



November 2022

Dear Friends

Welcome to November's Newsletter, which of course will feature all the amazing plans for Interfaith Week in York for which we sincerely give thanks to Dee and her team! At a time when many will feel there is nothing to give thanks for, our American friends and relations will be planning for 'Thanksgiving'. whatever is going on in the wider world! Not a Religious festival of course, and based very tentatively on historical events but giving thanks for, and celebrating family, friendship, caring, and sharing of resources is not entirely a worthless cause. Here in Britain, November often seems to be a turning point in the year. The dark nights are well and truly here. The weather usually deteriorates (although I was just telling a friend I can't remember needing gloves on bonfire night for years, which of course is worrying in itself) and the Christian Church Year ends with the festival of Christ the King, followed closely by the first Sunday in Advent which is all about 'looking forward'. Whatever November brings you, I hope there is something worth giving thanks for.

Anne Castle

Joint message from Avtar (Chair) and Varsha (Hindu Representative)

As Chair, I continue to value your membership as York Interfaith Group continues to grow as a community. Unfortunately, we lost Dr Ramesh Gulati on 5th October following a period of illness. Members of YIG Committee attended the funeral service. I was honoured to say a few words about Ramesh's immense contribution to YIG and our on-going support, prayers and thoughts to Dr Varsha and her family. On this note, Dr Varsha would to thank everyone who sent flowers and messages of condolences and prayers, which have provided comfort and healing.

OUR NOVEMBER MEETING WILL BE LIVE

at City of York Council, West Offices, Station Rise, York YO1 6GA

TUESDAY November 1st 7.00 - 8.30 pm

Some Women who appear in the Old Testament and in the Qur'an

A dramatic presentation by Mary Callan

Chair: Patricia Harriss



York Interfaith logo competition

York Interfaith Group in partnership with the City of York SACRE is launching a competition to design a logo for York Interfaith Group to use.

York Interfaith does not currently have its own interfaith logo. It currently uses a stock image of a tree of faiths symbolizing many faiths as the fruit in its branches. York Interfaith Group are keen to have a logo that is unique to York and reflects what Interfaith is here in the City of York.

Who can enter

Now extended to include children on an individual basis

not only entries from schools alone so if you know of any child who wants to have a go, the closing date is Friday 4th November

- We welcome entries from pupils of all abilities and any school type but we can only accept 10 entries per school – so be sure to whittle them down to your 10 best.
- The competition will be judged just before the commencement of Interfaith week which will be from 12th November – 20th November 2022 in York.
- The Judging panel will include representation from York Interfaith and City of York SACRE.
- The winner will be announced, and the logo revealed, at the closing Interfaith service on Sunday 20th November which will be held at a place of worship in the afternoon/early evening.
- York Interfaith Group ultimately decides where, how and to what extent the winning logo will be used. This will be at the sole discretion and decision of YIG.

A prize will be awarded for:

Overall winner - logo to be considered by York Interfaith Group for use.

KS1 winner

KS2 winner

KS3 winner

KS4/5 winner

The winner of each key stage will receive a copy of “The Interfaith Prayer Book” and a £10.00 voucher to spend. The overall winner will receive a copy of “The Interfaith Prayer Book” and a £25.00 voucher to spend.

Certificates will be presented to all participating schools.

How to enter

- Any “logo” must be clear and simple in design so that it can be used on emails, newsletter, social media and on the York Interfaith website
- The logo must be inclusive of all faiths and reflective of the geographical location of York, like using the river for example as an idea to incorporate.
- Please note although York Minster is a significant building in York, it should not be incorporated in the logo as this is reflective of one Christian perspective and the logo should look to be inclusive of all faiths. Inclusion of all faith symbols as seen on the tree of faiths can be used if wanted.
- The logo should include the words “York Interfaith Group”

Where to send entries

Entries should be sent for the attention of Maxine Squires

to:

York Interfaith Group competition
West Offices,
Station Rise,
York
YO1 6GA

Each piece of work **MUST** be labelled with the pupil name, age, theme and school details.

Email

Entries can be sent digitally to sacre@york.gov.uk Please ensure all file names have the pupil name, age and school.

