

E – News Redbridge Faith Forum

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Redbridge Faith Forum office hours are

10am to 4pm Monday-Tuesday & 10-1 Wednesday-Thursday



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REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM LOOKING FORWARD

UN Day of Peace Meal – Wednesday 21st September 6.30pm-8.30pm

At the Karamsar Centre (Old Court House), Buckingham Road Ilford IG1 1TP *New *

Please buy your ticket and come along to join us sharing a 3 course vegetarian meal with soft drinks at the Karamsar Centre (site of the old Ilford County Court) in Buckingham Road. This will be a lovely occasion to mark the UN Day of Peace and an opportunity to make new friends and get to know Redbridge Faith Forum trustees and members in the presence of The Mayor. Tickets are priced £15 for adults and £6 for children under 12 years old – RFF Members can purchase tickets at a discounted price of £12. The delicious 3 course dinner will be served in the very comfortable banqueting suite at the Karamsar Centre. The venue is on bus route 86 – stop J and parking is available in surrounding streets. Please email faith.forum@redbridge.gov.uk to reserve your tickets & send a cheque payable to Redbridge Faith Forum with a note saying how many tickets required to our office – Room 76, 3rd floor, Redbridge Town Hall, 128-142 High Road, Ilford IG1 1DD with an addressed envelope and your tickets will be posted out to you. You may also call into the office (by prior arrangement) to pay for tickets in cash.

Interfaith Walk of Peace –Central Ilford Sunday 23.10.16 *New *

Further details to follow next month but in the meantime please reserve the afternoon of Sunday 23rd October in your diary to join us for this very popular and enjoyable event which takes place in Central Ilford, visiting a number of different faith venues, each year to mark “One World Week”.

REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM

What is it and what does it do?

The Redbridge Faith Forum (RFF) is a charity acting as a collective voice for Redbridge’s Faith communities.

RFF hold regular public meetings to discuss social issues affecting faith communities such as education, health, and give people the opportunity to meet and share with other faiths.

RFF was set up in 2003 following a faith conference set up by Redbridge Council, which brought faith leaders together to talk about their communities’ needs.

- RFF bring together local members of different faith communities.
- RFF promote social harmony.
- RFF foster a community spirit within Redbridge and the local area.
- RFF recognise the important contribution that religion and spirituality makes to the lives of Redbridge residents.
- RFF lobby relevant organisations that affect faith communities.

Easy fundraising for Redbridge Faith Forum

Please help us raise funds for the Redbridge faith Forum through online shopping and searching with easyfundraising.org.uk. It’s very simple! And it won’t cost you a penny. Whenever you buy something or search for something online through this account, the retailer makes a donation to the **REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM**. All these small donations soon add up! Charities using this method of fundraising have benefited by hundreds & in some cases thousands of pounds!

Just visit and register at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/redbridgeff/>

Once you've registered, an email will be sent with login details and then you are ready to help raise money for RFF! To start you off

Here are 4 ways through the easy fundraising link above and click on deals at the top of the page and select raise funds for free, for you to start raising money for RFF immediately, just 15minutes of your time!

1. Raise 20p for RFF by registering with greenpreferenceservice.com which is a free service where you decide what mail you want to receive through your letterbox and what you'd prefer to see online.

2. Raise 50p for RFF by registering with Download Find & Remind and raise 50p for RFF

3. Raise 50p for RFF by signing up to receive emails from Groupon. It features great deals at an unbeatable price every day, whether it's **90% discount on famous coffee brands, 2 for 1 at an exclusive restaurant, or discounted treatments at a heavenly health spa.** Sign up to receive emails from Groupon.

4. Raise 5p for RFF by registering with beonscreen.com - your ticket to appearing on TV! Search through shows that are looking for participants, get free audience tickets, find a job in television & entertainment and receive email alerts of new listings!

With 100 people registering, you could help raise £125 for RFF!

