

















FAITHS TOGETHER IN CROYDON

Welcome to the August 2022 newsletter!

We have not had a newsletter for a while so here is a bumper addition for you to read while sunning yourself but taking care not to get burnt. You will see there is some advice on keeping cool and looking out for your neighbours later on.

We are pleased to give greetings and congratulations to the new Bishop of Croydon, she was previously the Archdeacon, so we know that she is very fair and very committed to making Croydon a great place to live and work.

We had a fantastic picnic this year as you will see from the article later, more than 200 people came and near the end we had run out of food and drink, but it was such a lovely afternoon that we all stayed. The new Community Mayor popped by, and the new Police Sgt also came with a vintage car and his violin so we could all sing God Save the Queen.

We have had a presentation recently from St Christophers Hospice which was interesting as you will see. Did you notice in the news recently that the government has announced that all children in London aged 1-9 will be offered a polio booster jab to make sure they have the best possible protection against the virus. The NHS will contact you when it is time to book your child's appointment —look on the NHS website for more information.

Have you seen Owami Davies? See the latest poster and keep a look out for her.

We are thinking about Interfaith Week which is in November, and we are hoping that some of our magnificent places of worship can put on an open day for people to visit and find out what each faith does.

We are also thinking about 2023 when Croydon is the Borough of Culture- what might you be doing to celebrate that? Can we advertise for you?

Penny Smith-Orr. Chair, Faiths Together in Croydon

Contact us; fticroydon@gmail.com

Website: http://www.faithstogetherincroydon.org.uk/

Facebook: Faiths Together in Croydon Twitter: @FTiCroydon

Many of the FTiC steering group with the Mayor of Croydon



Inter Faith Platinum Jubilee Picnic in Croydon demonstrated the value of working

together by John Osborne

Numerous people, approximately 200, attended a free Inter Faith Platinum Jubilee Picnic in Park Hill Recreation Ground in Croydon on Friday, 3 June 2022. The picnic was hosted by Faiths Together in Croydon and supported by the Asian Resource Centre of Croydon and Eternal Gardens.

Free food and non-alcoholic drinks helped to boost the community spirit which was lifted when Sgt. James Edwards who works for Croydon Police played the National Anthem on a violin.

Valerie Sear said on Facebook that it was "lovely and patriotic". In addition to a superb rendition of the National Anthem there were poetry readings in the Peace Garden by Poets Anonymous. Children were invited to paint a Totem Pole to put in the Peace Garden with three words meaning Peace carved into it.

Another highlight of the picnic was a Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor car which had been in the service of the police in Prince William County, Virginia, U.S.A. The car was kindly donated to COPS UK by Prince William County and is currently kept and maintained as part of the Metropolitan Police Historic Vehicle Collection. Eternal Gardens and Faiths Together displayed a large banner emphasising its commitment to reducing knife crime in Croydon.

Faiths Together in Croydon exists to enable Faith groups both small emerging groups as well as large established groups to benefit from co-operation and discussions for the benefit of the larger

community. The Asian Resource Centre of Croydon was established in 1999 as a charitable organisation with a view to bringing together Asian communities and businesses. Both groups mission is to support, develop and promote voluntary/community activity that enhances the quality of life in Croydon. Eternal Gardens sets out to serve the Muslim Community with a dignified and Islamic burial service.

A free health check was available for anyone over 18 with a Croydon postcode or registered with a Croydon GP. There was also information from Croydon vision on how to manage when losing your sight.

John Osborne is an experienced journalist. His work has been published in numerous titles including The Times.

FTiC Totem Pole of Community Peace.

Wonderful and a First, Faiths Together in Croydon has its own unique Totem Pole of 1.60 meters high engraved with three words meaning Peace: Salaam, Shanti, Myr and painted by local community children at the Faiths Together Picnic at Park Hill Park on the Queens Jubilee weekend. Totems are large pieces of wood with carvings that symbolize and commemorate cultural beliefs that recount familiar legends, clan lineages, or notable events. The poles serve as functional architectural features, welcome signs for village visitors, mortuary vessels for the remains of deceased ancestors, or as a means to publicly ridicule someone. Importance lies in the observer's knowledge and connection to the meanings of the figures and the CULTURE.

Faiths Together in Croydon is the United, UNIQUE community of all togetherness, an inclusive association working in harmony with all faiths.

The Totem Pole is located in the Peace Garden at Parkhill in the section that belongs to Faiths Together for all to admire. **Tamkin Riaz**

Painting the Totem Pole





The Peace Garden 2022

FTIC was first involved in the Park Hill Community Peace Garden in June 2018. Since then, a section has been allocated to and named FTIC. It was then designed and planted by a small group of representatives of various religious groups, who are members of the enabling group. As stated in the

notice board of the garden, the aim is to bring together a diverse group of Croydon's religious, cultural and community groups, by asking them to create a garden together. A really worthwhile goal.

This year, with the COVID restrictions lifted, we went back on the 30 May, cleared and redesigned our allocated space, with the help of two wonderful lady volunteers who look after the Peace Garden. More additions were brought in later by our chairperson Penny, to add more colour in preparation for the annual picnic lunch.

It is always a pleasure to take part in creating and looking after the Peace Garden, as an activity that shows FTiC commitment to work together with others for the peace and welfare of all in Croydon.

