

HOUNSLOW FRIENDS OF FAITH

Newsletter April ~ May 2021

The death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Following the sad news about the death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, The Rt Revd Jonathan Clark and Narendra Waghela, Co-Chairs of **Inter Faith Network for the UK** issued this statement:

On behalf of the Board of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, we express our great sadness at the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and extend our deepest sympathies to Her Majesty The Queen and to the Royal Family.

The tributes from those of many faiths that are being shared are a testimony to the wide appreciation among the UK's faith communities of his life of service and the significance of faith within that. Among Prince Philip's many achievements through the years has been the consistent encouragement of inter faith dialogue – both through the conversations and conferences at St George's House Windsor and through foresighted initiatives focusing on issues such as faith and international business ethics and religion and the environment.

We express our great gratitude for the significant contribution of Prince Philip to the development of inter faith understanding and cooperation for the common good: one that is of ever greater importance in our increasingly diverse society and interconnected world.



The Duke of Edinburgh with religious leaders at the interfaith summit in Assisi, Italy, 1986
CREDIT: Giulio Broglio/AP

Future HFOF Events

As the possibility of in person activities is still uncertain the HFOF trustees have decided to explore a virtual *Walk of Peace and Friendship* around local places of worship this year, more details later.

On **Wednesday 21st July 2021 from 7pm** there will be a virtual **HFOF AGM**. Following business matters there will be a speaker from the Zoroastrian community.

Another Interfaith Event

Thursday 29th April 6 – 8pm



Angaangaq
Angakkorsuaq



Saffet A. Catovic



Partha Dasgupta



Kusumita P.
Pedersen



Rita D. Sherma



Charanjit Singh



Moderated by
Alan Race

Thursday, April 29th via Zoom
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM UK Time

You are invited to join this webinar organised by the World Congress of Faiths and the Parliament of the World's Religions. It tackles questions about the wider issues of sustainability and the future of Earth's eco systems. Also addressed is the fundamental issue of our spiritual relationship underpinning our human responsibility for one another, the care of the planet and its community of life.

This collaborative seminar will explore the shared contributions that religious traditions can make toward healing the natural world by ensuring environmental sustainability and a vision of inclusive justice for all the peoples of our island home. There are four traditions plus a contribution from an economic perspective.

HFOF Chair, Charanjit Ajit Singh, is one of the speakers.

Register early by clicking on the link

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5BK5HPTwRQewkO0otr2qrg

More details at worldfaiths.org/events

Past Events

Report on a Virtual Prevent Event for Hounslow Community and Faith Establishments

This was held on **Wednesday 3rd March** entitled: ***Understanding current radicalisation patterns***

Councillor Katherine Dunne, Cabinet Member for Communities and Climate Emergency gave a welcome and set the scene for the event. She said those who felt disengaged with society looked for a sense of purpose and belonging elsewhere. It is important to recognise the issue and build partnerships and resilience.

Chief Inspector Andrew Deane, new in his role at Counter Terrorism Command, (SO15) said that within the 32 London Boroughs there are 1600 specialist Prevent police officers and staff. The current terrorist threat is at present *substantial* down from *severe*. There is an independent Counter Terrorism Advisory group.

He emphasised the need to speak positively about Prevent and counter misleading stories. If the police are notified early about a vulnerable young person who is possibly at risk from radicalisation, then with help from different agencies and working with his/her family there can be a successful outcome. **Prevent Advice Line: 0800 0113 764** or **ireport App** for reporting extreme online content

Dr Alyas Karmani, a psychologist working with the West London Initiative, spoke about a Special Educational Needs (SEN) project which began in Hounslow. Those with SEN are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and grooming including those with Aspergers, Autism and obsessive conditions. There is a crisis with 1 in 4 UK young people feeling 'unable to cope' in the pandemic, with BAME children most vulnerable. The project works with SEN providers and families to help them recognise who is at risk and so enable early intervention.

Dr Anthony Salla, a psychiatrist with the West London Initiative, added that all SEN schools need a Prevent policy.

Shafiq Rehman is General Secretary of Hounslow Jamia Masjid which is the largest mosque in West London which in normal times has 5,000 people visit every week. He said Terrorism is about influence, intimidation and recruiting to an ideology. Prevent actions can at times stigmatise Islam and cause mistrust when it seems that Prevent is spying on the Muslim community. Shafiq suggested the following:

1. Perceptions and fears about Islam need to be changed.
2. Information readily available to end ignorance about Isis.
3. Accountability required for social media's damaging messaging about Islam.

