



## 2020 National Interfaith Week

### Birmingham Programme

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Nov – Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Nov

National Interfaith Week, this year occurs between Sat 7<sup>th</sup> and Sun 15<sup>th</sup> November, for which the Birmingham Council of Faiths is again coordinating the Birmingham programme. The aims of Interfaith Week are:-

- to strengthen interfaith relations at all levels;
- increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society;
- and to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

This year presents a particular challenge because of the need for social distancing as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. However our regular team of Interfaith Week organisers have risen to the challenge in an amazing way with 22 events, mainly virtual. As a preface to our series of events, our Connecting Communities programme on Unity FM 93.5 radio programme on Mon 26<sup>th</sup> November focused on Interfaith Week with guests Ashley Beck, Interfaith Development Officer, (National) Interfaith Network; Pete Doubtfire, BCF, Faiths Footsteps for a Low Carbon Future and Birmingham Peace Hub; and Rabiya Latif, Coordinator, Near Neighbours. As usual the programme was hosted by Mahmooda Qureshi and Dr Peter Rookes. Listen to the programme on:- <https://wetransfer.com/downloads/ae0f7e9a9e14608ae1fa29efaf4785020201028182253/3b0f93218154b803a7b99f74301f5b7a20201028182253/6f774c>

Our Birmingham Interfaith Week programme will commence with the **Opening Ceremony Launch Event** on the afternoon of Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Just imagine that we are in the Council House, as usual, because the format on Zoom will follow the usual pattern with official opening by the Lord Mayor. This year will be special by 2 particular features:-

- a) Video Clips of Birmingham Museums Lockdown Conversations presented by Rosie Barker, Senior Engagement Officer, Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, and
- b) Launch of the Birmingham Scout and Guide More in Common Badge by David Bradnock,

President of Birmingham Scouts and Deputy Lord Lieutenant; with an introduction by Kim Leadbeater, sister of Jo Cox and Ambassador of the Jo Cox Foundation. The ethos of the badge is to show compassion, kindness and friendship to others, particularly those who are different from ourselves. Activities to gain the badge are all achievable during lockdown conditions.

Whether you enjoy debates; spiritual activities; hearing the stories of migration to Birmingham; understanding how people of different faiths are working together; taking part in meditation; learning about the challenges and opportunities experienced by people with mental health issues; or taking part in a quiz – there is something here for everyone.

Events are listed in chronological order. To take part follow the Zoom or Eventbrite link, or respond to the email address given. If you experience any problem, please contact me at [pjrookes@gmail.com](mailto:pjrookes@gmail.com) or 077033 36088.

**As a preface** to our series of events, our **Connecting Communities programme on Unity FM 93.5** radio programme on Mon 26<sup>th</sup> November focused on **Interfaith Week** with guests Ashley Beck, Interfaith Development Officer, (National) Interfaith Network; Pete Doubtfire, BCF, Faiths Footsteps for a Low Carbon Future and Birmingham Peace Hub; and Rabiya Latif, Coordinator, Near Neighbours. As usual the programme was hosted by Mahmooda Qureshi and Dr Peter Rookes. Listen to the programme on:-

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#### **Fri 6<sup>th</sup>, 2.30 - 4.0pm – Opening Ceremony/Launch Event**

with Cllr Mohammed Azim, Lord Mayor and Honorary President Birmingham Council of Faiths; David Bradnock, Deputy Lord Lieutenant and President of Birmingham Scouts; Cllr John Cotton, Cabinet Member, Equality, Diversity and Safety; Kim Leadbeater (Jo Cox Sister), Ambassador Jo Cox Foundation; Andy Street, WM Metro Mayor.

Event will include Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery Life during the Pandemic Video; Launch of Birmingham Scouts and Guides More in Common Badge; Faith and Belief Forum.

Join us on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81120088679?pwd=K09GNFJINkhDT0M3WFZuMjZZWEVkJZz09>

Meeting ID: 811 2008 8679 Passcode: 157783

#### **Sat 7<sup>th</sup>, 11.0 am – Scout Remembrance Service.**

The remembrance event this year is a series of recorded videos and activities that will be launched on our Birmingham Scout County YouTube page around 11am.

