



Hounslow Friends of Faith Newsletter



People of faith, working together for harmony in Hounslow

This is the first Hounslow Friends of Faith (HFOF) newsletter in 12 years not to be edited by Bessie White, who has given such inspiring energy and dedication to her role not just with the newsletter, but also as point of contact for the HFOF. A truly remarkable example to follow for all conscientious people serving their communities.

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To briefly explain the minor alterations to the newsletter layout, this section you are reading now will be dedicated to messages we wish to circulate that are not related to any particular day or event programme.

Following that will be the familiar chronological list of community events in Hounslow.

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Hate crimes in Hounslow seem to have increased sharply compared to recent years. Please remain vigilant and proactive about reporting these incidents to the authorities whether in the domestic or the public space. Faith premises, NHS frontline service staff, and public transport staff are particularly affected. CCTV installations and greeters at the entrances to open-door faith premises will help.

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“Hounslow Giving” is a new programme set up by the local voluntary sector to especially encourage small and medium-size businesses to donate and support civil society and local government initiatives, and to improve networking opportunities. The scheme launches in April 2019.

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Refugees Welcome Hounslow (RWH) will in the next few months welcome the 9th out of 10 displaced households to arrive in our Borough from the Syrian conflict.

If you would like to help support RWH, please contact them, especially with donation items for the households, with 2-bedroom flats to rent out to refugees via Hounslow Council, or organising experience (e.g. communications, social media, graphics, and photography).

RWH was an initiative of HFOF, that now operates independently, with two HFOF Committee members serving on the RWH Executive Committee.

refugeeswelcomehounslow@gmail.com

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If you have spaces in your organisation's premises that can be rented out for meetings and other community gatherings, please do contact Áine Hayes. A public online resource advertisement and management portal is being prepared for community use.

aine.hayes@hounslow.gov.uk

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Bandi Chhor Diwas

Both the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara on Alice Way, and the Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha Gurdwara on Martindale Road, will be hosting celebrations on 7 November this year. This continues the venerable tradition of coincidental celebration of this Sikh Day of Liberation with the Hindu festival of Diwali that falls on the same day.

Diwali and Hindu New Year Celebration

The Festival of Lights on 7 November this year is followed by the Hindu New Year the day after. Come along to the Hanuman Temple on Beech Avenue in Brentford between 12 noon and 8pm on Thursday 8 November for a joint celebration of both occasions, with free vegan food provided.

“This Evil Thing” One-Man Play

On Friday 9 November, actor and playwright Michael Mears brings his one-man play entitled *This Evil Thing* to Hounslow.

Brentford & Isleworth Quaker Meeting House on Quaker Lane will host this play about conscientious objectors in World War 1. It tells the compelling, shocking, and inspiring story of the men who said no to war, and what they suffered for their principled stand, one often inspired by their faith.

For more details contact:

clerk@brentfordandisleworthquakers.org.uk

Inter Faith Week 2018

This crucial time of year for solidarity and dialogue between faith and belief groups is nearly upon us once again, it falls between 11 and 18 November this year, and Hounslow has plenty to offer in that respect for everyone to enjoy.

London Buddhist Vihara interfaith day

On Saturday 10 November, at 4:30pm for a 5pm start, join representatives of several religious communities for this opportunity for celebration and reflection on the theme: Peace and Reconciliation in Society.

This is a time to strengthen our relations, share experiences, and foster understanding between people of different religious and non-religious backgrounds.

London Buddhist Vihara is a founding member of the Inter Faith Network, the executive director of which, Dr Harriet Crabtree, will be the keynote speaker. The evening will include a panel discussion as well as audience participation with time for questions and discussion.

Refreshments will be served. All welcome.

Church service on Remembrance Sunday

Join us outside Holy Trinity Church in Hounslow High Street, near the Police Station at 10:30am on Sunday 11 November to jointly reflect on the contributions of people worldwide in many conflicts.

