



# Surrey Faith Links Newsletter

January 2012



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### Main Festivals in February 2012

- 4th - Milad un Nabi
- 7th - Magha Puja
- 8th - Tu B'Shevat
- 14th - St Valentines Day
- 20th - Mahashivratri
- 21st - Shrove Tuesday
- 22nd - Ash Wednesday

### Happy New Year!

I thought I'd start this issue with the Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth) by Pope John XXIII:  
 "May He banish from the hearts of all men and women whatever might endanger peace. May He transform them into witnesses of truth, justice and love. May He enkindle the rulers of peoples so that in addition to their solicitude for the proper welfare of their citizens, they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace. May He enkindle the wills of all so that they may overcome the barriers that divide, cherish the bonds of mutual charity, understand others, and pardon those who have done them wrong. May all peoples of the earth become as brothers and sisters, and may the most longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always among men and women."

### Guildford YMCA needs your help

As 2012 dawns, Guildford YMCA faces a huge financial challenge – to maintain and expand the work it does with disadvantaged young people across Surrey. And two events are coming up soon that can help meet that challenge – a Guildford town centre street collection and a winter sleep out.



Volunteers that slept out last year

**On Saturday 28 January** YMCA street collectors will be scattered around Guildford town centre, probably shivering as they hope to collect your spare cash. Please pop some coins in their buckets to encourage them!

And the **following Saturday night** will see a group of noble volunteers bedding down for a night under the stars. It won't be a true taste of homelessness, but it will be cold and

uncomfortable. These brave souls will be seeking sponsorship in order to raise significant funds for YMCA projects that help young people make positive steps towards building a future.

Nationally the YMCA houses over 7000 young people every night.

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*Guildford YMCA needs your help continued...*

In these tough times young people have been hard hit – job prospects are few and living independently is a dream for so many. Living at the YMCA or being part of a YMCA project can make a huge difference to a young person's self esteem, life skills and CV. If you would like to help a young person by making a donation it's easy to do online at <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/guildfordymca>

Public interest in and support for the YMCA's work has always been key to its success. If you would like to receive regular news from Guildford YMCA please email [admin@guildfordymca.org.uk](mailto:admin@guildfordymca.org.uk) or call 01483 448784 with your contact details.

## CRIB SERVICE IN A 'REAL' BARN!

For the last 30 years St. Michael's, Betchworth has hosted a real crib service in a farm barn on Christmas Eve. There are real shepherds, sheep, a donkey and most important of all a real baby. This year's, "baby Jesus", was only 4 weeks old - a little boy called Logan - who was held by Clara (age 14) in the role of Mary. Musicians accompanied the carols and the nativity story was told through the characters of the ox and the ass. To conclude there was a visitation of three wise men from afar, singing their way through the crowds to kneel at the crib.

Pam Armitage writes, "The idea came, when three choir members were wondering what they could do to make Christmas in Betchworth a little bit special. One of the members had a donkey, another a jersey cow and the other, some sheep. All we needed was a barn and a baby!! There was a very old barn standing right next to the church so we sought permission to use that. We found villagers willing to play Mary, Shepherds and Kings. One of the Kings has played his part every Christmas Eve bar one, for 32 years and one of the shepherds has done the same.

Every year a very small baby arrives whose parents are willing for him/her to play the part of Jesus. (The doll in the loft has never had to be used,) However two years ago we did have a problem finding a baby. It was just a few days until Christmas and we had asked everywhere searching for a baby. Then, the Sunday before Christmas and after the service had started a young couple from Redhill walked into church for the morning service pushing a pram, word quickly ran through the choir and as soon as the service

was over a bee line was made for the couple. We asked what they happened to be doing on Christmas Eve and explained our plight. They were delighted to provide the baby who was just a few weeks old and so, the doll stayed in the loft... again.

A few years back we asked all the children who had played baby Jesus and happened to be at the Crib Service that evening, to come forward and there were 18 of them !!!

People just keep coming back!"

This year over 350 adults and children surrounded the barn sitting and standing on hay bales. It is a truly magical way to spend half an hour on the evening before Christmas.



