THE IFCG IS ASKING FOR YOUR HELP... RIGHT NOW

WE WANT YOUR VOICE...

On November 30th at 3pm at the Methodist Church in Dorset Gardens, BN2 1RL, the IFCG will hold its annual interfaith service, a moment of harmony, peace and understanding for the different faith groups of Brighton and Hove. This year we have taken the measure of establishing our own interfaith choir, taking the harmony even further...

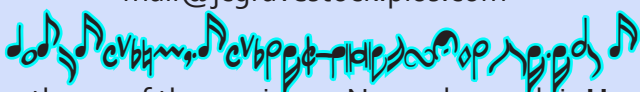## SINGERS WANTED

Do you enjoy singing?
Everyone is welcome to join our
INTERFAITH SINGING GROUP
for the Annual Brighton & Hove Interfaith Service
Sunday, November 30th at Dorset Gardens
Methodist Church BN2 1RL

The music will be beautiful; we will have three rehearsals led by the acclaimed musician and interfaith minister Razia Aziz, and
they will be held on Sunday, November 2nd, from 7.00 to 9pm, on Monday November 24th and Wednesday November 26th from 7.30 to 9pm at Hove Methodist Church, Portland Road, Hove, BN3 5DR (buses 2,46, and 49 opposite, the 5 round the corner in Sackville Road)

Please join us and play an essential part in an inspirational ceremony and service. Contact Charlotte on 07956 314380 or email: mail@jcgravestock.plus.com

The theme of the service on November 30th is **Hope for the Future - The Wish for Peace**. We are still compiling inspirational readings for the occasion. If you would like your faith group represented, email admin@interfaithcontactgroup.com
or call the IFCG secretary: 01273 503211

AND YOUR SUPPORT

MARTLETS HOSPICE URGENTLY SEEKS FAITH PANELISTS

Dr Andreas Hiersche, Macmillan Consultant in Palliative Medicine needs representatives from a variety of faiths to form a panel. The panelists will answer questions put by 4th year medical students, as part of the students' training of the spiritual care of patients and families. The body of students themselves are a mixture of cultures and faiths. The questions are listed on page 2, with more information about who to contact if you can help...

The Middle East Crisis is creating alarming problems for people in both the Islamic and Jewish communities of our City. The IFCG seeks to bring about understanding and peace, and for this reason we are publishing a significant letter, forwarded from our interfaith associates:

Imam Monawar Hussain, Founder of The Oxford Foundation, has issued the following statement following the release of an Open Letter signed by over 100 of the Sunni world's religious authorities to the leader and fighters of the extremist terrorist group named IS:

AN OPEN LETTER TO 'IS'

"I am a signatory, with some of the leading religious Sunni authorities in the Islamic world, to the open letter to the leader and fighters of IS. This open letter, point by point, undermines the claim of IS to any religious legitimacy for their violence perpetrated against the weak and helpless in Syria and Iraq. It demonstrates categorically that their actions have nothing to do with the religion of Islam but in fact do great violence to its teachings and principles.

"This open letter supplemented with the counter-narrative part of my 'Oxford Muslim Pupils' Empowerment Programme' is a significant resource for schools, colleges, seminaries, mosques and universities throughout the UK to challenge the narrative of these violent extremists. I would urge that these are utilised within these and other establishments to discuss and debate the ideas of violent extremists, so as to challenge, confront and defeat this extremist ideology."

Imam Hussain is the Founder of The Oxford Foundation (www.theoxfordfoundation.com) and the Founder of the Oxford Muslim College. You can download both the Open Letter and the Oxford Muslim Pupils' Empowerment Programme at www.theoxfordfoundation.com. For further information contact Imam Hussain on 07710 561499.

Executive Summary

1- It is forbidden in Islam to issue fatwas without all the necessary learning requirements. Even then fatwas must follow Islamic legal theory as defined in the Classical texts. It is also forbidden to cite a portion of a verse from the Qur'an—or part of a verse—to derive a ruling without looking at everything that the Qur'an and Hadith teach related to that matter. In other words, there are strict subjective and objective prerequisites for fatwas, and one cannot 'cherry-pick' Qur'anic verses for legal arguments without considering the entire Qur'an and Hadith.

2- It is forbidden in Islam to issue legal rulings about anything without mastery of the Arabic language.

3- It is forbidden in Islam to oversimplify Shari'ah matters and ignore established Islamic sciences.

4- It is permissible in Islam [for scholars] to differ on any matter, except those fundamentals of religion that all Muslims must know.

5- It is forbidden in Islam to ignore the reality of contemporary times when deriving legal rulings.

6- It is forbidden in Islam to kill the innocent.

7- It is forbidden in Islam to kill emissaries, ambassadors, and diplomats; hence it is forbidden to kill journalists and aid workers.

8- Jihad in Islam is defensive war. It is not permissible without the right cause, the right purpose and without the right rules of conduct.

9- It is forbidden in Islam to declare people non-Muslim unless he (or she) openly declares disbelief.

10- It is forbidden in Islam to harm or mistreat—in any way—Christians or any 'People of the Scripture'.

11- It is obligatory to consider Yazidis as People of the Scripture.

12- The re-introduction of slavery is forbidden in Islam. It was abolished by universal consensus.

13- It is forbidden in Islam to force people to convert.

14- It is forbidden in Islam to deny women their rights.

15- It is forbidden in Islam to deny children their rights.

16- It is forbidden in Islam to enact legal punishments (hudud) without following the correct procedures that ensure justice and mercy.

17- It is forbidden in Islam to torture people.

18- It is forbidden in Islam to disfigure the dead.

19- It is forbidden in Islam to attribute evil acts to God.

20- It is forbidden in Islam to destroy the graves and shrines of Prophets and Companions.

21- Armed insurrection is forbidden in Islam for any reason other than clear disbelief by the ruler and not allowing people to pray.

22- It is forbidden in Islam to declare a caliphate without consensus from all Muslims.

23- Loyalty to one's nation is permissible in Islam.

24- After the death of the Prophet , Islam does not require anyone to emigrate anywhere.

MARTLETS SEEKS FAITH PANELISTS

Dr Hiersche has some panelists already, but would like Muslim, Jewish, Hindu and other representatives to help the project. The Panel meets on November 21st at the Medical School, on the Falmer Site, at the University of Brighton. These are the questions that will be posed by the 4th year medical students:

* How would you prepare for an expected/impending death both practically and spiritually?
* Would it be customary to discuss your plans, preferences and needs with your family and friends
*Who would traditionally make decisions on your behalf if you were no longer able to do so?
* Would there be circumstances where withholding the 'truth' about the seriousness of the situation i.e. proximity to death is justifiable?
* As part of Advance Care Planning the competent individual can make an 'Advance Decision to Refuse Treatment'. This could be something as specific as requesting a *Do Not Attempt Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation* order, or the wish not to be re-admitted for life prolonging treatment when response to this treatment is unlikely. Would your culture and your faith support this idea?
*The students also ask about the position regarding organ donation. This would probably focus on organ donation from brain stem dead donors, not live donations within the family (e.g. kidneys).

Faith representation is urgently needed. Please help this important project if you can. To serve on the panel, contact Dawn Allan the chaplain at the Martlets on 01273 273448 or email: dawn.allan@martlets.org