Revd Barbara McIntivey, secretary of Hounslow Friends of Faith, said that Prevent was about safeguarding vulnerable young people from being radicalised and as a result safeguarding the community. HFOF seeks to safeguard community cohesion through its aims which are to:

- Promote contact and good relations between people of different faiths and beliefs
- Increase knowledge and understanding about faiths
- Support equality and diversity

HFOF's strength is in the many relationships built up across faith communities, schools and colleges, the council, local MPs and the police over the past 20 years. Its weakness is that those who attend HFOF events and activities are those who already support the aims.

There was to be a discussion on how interfaith dialogue and actions can be adopted around issues such as radicalisation and terrorist attacks and how these can make a difference locally. As the programme was running late it was agreed that any discussion could be included in the Q&A panel at the end of the meeting if there was time.

Home Office Prevent Team: Nimisha Green, Head of Local Delivery and Communities, said that over 3,000 people have been helped, of those 49% were right wing extremists and 30% Daesh/Al Qua'ida.

Frances Dickman, of the Knowledge Hub – ideologies and propaganda stated that 2014 – 2017 **Daesh/Isis/Isil** terrorist propaganda encouraged potential converts to travel abroad to help build the Caliphate. When the Caliphate fight failed in 2017 terrorist acts were encouraged in the West via online sites.

Right wing terrorism is anti-establishment, counter jihad, indentitarist and white supremacist. QAon is concerned with the conspiracy theory that there is a global elite. Other reasons for terrorist acts eg school massacres are often due to Mental Health problems.

Connect Futures, is an organisation commissioned to deliver a project tackling Far Right Extremism and Extreme Right Wing groups. These groups may be Neo Nazi, Fascist or mixed ideologies. Director of Connect Futures, **Zubeda Limbada**, explained the organisation trains 'trainers' to promote resilience in countering propaganda through talking to teachers, interfaith communities and giving practice in debate and argument.

As the meeting had run over the time, the Chair of London Prevent Board, **Niall Bolger**, made a brief closing statement saying that there needs to be a general openness to dialogue. The London Prevent Board works with local governments. Young people affected by the pandemic are included in the recovery plan of the Council. It is the hope that all working in community and faith organisations know what support is available locally and nationally and most of all understand 'what is to come' once Covid-19 lockdown ceases.

Thanks go to the Hounslow Prevent Team: Joan Conlon, Karmi Rekhi and Najeeb Ahmed for organising the event which was interesting, challenging and full of information. It is a disturbing subject but one relevant to Hounslow Friends of Faith and it was good to see a good number of HFOF members among the over forty people who attended.

A Women's Interfaith Virtual Meeting was organised by the women of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, Hounslow South at 11am on **Saturday 27th March** which was attended by some members of HFOF. It was entitled: *Religion Empowering Women*. The forty three who attended heard short talks on the theme from Barbara McIntivey a Christian; Ruann Raja a Buddhist; Charanjit AjitSingh a Sikh; Shahin Bekhradn a Zoroastrian and Nida Salat a Muslim. It was a most interesting morning which ended with a fun quiz.

HOUNSLOW PUSHDOCTOR for information about this new free GP service go to:

<https://www.pushdoctor.co.uk/how-it-works> where you can find out more about the service, including how to register and how to book a video consultation appointment and also if your own GP practice has opted into the scheme.

If at any stage someone needs assistance in setting up his or her account or is experiencing any difficulty, the Push Doctor customer experience team is available to assist. The team is available Monday to Friday between 8am - 8pm, and at weekends between 9am - 4pm.

You can send an email to support@pushdoctor.co.uk or speak with the team on 0330 808 4702. Visit www.pushdoctor.co.uk/contact-us for further details.

The service is part of a longer-term plan to increase General Practice access in Hounslow.

A New Inter Faith Teaching Resource for Secondary Schools

The Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN) has launched a new, free to download, resource for secondary schools to help in teaching about inter faith encounter, dialogue and action in the UK. Packed with real life examples and hyperlinks the resource enables teachers to construct a learning journey for their pupils to contribute to their understanding of the place of faith and the importance of cooperation in building a better society for all. The resource can be found here: <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/inter-faith-activity-in-the-uk-a-teacher-resource-for-secondary-pupils>

This resource was developed in consultation with the member bodies of IFN, including the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, National Association of Standing Advisory Councils of Religious Education (NASACRE) and the Welsh Association of SACREs (WASACRE), Interfaith Council for Wales/Cyngor Rhyngffydd Cymru, Interfaith Scotland, the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum and with input from a number of schools.