World Congress of Faiths

Younghusband Lecture 2018

Dr Chetna Kang will be delivering this World Congress of Faiths (WCF) lecture on “People in Pigeonholes: the impact on faith relations” on 13 November. She will explore how identities and belonging can bring people together or keep them apart.

Dr Kang is a consultant psychiatrist, broadcaster, and priest in the Hindu tradition of Bhakti Yoga. She is on the Executive Committee for the Spirituality in Psychiatry group of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, as well as serving on their Public Engagement Editorial Board for that Royal College.

She features regularly on BBC Radio Four’s Thought for the Day and Beyond Belief broadcasts.

Montagu Centre
21 Maple Street
W1T 4BE

This event is free to attend. Suggested donations to WCF are very welcome.

Book using this link:

www.wcf-yhl2018.eventbrite.co.uk

Guru Nanak's birthday

Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha Gurdwara will be hosting five continuous recitations of the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scripture, from 13 November to the anniversary of Guru Nanak's birth on 23 November. On that anniversary day, all are invited to come and go from morning till the evening and spend as much or as little time as they wish during the service and partake of langar (free community vegetarian meal service). Most Gurdwaras do a three day reading of the Scripture starting two days before the actual festival.

West Thames College Interfaith Exhibition

On 14 November 12:20pm - 2pm in the atrium of the College, the Student Experience team will be hosting a celebration of the diverse beliefs and faith traditions in Hounslow. Hear from representatives of different belief and faith groups and browse their exhibitions and learn about what activities represent their communities. No prior booking required.

“Let's Talk” about humanity and trust within communities

Richmond Inter Faith Forum are running a dialogue event on 14 November 7pm-9pm to which all are welcome. Mayor Ben Khosa will open the event.

The aim of this event is to discuss what it means to be human, and the perceptions of trust and solidarity between those living in a community, with the aim being to contribute towards greater intergroup harmony. Refreshments will be provided. The venue will be Clarendon Hall, York House, Twickenham.

RSVP by 8 November to:
Eleni
eleni.ioannou@richmond.gov.uk
020 8487 5236

“Faith in Prisons” talk

Bharti Taylor, Hindu Chaplain at Bronzefield and Send Women's Prisons, will be hosted by HFOF at Hanuman Hindu Temple and Sri Datta Yoga Centre. She will be speaking to us on how those imprisoned can benefit, and unfortunately be sidetracked, by faith experiences in times of vulnerability, confusion, fear, and anger.

Join us for the talk and complimentary refreshments on Thursday 15 November 7pm.

RSVP to: info@hounslowfriendsoffaith.org or 0792 8345 959

“Understanding Islam – the Basics” Study Day

Dr Chris Hewer is running these in two sessions on 20 November 2018 at the Kingston Civic Centre, the day will last from 9:30am to 4:30pm. Booking is essential as numbers are limited.

Book with Diana:
dianamills@phonecoop.coop
020 8948 3276
0780 4866 349

Hanukkah 2018

This eight-night-and-eight-day Jewish Festival of Lights, the Feast of Dedication, will be celebrated by Jews starting at nightfall on 2 December this year, and run until nightfall on 10 December.

SACRE lecture

This lecture on Religious Education in our Borough will be delivered by Seema Malhotra MP in the Council Chamber of Hounslow Civic Centre at 6:30pm on 17 January 2019.

Holocaust Memorial Event

Save the date near the end of January 2019, likely to be on the morning of 28 January, but this will be confirmed in due course.

We provide hyperlinks to the relevant organisation/event web page in each case wherever possible, please check these for full details before attending/RSVPing to an event listed in this newsletter. This is especially important for respecting food, dress, and behaviour codes that differ between faith and belief traditions and between premises. Thank you for your consideration.

Newsletter Editor:

Alavari Jeevathol

0750 0046 605

aj.clhumanists@gmail.com

HFOF Secretary

Barbara McIntivey

0792 8345 959

info@hounslowfriendsofffaith.org