You will have access to over 2000 well known online retailers- Amazon, Boden, John Lewis, M&S, Expedia, eBay, Argos & more

You can make a difference to Redbridge Faith Forum and help us raise money to continue the good work we do bringing people and communities together and providing essential information and services. **We will keep you updated of money raised through easy fundraising.**

Current Trustees

RFF is an independent organisation with a charitable status (1118675). RFF has a board of trustees composed of representatives of different faiths :

Christian: ☩

- Jacquie Grieve (chair)
- Phil Butcher (Vice Chair)
- Rev Bernardino Mandlate

Hindu: ॐ

- Vinaya Sharma
- vacancy

Jewish: ☆

- Lawrence Becker
- Angela Banner

Muslim: ☪

- Ali Qureshi
- Ghazanfer Ali
- Mo Dedat (Treasurer)

Sikh: ੴ

- Harbans Singh Seehra

Baha'i: ☼

- Carol Khorsandyan

Buddhist: ☸

- Rev P Hemaratana
- Dr Suhasini

Jain: ॐ

- vacancy

Zoroastrian: 𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌

Redbridge Faith Forum Membership

We hope that you will understand that in order to continue our work to the benefit of all living in Redbridge, the Faith Forum needs to raise funds to cover the various activities we organise. Membership is open to all and there are a range of options available.

Associate member: (open to everyone) receives all e-mail updates, a membership certificate, invitations to all events, able to attend training sessions organised by RFF, able to vote at AGM – suggested donation £10 per year.

We are proposing two other membership scales for large groups and businesses as follows:

- **Place of Worship:** full membership (open to recognised faith groups and their designated representative) all rights as above; additionally such representative may be nominated for election to the Management Committee and - £30 per year.
- **Business member:** receives all e-mail updates, invited to all events, able to attend training sessions organised by RFF, able to vote at the AGM and provided with a copy of the RFF charter for display at the business premises. Business Member rates: small business £25 (less than 10 employees); medium business £50 (less than 200 employees); large £75 (more than 200 employees).

If you would like to become a RFF member please email faith.forum@redbridge.gov.uk for a membership form.

EVENTS IN REDBRIDGE



Give & Take Days

16-18 September 2016

There are several events taking place this month to celebrate “Recycle Week” – these are community Swap Shop events where you can bring along items like CDs DVDs sportswear clean clothes, bric a brac, homeware kitchenware, toys and games but not bulky items or electrical items or infant care seats.

Friday 16th	1-3.30pm	Karamsar Centre Buckingham Rd Ilford IG1 1TP Donations accepted until 2 pm
Saturday 17 th	11am-3pm	Cranbrook Fold Café, Cranbrook Baptist Church, Wellesley Rd IG1 4JT Donations accepted until 2pm
Sunday 18 th	12-6pm	Wanstead Festival, Christchurch Green, High Street Wanstead E11 Donations accepted until 4pm

Further information visit www.redbridge.gov.uk and search Give and Take Days.

Redbridge's largest showcase of architecture and design

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September

Come along to Redbridge's Open House, Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September, for a unique opportunity to see, explore and learn about amazing architecture and design in Redbridge. More than 10 buildings will be opening their doors across Redbridge, with tours and walks – all for free.

Explore the Borough's great buildings and places that are sometimes off-limits. From historic places of worship, celebrated civic buildings as well as hidden gems you didn't know were there, doors open during this celebrated, annual weekend festival.

Highlights of the Redbridge Open House programme include:

The Hospital Chapel of St Mary and St Thomas
Ilford War Memorial Hall
Redbridge Town Hall
The Temple
Wanstead Heritage Walk
Woodford County High School

[Get full dates and opening times](#)

Quiz night to raise funds for Christian Aid

Saturday 17th September 7.00pm at Seven Kings United Free Church, Meads Lane Ilford IG3 8NU

Tickets priced £6 available from Francesca Fenn francescafenn@hotmail.com
Refreshments available

Singers Wanted for New Community Gospel Choir

Introductory Workshop 7pm Thursday 22nd September at Seven Kings United Free Church, Meads Lane Ilford IG3 8NU

All abilities welcome – if you just enjoy singing come and join. £4 per session (£3 concessions) – for more information contact Christine chrispowell61@hotmail.co.uk Tel 0208 590 3288 or look at the website www.sevenkingschurch.org.

Redbridge Women: Shaping our future

Saturday 24th September, 2pm to 6pm, Redbridge Library, Clements Road, Ilford

This important free event will explore issues affecting the holistic wellbeing of women of all cultures, especially African and BME women living or working in Redbridge. Topics include: faith, culture and family, domestic violence, emotional resilience, life and career planning, healthy loving relationships, FGM, and HIV and sexual health. There will be free crèche and refreshments. There will also be on-site rapid HIV and STi testing provided by Terrence Higgins Trust.

FREE tickets can be obtained at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/redbridge-women-shaping-our-future-tickets-27123848160>

For more information, please contact vernal.scott@tht.org.uk or call 07468 726 016.

