

INTERFAITH NEWS



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF BRIGHTON AND HOVE INTERFAITH CONTACT GROUP

Spring 2013



Charleston, East Sussex

Report and photographs
from our 2013 AGM
and
Faith Day

Faith Day & The Annual General Meeting 2013 of the Brighton and Hove Interfaith Contact Group

A report from Charlotte Gravestock
Secretary of Brighton and Hove IFCG

Well over one hundred people gathered at the Friends Meeting House in Ship Street for our Annual General Meeting. This year for the first time, we decided to combine our AGM with a 'Faith Day', at which local faith groups were invited to mount a small tabletop display, which could be viewed by the general public. Eighteen different faith groups were present, a larger number than we had expected, which was very encouraging.

Items on show included sacred texts and other writings, devotional items, booklets and leaflets relating to the various faith communities. Most importantly of all, members of the faith communities themselves were on hand to chat to people and the hall was filled with a real 'buzz' of conversation.



The Mayor, Cllr. Bill Randall, and the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Mr Peter Field, and their wives, were happy to join the throng and to circulate around the 'stalls'. As usual, their messages to the Interfaith Contact Group were extremely encouraging. We greatly value the support we receive each year from these important representatives of our local community.

An inspiring talk was given by Mr Barney Leith OBE from the Bahá'í community. His theme was 'Humanity, Spirituality, Transformation: the Wisdom of Sacred Texts'. He spoke of flourishing through wonderment and the need to find contemporary interpretations and practical ways of expressing our spirituality.

We heard some beautiful individual voices singing or chanting during the course of the afternoon: Sahajatara (Buddhist), Saqib (Muslim), Pamela (Unitarian) and Razia (Interfaith Foundation). Many people commented on the powerful communication through these sung expressions of faith.



If cakes are a measure of the health of an organisation, the IFCG must be very healthy indeed! Somehow a tableful of delicious cakes materialised and this was much enjoyed by all.

Guest speaker, Mr Barney Leith from the Bahá'í community.

His theme was 'Humanity, Spirituality, Transformation: the Wisdom of Sacred Texts'.



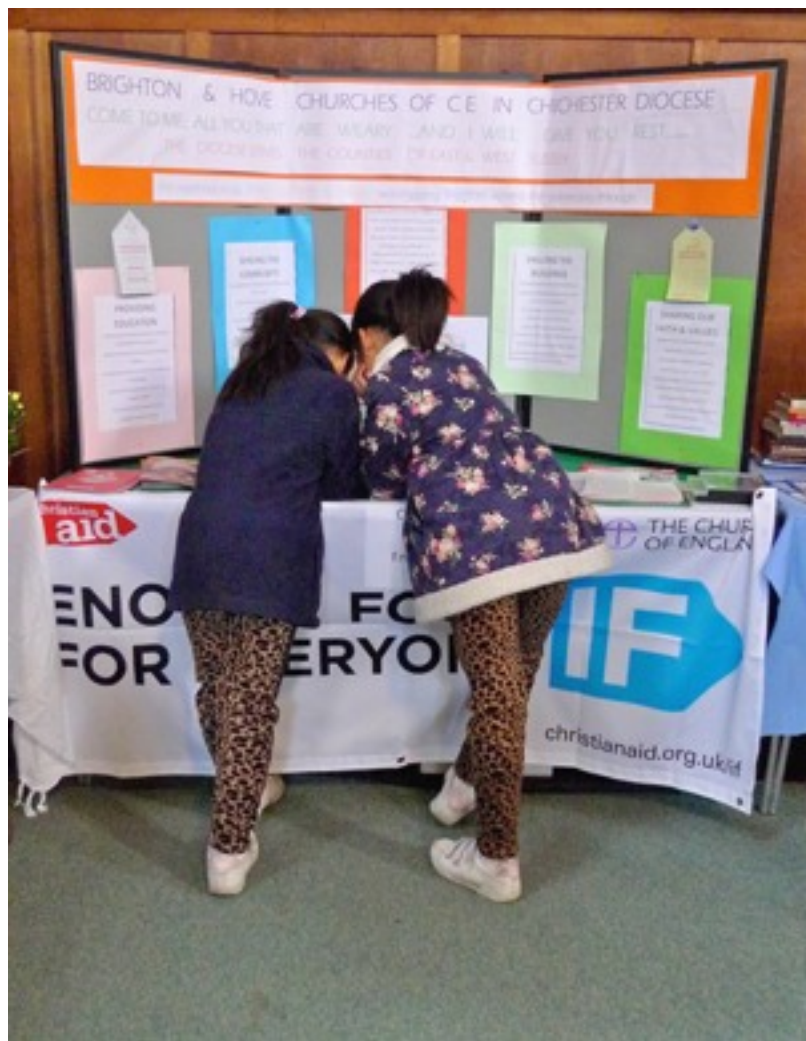
Mokshini Chair of Brighton Hove IFCG gives the results of elections for officers for 2013 -2014



Stuart Richardson of the Soka Gakkei International Buddhist tradition in conversation



Muslim, Jain, Jewish and Pagan participants exchanging information.
The Call to Evening Prayer was a moving experience to all.