*St Michael's 'Real Crib' Service*

## VOLUNTEER SUPPORT PROJECT

The Volunteer Support Project, VSP, is a new project commissioned by a new Partnership initially comprising Surrey Youth Justice Service, the Department of Social Responsibility from the Guildford Diocese, Catch 22 and Victim Support. Other organisations are interested in joining and will be most welcome! The purpose of the VSP is to support the members of the Partnership in their work with young people and their families in their experience of and vulnerability to crime. Specifically the VSP will play a key role in the Partnership's promotion of volunteering and the use of volunteers. Headed by a new coordinator, Janet Crowe, the VSP will focus on joining up core activities which are associated with the use of volunteers, such as their recruitment, selection, initial generic training, general best practice and on-going research into the needs of volunteers and the agencies which use them. Streamlining this work will enable the Partnership organisations to concentrate on their direct work with young people.

If you wish to know more, please contact Janet Crowe, VSP Coordinator, on 01483 790324 or at the address below:



Volunteer Support Partnership Project  
Department for Social Responsibility  
Diocesan House  
Quarry St  
Guildford  
Surrey,  
GU1 3XG

## CIRCLE DANCING SESSIONS

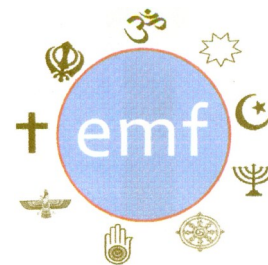
Elmbridge Multi Faith Forum invite you to join them for their monthly circle dancing sessions, which are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

**2012 Dates:** 14/2, 13/3, 10/4, 8/5, 12/6, 10/7, 14/8, 11/9, 9/10, 13/11, 11/12

at Thames Ditton Centre, Mercer Close, Thames Ditton, KT7 OBS

Dancing in a circle is an ancient tradition common to many cultures for marking special occasions, strengthening community and encouraging togetherness.

Modern circle dance draws on the rich and diverse traditional dances of many countries including the Balkans, Greece, Israel, Russia and France. There is also a growing repertoire of new dances to classical music and contemporary songs. Circle dances can be energetic and lively or gentle and reflective.



The style and mood reflects the group and the teacher's interests. The aim always is to experience the joy of dancing with others and to create a sense of well-being and community. Anyone of any age or ability can circle dance. Each dance will be taught by our very own Betty Sear. There's no audience and everyone is welcome. So why not gather your friends or come on your own (you don't need a partner) and join us for this fun and healthy activity.

We ask for £2 to cover the hall hire costs.

If you would like more information please call Rushna

T: 01932 248751

E: [rushna@master11.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:rushna@master11.wanadoo.co.uk)

## LOVING LIKE JESUS II

### Presence and Engagement in Multi Faith Surrey & Hampshire

What is this morning about?

In July 2011, we gathered to consider our responses, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to the peoples in our communities who come from other cultures and faiths. People from Surrey & North East Hampshire explored how the Anglican Presence & Engagement process could be applied locally. We heard stories from Christians in Camberley, Aldershot and Woking, all of whom, in their different settings, were seeking to live faithfully to the call of Jesus.

We were also privileged to hear the stories of the faith journeys of two men, who had come to know Jesus Christ personally, from very different backgrounds. This was very encouraging, as there are those who wonder or doubt if we should still be seeking to make disciples of all nations in our present context.

At our second gathering, we want to explore how in practice we may be 'loving like Jesus'. Our first session, given by Ann Wardill, from Woking, will describe a long-term project to share lives and Scripture appropriately with women.

Our workshops will include :

- ⇒ Working with Hindu communities and Nepalese people
- ⇒ Relating to Muslims
- ⇒ How not to make obvious cultural mistakes!
- ⇒ Getting to know my neighbours
- ⇒ Ideas for training and resources

**To book, please complete the booking form below and return to:**

Louise Redfern,  
MEPD Dept., Guildford Diocesan House,  
Quarry St., Guildford, Surrey GU1 3XG  
Tel: 01483 790328

#### Booking Form

I would like to attend “Loving Like Jesus 2 – Presence & Engagement in Multi-Faith Surrey & Hampshire” on Saturday 28th January from 9.45am to 1.00pm at St Andrew’s Church, Goldsworth Park, Woking.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Tel no.....

Email.....

Please return this form to Louise Redfern, Diocesan House, Quarry St, Guildford GU1 3XG or email the information to [louise.redfern@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:louise.redfern@cofeguildford.org.uk)

## MENTAL HEALTH IN BALANCE

Two mornings focusing on mental health; for anyone who supports people in the community.