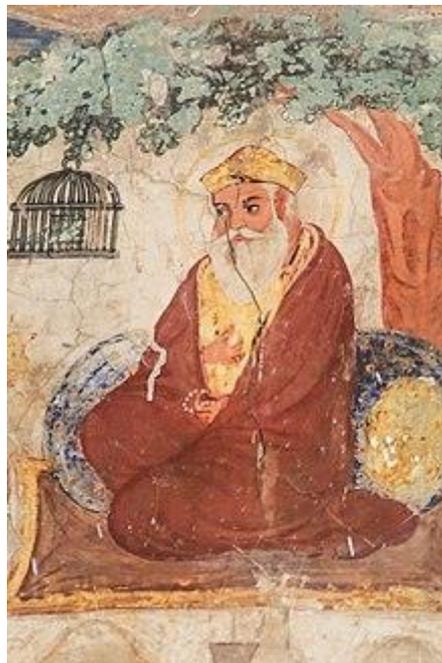
All entries must be received by Friday 4th November 2022

BIRTHDAY OF GURU NANAK (November 8th)

Sikhs from all over the world will celebrate the birthday of Guru Nanak Dev-Ji, the first Sikh Guru, who believed in the values of humanity, equality, diversity and inclusion.

The birthday of Guru Nanak Dev-Ji falls on Kartik Purnamashi, the full moon day of the month Kartik, which usually falls in November in the western calendar. This year it falls on 8th November.

The celebration starts one day prior, with a cover to cover reading of the Guru Granth Sahib – the Sikh Holy Book. On the second day, the holy book is paraded (Nagar Kirtan) through the streets of Amritsar in a hand-held carriage. The procession is led by five people representing the original Panj Pyare ("the Five Beloved Ones"). A special prayer known as 'Rehrasi' is organised at sunset.



(image taken from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Nanak)

Suki Kaur Matharu

Sikh Faith Advisor York St John University

NHS Sikh Chaplain

York City of Sanctuary

YCoS is currently helping over 300 people from Ukraine, 28 people from Afghanistan and various other refugees and as well as a few asylum seekers who have been based in York for some time while awaiting results of their applications. YCoS is taking part in a 'Drop in' centre every two weeks at present to give support, advice and help to the newly arriving Ukrainians and this is in addition to the general support work that they do every day. The refugees still need laptops and bicycles.

The University of York are helping with storage and also planning to hold workshops to upgrade and make good some of the laptops and bicycles. If you have any of either that are unwanted please let them know a.s.a.p.

If you are an employer and could offer a job, even part time, to someone please do let YCoS know as they are helping the refugees who are allowed to work to find employment while they are here. YCoS also urgently need more houses, flats and even bedsits with a bathroom to be used by the Ukrainian people arriving. If you are a landlord or know someone who is please urge them to contact YCoS.

If you haven't registered with YCoS yet as a possible sponsor please do consider doing so by contacting them on <https://york.cityofsanctuary.org/>

RAY (Refugee Action York) is recruiting for a number of part-time roles including:

- **Volunteer Coordinators**
- **Youth Worker**
- **Project Worker**

Hours: 14-16 hours per week, depending on post. Contract length 6 or 12 months, depending on post.

Salary: NJC Scale (SCP18-22) equating to £13.21-£14.67 per hour

For more details on each post and an application pack, please visit our website

www.refugeeactionyork.org/vacancies

Location: RAY does not have an office base – staff work from home, with meetings held in various locations generally close to the City Centre.

RAY is a small registered charity providing support and information to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants living in and around the city. RAY's vision is for all refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to be welcomed and fully accepted into local and regional communities, where they can feel safe and empowered to rebuild their lives.

Applications are particularly welcome from people with lived experience as refugees, asylum seekers or migrants, and/or Ukrainian speakers.

Closing date **28th October**. Interviews will be held early November.

Interfaith week in York



12th -20th November 2022

OFFERING SANCTUARY

Our historic city will host a number of events during National Interfaith Week, each inviting you to discover more about our diverse and vibrant faith communities, beliefs traditions , values and contributions to 21st Century York life

Saturday 12th Nov 10.30am to 12.30pm York Interfaith 'Tree Loving Care' event to open the week –Clifton Bridge area. Members of York Interfaith & friends will be weeding, planting and clearing the Interfaith plots. All ages and abilities welcome. Please let us know you are coming along by contacting Penny at yorkinterfaithgroup@gmail.com and also find the project on JustServe.org, where you can volunteer <https://www.justserve.org/projects/97fb0ccc-2fb7-4832-a10a-3c92aa6b7378>

6pm – Islam: A Story of Sanctuary, to be held on Zoom. For the Zoom link and further details, please contact Dr. Rasha Salah El-Din at rasha.salah.ibrahim@gmail.com

Sun 13th Nov a.m.– Remembrance Day services where Reps from Faith Groups attend the York Parade, Service and Laying of Wreaths at the war memorial as well as other services in the city.

Mon 14th Nov 6p.m. Pagan Moot Held at the Black Swan Inn, Peasholme Green. At 6pm there is a talk about Paganism until 7pm followed by their annual 'Pre-Yule Bazaar' at 8pm. This is a hybrid event both in person and hopefully also on zoom for the talk. Meals and parking available at the pub. Contact Eve on M: 07952 383 681 or Email: Kithoftheearthstar1@outlook.com for more details. Please note that the upper room is not accessible for anyone with mobility problems.