Tea Music and Dance Events

Tuesday 27th September - Redbridge Central Library 1.30PM - 3PM

Friday 30th September - Chadwell Heath Library 10.30AM

Redbridge Music Lounge

12.30-4.30 pm – Wednesday 7th & 21st September and Thursdays 15 & 29 September at The Cranbrook Centre in Valentines Park – Melbourne Gate, Melbourne Road IG1 4SB (for directions see www.cranbrookcentre.london)

The venue is for musicians and anyone interested in playing music, who are retired, in part-time work, unemployed or semi-professional, even if committed to bands/group already but have time and expertise to offer and share mainly, for daytime projects, events and local festivals. Feel free to bring along your instruments and perform – rehearsal equipment and performing facilities are also available.

For further information contact Chris Wyatt mob 07929 071155 email criswyatt@aol.com
www.rmluk.org. Registered Charity 1151132

Sophia Hubs

For information or any query regarding Sophia Hubs Seven Kings, please contact Ros Southern on 07707 460309/0208 590 2568, or by email ros.southern@virginmedia.com Twitter: @sophiahubs7k FB: Sophia Hubs Seven Kings or consult the blog: <https://sophiahubs7k.wordpress.com/>



On the Redbridge Timebank – just ask and someone will be able to help you set up or develop your website. The Sophia Hub website doesn't cost a penny <https://sophiahubs7k.wordpress.com/> and I as well as others can offer Timebank hours to help you (in return for hours to spend elsewhere!)

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

Could you support someone to put down roots? –Home for Good Project

The Passage is a homelessness charity based in Westminster, providing holistic support to people experiencing homelessness through our large Resource Centre, accommodation projects, outreach work and homelessness prevention projects. One of these is a resettlement support scheme called Home for Good, which has been running for two years.

A London-wide scheme, Home for Good was designed to support those who might be struggling in a new and unfamiliar area, without a support network. Our clients have reported that social isolation can be a real problem, leading to a recurrence of homelessness, so we are eager to combat this by providing support through the Home for Good Social Clubs (based in Victoria and Tottenham) and London-wide Community Volunteer scheme.

We are looking for compassionate individuals from all walks of life who can spare an hour or two each week to support a formerly homeless person in their local area. Home for Good Community Volunteers receive full training, background checks and ongoing support from The Passage to meet regularly with a client once they have been introduced. All expenses are covered. The commitment required is 6 - 12 months.

Activities include:

- Supporting the client with emerging issues and identifying goals
- Exploring the local area and finding local services or organisations that can help
- Going for a coffee and a chat (or a trip to a gallery) to explore shared interests



Our Home for Good partnerships have been enjoying a wide variety of activities together across London – from volunteering at a drop-in, exploring local jumble sales, walking dogs in a park, to doing on-line job searches in a local café. It is an eye opener to all there is going on in London. The relationships built over time empower and benefit the clients accessing the project.

This summer we have been out and about delivering training with City based faith groups under our “Home for Good in the City” umbrella and with corporate partners. It has been exciting to meet with other organisations starting similar structured befriending projects - to share ideas and best practice. As Paolo, one of our volunteers, said: “I see even more how something like Home for Good is an essential service to provide support to the clients in a crucial phase of their way out of homelessness, both from a practical but also relationship point of view”.

If you would like to make a lasting difference to someone’s life, please contact us on: 020 7592 1873 or EMAIL homeforgood@passage.org.uk

NEW LOCAL SERVICE

New phone service helps people feeling alone or isolated

Are you feeling alone or isolated? Are you in need of a friendly conversation? OrangeLine is here to help.

OrangeLine is a new free service delivered by Saint Francis Hospice. It’s confidential and managed by specially trained staff and volunteers who are dedicated to your wellbeing.

Who is it for?

If you are a local person and you are...

- receiving support from Saint Francis for a life-limiting illness
- a carer for someone with a life-limiting illness
- recently discharged from one of our services
- recently bereaved
- somebody who feels a conversation would prove helpful

... OrangeLine is for you.

OrangeLine is open to local people of all ages. You do not need to have a connection with Saint Francis Hospice.

How will OrangeLine help me?

You can call OrangeLine:

- For a friendly chat.
- For information and signposting to local services that may be useful or helpful.
- To link to other callers via groups and workshops that we facilitate.
- To connect with others in your community via call chains.

Is OrangeLine a confidential service?

