

# Newsletter

**September 2017**

Keeping you up to date with  
Hounslow Friends of Faith

## Attack at Parsons Green

Following the attack on a tube train at Parsons Green on 15<sup>th</sup> September, Hounslow Police were quick to promise extra patrols and offer advice to stay alert, but calm.

Our thoughts and prayers go to all affected. We must all continue to work for good relations between people of all backgrounds and seek to engage with those who do not feel part of our society.

## Best wishes for autumn festivals

Eid Mubarak to our Muslim friends for Eid al Adha which symbolises Ibrahim (Abraham)'s willingness to sacrifice his son as a sign of devotion to God. This took place this year earlier this month.

The 10 day Hindu festival of Navratri is being celebrated locally every evening at Feltham Assembly Hall, between 21<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September and also at events at the other two Hindu temples locally.

There are a number of Jewish festivals which fall at this time of year. The most significant are Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashana, on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September and the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Best wishes to our friends celebrating them.

Many churches celebrate harvest at this time of year with a special service and a meal. Heston Churches are getting together and having a joint harvest

supper at the United Reformed Church (URC) in Vicarage Farm Road on 29<sup>th</sup> of the month. See the websites of your nearest church for one in your area.

Diwali will be celebrated this year on 19<sup>th</sup> October. On the same day is the Sikh festival of freedom Bandi Chhor Divas. Guru Nanak's Birthday is a major festival for all Sikhs on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

The bicentenary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í faith is being celebrated locally and nationally on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

## Refugees Welcome Hounslow

The next general meeting of Refugees Welcome Hounslow is on Monday October 9<sup>th</sup> in the new wing of Hounslow Jamia Mosque, Wellington Road South, TW4 5HU at 7.30pm. All welcome to come and hear the latest update. It is still hoped to welcome families this autumn. Also on the agenda will be a constitution for the group.

There is a training session planned for be-frienders to hear about the background of the families and what to expect when they arrive. It takes place on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September at Hounslow Civic Centre in Lampton Road TW3 4DN from 1 – 3pm. Email [refugeeswelcomehounslow@gmail.com](mailto:refugeeswelcomehounslow@gmail.com) if you'd like to attend.

Meanwhile there is still a need for offers of two bedroomed properties which could be rented for up to two years. For information on how to get involved contact Refugees Welcome Hounslow on the email above.

If you'd like to run a fundraising event or make a donation, please contact the treasurer on [treasurer.rwh@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.rwh@gmail.com).

## **Faiths Consultative Group**

The second meeting of the Faiths Consultative Group set up by Sgt Dave Turtle, Faith and Community Engagement Officer at Hounslow Police took place at Holy Trinity Church Hounslow on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

There was a presentation from the NSPCC on the new and successful 'Pants' guide for parents and carers to simple conversations with children about keeping them safe. For more information see [www.nspcc.org.uk/pants](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/pants). Faith groups are encouraged to publicise this guide to their members, as well as ensuring their own safeguarding procedures are up to date. Sexual abuse of children can take place in any walk of life including religious settings.

Hounslow Commander of Police Raj Kohli brought the meeting up to date with the new policing arrangements at local neighbourhood level and regionally in west London. There will be consultation meetings on the proposed reduction in 24 hour police stations to just one in Hounslow. Many more crimes are being reported on line so attendance at a station is already much reduced. Police are having to restrict their activities to core work. They can still advise on crime prevention and security. Contact Dave Turtle on 07867 165715.

There is a new fund for improved security measures at places of worship. For more details get in touch with Philip Doyle on [Philip.Doyle@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.Doyle@hounslow.gov.uk) tel 020 8583 2410.

Police are for the present no longer able to provide assistance for religious processions. Faith groups can send members on a training course for traffic management which could be a good investment for cutting costs in the longer term.

The next meeting of the Group is in January when there will be a presentation on Emergency Planning and how faith communities can help. If you have any issues you would like raised at the meeting, please get in touch with Dave Turtle, number above.

## **Cake, Coffee and a Giggle – raising money for Macmillan Cancer Care**

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September sees Tahira Malik hosting a coffee morning at Hounslow Jamia Mosque, Wellington Road TW4 5HU at 10am in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care. All welcome to drop in.

That day hundreds of individuals, faith groups and work settings are taking part in this national campaign.

See <https://coffee.macmillan.org.uk> for Tahira's event and others locally.

## **Women's Group**

The Women's Group has been busy. Over 25 adults and children enjoyed the sunshine at a Group picnic in Osterley Park in August when the chat flowed and food was shared. There was a request to make this an annual event.

This month several members joined Feltham Evangelical Church's Women's Group to hear three members talk about what has inspired them in their faith. Having a right relationship with God seemed to be the core.

