

NEWSLETTER

October 2023

Interfaith Walk June 2023

We were blessed with fine weather, unlike the previous year when we had to cancel the event because of a Government heat warning!

We started the day at the Shree Jalaram Seva Trust Hindu Temple with a warm welcome and chai and copious refreshments. We were given an explanation of the Hindu festivals, and the important role the Temple plays in the lives of the congregation. The Mayor, Cllr Kiani, joined us and wished us well for the walk, and spoke of the close relationship between Hounslow Friends of Faith and the Council.

We walked in procession with the Mayor to Hounslow Jamia Masjid, where we were welcomed by the Trustees and the Imam, although Hounslow Friends of Faith are regular visitors to the Mosque. We were given an interesting overview of the range of community, educational and sport activities provide by the Mosque, in addition to a tour of the prayer facilities. We ended with a generous and very tasty lunch.

Our third venue was Holy Trinity Church in Hounslow High St. We were told that the church was originally established in the year 1211. Rev. Sally Bailey showed us round the building and described the many social action and faith based activities serving the diverse congregation. We were kindly treated to a cream tea to end our full and fascinating day.



HFOF AGM 20. July 2023

Hounslow Friends of Faith AGM took place at Hounslow House on 20th July 2023. The Mayor Cllr Afzaal Kiyani addressed the audience appreciating the work of the charity in helping to create the environment for harmonious relations among the diverse communities of The Borough.



The AGM was followed by an introduction by Charanjit of Mr Jeremy Rodell, Humanist and guest speaker. Jeremy Rodell is a volunteer who leads Humanists UKs dialogue network, which brings people from different humanist and religious communities together in search of common ground. This work builds bridges, develops mutual understanding, and promotes tolerance and good relationships in our communities.

Jeremy delivered a talk on 'Humanism', Religion and belief landscape - implications for dialogue and the challenges to dialogue. He explained that the reasons Humanist promote dialogue is to help others understand Humanism, to make a positive contribution - 'building a world where everyone lives cooperatively on basis of shared human values, respect for human rights and concern for future generations.

Following the talk there was a lively Q&A session showing how engaged and interested those present were with the topic.

Shafiq Rehman concluded the meeting by thanking Jeremy Rodell for his in-depth presentation. He also thanked Charanjit for her unceasing work on behalf of HFOF.

Charanjit thanked everyone for attending and Hounslow council for hosting the meeting.



HOUNSLOW
FRIENDS OF FAITH

Westminster Interfaith - New Coordinator



Hello! My name is James, and I have recently taken over from Jon Dal Din as the Coordinator of Westminster Interfaith. I'm delighted to have been appointed and am very much looking forward to meeting you all and working with Hounslow Friends of Faith. Before joining the Diocese of Westminster, I worked for 3 years as Lay Chaplain at St Charles Catholic Sixth Form College, in North Kensington. I've lived in London for the past 6 years, having moved up to Twickenham to study Theology, Religion & Ethics at St Mary's University.



HOUNSLOW
FRIENDS OF FAITH

The Transcendence Book Launch September 2023

On 5th September, to mark the 40th anniversary of Westminster Interfaith, the fourth edition of the book 'Transcendence', Prayer of People of Faith, edited by Daniel Faivre and Others, was successfully launched. This unique interfaith anthology was first published in 1986

The following 'Act of Commitment' was shared at the launch

In a world scarred by the evils of war, racism, injustice, poverty, and ecological disasters, we offer this joint Act of Commitment as we look to our shared future.

Let us stand, and say together:

We commit ourselves,
as people of many faiths,
to work together for the common good,
uniting to build a better society,
grounded in values and ideals we all share:
community, personal integrity,
a sense of right and wrong,
learning, wisdom, love of truth,
care and compassion,
justice and peace,
respect for one another,
for the earth and its creatures.

We commit ourselves,
in a spirit of friendship and co-operation,
to work together
with all who share our values and ideals,
to help bring about a better world,
now and for generations to come.



HOUNSLOW
FRIENDS OF FAITH



St. Mary and Pope Kyrillos VI Coptic Orthodox Church, Hounslow

In the bustling streets of Hounslow, a spiritual haven stands proudly, radiating an essence of unity and faith. St. Mary and Pope Kyrillos VI Coptic Orthodox Church, offers a warm embrace to seekers of all walks of life - embodying the true spirit of Coptic Christianity.

The Coptic Church in a Nutshell:

The Coptic Orthodox Church, one of the world's oldest Christian traditions, was founded in Egypt by St. Mark, author of one of the four Gospels. It dates back to the first century CE and has played a vital role in shaping Christian history. This remarkable faith, originating from the Church of Alexandria, has nurtured early Christian leaders, introduced monastic traditions to the world, and given rise to champions of faith such as Athanasius and Cyril. With over 20 million members, it stands as the largest Christian community in the Middle East.

