The Brighton & Hove
Interfaith Contact Group

Interfaith News Update for August



Dear Friend,

It is with great sadness that I have been obliged to resign as Chair of the Interfaith Contact Group for ongoing health reasons. The day-to-day needs of our amazing organisation are now beyond my capacity.

However, every dark cloud always has a sunny side, and I am delighted to

announce that the IFCG has a new Chair - Jason Evans - a well-known member of the Quaker Community, who has also built up a great reputation as a Quaker Chaplain at Sussex University. Jason also leads our Spiritual Book Club.

With real generosity and insight Jason is now handling the many tasks I have handled over the years but can no longer carry out. From now on, all communications to the Chair will go to him.

May I take this opportunity to thank all our members, friends and indeed our inspired committee for making my years as Chair such fun in so many ways.

Very best wishes,
Rev Anthea Ballam



Our visit to the Brighton Mosque, 16th July

We had a very good turnout to this visit and insight into the religious life of our friends in the Muslim community, with introductions, a talk and an opportunity to ask questions. We hardly stopped talking for a whole hour and a half!

We heard about the history of the Mosque and how the Muslim community became established in Brighton and Hove, lots of details and insights into Islam and the Muslim way of worship. Our committee member Sunny Choudhury served as host, with input from the Imam and some additions/clarifications from other Muslims, all of whom tried their very best to give us a detailed and accurate picture of what Islamic life is really like in Brighton and Hove (and elsewhere) – vital when there is so much misinformation in the news media and online.

At the end of the session we were invited to have a samosa before going our separate ways.

This was a particularly successful Friendship meeting. Once more, it revealed that we have so much more in common than the details over which we may respectfully agree to differ.

“Let there be no compulsion in religion, for the truth stands out clearly from falsehood.”
(https://quran.com/al-baqarah/256, retrieved 17/07/2026).

Jason Evans
IFCG Interim Chair



Sea Blessing, 16th August

You’re invited to The Blessing of the Sea at 3pm, 16th August.
We will be:
· Giving thanks for all that the sea provides for us

· (perhaps bring something that represents this– your sports gear, artwork, etc)
· Celebrating restoration of local marine ecology
· Saying sorry for all the damage we have done
· Asking for help in caring better for the oceans and all waters
· Blessing the sea with a driftwood cross



Kirtan Fest, 14th August

Kirtan is the practice of singing sacred mantras together, accompanied by instruments such as the harmonium, mrdanga drum, and hand cymbals. There is no performance and no audience, everyone is invited to take part, regardless of age, background, or musical experience.

For more details of this event, and to book a place, please visit: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brighton-hove-kirtan-festival-tickets-1993893272452 .

This is hosted by local Bhakti Yoga practitioners at Brighton Unitarian Church on August 14th, 6-9pm.



Dealing with Extremes, Brahma Kumaris, 19th August

Brighton Brahma Kumaris wish to invite you to the above event with Sudesh Didi at Stanmer House on 19th August, 6-8pm. There are more details on the

above flyer, along with a QR code to book a place. The equivalent booking link is: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dealing-with-extremes-a-sign-of-the-times-tickets-1994651406050 . Please use either of these methods to book with Stanmer House before attending.



Share ideas about Spiritual Books from your Armchair

The IFCG Spiritual Book Club is fun, friendly and inspirational. We meet every second Monday of the month at 7pm online, and our next meeting is scheduled for **August 10th**. We are currently reading **Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're In by Joanna Macy**.

The group is informal and relaxed, so if you haven't read the book you are welcome to come anyway (just hearing about it might inspire you). Try to bring some suggestions for books for the next month so that we can pick one at random. We have had some great choices.

If you would like to join us, please email spiritualbooks@interfaithcontactgroup.com

www.interfaithcontactgroup.com

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