square altar in the sanctuary and each icon was anointed. Ruth Cadbury, (parliamentary candidate and incumbent) and Charanjit Ajit Singh, Chair of Hounslow Friends of Faith made speeches of congratulations.

Welcome to Dave Turtle and Philip Doyle

Sergeant Dave Turtle of the Met Police has taken over as the Faith and Community Engagement Officer for the borough, following the retirement of PC Karmi Rekhi. He is based at Hounslow Police Station.

Dave will be visiting places of worship to introduce himself. He sees his priorities as encouraging reporting of even minor crimes to the police whether it be anti-social behaviour inside or outside the faith building, petty crime or more serious incidents such as hate crime against members of the congregation or

child sexual exploitation. If you have any concerns about crime, security or community tensions, or are planning a festival where large numbers of people are expected, he will be very pleased to discuss any issues and offer advice. He can be contacted by email on Dave.C.Turtle@met.pnn.police.uk or on 07818 640577.

Another new appointment in the borough is Philip Doyle, Community Engagement Coordinator, based in the Community Partnerships Unit at Hounslow Civic Centre. His role is to support good community relations in the borough. He will be looking to source funding that faith and community groups can access and is keen to work with groups to identify possible projects and help them make bids.

Contact Philip on philip.doyle@hounslow.gov.uk or by phone: 020 8583 2410 or 07973 76624

Looking After One another

The recent dreadful attack in Manchester reminds us of the continued need to nurture the links that already exist between the faith communities in the borough of Hounslow and across the UK. Even where good relations exist, there is always the possibility that an outrage may still take place, and when that occurs, faith groups can demonstrate their support for each other.

A short booklet *Looking After One Another: The Safety and Security of our Faith Communities* has recently been published which offers advice and guidance. It was put together by the Inter Faith Network for the UK in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Home Office, the Crown Prosecution

Service, the National Police Chiefs' Council and the National Fire Chiefs' Council. It can be downloaded <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/uploads/Looking After One Another - The safety and security of our faith communities.pdf>. For a printed copy contact IFNet@interfaith.org.uk or ring 020 7730 0410.

The Great Get Together – Friday 16 to Sunday 18 June

On the weekend of 16-18 June, the anniversary weekend of the murder of Jo Cox MP, the Jo Cox Foundation is organising what it hopes will be the biggest street party since the Jubilee: The Great Get Together.

Organisers say “Jo’s killing was meant to divide us and we think the best response is to show how united we are. We believe there is a groundswell of people who reject divisive politics and simply want to bring our communities together and celebrate all that unites us. This is our chance.” Their hope is that this weekend of community events will demonstrate how united people are.

The events are being supported by the Big Lunch, the Big Iftar, the Eden Project, the Inter Faith Network for the UK, the Church Urban Fund, and others.

If you are a faith organisation interested in getting involved here are just a few ideas that you might like to consider:

- Encourage your members to get involved or plan an event
- Open your church, gurdwara, mandir, mosque, synagogue, temple, vihara or other place of worship, inviting in people of different faiths and beliefs

- Hold a special Great Get Together breakfast, lunch, or supper for guests of different backgrounds
- If you're fasting for Ramadan you could hold an interfaith Iftar
- Take part in other Great Get Together events near you – meals, sports events, bake-offs, and more.

For those living in Brentford, a picnic is already planned on Saturday 17th June in St Paul's Recreation Ground in Brentford, organised by the Friends of the park. Bring your own food, a blanket to sit on and meet your neighbours and friends for a chance to remind ourselves of what we all have in common and share what we love about where we live.

Your event can be held at any time over the three days. For further information and to take part, visit pledge.greatgettogether.org to order an information pack. You can also email Mike Buckley at the Jo Cox Foundation (mike@moreincommon.co).