Unity in Diversity - A Glimpse into St. Mary and Pope Kyrillos VI Church::

In the heart of Hounslow (TW5 9AB), St. Mary and Pope Kyrillos VI Coptic Orthodox Church represents a beautiful mosaic of 400 families from diverse backgrounds.

British, European, Asian, and Middle Eastern roots harmoniously coexist within our congregation, reflecting our commitment to unity in diversity. Our services, conducted in multiple languages, embody our core values of unity, love, and acceptance.

An Active Social Church:

Our church is an active social embodiment dedicated to fostering connections within the community. As winter approaches, we gear up for charitable initiatives, including offering a warm space every Thursday, supporting local charities and food banks, and providing warm meals and clothing to the homeless on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Additionally, our annual Santa Grotto event spreads joy to local families.

Experience the warmth of our community, where diversity is celebrated, connections are forged, and faith is lived. Join us on this journey of love, unity, and spiritual enrichment.



HOUNSLOW
FRIENDS OF FAITH

Interfaith Week 12-19 Nov 2023

We are celebrating by planting trees in 3 local places of worship

The trees have been donated by the Faiths Forum, with funding from the Mayor of London's 'grow back greener' scheme.



**Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Alice Way,
Hounslow TW3 3UA**

Mon 13th Nov 6.30-8.00 pm

**Tree planting by Rt Revd Dr Emma Ineson,
Bishop of Kensington, followed by a talk on
Women Leaders in Faith and Interfaith.**

**Jamia Masjid and Islamic Centre, 367
Wellington Road South, Hounslow TW4 5H
Fri 17. Nov 2023**

**St Mary and Pope Kyrillos V1 Coptic
Church, Broad Walk, Hounslow TW5 9AB
Sun 26. Nov 2023 2:00- 3:00
Tree planting by His Eminence Archbishop
Angaelos, Coptic Archbishop of London.**

**Please come and support these joyful
events, everyone welcome
Refreshments are served.**



Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Hounslow



INTERFAITH WEEK TALK

Women Leaders in Faith and Interfaith

By Rt Revd Dr Emma Ineson,
The Bishop of Kensington



Monday 13th November 2023 - 6:30pm-8:00pm
Education Centre, Gurdwara SGSS Hounslow, TW3 3UD

6:00pm Welcome Bishop of Kensington, followed by
Tree planting & Gurdwara tour

6:45pm Refreshments

7:00pm Introduction; Bishop's address 'Women leaders in Faith and Interfaith'
followed by Q&A

8:00pm Vote of Thanks



**SPECIAL
OPENING HOURS**



**HFOF
MEMBERS AND
FRIENDS**

**THURSDAY
30. NOV
6-7:30 PM**

RSVP:

info@hounslowfriendsoffaith.org

Monday 20 November – 1 December 2023

**JEWISH LIVING
EXPERIENCE EXHIBITION**

Hounslow



Hounslow House

Bath Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3EB

The Jewish Living Experience is a mobile travelling exhibition. Aimed primarily at school groups, it enables visitors to gain an insight into Judaism as a living faith.

Designed by education experts, the Jewish Living Experience Exhibition supports the teaching of Judaism in line with all agreed Religious Education and Citizenship curriculums.

Visitors are encouraged to explore the exhibition on their own, while guides are on hand to explain the topics and answer questions. The exhibition comes with a teachers' pack (and optional worksheets) to support each school's visit.

The Exhibition can be hosted at any suitable location, including educational, religious and civic venues.

For further details or to make a booking, please contact the Board of Deputies' Education Department on:

✉ anna.silver@bod.org.uk
☎ 0161 388 8950





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 **HOUNSLOW**
FRIENDS OF FAITH

Interfaith Tree Planting Event

Sunday 26th Nov
2023
2.00-3.30 pm



St. Mary & Pope Kyrillos VI Coptic Orthodox Church



- 2:00 Tree Planting
- 2:30 Refreshments
- 3:00 A Word of Welcome by HE Archbishop Angaelos of London



St Mary & Pope Kyrillos VI Church, Broad Walk, Hounslow, TW5 9AB



HOUNSLOW
FRIENDS OF FAITH

NEWSLETTER

October 2023

Spiritual Reflection: Evolution Towards Perfect Humanity

Introduced By: Fr.
Morkos Fakhry Gamil,
St. Mary and Pope
Kyrillos VI Coptic
Orthodox Church

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

**Matthew 5:43-48 NKJV Jesus Christ , 30AD
approx**

With special thanks to Silvia Sedhom from the Coptic Church for putting together this edition of the Newsletter.