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup>, 10.30-11.30 am - Sunday Devotional and elevating Discussion – ‘Elevate – Wellness’ Organised by Baha’is of Birmingham.**

**Join Zoom:-** [https://bham-ac-](https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/88642696735?pwd=VG0rdnpLcVhSR0ZoMEE1a3RVc29Xdz09)

[uk.zoom.us/j/88642696735?pwd=VG0rdnpLcVhSR0ZoMEE1a3RVc29Xdz09](https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/88642696735?pwd=VG0rdnpLcVhSR0ZoMEE1a3RVc29Xdz09)

Meeting ID: 886 4269 6735, Passcode: 727392

**Contact** Jean Rahmanian, 07548629731, [Jrh99@icloud.com](mailto:Jrh99@icloud.com), <https://www.bahai.org.uk/holy-days>

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup>, 5.30 – 7.0pm - Towards a Better Understanding of Judaism and Quakerism in Birmingham.**

Speakers will talk about Judaism and Quakerism in Birmingham with reference to Social Action and Welfare, Climate Change and Prison Chaplaincy We will hear among others from Rabbi Margaret Jacobi, Steve Newman, Tricia Bradbury and Hilary Johnson and there will be time to talk afterwards. Email , or [jewishbirmingham@talktalk.net](mailto:jewishbirmingham@talktalk.net). Participants will then be sent the Zoom link. Queries to [Interfaith@centralenglandquakers.org.uk](mailto:Interfaith@centralenglandquakers.org.uk).

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup>, 6.30 – 7.30 - Mental Health and Pastoral Care.**

Film and stories from people facing mental health issues. Amida Shu (Buddhist). Join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84764533183>. Meeting ID 847 6453 3183

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup>, 11.30am – 12.30pm - Interfaith Quiz Get Together**

In partnership with and Hosted by Sheikh Muhammed Amin Evans. Test your interfaith knowledge and enjoy fellowship with others.

To register your place, please email [rabiyah@nearneighbours.com](mailto:rabiyah@nearneighbours.com)

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup>, 4.0 – 5.0pm** – Unity FM 93.5, Connecting Communities programme – Faith, Diversity and Health with guests: Alex Evans, Public Engagement Manager, Birmingham Community Healthcare Trust; Alis Rasul, District Clinical Manager Health Visiting & Early Years; Rehanah Sadiq, Hospital Chaplain, UHB. Hosts, Mahmooda Qureshi and Dr Peter Rookes.

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup> 6.30 - 7.30pm - Countdown to the Glasgow UN climate summit 2021: Faith voices from Birmingham**

A joint webinar between Faith for the Climate and Footsteps exploring how Birmingham can send a message to the COP26 UN climate talks in Glasgow next year. Speakers:

- Shahin Ashraf, MBE, Islamic Relief Worldwide
- Dr Malcolm Dick, Centre for West Midlands History, University of Birmingham

Hosted by: Dr Shanon Shah, Network Coordinator, Faith for the Climate

All welcome. Please register through [www.footstepsbcf.org.uk/events/cop26-webinar-with-faith-for-the-climate/](http://www.footstepsbcf.org.uk/events/cop26-webinar-with-faith-for-the-climate/)

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>, Faith & Meditation – in person **CANCELLED due to new Covid-19 restrictions****  
**We will be inviting** select network members for these

11am to 1pm Women Only

2pm to 4pm Men Only

An opportunity for people to reconnect and share covid 19 experiences & journey's through meditation.

Some guided meditation included. Only 8 members per session are being booked.

In partnership with ISRA UK Community Hub

To register your place, please email [rabiyah@nearneighbours.com](mailto:rabiyah@nearneighbours.com)

Details of location to be shared once registered.

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> – 7.0-8.0pm – Celebrating the twin birthdays of Bab and Baha'u'llah**

Organised by the Baha'is of Birmingham. Zoom:-

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81573106139?pwd=by9ydE4rbkxHc2lvNEtEWINTNXpKUT09>

Meeting ID: 815 7310 6139, Passcode: 070993

**Contact** Jean Rahmanian, 07548629731, [Jrh99@icloud.com](mailto:Jrh99@icloud.com), <https://www.bahai.org.uk/holy-days>

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30-8:30pm - Servant Leadership.**

The Sikh Christian Forum presents an on-line interfaith conversation Servant Leadership: What do our faiths teach and how does it influence the way we lead in our workplace? With Contributions from Jill Rowe and Paramjit Kaur Matharu, interfaith conversation and reflections. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/servant-leadership-tickets-124760661497>

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup>, 'Sharing Our Stories',**

Nisa Nashim West Midlands. A Zoom session sharing writing which inspires multi faith harmony. If anyone would like to join us then please email us for the zoom link at [nisanashimwestmids@gmail.com](mailto:nisanashimwestmids@gmail.com)

**Wed 11th, 12.00 midday-1.0pm – Celebration of our Emergency Services**

Bahu Trust Interfaith. Please join us in celebration of our amazing Emergency services who continue to work tirelessly during the pandemic, making sure we all remain safe during these testing times. There will be reflections from faiths leaders followed by heart-warming words from individuals who selflessly work as Nurses, Paramedics, Police, Fire men/women etc. reflecting on how the last few months have impacted them.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpcempqj0iEt0qhyDf9kMjSRWLPdIkwrIr>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Contact for queries – Abdullah Rehman MBE, Community Engagement Lead, BAHU Trust.