Two young Bahai's visiting the Faiths Day went to every stand and were engrossed in all the materials they found.

Reverend Felix Mascarenhas, Vicar of the Good Shepherd Church, Brighton presented the girls with a book they had been reading, The Story of Jesus





Information and dialogue was one of the aims at Faiths Day





Music from Sahajatarā (Buddhist), Razia (Interfaith Foundation) and Pamela (Unitarian)

Interfaith Conference on Climate Change

We have written previously of the intention of inviting interested faith groups to contribute to a Climate Change Conference.

We now have a date and venue.

2pm - 5pm Saturday, July 20 at the Friends Meeting House, Brighton.

The aims of the conference is primarily to raise consciousness, and to put forward the proposition that together we could actually make a real difference.

If climate change equals suffering on a world wide scale, do Faith communities have a duty to try to prevent it?

What is the role of spiritual communities in desperate times?

Can we make a difference if we stand together and speak with one voice?

Sahajatarā, of the Triratna Buddhist Order, will co-host the event with Jason, a Quaker and contribute a talk on the Buddhist perspective on sustainability while Jason will talk about the Quaker approach.

The programme will be made up of short talks between 5 and 10 minutes duration on climate change related topics from the representatives from the faith communities. There will be a half-hour discussion following contributions on the topic of our responsibilities as faith groups and as individuals towards our shared environment.

We are also inviting creative responses in the form of poems, songs, music etc., to be interspersed with the talks.

It is hoped that following naturally from our consciousness-raising it might foster a two-way dialogue between local faith communities following the conference

We are inviting people from all faiths

If you would like to get involved and represent your faith to give answers to, or thoughts around this question for our times please contact me for information to register your interest:

Tony Tree
tonytree@btinternet.com
01273 684234

We will keep you updated on the more detailed programme via IFCG Mailing List



Last years IFCG Picnic in the Park was a great success --
so we are having another.

Bring some food to share, a rug to sit on and lots of sun screen --
it is going to be fine!

BRIGHTON & HOVE
INTER-FAITH CONTACT GROUP

invites you
to
Birth and its Celebrations

The first in a series of Life Events

With a variety of Rites and Celebrations we mark the important stages of our life.

Birth, Coming of Age, Marriage,
Ordination/Consecration, Death ...are some of them.

How do people celebrate them?
We try to share our experiences.

You are most welcome to join us

Speakers are:

Dr Milind Jani
Rabbi Elizabeth Tikvah Sarah
Tony Tree
Dr Amrut Shah

Hindu Tradition
Progressive Judaism
Quaker Tradition
Jain Tradition

Sunday 23 June 2013 at 4pm
The Church of the Good Shepherd
Dyke Road, Brighton

Followed by
Questions and Discussion
Refreshments

Brighton Hove IFCG diary for 2013

You are welcome to all of these events

June

Brighton and Hove People's Day

IFCG will again be here along with over 55 community and voluntary groups welcoming people from other communities and sharing what they do.

11am - 5pm
Saturday 15 June
Corn Exchange
Church Street
Brighton

October

Life Events II: Death

Rites and ceremonies related to death
Personal stories of death and dying and how our spiritual practice has helped (or hindered!) us in these times

Wednesday 30 October 5.30 -7.15pm
Brighton Buddhist Centre
17 Titchborne Street
Brighton

November

IFCG Annual Interfaith Service for Interfaith Week

As part of National Interfaith Week 2013 this service celebrates the building of good relationships and working partnerships between people of different faiths and beliefs, part of the year-round work of many people and organisations across our city and across the UK

Sunday 24 November 3pm
Unitarian Church
New Road
Brighton

Keep up to date with more of our events and IFCG Newsletter

www.interfaithcontactgroup.com

The Brighton & Hove Inter-Faith Contact Group (IFCG) exists as a resource for contact and dialogue between the many faith communities & traditions in the Brighton & Hove area. It is our aim to help build and maintain good relations, and greater understanding between us.

IFCG Chair - Mokshini Grant
chair@interfaithcontactgroup.com

IFCG Secretary - admin@interfaithcontactgroup.com

Please contact the IFCG Secretary with any requests, offers or ideas for additional inter-faith related meetings.

This Newsletter is edited by Tony Tree and all contributions are welcome.

.....if you have attended anything of an interfaith nature, spiritual thoughts or reflections or you can publicise your own faith community's events if you wish.

Next Newsletter is July 2012 and all contributions before 20 June to:
tonytreetree@btinternet.com

Have you Considered Membership?

Individual IFCG Membership is currently £10 per year from AGM 2012 to AGM 2013. Members must reside, work and/or attend a faith/tradition in the Brighton & Hove area; and must agree with the Constitution of the IFCG.

Please send your cheque payable to IFCG together with your name, address, phone number, email address and the name & address of your faith/tradition to:

B & H Interfaith Contact Group
c/o Community Base
113 Queens Road
Brighton
BN1 3XG



www.interfaithcontactgroup.com