**Monday 12th March and Tuesday 13th March**  
**at Christ Church, Town Square, Woking, GU21 6YG**

**9:30 am—1:30 pm**

Presentations and workshops by professionals who work with those with mental health issues:

- \* Research & studies have shown there is a clear link between mental and physical health. The body's need for exercise is accepted but what of the mind?
- \* How can spirituality, mindfulness, exercise and the history of 'living' impact on our mental wellbeing?
- \* What about the young mind?
- \* Practical advice and support

During these two mornings, we will explore the pathways to a balanced mind. **Join us for one day or both—something for everyone concerned with mental wellbeing.**

Tea, coffee and pastries provided! All are welcome, a suggested £10 donation given on the day. Booking is separate for each day. If you would like to attend or for further information, please contact: [Suzzette.jones@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:Suzzette.jones@cofeguildford.org.uk) , T: 01483 790 335

### **The Mental Health Forum of The Diocese of Guildford**

**Dept. for Social Responsibility, Diocesan House, Quarry Street, Guildford, GU1 3XG**

## ICE RINK AT WOKING UNITED REFORM CHURCH

During the week of 13<sup>th</sup> February from Tuesday onwards there will be an ice rink setup in Woking URC.

**The sessions will be:**

**Tuesday 14th February, 2.00 pm - 9.00 pm**

**Thursday 16th February, 11.00 am - 6.00 pm**

**Friday 17th February, 2.00 pm - 9.00 pm**



33 People per 30 min session will be able to skate at a cost of £2.00 for children and £4.00 for adults each per session. All profits will go to charity.

To book sessions T: 07516 264 434

For more information please contact: [john.west63@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.west63@ntlworld.com) or visit:

[www.wokingurc.org.uk](http://www.wokingurc.org.uk)

## Sand Extraction Betchworth Common Field

For many years the area along the Reigate Road and south of the North Downs has provided a source of sand for building and other uses. We are about to experience 10 years of sand extraction from the Common Field in Betchworth. This is an area between the Church and the Post Office. It is used by walkers, school children, bikers, horse riders not to mention the crops that are grown on it from year to year. To prepare for the disruption, and to allow the sand to be shipped out to the main A25 road, a tunnel has been built under the Old Reigate Road. The picture shows me in front of the construction of an underpass which will allow one lorry at a time to carry the sand through. The next stage will include security fencing, the top surface of the field stripped and bunds approximately 2m high built. Once that is in place we hope that we will all become used to the new surroundings or at least resigned to it! After all the sand has been mined, we are assured that the field will be re-

turned to its normal state and crops can be planted again and we'll be able to walk on it again. (We shall see in 12 years time!!)



*Revd. Carol Coslett New Faith in the countryside link officer for Southwark diocese (In front of the tunnel construction for the new sand pit on Old Reigate Road.*

**Email:** [ccoslett@btinternet.com](mailto:ccoslett@btinternet.com)

**T:** 01737842102

## Surrey Police: Op Klaxon

Surrey Police has launched an initiative this week to tackle vehicle crime across the county. Activity will include neighbourhood officers and extra patrol teams focussing on the hot spot areas within Surrey and offenders known to be linked to vehicle crime. The Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) team will also be stopping vehicles which are known to have been stolen or have links to offenders. The overall aim is to reduce the offences of theft from and theft of motor vehicles. In addition to these operational activities, innovative 'Fixed Police Notices' containing crime prevention advice will also be put on cars in vulnerable areas or where vehicle crime has recently taken place. Inspector Richard Mallet of Surrey Police Roads Policing Unit advises the following steps to reduce vehicle crime; Always lock your car when you leave it, even if it's just for a few moments. Make sure windows and sunroofs are shut and locked too. Never leave any personal possessions in your car. Thieves love to steal sat navs, laptops and

mobile phones. But less obvious items such as clothes and loose change are also appealing. Don't leave valuables hidden in your boot or under car seats. Thieves know where to look. Don't store driving or vehicle documents in your glove box. Keep them stored safely at home. If your car doesn't have an alarm, get one fitted or use a steering lock to deter thieves. Look after your car keys. Keep them on you when out and about. When at home keep them hidden and not in view of a window, door or letterbox. Secure your number plate with clutch head screws to avoid becoming a victim of 'car cloning'. Keep your eye out for potential car criminals. If you see someone looking inside cars or trying door handles call Surrey Police on 101. In an emergency always call 999.

For more details on how to protect your vehicle visit [www.surrey.police.uk/vehiclecrime](http://www.surrey.police.uk/vehiclecrime)  
E: [13180@surrey.pnn.police.uk](mailto:13180@surrey.pnn.police.uk)  
T: 101

## SURREY 2012

As we get closer to the Olympics, find out how you can get involved. Visit [www.surreyfaithlinks.org](http://www.surreyfaithlinks.org) for more details.