[abdullahrehman@bahustrust.org](mailto:abdullahrehman@bahustrust.org), <https://twitter.com/Abdullah7866>,

<https://www.facebook.com/Abdullah>

**Wed 11th, 7.00 In Celebration of Sanctuary – Faiths Welcoming the Stranger.**

Hear stories from participants about their migration journeys, and the experience of 3 places of worship of different faiths are seeking to become places of sanctuary with Restore, Oasis Church, St Chads Sanctuary, Clifton Road Mosque, Progressive Synagogue, and 6 Ways Baptist Church. City of Sanctuary.

Join us on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83713439835?pwd=amltQ0VOTIBIQzRXcENtSkdpTmZEQT09>

Meeting ID: 837 1343 9835, Passcode: 846620

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup>, Faith & Meditation – in person **CANCELLED due to new Covid-19 restrictions****

**We will be inviting** select network members for these

11am to 1pm Women Only

2pm to 4pm Men Only

An opportunity for people to reconnect and share covid 19 experiences & journey's through meditation.

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Details of location to be shared once registered.

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup>, 7.30-8.45pm - Dare To Hope**

(continues 19<sup>th</sup> and 26th) from 7.30 pm to 8.30pm) – Archdiocese of Birmingham Inter

Religious Dialogue Commission are organising, to explore how faith communities have been impacted by the current crisis. Speakers and responders from different faith communities will share their experiences and attendees will also have the chance to share in small groups. All are welcome but people need to register for the event at [interreliqdialogue@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:interreliqdialogue@rcaob.org.uk).

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup>, 7.0pm - "Finding Peace during the Pandemic"**

- reflections from people of different faiths, and no faith, on how they have found peace and hope in difficult times. Solihull Faiths Forum and Marie Curie Hospice, West Midlands. Please email Pat Wilkinson for details of how to access this event: [longfordpat@outlook.com](mailto:longfordpat@outlook.com).

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup>, 7.30 - Strength from Faith in Challenging Times,**

Interfaith Dialogue with Suresh KM Rajpura (Hindu), Pat Whitney (Christian), Mandy Ross (Jewish), Kuldip Singh Ubhi (Sikh), and Sheikh Nuru (Muslim). Clifton Road Mosque. Join live at: [lnk.ksmnet.org/interfaith](http://lnk.ksmnet.org/interfaith)

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup>, 10.30-11.30, Sunday Devotional, 'Elevate – Strength',**

Baha'is of Birmingham. Zoom:-<https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/86435370054?pwd=SkpwQ0NsVkJLeXZlZ0dFNXZLVlVEF4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 864 3537 0054, Passcode: 030994

**Contact** Jean Rahmanian, 07548629731, [Jrh99@icloud.com](mailto:Jrh99@icloud.com), <http://www.bahai.org.uk/holy-days>

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup> 2.00 - 3.15 pm Tread Lightly on this Earth**

Footsteps' fifth annual Tread Lightly event will be a celebration of community initiatives that are contributing to the circular economy.

As always the event will be a chance to:

- hear about different faith perspectives on the environment,
- get inspired by sustainable initiatives taking place in Birmingham,
- connect with others in small group discussions.

All welcome. Please register through [www.footstepsbcf.org.uk/events/tread-lightly-2020/](http://www.footstepsbcf.org.uk/events/tread-lightly-2020/)

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup>, 8.0-9.0pm** – Hindu led Faith and Reflection on 'Unity and Diversity'. There will be a variety of readings and reflections from the Hindu faith, followed by perspectives from other faiths. Please join us at Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89005137706?pwd=QlVGZGU3ZmhrRUZ4OHdrQlJsMFBGUT09>

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup> – 7.0pm – 8.30, The Role of People of Faith in Healing the Divisions of the World**

Universal Peace Federation, Women's Federation for World Peace

Our world has become more and more interdependent, yet divisions and divisiveness still persist. How can people of faith contribute to the healing of those divisions, and encourage all to work towards our mutual prosperity? We will hear various faith perspectives, followed by time for sharing and discussion.

No registration required. Please send your contact details to Patricia Earle, and say whether you would like the Zoom Link sent to you by e-mail or on WhatsApp. Contact - Patricia Earle **07540-998-724** [patricia.earle@virginmedia.com](mailto:patricia.earle@virginmedia.com) Website : [www.upf.org](http://www.upf.org)

**The Zoom Link will be sent out to you, with a reminder, on Mon Nov 16th.**

**Our organisers will be greatly encouraged to see you at one or more of these events – See you there**

## **Blessings**

*Peter*

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