



February/March 2025 Newsletter

WORKING TOWARDS CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
OF HOUNSLOW FRIENDS OF FAITH in 2025
with all our, friends, community partners and well- wishers.

ST MARY AND POPE KYRILLOS COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH NATIVITY AND EPIPHANY CELEBRATION 19TH JANUARY 2025

In celebration of the Coptic Nativity and Epiphany, St Mary and Pope Kyrillos church hosted a memorable evening, bringing together members of its congregation, neighbours, Deputy Lieutenant Mr. Lall, RT Ruth Cadbury MP, Hounslow Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Council Leader 'Local Councillors and HFOF chair and members This event served as a wonderful opportunity to strengthen relationships, foster unity, and celebrate diverse values. The evening was led by His Eminence Bishop Angelos Archbishop of London, and commenced with a beautiful choir performance that filled the church with uplifting melodies. This was followed by a warm and welcoming reception, where participants enjoyed a delicious buffet and engaged in meaningful conversations.

' As members of the Coptic Orthodox Church community in London, we are deeply grateful for everyone who joined us on this special occasion. Everyone's presence not only enriched the celebration but also contributed to building stronger connections between our community and the wider society we live in. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who participated and supported this event, making it a truly remarkable and unifying experience'.
Silvia Louis.

'80 CANDLES FOR 80 YEARS' HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE 26TH JANUARY 2025

This event, marking 80 years since the liberation of Bergen Belsen concentration camp, was held at Richmond Synagogue and attended by the Richmond Civic leaders, members of the Richmond Faith and Belief Forum and community groups. It was a particularly poignant experience for those who have links with friends and families affected by the conflict in the Middle East.

Those who took part in the event were the Mayor, Richard Pyne, Jewish musicians, the synagogue's young community members, and Professor Philip Spencer .

The main speaker was Professor Peter Lantos(BEM) . He talked about his own story, having been born in Hungary and imprisoned at Bergen-Belsen aged five. After coming to the UK, he had an eminent career in academic medicine. Over the last twelve years he has devoted his time to Holocaust Education for which he was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in 2020. His latest book ' The Boy who didn't want to Die' is an illustrated edition of his memoir for young people.

HOUNSLOW HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY EVENT AT CHISWICK SCHOOL, 27TH JANUARY 2025

Hounslow's Holocaust Memorial event was organised jointly by Hounslow Council, Hounslow Friends of Faith and hosted by Chiswick School. It was attended by pupils and staff. The school's choir Chiswick Voices performed at the event.

Guests included the Deputy Lieutenant, Leader of the Council, Mayor, Acting Chief Executive, councillors, representatives of the blue light services, Area Dean and local faith groups.

The guest speaker was Gloria Silver who gave a very moving, illustrated talk about the experience of her late father, Tony Chuwen. As a young boy, he was held in two concentration camps but through his bravery and resourcefulness, managed to escape. Gloria described her father's escape journey from Poland, jumping from a moving train, travelling with false papers, and signing up and then deserting from the German army, being interned in Finland and finally escaping to freedom in neutral Sweden. His final escape from Finland was made by skiing alone for three days over the frozen Bothnian Sea ..

Although her father managed to escape, many members of his family were murdered. Gloria said she owes it to the memory of her family and the other murdered millions to tell the stories, and to try and help counter the recent increase in antisemitism and Holocaust denial.

insert 2 photos

INDUCTION CEREMONY OF KATE O'SULLIVAN AS THE VICAR OF ST JAMES'S AND ST PHILLIPS, WHITTON -3RD FEBRUARY

The event was conducted by the Bishop of Kensington The Right Reverend Dr Emma Ineson and the Venerable Richard Frank. He used to be the Area Dean for Hounslow and conducted various events including Holocaust Memorial Day, in conjunction with HFOF.

At the event, Charanjit represented HFOF, and Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara on behalf of Mr Satwinder Ahdan, who was unable to attend. We welcome and offer our best wishes to Vicar Kate O'Sullivan and we look forward to maintaining links with her.

HOUNSLOW'S PLACE NARRATIVE AND BRAND STEERING GROUP

The Council has commissioned Thinkingplace, a branding and marketing specialist, to help co-create a narrative and brand with local communities and key stakeholders in the borough.

I have been invited to be on the Steering Group. There are other consultations and events locally and London wide in which I will also try to participate.

Charanjit

DEATH OF AGA KHAN, SPIRITUAL LEADER OF THE ISMAILI MUSLIMS

Following the passing of His Highness Prince Karim Al Hussaini, Aga Khan 1V, his son, Prince Rahim, has been announced as the new Imam of the Ismaili Muslims. Charanjit sent our best wishes, on behalf of HFOF, to our friends at West London Jamatkhana, on hearing the news.



You are warmly invited to an “Interfaith Iftar”

4:30 pm – 8:00 pm on Friday 14th March 2025

organised jointly by **Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust** and **Hounslow Friends of Faith**

to be held in Spring Grove House, West Thames College, TW7 4HS

thanks to the generosity of the College

There will be brief greetings from honoured guests and presentations about Ramadan, the work of Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust and HFOF before the Iftar meal which breaks the daylight Muslim Ramadan fast. A prayer room will be available.

The first part of the evening will be in the Music Room and then the meal, courtesy of the Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust, will be served in the Winter Garden Room, a conservatory, with no heating so **please bring some warm outer clothing**.

An agenda and full travel details will be sent to those who book a place.

Please note that the entrance for everyone, whether on foot or in a car, will be via the car park entrance to the college on **Harvard Road** as the main entrance in London Road will be closed.

This event is free but **booking is essential** for catering and security purposes,

**Bookings to be made before 5 pm on Monday 10th March.
to book your place please contact either:**

Shamama Lateef via shamama@almustafatrust.org or 07835245835

or Debbie Brenner via info@hounslowfriendsoffaiith.org or 07904105422

Information needed when booking:

- Your full name
- If a car parking space is required
- Any dietary needs or allergies – note the meal will be plant-based

**FESTIVALS OF FAITHS
CALENDAR- March to May 2025**

1 March- First Day of Ramadan (Muslim)
5 March- Ash Wednesday (Christian)
14 March – Holi (Hindu)
15 March –HOLA Mohalla (Sikh)
17 March- St.Patrick's Day (Christian)
20 March- Nawrouz, Persian New Year (Zoroastrian and Bahai)
30 March- Mothering Sunday (Christian)
31 March- Eid-ul-Fitr (Muslim)
6 April- Ram Navmi (Hindu)
10 April- Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
12 April- Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)
13 April – First Day of Passover (Jewish)
13/14 April- Baisakhi (Sikh)
18 April- Good Friday (Christian)

20 April- Easter Sunday (Christian)
21 April- St Georges Day (Christian)
12 May – Buddha's birthday (Buddhist)
29 May – Ascension Day (Christian)
30 May or 16 June- Guru Arjan Dev Martyrdom Day (Sikh)
2 June- Shavuot (Jewish)
6 June-Eid-ul-Adha (Muslim)