### Club Forums 2012 - FREE!

Throughout January and February 2012 Active Surrey and your local sports development team will be organising five Club Forums for your club to get involved with.

#### Dates & Venues

- Thursday 26 January 2012, 6:45pm-9:30pm at Quadrant Court, Woking
- Wednesday 8 February 2012, 6:45pm-9:30pm at Royal Holloway University, Egham
- Monday 13 February 2012, 6:45pm-9:30pm at Waverley Borough Council Offices, Godalming
- Thursday 16 February 2012, 6:45pm-9:45pm at Leatherhead Leisure Centre, Leatherhead

### OLYMPICS GAMES COMING TO SURREY

#### CYCLING:

- ⇒ Men's race Saturday 28 July 2012
- ⇒ Women's race Sunday 29 July 2012

#### TIME TRIAL RACE:

- ⇒ Men's and Women's races Wednesday 1 August 2012

To see a map of the route please visit the website:

[www.surreyfaithlinks.org](http://www.surreyfaithlinks.org)

## Guildford Diocese: Civil Emergency and Major Incident Plan

The Major Incident Joint Response Procedures are part of a joint response plan for all faiths within the diocese and as such require a network of contacts across multiple faiths in order to achieve a wide ranging and comprehensive response capability.

To ensure that the procedures are current we have recently carried out a review which has resulted in the revision and streamlining of the document. The revision has been produced in conjunction with the police, local authorities and neighbouring dioceses.

The nature and type of incident to which we may be required to respond are wide and varied. Within our diocese a number of regular events take place such as the Surrey County Show, Guilfest and the Farnborough International Air Show as well occasional events such as playing a supporting role during the 2012 Olympic Games, notably the cycling events.

With the increasing threat from terrorist activity, our proximity to major international airports and the unpredictable nature of incidents like the multiple shootings in Cumbria in 2010 it is important that we are able to respond in an

appropriate, efficient and co-ordinated manner as and when required.

The Civil Emergency and Major Incident Plan response co-ordinator is Richard Troughton, a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) from Farnborough, who will orchestrate the response of the faith leaders as appropriate in conjunction with the emergency services and other relevant authorities. In support of this activity there is a small team of standby emergency 'Phone Holders' who are called upon periodically to hold the emergency phone and field the initial calls before alerting Richard Troughton as response co-ordinator and Diocesan Director of Communications, Mark Rudall.

As a diocese we need to be adaptable and as ready as we can be for the unknown so this plan will be reviewed on a regular basis as resilience thinking moves on as it has rapidly in the past decade.

**Richard Troughton**

**Tel: 07841 128612**

## POLICE APPEAL

" Surrey Police have recently recovered a Blue Mini Disc player with headphones from the scene of a crime, believed to be discarded by the offender who was later caught and detained. We need to identify the owner of this property, which contains a music disc relative to the church and / or church worship and discover how they came to lose possession of it. If you have any information or believe this may be yours, please contact Investigator **Jo Murray** at Epsom CID by dialling **101** and asking for **extension 36569** or emailing **13094@surrey.pnn.police.uk** "

An event to mark United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week—and to consider ways of working together as people of faith for the good of local community. Details are below:



Supported By:



## The Bishop of Guildford, the Shah Jahan Mosque, Woking People of Faith and Surrey Faith Links

Invite you to  
A working luncheon with leaders of Faith Communities  
to consider:

### 'The Young, the Old & the Future'

People of all faiths making a difference in local community

Time: 11.30 am - 1.30 pm

Wednesday 15th February 2012

Shah Jahan Mosque, 149 Oriental Rd, Woking, GU22 7BA

RSVP (with any dietary needs) by January 31st 2012

Pippa. Ross-McCabe E: [p.rossmccabe@btinternet.com](mailto:p.rossmccabe@btinternet.com) or M: 07986342355

Kauser Akhtar E: [kauser.akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:kauser.akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk) or M: 07502460397

Dress code: Shoes must be removed upon entry to the Mosque.

Women: Appropriate dress for religious places. Long dress or trousers, shoulders and heads to be covered. Hat or scarf can be worn. Men: Suit / Uniform

Visit the Surrey Faith Links website:

[www.surreyfaithlinks.org](http://www.surreyfaithlinks.org)

If you would like to include anything on the website or the next issue of the SFL newsletter please contact me on the details below.

### Surrey Faith Links

Diocesan House, Quarry Street, Guildford, GU1 3XG

T: 07502 460 397, E: [Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk)