



The Brighton & Hove
Interfaith Contact Group



MOVING FROM HARSH WINTER TO THE PROMISE OF SPRING

Only a few sunny days of this cruel winter have offered any promise of spring. Bearing this in mind the IFCG asked Pagan Chaplain Lyn Baylis to carry out a Spring meditation to help us feel closer to the gentler season. You can join this on February 12 at the Friends Meeting House... please read on...

This year promises to be a particularly busy one for the IFCG with a fascinating Friendship hour in March dedicated to the Sussex Sikhs, the annual Iftar Dinner, also in March, organised by our interfaith partners the Dialogue Society. The Dialogue Society with the support of the IFCG are also promoting

an award-winning school project called The Chick Pea Project, which has been very successful in other parts of the country.

A variety of social events are also being planned, along with vigils and a relaunch of our excellent Buddying Scheme.

If you are a member, please send us your membership payment this month - it is still just £15. If you are a Friend of the IFCG, why not join us as a member? Details available via [this link](#).

Very best wishes,

Anthea

Anthea Ballam
Chair Interfaith Contact Group

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Drop-in Meditation at the

Friends Meeting House

7pm at the Friends Meeting House on Wednesday, February 12

An opportunity try out three different kinds of meditation guided by three different experts in the field - a pagan meditation, a Quaker meditation and an interfaith meditation.

The pagan meditation will be lead by Lyn Baylis, and will resonate with the Spring Equinox, due to take place next month. At the close of the meeting attendees will be invited to discuss which process of spiritual contemplation resonates best with themselves.



Mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Lyn Baylis serves on the committee of the IFCG. She describes her belief as being based on "a single divine creative source that encompasses a belief in Gaia the Earth Mother and The All Father, Lord of death and resurrection; The Old Ones, Ancestors of this

land and the spirits of nature... I believe that we are all bound together by an essence... the divine spark that we call spirit that is within all beings."

Lyn has played an important part in the prisons, hospitals and communities of Sussex. She has been a pagan chaplain for 40 years - initially a prison chaplain, at Lewes and also at Bronzefield Prison in Ashford. She then became the Pagan Chaplain for Brighton & Sussex NHS Trust, and Chaplain at two local Hospices. She is also the Pagan Faith advisor for Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust and Chair of the Pagan Seminary, a training facility for Pagan Chaplains.

More recently Lyn has facilitated workshops enabling people to plan funerals in their own way. She says" I believe that in our culture Funeral Poverty is not only a financial problem but encompasses culture, social, emotional and spiritual aspects of our lives... Funeral ceremonies can be so much more than what we have become used to."



A warm invitation to find out about fostering

Foster carers in Brighton & Hove are urgently needed for
children in care in the City

Foster carers often say that their faith has
been their motivation to foster.
Join us to hear stories, share ideas and to
learn more about what it takes to foster.
Even if you aren't in a position to become a
foster carer yourself, find out how you can
#PlayYourPart in the change children need.

08 February

Parish Church of St John the Evangelist
Knogle Road, Brighton, BN1 6RB

10:15 - 1pm

**SCAN
ME! >>>**



With your help, our vision is to provide a
better, brighter future for children and
young people who need support.

Scan the QR code or visit
bit.ly/3CagzhP to register



We are working closely with the Reverend Emma at St. Johns and other local congregations in the City and we appreciate the ongoing warm welcome.



10:15 - Arrival and refreshments

10:30 - Introduction and presentation

Foster carers will speak about how their individual experience of fostering has enriched their lives.

11:15 - Coffee break

11:30 - Presentation

Care experienced young people will share their experience as a looked after child, and talk about the difference the consistent care of their foster families has made to their lives as adults.

12:15 - Closing words and prayer

We invite you spend some time connecting with our team.



www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/foster

Become a foster carer for
Brighton & Hove City Council.





March Friendship Hour at Hove Methodist Church

On Wednesday March 12 at Hove Methodist Church from 7 - 8.30pm

This year the IFCG has decided that the time has come to learn more about the spiritual practices of its own members and friends. The first to address us on this theme will be the Sikhs of Sussex, a particularly friendly, generous and inspired community.