Yes. You can call and express any thoughts and feelings you have in confidence; they will always respect your privacy.

Saint Francis Hospice fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. If they think your safety or welfare is compromised, they will operate their safeguarding procedure in line with guidance from agencies such as the Department of Health and Local Safeguarding Boards.

When can I call?

OrangeLine is available Monday-Friday, 9.00am - 5.00pm. For calls made after 5pm please leave a message and they will aim to call you back within one working day. All calls are charged at your standard network rate. Saint Francis make no charge for the service we provide.

Will I be invited to groups and activities?

Saint Francis may invite callers to groups run by Saint Francis Hospice staff and volunteers, where relevant. This may be, for example, their Carers Drop In or Social Link group. They will also create new groups that will connect you with other people that will share common interests or experiences to you. This may be, for example, a lunchtime gathering at Saint Francis Hospice. Finally, they will arrange 'call chains'. These will be a managed series of phone calls to encourage conversation between yourself and others in a similar situation.

How to contact Orangeline

- Call 01708 753319 ext.3028
- Email orangeline@sfh.org.uk
- Visit www.sfh.org.uk/orangeline

HAVE YOUR SAY

Property Licensing Consultation

Redbridge Council is consulting on proposals to introduce two licensing schemes for private rented properties. Selective Licensing requires properties rented to single family households in certain wards to be licensed. This protects tenants by improving housing standards and the management of private rented accommodation and reducing anti-social behaviour.

The first scheme includes Valentines and Clementswood wards. The second scheme includes the wards; Goodmayes, Snaresbrook, Newbury, Cranbrook, Chadwell, Aldborough, Loxford, Roding, Mayfield, Seven Kings, Fairlop and Church End. Public meetings are being held across the borough.

For the Questionnaire, FAQs, meeting dates and further information, please visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/prslicensing

Have your say before the consultation closes on 16 October 2016.

Ilford Public Realm consultation

Major improvements have been unveiled for Ilford High Road. LBR want your views on the plans for Ilford in our Ilford Public Realm consultation, a multi-million pound boost for major street improvements which is set to transform Ilford High Road.

Ambitious plans will create new high-quality, accessible public spaces, and alongside the arrival of Crossrail, the major street improvements will help to fundamentally revitalise Ilford Town Centre. The proposed improvements will take place at Ilford High Road (from the crossroads with Cranbrook Road through to the area outside Ilford Police Station) and will include the following connecting side streets: Clements Lane, Clements Road and Chadwick Road. The proposed improvements will take place between 2017 and 2019.

[Find out more and have your say on the Public Realm Consultation](#)

Redbridge Local Plan

LBR is asking for residents' views on the Redbridge Local Plan 2015 – 2030 which sets out a vision for new homes, jobs and infrastructure in the borough over the next 15 years following approval for consultation at Full Council in July.

The Local Plan is the main planning document used to ensure that new developments are of the right type, in the right place, and at the right time.

The Local Plan responds to key challenges and new opportunities such as a rising population, housing growth, boosting the economy, maximising benefits of Crossrail and providing the social and community infrastructure that residents and businesses need. Our population is growing rapidly and is estimated to rise by 65,000 over next 15 years, reaching 362,000 by 2030. This means we must identify ways to provide homes, schools and community facilities.

LBR wants your views on the 'soundness' of the Plan by the end of September. The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) sets out four tests of soundness against which the Local Plan will be assessed by an independent Planning Inspector.

[Find out more and have your say on the Local Plan](#)

The Strengthening Faith Institutions Scheme –Bursaries Available

This pilot programme is available to faith institutions at a cost of £1500 for the package consisting of a bespoke health check and Training sessions however there are currently bursaries available for a limited number of organisations to cover all costs minus a £100 membership fee. The bespoke health check provides local faith based expert facilitations to engage with the senior management/clergy of the institution to identify key organisational strengths and areas for improvement and create a bespoke action plan with six month follow up. The training sessions will include financial sustainability, good governance, fundraising, social media, youth engagement, safeguarding and security. The pilot programme is backed by the Department of Communities and Local Government and run by a consortium of faith based charities led by the Fayre Share Foundation and aims to create stronger, healthier, integrated and accessible places of worship across the UK for everyone. The programme is delivered by a local facilitator who shares the faith and ethos of the organisation. Further information available from info@faithsforum4london.org.

EVENTS ELSEWHERE

Woman's Trust Self-development Workshops

At Stratford Arcade, 107-109 The Grove, Stratford London E15 1HP

Tuesday 20th 10am-2pm What is domestic abuse and what are its effects
Tuesday 27th 10am-2pm Effects of Domestic Violence on children

To reserve your place please ring Amanda or Alice on 020 7034 0303

Courses at St Ethelburga's

There are many enticing looking events taking place at St Ethelburga's, too many to list so please visit their website to find out what is on offer <http://www.stethelburgas.org/events/public>



The East London Three Faiths Forum

8pm Thursday 15th September at South-West Essex & Settlement Reform Synagogue, Oaks Lane Oaks Lane, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex IG2 7PL

"Hospitality – Scriptural reasoning" based on the shared study of material from sacred texts

SOME CELEBRATIONS TO COME

Dates and text come from the multifaith calendar <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/2016-religious-festivals/september> The rest of the calendar can be found at <http://www.reonline.org.uk/supporting/festivals-calendar/> unless otherwise indicated

Tuesday 1st September **Ecclesiastical year begins** – Tradition: **Orthodox Christian** Orthodox New. For more on Year, see <http://www.antiochian.org/ecclesiastical-new-year> and <http://www.goarch.org/ourfaith/ourfaith7070>
Thursday 1st September is **Harvest Festival** -Tradition: **Christian** (Western, Anglican and Free Churches)-Dates vary.

Special services are held around this time of year to give thanks for the goodness of God's gifts in providing a harvest of crops along with all the other fruits of society. Displays of produce are often made, usually distributed afterwards to those in need. Increasingly the emphasis is on a wider interpretation than just the harvests of the fields and seas.

Thursday 1st September commemorates the **Installation of the Sikh Scripture in the Harmandir Sahib** -Tradition: **Sikh**

In 1604, in the place of worship where the Golden Temple now stands in Amritsar (Punjab), the Sikhs' fifth Guru, Arjan Dev, installed for the first time the Adi Granth, a volume of scripture for the Sikh community. It consisted of the hymns of the first five Gurus plus those of other 'saint-poets'. Hymns by the ninth Guru, Tegh Bahadur, were later incorporated in the scripture, so forming the present Guru Granth Sahib. For more see <http://sgpc.net/history-of-harmandir-sahib/> and <http://www.goldentempleamritsar.org/>

3rd September (Saturday) to 13th September (Tuesday) - 1st to 10th DHUL-HIJJAH Muslim
Tradition: **Islam** (1st to 10th Dhul Hijjah)

For Muslims the first 10 days of the month of Dhul-Hijjah are held to be especially holy when good

deeds are particularly rewarded by God. These days encompass the allotted days for the performance of the Hajj (pilgrimage) and the first day of Eid-ul-Adha (the feast of sacrifice)

Sunday 4th September is **Fravardin Mah Parab** (Shenshai calendar) - Tradition: **Zoroastrian/Parsi**
Fravardin day is a day of the guardian spirits in the Zoroastrian calendars. On the day of Fravardin, the 19th day of the month of Fravardin, the first month of the year, Zoroastrians visit the vicinity of the Towers of Silence in India (or in the UK the Zoroastrian Cemetery in Brookwood, Surrey) to participate in a jashan ceremony in memory of the departed fravashis (guardian spirits and souls of the community). Sacred food is prepared as an offering to the departed during the jashan and is later shared by the participants. For more see <http://delhiparsis.com/2007/08/19/the-parsi-zoroastrian-calendar-days-and-their-meanings/> or <http://www.avesta.org/angels.html> or <http://www3.sympatico.ca/zoroastrian/fravar.htm>

Monday 5th September **Ganesh Chaturthi** (Birthday of Ganesh) -Tradition: **Hindu**
Ganesh Chaturthi / Vinayaka Chaturthi is a Hindu festival in honour of Ganesh/Ganesha, (also known as Ganapati and Vinayaka), the god of good fortune and new beginnings. A popular story explains why Ganesha, the son of Parvati and Shiva, has the head of an elephant. For more, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mythological_anecdotes_of_Ganesh. This festival is particularly significant for Hindus from Maharashtra and is celebrated in a major way in Mumbai. "Lord Ganesh is the symbol of wisdom, prosperity and good fortune. Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated on Shukla Chaturthi of the Hindu month of Bhadra (generally falls between August and September). This festival is celebrated by Hindus with a great enthusiasm. People bring idols of Lord Ganesh to their homes and do worship. The duration of this festival varies from 1 day to 11 days, depending on the place and tradition. On the last day of the festival the idols are taken out in a colourful and musical procession and immersed traditionally in water. As per Hindu mythology Lord Ganesh is considered as "Vigana Harta" (one who removes obstacles) and "Buddhi Pradaayaka" (one who grants intelligence). This festival is very important for students; they worship Lord Ganesh to illumine their minds." Source <http://www.calendarlabs.com/holidays/india/ganesh-chaturthi.php> For more, see <http://hinduism.about.com/od/festivalsholidays/a/ganeshchaturthi.htm>

