



The Brighton & Hove
Interfaith Contact Group



Solidarity with The Quakers: Celebrating with the Sikhs and a Voyage of Discovery

Finally welcome to spring and sunshine!

In total contrast... on March 27th police broke into the Westminster Quaker Meeting House and arrested six young people who were holding a meeting about climate change and the current problems in Gaza. The use of force was unprecedented, doors were damaged and tasers and handcuffs were used. Grave concern was voiced about this misuse of power by the Metropolitan

Police Service; since then we have held an excellent meeting with Sussex Police, and are confident that such a scenario would be much less likely in our City. The statement we issued about this debacle appears below.

On Sunday April 13th the Sikhs of Sussex are holding a superb event called *Vaisakh Paath*. This joyous and celebratory gathering was held last year at Amex Stadium and was such an outstanding success that it will be repeated again this year. Details, including registration are included in this newsletter.

And another important date for your diary - Sunday April 27th at the Friends Meeting House at 2.30pm. The IFCG's AGM has always been an excuse for an excellent event involving discussion, music and a legendary tea. This time we are inviting you to a voyage of discovery into spiritual practice with representatives from the Sufi, Jewish, Pagan and Franciscan communities. These fun and lively discussion groups are very special.

Enjoy the sunshine that radiates so beautifully on our South Coast.

Best wishes,

Anthea
Chair Interfaith Contact Group
anthea@antheab.com

Spiritual Practice Revealed

A Journey of Discovery

The Interfaith Contact Group
invite you to an inspirational
open discussion... guided by
members of the Sufi, Jewish
Franciscan and Pagan
Communities...

Then join us for a delicious
tea and a chance to meet
friends both old and new

Sunday
April 27th
from
2.30pm

The Friends
Meeting
House
Ship Street
Brighton
BN1 1AF
The IFCG's
Annual
General
Meeting

www.interfaithcontactgroup.com



Discovering Spiritual Practice: Making Friends over Tea and Cake

Members and Friends of the IFCG are warmly invited to this special interactive discussion. IFCG Members get additional information, but everyone is welcome to this talk on spiritual practice with input and ideas from inspired and unexpected speakers. The entire event (with minimal time spent on the AGM process) is followed by a delicious tea with a selection of cakes and savouries.

This year we are announcing a small increase in the cost of the annual IFCG membership - from £15 to £20, a regrettable necessity at a time when we have an ambitious programme of activities. We hope this does not inconvenience members. If you are an enthusiastic "Friend" of the IFCG, please do think about joining us. Details are to be found via [this link to the IFCG Membership](#).



Vaisakhi Paath

Sunday 13th April 2025 10.00am - 1:00pm
Followed by Kirtan & Langar (Hymns & Blessed Food)
at
Brighton & Hove Albion FC
American Express Stadium,
West Reception 4,
Village Way, Brighton, BN1 9BL

Supported By Brighton & Hove Albion FC

Hosted by Sikhs of Sussex



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facebook.com/groups/sikhs ofsussex

Vaisaki Paath Comes to the Amex

To celebrate Vaisakhi Paath registration is needed...

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh!

Sikhs of Sussex are thrilled to share some incredible news! Thanks to the tremendous success of our previous event and Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club's continued commitment to diversity, equality, and inclusion, we have once again been humbly offered their facilities to host our Vaisakhi Paath on Sunday, 13th April, followed by Kirtan and Langar.

This is a huge honour, and we cannot wait to come together as a community to celebrate this special occasion.

As before all attendees will be required to complete and submit Registration

Form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScW9i3zQt4-5LNQIOIGEUsAbzIOpMZ3QXG91gqncDo8rt0-w/viewform>

This is so we can keep everyone safe & secure during their visit to stadium, whilst helping to plan effectively for the numbers attending.

Let's unite once again in Chardi Kala and make this Vaisakhi truly special!

Volunteers: As always, an event of this scale requires careful planning and dedicated seva. We're looking for volunteers to support this upcoming event, and we'd love your help! If you're available, we could use assistance with preparations, provision & serving of food, activities leading up to and on the day, including playing tabla, Harmonium or singing Shabad Kirtan. Any help, big or small including donations, would be greatly appreciated.

Please let us know if you're interested in getting involved, and how you can potentially help, by messaging, commenting on event post or in registration form. Your help will be invaluable in making this a memorable and successful celebration.

Event Details:

Date: Sunday 13th April 2025

Location: Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club, American Express Stadium Village Way Brighton BN1 9BL (West Reception 4, Gap Solutions Lounge - West Stand G)

Paath: 10:00am

Shabad Kirtan: 11:00am

Langar: 12:00am

The event & parking at venue is FREE and open to all our diverse communities and all inter-faith groups. It will involve reciting Sikh Paath (prayers) and singing Shabad Kirtan (hymns) followed by Langar (FREE vegetarian food) for all attendees.

Note: It is required as a sign of respect and humility, during Paath & Shabad Kirtan the sangat (congregation) wear head-covering (eg bring Handkerchief/Scarf) and remove shoes and observe guidelines similar to visiting a Gurdwara.



Statement from the IFCG following the Incident at the Westminster Quaker House on March 27th 2025

The Interfaith Contact Group of Brighton and Hove (IFCG), wishes to voice its utter condemnation of the violation of The Westminster Quaker Meeting House on the night of March 27th. The IFCG includes representatives of around 30 different faith Groups, faith leaders and 300 'friends' representing people of faith and none in Brighton and Hove and Sussex.

The remit of the IFCG is to create safe spaces and opportunities for people of faith to meet in freedom. A significant number of our committee are Quakers, as are many of our friends. The ethos of peace is fundamental to the Quaker community, and their contribution empowers the IFCG to interact harmoniously with people of diverse faiths and cultures in Brighton, Hove and Sussex, including the City's occupants, visitors, refugees and the homeless.

In a world where freedom of faith and expression are not allowed in many countries and acts of violence against racial and cultural minorities are condemned by our Government, this ugly gesture of aggression is unacceptable. The Government and the MET cannot hide behind the Public Order Act of 2023 to carry out acts of assault against young people simply carrying out a meeting in a sacred place of worship. The use of tasers and equipment to break down doors and subsequently handcuff people in a sacred space is reminiscent of the darkest days of the worst political regimes; such measures must never be tolerated in the United Kingdom.

In the months to come the IFCG will continue to stand in support of The Friends and the ethos of peace fundamental to The Meeting House and those that worship there. We will always give our heartfelt support for the Quakers commitment to freedom of expression, and the right to state ideas in a peaceful and honourable way.

Anthea Ballam
Chair
Interfaith Contact Group

Sheila Boyer
Secretary
Interfaith Contact Group

Linda Lee
Brahma Kumaris

Ibrahim Gokhan Karadol
The Dialogue Society

Charlotte Gravestock
Member of Hove Methodist Church

Helen Ledger
The Quakers

Lyn Baylis
The Pagan Seminary

Elizabeth Archer
Pebbles Sangha

Mary Gallivan
Treasurer
Interfaith Contact Group

Pamela Hartog
Brighton & Hove
Progressive Synagogue



I GO DOWN TO THE SEA Mary Oliver (1933-2019)

I go down to the shore in the morning
and depending on the hour the waves
are rolling in or moving out,
and I say, oh, I am miserable,
what shall—
What should I do? And the sea says
in its lovely voice:
Excuse me, I have work to do