The earlier primary resources can be found

at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/learning-about-inter-faith-activity-a-primary-resource>

WEST AREA POLICE RECRUITMENT

There have been significant changes recently in recruiting new police officers and in the routes available into their new careers. There is now a PC Constable Degree Apprenticeship and also a Degree Holder Entry Programme. It is hoped to improve the number of people recruited from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities and people from various faiths in order to help shape the face of the Metropolitan police into a more diverse and inclusive workforce.

The role of a police officer is a varied and often challenging role, but one that offers moments of joy and a sense of achievement. No two days are the same and policing offers a great way of challenging abilities, experiences and knowledge. One of the best ways in which the service can improve is by encouraging more people from within local communities to join.

Grace Bernard-Broadneck is the West Area Outreach Recruitment Lead. Grace is the point of contact for people who are interested in exploring what is required in the recruitment process and finding out information about the new entry programmes. Recruitment sessions and webinars will be available in the near future but in the meantime please contact Grace on the following email: Grace.Bernard-Broadneck@met.police.uk

PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide

SP-OT - Suicide Prevention - Overview Zoom Tutorial: Thursday 6th May 10am-11.30am

What EVERYONE needs to know

Key Objectives:

- To understand the prevalence and impact of suicide.
- To explore the language, and the challenges, when talking openly about suicide.
- To recognise the 'signs' that may indicate someone is having thoughts of suicide
- To consider how we can all contribute to a suicide safer community.

LINK TO BOOK: <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/shop/training-event/sp-ot/sp-ot-suicide-prevention-for-faith-groups/>

Numbers limited to 2 spaces per organisation. More details from Community Development Officer for London Hannah.opie@papyrus-uk.org 073848 15499

Faith in Safeguarding Free On-line Training

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) is delighted to be working with *Strengthening Faith Institutions* to support faith groups and places of worship with a comprehensive certification in safeguarding. Faith based Trustees, senior managers, volunteers, teachers, safeguarding leads and clergy are invited on these courses.

Safeguarding Children - the role of faith institutions

Tuesday 13th April 1pm - 2:30pm Click [HERE](#) to register

Safeguarding Adults - the role of faith institutions

Tuesday 20th April 2 pm - 3:30 pm Click [HERE](#) to register

Best wishes to all those who will be observing days of special significance

April

12th–11th May **Muslim: Ramadan** month of fasting expected to begin.

13th-14th **Vaisakhi/Baisakhi** is a Harvest Festival and New Year celebration. **Sikhs** (14th) remember the founding of the Order of the Khalsa in 1699 by the tenth Guru, Gobind Singh.

