



The Brighton & Hove
Interfaith Contact Group

**February - A Month of Interfaith
Events, Holy Days and Holidays**



February is an important month in the faith calendar. For the Pagan Community, February 1st was the day of Imbolc, whilst February 2nd was a special day for the Christian community - Candlemas. The Jewish holiday Tu B'shevat took place on February 1st and 2nd. This month Ramadan - the holy season for the Muslim Community begins on the evening of Tuesday, February 17th and continues until March 18th. In our City there will be many celebrations and all sorts of sharing - company, food and friendship. We hope to see you at the ever-popular Dialogue Society Iftar Dinner planned next month at The Grand Hotel; we have included some additional information about the many activities taking place during Ramadan in Brighton and Hove.

The Interfaith Contact Group calendar will be busy this year, and one of our events is the first Friendship Hour of 2026. This promises to be very special and will take place at 6pm in the Church of the Annunciation in Washington Street on March 11th. More information about this appears below...

Last month the IFCG held a closed Zoom meeting to discuss AI and Faith; this proved to be so successful that we plan to hold a wider, more comprehensive discussion on this subject at a later date.

Friendship Hour - A Time to Discover a Pioneering Church with an Unparalleled Environmental record



**Join an Evening to Remember at the Church of the
Annunciation at 89, Washington Street, Brighton BN2 9SR
on March 11th from 6pm**

This promises to be an exceptional Friendship Meeting that will be held in a warm and welcoming church that has pioneered a host of outstanding environmental initiatives in and around Brighton and Hove.

Unusually the Church has invited us to meet after one of its own evening micro-services, and after this there will be an opportunity for refreshments with cake, and participate in an intriguing fact finding opportunity... and a chance to meet and make friends.

Welcome to the Church of the Annunciation

89 Washington St, Brighton BN2 9SR

Interfaith Friendship Hour

Wednesday 11th March • 6pm

A Unique Evening of Reflection & Community

— 20-Minute Light & Music Micro-Service

Learn About Our Outreach &
Christian Climate Action

— Tea & Cake • Relax and Chat —

See the Ecological Stations of the Cross Artwork

A Hidden Gem in Hanover!

Inclusive, Welcoming & Accessible to All!

I feel The Annunciation is a safe place for me, and I feel privileged and proud to involved in such an inclusive and progressive church. The congregation offer a welcoming, inclusive place for all to come and be themselves."

Ramadan in Brighton & Hove



With a population of around 8,500 Muslims in Brighton and Hove, Ramadan has become an important part of our City's life.

A great variety of community, spiritual, and charity events will be held during Ramadan – from February 17th to March 18th. The holy month, which involves fasting from dawn till sunset, is anticipated to bring people together for shared meals, prayers, and reflection.

Check out these events during this holy time:

Open Iftar at Brighton Dome: The Ramadan Tent Project, known for organizing the UK's largest community Iftar events, is bringing their Open Iftar to the **Brighton Dome on Friday, February 27, 2026.**

Al-Medinah Mosque Activities: The Al-Medinah Mosque in Brighton will host daily prayers, Iftar, and Taraweeh (nightly prayers) throughout the month. They

also typically run a "Ramadan Preparation" course to help community members prepare for the spiritual, physical, and legal aspects of fasting.

Brighton Mosque Iftar Sponsorship: Brighton Mosque offers the community a chance to sponsor Iftar meals, where groups are invited to break their fast together nightly.

The Dialogue Society Iftar Dinner: This special event will be held in the Grand Hotel once more. It will almost certainly happen around the beginning of March; dates and details of this will be issued soon.

Faith for the Climate Webinar

To be held on Wednesday, 4th February 13.00-14.00 GMT on Zoom



Faith for the Climate exists to encourage, inspire and equip faith communities in their work on the climate crisis. People of faith see our planet as a gift, and believe we have a sacred responsibility to show solidarity and support for those who have done the least to cause climate change but are suffering its worst impacts.

A series of delightful coincidences marks the month of February this year. Christians following the Latin rite will begin the penitential season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, 18 February, which roughly coincides with the start of the holy month of Ramadan for Muslims. The month opens with the Jewish festival of Tu B'Shevat - the Birthday of the Trees - from sundown on Sunday, 1 February to nightfall on Monday, 2 February. At Faith for the Climate, we're commemorating this confluence of dates with our first webinar of 2026. Our Jewish, Christian and Muslim panelists will share insights about how Tu B'Shevat, Lent, and Ramadan can nourish our work on climate justice as well as foster healthier intra-faith and interfaith relations. Speakers: - Naomi Verber, Executive Director, EcoJudaism -

Bokani Tshidzu, Bright Now Campaign Officer, Operation Noah, and artist - Kamran Shezad, Executive Director, Bahu Trust.

For more information about Faith for the Climate, or to join the Webinar please visit the [Faith for the Climate Website](#)

An Urgent Request to Members and Friends of the IFCG

In April the IFCG will be holding its Annual General Meeting, which will involve an inspired debate, and a delicious tea. It will be held in the Friends Meeting House, in Ship Street.

Our Secretary, Charlotte Gravestock will be standing down after many years of dedicated service to the IFCG - indeed, she is one of our founding members. At the moment we have no secretary to replace Charlotte, and we would welcome any member, or friend (who becomes a member) to help us with this important but not too onerous task. In order to fulfil the role one needs to be a paid up member of the IFCG, which carries a lot of advantages. Information about becoming a member is available from our website, via [this link](#).

Being Secretary of the IFCG is a fun position. It involves not much more than a half-day a week, and our two previous secretaries are happy to guide and support where necessary. Above all things it involves no more than a real appreciation of the importance of the interfaith in our City. It is of course completely and totally unpaid, but it is a position of love, and it goes with the opportunity to meet an amazing committee of friendly people from different faiths, and a real enthusiasm to devise events and opportunities to promote friendship and inspiration across the faith groups of our City. Please give it a thought and then write to our Chair - Anthea Ballam: chair@Interfaithcontactgroup.com



Spiritual Book Club Flourishes

The IFCG Spiritual Book Club is held on the Second Monday of the Month. The next meeting will take place at 7pm on February 9th. The current title being read and enjoyed is John O'Donohue's *Anam Cara*. To join the Spiritual Book Club, please email our facilitator - spiritualbooks@interfaithcontactgroup.com



A Hawaiian Prayer

May the Earth continue to live
May the heavens above continue to live
May the rains continue to dampen the land
May the wet forests continue to grow
Then the flowers shall bloom
And we people shall live again

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