Call for Foster Parents

Fostering means caring for a child or children who, for whatever reason, cannot live with their own family and offering them a secure home. It can be for just a few days, a few months or sometimes until they are ready to live independently. By offering your time and your care you can give children the time, space and the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

Hounslow has more than 320 children and young people in care and is currently looking for foster carers from all backgrounds to join their team.

As an approved foster carer the London Borough of Hounslow will offer:

- *A generous allowance of up to £868.60 per fortnight, per child.*
- *Professional specialist training*
- *Specialist support packages*
- *24 hour support*
- *Dedicated Social Worker to provide practical advice*

If you have a spare room and are interested in helping keep vulnerable children's lives on track, please call our friendly team on 0800 731 8558. Or come along to our next Fostering Information Event. on Tuesday 20 June 2017 10am – 11.30am, Civic Centre, Lampton Rd, Committee Room 3

Clinical Commissioning Group AGM

The NHS Hounslow Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is the GP-led organisation responsible for providing health services for residents of Hounslow.

It is made up of 51 GP practices serving a registered patient population of 305,626. The Group aims to improve the care provided to patients, reduce health inequalities and raise the quality and standards of GP practices.

The AGM takes place on Wednesday 21 June 2017 12.30pm – 2.30pm and is open to the public. The venue is the Debenture Lounge, (Harlequins) Twickenham Stoop Stadium (next to Richmond College) Langhorn Drive, Twickenham, TW2 7SX. Light refreshments available.

To attend RSVP by email to HOUCCG.communications@nhs.net or ring 020 8583 2393. Use these details to submit a question, or write to Hounslow CCG, Green Zone, Ground Floor, Civic Centre, Lampton Road, TW3 4DN. Submit any questions 48 hours in advance.

Refugee tales

Refugee Tales promotes positive messages about refugees and looks to end the practice of the indefinite detention of asylum seekers in the UK. A group of campaigners will be walking from Runnymede to Westminster to raise awareness over 1 – 5th July.

They will be arriving in Brentford on Monday 3rd July when there will be a music and storytelling event at Brentford Free Church, Boston Manor Road, TW8 8DW at 7pm.

More details about the event and the walk can be found at www.refugeetales.org, on Twitter @RefugeeTales or on Facebook: The Refugee Tales.

Women's Discussion Group

Hounslow Friends of Faiths' Women's Discussion Group met on 3rd May for an interactive discussion by the Mulberry Centre on cancer in general with emphasis on breast cancer. The meeting was very well attended by approximately 20 women.

The talk consisted of an introduction to the Mulberry Centre, a presentation on reducing the risk factors for cancer, spotting the signs and symptoms, a breast awareness workshop and a summary followed by questions and discussion. The feedback by attendees was excellent and HFOF plans further

work with other faith communities in partnership with the Mulberry Centre. The next meeting of the group is planned for June. See HFOF website for details.

Change of personnel in Isleworth

Rev Tom Gillum is leaving St John's and St Marys Church in Isleworth at the end of June for a new parish in Nottingham. In addition to his church duties, Tom has been serving as Vice Chair of Hounslow Friends of Faith and has been the inspiration behind Refugees Welcome Hounslow. HFOF is most grateful for Tom's interest and support and wishes him and his wife all the very best for his new parish.

Rev Dave Maclure will be inducted as the new vicar. Dave is well known in the parish already where he has been working as curate.

Religious Festivals

Best wishes to our Muslim colleagues as they begin the holy month of Ramadan on 27th May. Ramadan Mubarak!

16th June is the Martyrdom Day of Guru Arjan, the 5th Guru, who built the Harimandir Sahib, known as the Golden Temple and compiled the Sikh scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib. He gave his life for religious freedom.

During June, Christians celebrate Pentecost and Trinity Sunday.

For further information on these stories: **020 8560 5887 or 07812 833635**
info@hounslowfriendsoffaitth.org
www.hounslowfriendsoffaitth.org or follow us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/Hounslow-Friends-of-Faith-724712751039387>