Do join us for this special opportunity to learn more about our friends within the City at Hove Methodist Church, Portland Road, BN3 5DR, on March 12.

South East England Faith Forum (SEEF) Special Memorial Lecture

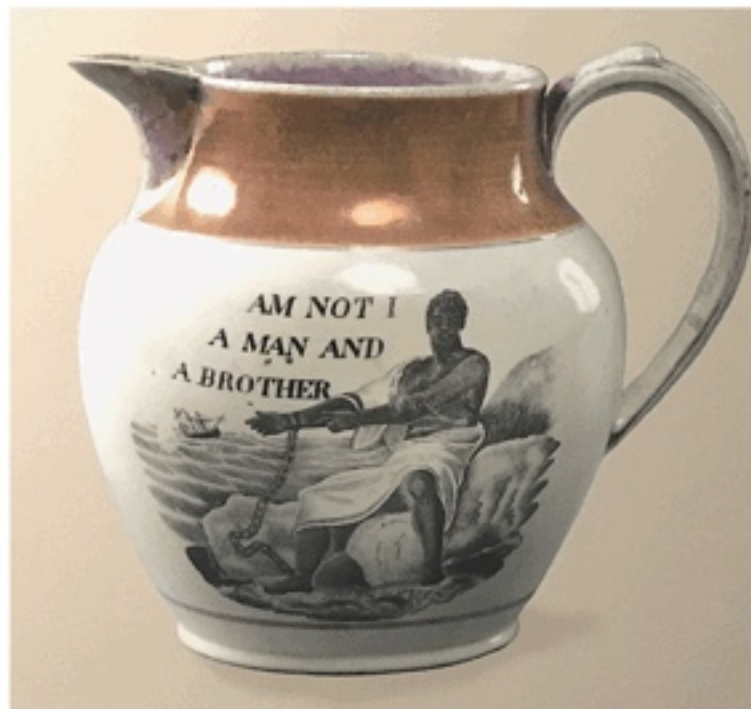
South East England Faith Forum

presents

Who are the Quakers and what did
they do to end the slave trade?

*Richard Seeborn gives the second lecture
in the Elizabeth Jenkerson Memorial
interfaith lecture series*

Thursday 13th March 2025
7-9pm on Zoom



Wedgwood item from the Norwich Museum

Richard Seeborn is a sixth generation Quaker. He trained as a metallurgist. After a few years in the steel industry he served in the Treasury, the Trade Department and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. In retirement he was for a time Representative in Brussels at the Quaker Council for European Affairs. He is currently the contact person for Oxford Quakers in ecumenical and interfaith relations.



Contact Emel Soyly 07446129154
emel@art-beyond-belief.com

Connect Zoom details
Via Internet Link
<http://bit.ly/3JIHTMw>

Via zoom App
Id: 4927471394
Passcode: Connect

South East England Faith Forum (SEEFF) is holding the second of its Elizabeth Jenkerson Memorial Interfaith Lectures. The March lecture is titled: "Who are the Quakers and what did they do to end the Slave Trade?" on 13th March 2025 at 7pm. Our speaker is Richard Seebohm who served as the representative in Brussels at the Quaker Council for European Affairs.

The lecture will be on Zoom, link below - Please feel free to pass it to your contacts.

Via Internet Link

<http://bit.ly/3JIHTMw>

Via zoom App

Id: 4927471394

Passcode: Connect

Numeric passcode 4292220 (if asked)



Ramadan 2025: February 28th to March 30th

The Muslim communities of Brighton and Hove will be honouring the holy month in a number of ways - fasting and also sharing and feasting. Dinner at The Grand Hotel has become something of a tradition in our City. It is always a

wonderful evening, and is organised by our sister organisation - The Dialogue Society. Do make a note in your diary - March 23rd. More details of how you can join this special occasion will follow.



ChickPea Project Comes to our City

A brilliant, award winning educational project designed to introduce the ideas of respect, tolerance and social cohesion amongst young people has been launched by The Dialogue Society and is being presented to our City's Schools. Called the Chickpea Project you can learn more about it by visiting the [Chickpea Project Website](#). If you believe that your school or a colleagues' school could make use this very special project, please contact me - chair@interfaithcontactgroup.com

www.interfaithcontactgroup.com

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