Tues 15th Nov 11a.m. 'The story of the Bar Convent'. Why did the sisters come here, secretly in 1686, and how has life in the house developed over the years since then? What does the community do now, in 2022? After a short talk and a look at historic parts of the building, there will be an opportunity for anyone who wishes, to visit the 'Living Heritage Exhibition' at a reduced rate, and/or to visit the café for refreshments. Inquiries to Sr Patricia Harriss: pharriss1933@gmail.com

4.30pm – 5.30pm Radiant Heart Prayer Craft Join the Bahai group for a craft session, decorating prayers & quotations from the Holy Writings, while exploring what it means to possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart. Suits all ages. Venue: York Explore Café Contact yorkbahais@gmail.com

Wed 16th Nov 10am – 11.30am. Prayer and Meditation session via zoom organised by the York Bahais from 10am to 11.30pm with the title 'Be thou my Guide and Refuge'. Zoom open from 9.45, session includes pre-recorded relaxation and meditation, shared readings and contemplation. Please email: yorkbahais@gmail.com to receive the links and details.

1.15 p.m. Quaker Worship based at Friargate would like to invite anyone interested to join them for a Quaker meeting for worship at 1.15- 1.45. You are also welcome to bring your own lunch to eat with others at 12.15 and share some time together before the meeting. There will be tea and coffee on hand too. Look forward very much to seeing you. Email: friargate@yorkquakers.org.uk to let them know that you will attending.

NB Anyone wanting to attend both of those events can use WiFi facilities at the Friends Meeting House for the Bahai prayers and then be able to have lunch before attending the Quaker worship. The nearest car parking is at the Eye of York (Clifford's Tower). Please let Friargate know if you are going to one or both of these by emailing them on the address above.

Thurs 17th Nov 11am 'Creating a Sanctuary' An Interfaith Meditation at the Unitarian Chapel on St Saviourgate, York from 11am until midday. Zoom option will be available. Premises open from 10.30am. Contact: Dee Boyle on: m.07761762967 or email: deeboyle@gn.apc.org for zoom details.

1p.m to 4pm. – City Centre Churches Tour organised by the York Chaplaincy. Tour starts outside the Minster, then to St Wilfrid's (RC) Church, All Saints Pavement (CofE) and finally Central Hall (Methodist). It is about 45 minutes at each church looking at the worship space and the chaplains give a short talk in each place. Please contact Catherine Reid on: 01904 323131 m. 07947 867974 e.catherine.reid@york.ac.uk for details.

Fri 18th Nov Environmental Community Action 10am to 12.30pm The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints invite you to come and help in the community by taking part in a park tidy up. Meet in the centre of Clarence Gardens in York. Contact Penny at psiddall2020@gmail.com or find details and volunteer through JustServe.org by using the following link <https://www.justserve.org/projects/415bf847-cb47-425c-adb8-0bc2d5e9bc0e>

2pm – 3.30 pm York Buddhist Network invite you to join them in the new Buddhist Centre at 17 Walmgate for a session about Refuge in the Buddhist Tradition titled '*The Buddhist Three Refuges: a Sanctuary of Inner Stillness and Outer Giving and Kindness*'. Contact Mark at yorkbuddhistnetwork@gmail.com if want to join them. The session ends around 3.30pm

Sat 19th No. 10am-3pm – Stories from our Faiths. An event at the York Central Library where simple short stories from different faith will be read to children throughout the day, plus activities to do. There will be different stories every 30 mins.

5pm – 7pm Hindu Bhajans and Sikh Shabads from 5pm-7pm in the Contemplation Room, University of York St. John Chapel, York. ISKCON YORK (Hare Rama-Hare Krishna) will be joining the event. Contact person: Mahendra Verma (mkv1@york.ac.uk) or Suki Matharu (07730 943068)

Sun 20th Nov Contd. – International Mitzvah Day York Liberal Jewish group invite people to take part in their own Mitzvah Day. It involves a stand at Sainsburys on the site of Jewbury, inviting shoppers to donate items for redistribution to York Foodbank or another local charity supporting people in need. For times and further details please contact sherburn@jayprosser.plus.com.

Sun 20th Nov 11am – 'Finding Sanctuary' An Interfaith Service followed by a shared lunch at 12pm at the Unitarian Chapel, St Saviourgate. Lunch is a 'bring & share' one so if you are able to bring items along please do so before the service starts. Everyone most welcome.

1pm – 2pm. – Closing event & YIG Logo Competition results at the Unitarian Chapel, St Saviourgate. Photos of events from the week. Announcing the winners of the YIG Logo competition for school children that has been going on since Sept. Presentation of prizes and certificates.