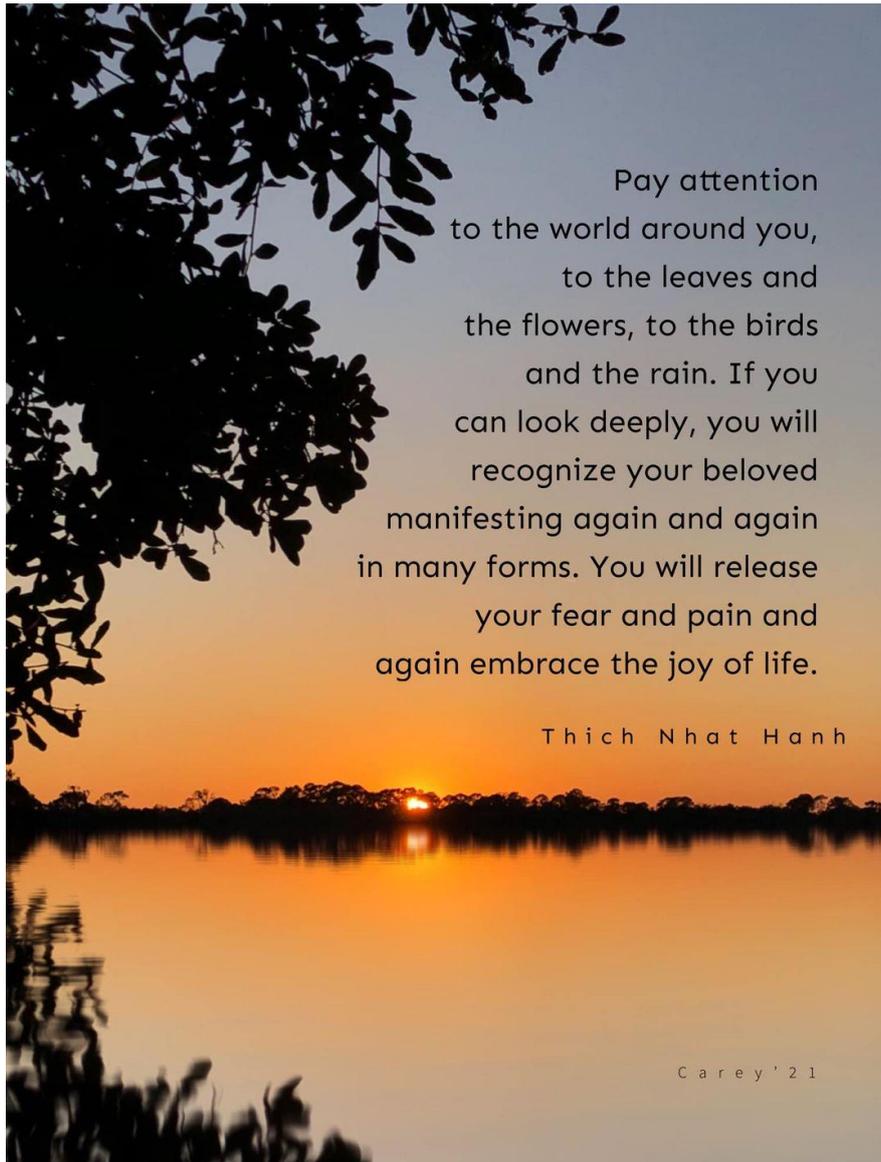
13th – 15th **Buddhist: Songkran** - New Year's Day festival

April

- 20th April -1st May **Baha'i: Ridvan** Baha'u'llah declared himself the Promised One. The time Baha'is elect their local, national and international governing bodies.
- 21st **Zoroastrian: Adar Mah Parab** celebration of the birthday of fire. Zoroastrians visit the fire temple to give thanks for its warmth and light.
- 21st **Hindu: Rama Navami** -the birthday of Rama
- 23rd **St Georges Day** – Patron saint of England
- 25th **Jain: Mahavir Jayanti** The birthday of the last Tirthankara, or great teacher and model of the Jainas.
- 26-27th **Hindu: Birthday of Hanuman**
- 30th **Jewish: Lag B'Omer** The *Omer lasts* 49 days from Pesach to Shavuot. A time of sadness, it is relieved on the 33rd day. It recalls the end of a plague in Roman times.
- 2nd **Orthodox Christian / Rastafarian: Pascha / Easter**
- 8th **Muslim: Lailat-ul-Qadr** - Night of Power
- 12th-15th **Muslim: Eid-ul-Fitr** - once the fast of Ramadan has been completed it is a time for making gifts to the poor and families gathering together. The community assembles for Eid prayer and a sermon at its mosques.
- 13th **Christian: Ascension Day** the returning of the risen Jesus into heaven

May

- 1st **Sikh: 400th birth anniversary of the 9th Sikh Guru, Tegh Bahadur**, who sacrificed his life for other faiths.
- 17th-18th **Jewish: Shavuot** marks the wheat harvest in Israel and it commemorates the anniversary of the day when God gave the Torah to the nation of Israel.
- 23rd **Zoroastrian: Zaratosht no-Diso** is a commemoration of the death of the prophet Zoroaster.
- 23rd **Baha'i: Anniversary of the Declaration of the Bab.** The *Bab* heralded the arrival of Baha'ullah and was co-founder of the Baha'i faith. He first declared his mission in Persia in 1844. He inaugurated the Baha'i calendar which numbers itself from the year of this declaration.
- 23rd **Christian: Pentecost** - celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit
- 26th **Buddhist: Vesakha Puja/ Buddha Day** the birth, enlightenment and final passing away of Gautama Buddha are celebrated.
- 28th **Baha'i: Anniversary of the Ascension of** commemorating the death of Baha'u'llah at Bahji, near Acre, in 1892.



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Deadline for items for the June/July newsletter is **25th May**. If you are receiving this newsletter as the named person from an organisation **please circulate the newsletter within your group** and do let me know if there is someone else who would wish to receive it.