Sunday 11th to Thursday 15th September **Hajj / Pilgrimage to Makkah (8th to 12th Dhul-Hijjah)**
Muslim

All Muslims who can afford to do so, and are not prevented through ill-health, are required to make this pilgrimage once in their lifetime (although there is no prohibition on making the pilgrimage more than once). A series of ritual acts are performed by the pilgrims during the first two days of Hajj, prior to the three day festival of Eid-al-Adha which is celebrated in Makkah by the pilgrims.

Sunday 11th September is **Ethiopian New Year's Day** -Tradition: **Rastafarian**
Rastafarians have a four year cycle, each year named after an evangelist. This is the beginning of the year of Mark. The start of the New Year in Ethiopia is recognised because Rastafarians believe Ethiopia to be their spiritual homeland, and a place to which they want to return. The history of Ethiopia is remembered, and its importance acknowledged through Biblical passages and prayer. A Nyabingi session inclusive of music, chanting and prayer is also held to mark the occasion. For more see http://jahworks.org/adjua_dubb/rastafari-way-of-life/#.U_307GeND3U and <http://www.meekmandrums.com/history>

Monday 12th September **Waqf al Arafa /Yaum-Arafat** (the day of Arafat) or Hajj Day (9th Dhul-Hijjah)-Tradition: **Islam**

This day marks the culminating event of the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Makkah. Muslims who are on Hajj spend the day in prayer on Mount Arafat to commemorate the end of the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet. Those not on Hajj are also expected to pray and fast. Surah 5: 4 Waqf al Arafa is the Islamic observance day during Hajj, in which pilgrims pray for forgiveness and mercy. Pilgrims stay awake at night to pray on the hill of Arafat, the site where Muhammad (pbuh)

traditionally delivered his last sermon. “The Day of Arafa is an Islamic Holy Day, in which it is said that the religion had been perfected. The original day was on a Friday, but now the Day falls on the 9th day of Dhul Hijja of the lunar Islamic Calendar. This happens to be approximately 70 days after the end of the month of Ramadan. It is the second day of the Hajj pilgrimage and the day after it is the major Islamic Holiday of Eid ul-Adha. At dawn of this day, Muslim pilgrims will make their way from Mina to a nearby hillside and plain called Mount Arafa and the Plain of Arafa. It was from this site that Muhammad gave his famous Farewell Sermon in his final year of life. It is said that a believer who fasts on this day expiates for the past year's sins and the sins for the year coming.”

Source http://aibtv.com/interfaithcalendar/p-ups/october/haji_day.htm for more
<http://www.awqaf.ae/Jumaa.aspx?Lang=EN&SectionID=15&RefID=903>

Tuesday **13th** September is **Eid al Adha** (Sacrifice Day) -Tradition: **Islam** (begins sundown on 22nd (10th Dhul-Hijjah) A

four days bank holiday in Muslim countries, this major festival (al-Eid al-Kabir) marks the end of the Hajj (Pilgrimage to Makkah) on the tenth day of the twelfth month of Dhul-Hijja. The Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam. Pilgrims sacrifice animals at the village of Mina on their way back to Makkah from Mount Arafat (where they have spent the first day of the festival) in commemoration of Ibrahim's (Abraham's) willingness to sacrifice his son, Ismail. Muslims all over the world sacrifice an animal if they can afford it. Much of the meat is distributed to the poor, and some is shared with relatives and friends. Surah 37:99-111, 22:26-33 and 3:96-97. As with all festivals there are prayers, and also presents. For more, see <http://islam.about.com/od/haji/a/adha.htm> . For a Christian retelling and interpretation of this festival, see <http://www.answering-islam.org/Gilchrist/eid.html>