The next meeting of the group is on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 7pm at the same venue. A Muslim, a Quaker and a Sikh mother and daughter will share what their faith means to them. The church is in Manor Lane, TW13 4JQ. Open to all women of whatever faith or none, willing to meet and share together. Ring 07931 944790 for more details.

### **Bringing communities together to celebrate diversity**

A multi-faith event for diversity and against hate is taking place at Montague Hall, Hounslow TW3 1LD during Hate Crime Awareness Week.

Hate crime is harassment and abuse, verbal, physical or online of people just for being who they are – whether because of their race, faith, gender, age or sexual orientation.

16 – 21<sup>st</sup> October has been designated Hate Crime Prevention Week to highlight the issue and encourage reporting of every incident, however small.

The event is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October between 10.30am and 1pm. There will be messages of support from faith leaders and the police as well as music and dance performances. Refreshments and lunch are provided.

### **Sewa Day 1<sup>st</sup> October**

Sewa Day is the annual Hindu led day of volunteering when people contribute their time rather than money to do good in the community.

Projects taking place locally include

- 1) Tree planting in Surrey
- 2) Organ/Blood Donation Register – Collection of names from the Indian community to increase awareness
- 3) Food Bank Collection at local ASDA
- 4) Care home visit
- 5) Burnham Beeches - Log cutting and general clean up
- 6) Temple Clean up - Feltham Hare Krishna Temple

If you would like to join in with any of these, please contact us at HFOF on 07812 833635.

### **Hope for Peace in an Insecure World**

A century after the First World War, there is still a continuing need for justice, security and peace. Chiswick Churches Justice and Peace Group are holding their next annual public meeting to look at these issues on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October.

Speakers include journalist Peter Osborne, with thoughts on today's war zones and Celia McKeon of the Ammerdown Group with an alternative view of how nations can achieve security in a violent world.

The event takes place at Christ Church Turnham Green W4 5DT starting at 7.30pm

### **Joint Services Day**

Hounslow Friends of Faith was pleased to support the fun day in Thornbury Park in Isleworth on 9<sup>th</sup> September. Organised to promote the Police, Fire and other public services who serve the community, it provided information and fun for 2000 local people.

Children enjoyed making our doves of peace and our gazebo provided shelter from the showers.

Thanks to the HFOF members who helped run the stall and to the places of worship who provided posters about their groups and faiths.

### **Welcome to two new church leaders**

Dave Maclure will be installed as the new vicar of St John's and St Mary's Church in Isleworth on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Dave is already well known in the parish where he has served as curate.

Welcome also to Claire Clarke who is coming to St Paul's Hounslow West as their new vicar in place of Libby Etherington who moved away in the summer.

HFOF sends best wishes to both Dave and Claire and to any other faith leader new to Hounslow borough this autumn.

### **Near Neighbours**

Near Neighbours is a government sponsored fund which provides easy-to-access grants for grassroots community organisations in diverse areas of the UK.

Small grants of up to £5000 are available for projects which bring together religiously and culturally diverse communities.

Applicants apply through local organiser Elizabeth Fewkes who can meet up with community groups to discuss ideas on what they could do or help them to fill in their application.

If you have seen a local need and would like advice on how to apply for funds to tackle it with the help of other local volunteers, contact Elizabeth on 07913 291110 or by email on [efewkes@kingscentresouthall.org.uk](mailto:efewkes@kingscentresouthall.org.uk). More information can be found on [www.near-neighbours.org.uk](http://www.near-neighbours.org.uk). Deadline for this latest round of grants is 17<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Dates for your diary – Interfaith Week**

Inter Faith Week takes place this year between 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November. Because of the concern for refugees and asylum seekers which has led to the setting up of Refugees Welcome Hounslow (RWH), HFOF is pleased to support two performances of the play The Bundle at

Brentford and Isleworth Quaker Meeting House which deals with the issue of asylum seekers as they seek sanctuary in the UK.

The performance takes place at 7pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and 2pm on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November at the Quaker Meeting House, Quakers Lane, London Road, Isleworth TW7 5AZ. Admission is free, but places must be booked through Eventbrite – search for Journeymen.

Anyone without access to the internet can ring 07812 833635. Donations are invited for RWH.

### **Knitting Group**

The next sessions of the Interfaith Knitting Group takes place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> November at St Mary's Church Hall (the Windsor Room) in Church Street in Twickenham at 10.30am. At the last meeting earlier this month, a large blanket of squares was completed. It will be sold and the proceeds donated to the fund for victims of the Grenfell Tower fire.

After that it's on to jumpers for children or hats and scarves for anyone which are distributed by the Riverside Vineyard Church Storehouse project in Feltham.

For more information ring Barbara on 020 8892 1731.

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