N.B. Please note that the Lord Mayor & Civic Party have been invited to attend closing event and have been sent a copy of the full programme in case they would like to attend any other events during the week. Contact Dee at deeboyle@gn.apc.org if you are planning to attend this event.

RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS NOVEMBER 2022



1 November (Tuesday) ALL SAINTS' DAY Christian (Western Churches)

This day provides a chance to offer thanks for the work and witness of all saints, recognising that not all are known or specially celebrated. Many churches stress this day by holding events especially designed for children.



2 November (Wednesday) ALL SOULS' DAY Christian

The departed are remembered on this day and prayers are offered on their behalf.



2 November (Wednesday) ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROWNING OF HAILE SELASSIE I Rastafarian

One of the holiest days of the Rastafarian year; it celebrates Haile Selassie's accession to the Ethiopian throne.



8 November (Tuesday) ANAPANASATI DAY Buddhist [date not certain]

The last day on which the Kathina may be held. On the final day of the three months long Rains Retreat, a Kathina robe is made of patches of cloth. It is presented to a particularly deserving or virtuous monk, in a ceremony conducted by four of his colleagues.



8 November (Tuesday) LOY KRATONG Buddhist

Loy Kratong is celebrated in most of the village and town temples in Thailand and often coincides with a temple's Kathina Day. Degradable baskets are made and filled with carefully folded banana leaves, incense sticks, a candle and sometimes a coin. These are then launched on rivers, canals ponds or the sea, while a wish for good fortune is offered to the spirits of the water.



8 November (Saturday) BIRTHDAY OF GURU NANAK (1469 CE) Sikh

This is the birthday of Nanak, the first Sikh Guru. To celebrate it, Sikhs gather at the *gurdwara* to hear sermons and sing hymns about the life of the first Guru. The congregation will share a free meal (*langar*).



8 November (Tuesday) SHICHI-GO-SAN (Seven-Five-Three) Japanese

Girls of seven, boys of five and girls of three are dressed up in new clothes and taken to a Shinto shrine to pray for their future well-being.



13 November (Sunday) REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY National

The Sunday nearest to Armistice Day, devoted to remembering the dead of the two World wars and subsequent wars.



13 November (Sunday) to 21 November (Monday) INTER FAITH WEEK

Beginning on Remembrance Sunday and running until the following Sunday each year, Inter Faith week seeks to strengthen good inter-faith relations, increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, and increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs. Visit www.interfaithweek.org for more.



20th November (Sunday) Feast of Christ the King, which always marks the end of the liturgical year, before the cycle begins again the following Sunday with the first Sunday of Advent



24 November (Thursday) MARTYRDOM OF GURU TEGH BAHADUR (1675) Sikh

Under orders from the Moghul emperor, the ninth Guru was executed in public opposite the Red Fort in Delhi, so sacrificing his head rather than his faith, on behalf of Kashmiri Hindus, who had turned to him for help.



26 November (Saturday) DAY OF THE COVENANT Baha'i

The Day of the Covenant is the day when Bahá'ís celebrate the appointment of 'Abdu'l-Bahá as the Centre of Baha'u'llah's Covenant.



27 November (Sunday) ADVENT SUNDAY Christian (Western Churches)

The start of the Christian year, four Sundays before Christmas. It is often celebrated by lighting the first candle in the advent crown – a circular wreath of greenery. A further three candles are lit on subsequent Sundays, culminating with the Christmas candle on the 25th December. This signifies the transition from darkness to light.



28 November (Monday) ASCENSION OF ABDU'L-BAHÁ Baha'i



30 November (Wednesday) ST ANDREW'S DAY National



The patron saint of Scotland since the 8th century. Andrew was an apostle and brother of St Peter. In the Anglican communion he is associated with missionary activity.

Our current Committee comprises:

Chair: Avtar S Matharu

Vice Chair: Dee Boyle

Treasurer: Daryoush Mazloum

Secretary: Penny Coppin-Siddall

Newsletter Editor: Anne Castle

Christian Faith Representative: Sister Patricia Harriss

Hindu Faith Representative: Dr Varsha Gulati

Jewish Faith Representatives Sharon Tagger and Adrian Tellwright

Muslim Faith Representative and Press and Publicity: Dr Rasha Ibrahim

Your feedback is very important us. We constantly try to improve our service so that we can best support your needs and those of your faith. You can contact and/or follow us via:

Facebook—York Interfaith group

Instagram— @yorkinterfaith

Twitter—@Yorkinterfaith

email yorkinterfaithgroup@gmail.com

If you would like to contribute an article or advertise an event, please email yorkinterfaithgroup@gmail.com Items by November 16th to guarantee inclusion please.

Anne Castle, Newsletter Editor and Committee Member

Avtar Matharu, Chair, YIG