Saturday **17th** September – Monday **24th** October **Sukkot** -Tradition: (begins sundown on 27th) Tradition: **Jewish** Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles which celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents, on their way from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. In the singular, a Sukkah (hut or booth) is a temporary dwelling place which has leaves for a roof so the sky can be seen. Nowadays, Sukkoth (plural of Sukkah) are decorated with branches, flowers and fruit. In warm climates, people will often spend all seven nights of the festival in the Sukkah which is also used to eat meals and socialise. The text which refers to the festival of Sukkoth is Leviticus 23:33-43. “If I were to summarise the message of Sukkot I'd say it's a tutorial in how to live with insecurity and still celebrate life“. Ex -Chief Rabbi J. Sachs. At the synagogue and in the home, a special prayer involves waving a Lulav, a set of four plants ritually bound and held, namely: a slender palm branch that is held together with two willow branches and three myrtle branches in the right hand. An etrog (etrog) is a citron that looks mostly like a misshapen lemon but smells like heaven is held in the left hand. The branches and fruit are waved each day Sukkot, except on Shabbat, in a specific manner for a variety of reasons. For more on the Lulav http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Jewish_Holidays/Sukkot/In_the_Community/Lulav_and_Etrog.shtml For more on Sukkot <http://www.aish.com/h/su/dits/62549892.html?s=feat> NB **The first two days and the last two days are full festival days when, for Orthodox Jews, work is not permitted.**

Wednesday 21st September The Festival of The Pool / EID UL GHADEER Muslim (Shi'a) This is a festival observed by Shi'a Muslims, for whom it is an extremely important day. It commemorates an event shortly before the death of the Prophet and his announcement concerning Ali, which they understand to be his clear appointment to be successor to the prophet as the spiritual and temporal leader of Islam

Sunday **27th** September **Meskel** -Tradition: **Ethiopian Orthodox Christian**

Meskel (the Finding of the True Cross). Meskel, a national holiday in Ethiopia, is celebrated by dancing, feasting and lighting a massive bonfire known in Ethiopian tradition as "Damera". Meskel commemorates the finding of the True Cross in the fourth century when Empress Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, discovered the True Cross on which Christ was crucified. The feast is celebrated in Ethiopia on September 17th Ethiopian calendar (September 27th Gregorian calendar), 6 months after the discovery of the True Cross. The celebration of Meskel signifies the presence of the True Cross at the mountain of Gishen Mariam monastery and also symbolises the events carried out by Empress Helena. According to tradition, Empress Helena lit incense and prayed for assistance to guide her. The smoke drifted towards the direction of the buried cross. She dug and found three crosses; one of them was the True Cross used to crucify Jesus Christ. Empress Helena then gave a piece of the True Cross to all churches, including the Ethiopian Church. This piece was then brought to Ethiopia. According to the Ethiopian legend, when people get close to the piece of the True Cross it made them naked by its powerful light. Because of this, a decision was made to bury it at the mountain of Gishen Mariam monastery in Wollo region. The monastery of Gishen Mariam holds a volume of a Jewish book which records the story of the True Cross of Christ and how it was acquired. <http://www.ethiopian treasures.co.uk/pages/festival.htm> . More at <http://www.ibtimes.com/ethiopia-celebrates-meskel-christian-holiday-all-its-own-yellow-flowers-blazing-bonfires-photos> , <http://www.awazetours.com/Visit-Ethiopia/Ethiopian-Festivals/Meskel.html>

Thursday 29th September festival of **Michael and All Angels**- Tradition: **Christian**

Also known as Michaelmas, it is celebrated on the 29th of September every year. As it falls near the equinox, the day is associated with the beginning of autumn and the shortening of days; in England, it is one of the "quarter days" (Any of the four days of the year regarded as the beginning of a new season or quarter, when most quarterly payments are due). "The cult of St. Michael began in the Eastern Church in the 4th century and spread to Western Christianity by the 5th century; the date of May 8 commemorates the dedication of a sanctuary to St. Michael at Monte Gargano in Italy in the 6th century. Because of St. Michael's traditional position as leader of the heavenly armies, veneration of all angels was eventually incorporated into his cult. During the Middle-Ages, Michaelmas was a great religious feast and many popular traditions grew up around the day, which coincided with the harvest in much of Western Europe. In England it was the custom to eat a goose on Michaelmas, which was supposed to protect against financial need for the next year. In Ireland, finding a ring hidden in a Michaelmas pie meant that one would soon be married". Source <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/379920/Michaelmas> For more, see <http://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/michaelmas/>

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