Fr Kyrillos



End of life support by Nadir

There are many options for end-of-life support. Whilst family, relatives and close friends provide the bulk of the support, sometimes constantly, other services do help the person to access a comprehensive package of care. GPs offer Advance Care Planning, which is a free service, or would refer, when requested, to MacMillan Nurses, Sue Ryder, and St. Christopher's Hospice which are Charities catering for end-of-life help.



St. Christopher's offers homecare which is also shored up by trained staff to enhance the wellbeing of individuals living with ongoing health issues, or a recent health condition needing recovery at home. The care is underpinned by accessing telephone and video-based technology to monitor round-the-clock remotely the care of the individuals. The homecare for end-of-life support is also tailored to individual needs. There may be two or three visits daily with longer duration. St. Christopher's staff equally take a holistic approach to care, respecting cultural and spiritual beliefs. In comparison to other services, St. Christopher's is a fee-paying service, providing the option to be cared for at the hospice if Choose Home is not appropriate.

Caring for someone facing end-of-life can be emotionally demanding, which may leave caregivers feeling burnout, and needing emotional support and a break from their duties. Christopher's is equipped to deliver the support, including respite care. Therefore, as the caregivers are aware of their needs and that of the person needing end-of-life care, they (and the person) need encouragement to have an open discussion with their GP to make an informed choice.

St Christopher's Choose Home Service

St Christopher's was founded in 1967 as an inpatient hospice. It very quickly became clear that care and support for patients at home was also needed as homecare started in 1967. Today, we have

around 1200 patients under our care at home on any one day. Our catchment area covers Croydon, Bromley, Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark with a population of around 1.7 million people.

We support patients, needs including pain and symptom management, psychological support, welfare and social support, rehabilitation and spiritual and religious care. We also support their family members and carers.

Choose Home is a service we are developing in the community to enable a person under our care to die in their own home. We know that before we started Choose Home, around 39% of the patients admitted to the hospice wards died within hours to three days of admission. Most would have preferred to remain at home. We are often asked to admit people to the hospice who are dying, but who do not have complex medical, nursing or social support needs. These requests are made because a person is dying at home without any package of care which would support them, and the 24 to 48 hours wait for this to begin is felt too long by family or carers.

We are developing Choose Home to be a rapid response service for those with a limited prognosis of 2 to 3 weeks to remain at home when they express a wish for this. Some live alone or carers and families may be exhausted and stressed, and this can lead to an unnecessary hospital or hospice admission.

Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group have asked St Christopher's to extend Choose Home into the borough of Croydon. We work with trained nursing staff and Health Care Assistants, and we are looking to recruit volunteers from the community who are willing to be trained and supported to assist with the delivery of Choose Home.

We want Choose Home to be a service for the community, delivered with the support of the community. Volunteers will be expected to be a listening ear, offering simple support in the home. They will be a link between paid carer visits for those living alone and may be present with a person as they reach the end of life.

We want to recruit volunteers from the many communities of Croydon Borough. Sometimes, 'local knowledge' including a background of faith can help to ensure the support for a person reaching the end of life is provided correctly. Our own healthcare team will also learn from our volunteers when this is the case.

For more information, please contact Anne Nash <u>a.nash@stchristophers.org.uk</u> or Katie Grace <u>k.grace@stchristophers.org.uk</u>

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Association hosted the Interfaith programme on Saturday 30th July at their Mosque on St. James' Road Croydon. The event was very well attended by different faiths. The Topic Debate was: Can we as People of faith pray together for world peace? The speakers invited to lecture on the topic we're: Rev. Debbie Foreman From the Christian Faith, who did the Recitation of the Holy Bible Nirmal Singh Kalsi: From Croydon Sikh Gurdwara, Possibilities and advantages of faiths joining together

Imam Tahir Ahmad: From Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, Recitation of the Holy Quran After the lectures the panel engaged in answering questions raised by the attendees. To finish of the event the guests were served delicious refreshments.

Mahbub Bhatti

POLICE APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE

MISSING

The last confirmed sighting of Miss Owami DAVIES

was at 12:34hrs on the 7th of July in London Road, West Croydon.





Were you in the area around this time?

Have you seen Owami?

Do you have any information?

If you have any information, please contact the Major Investigations Team 17 at Lewisham Police Station quoting Operation Windtrack on:

0208 721 4622

https://mipp.police.uk/operation/01MPS22U12-PO1









Trilateral Global Summit" to Focus on bringing Investments to Croydon Regeneration

A "Trilateral Global Summit" plans to focus on bringing investments to Croydon Regeneration projects and businesses.

The summit intents to focus on barriers the business community faces, especially the technical barriers to trade and the investment generation support programs along with making Croydon the Hub for Global investments.

Dr Abdul Basit Syed FRSA, Founder of "World Humanitarian Drive (WHD)" organiser of this "Trilateral Global Summit" want to Appeal to the Executive Mayor of Croydon Jason Perry, to consider his idea of inviting new opportunities to Croydon to strengthen its Trade and investments relationship with the global powerhouses. As the UK. is no longer in the European Union it's highly important to value strategic partnerships for Croydon and the UK in these uncertain times.

This summit will voice its support to the UK Businesses from various fields from IT, Hospitality, Service Sectors, Developments, Health, and Programming sectors.

"World Humanitarian Drive (WHD)", an International NGO, founded by British Indian Global Peace activist, Entrepreneur, Writer, Dr Abdul Basit Syed FRSA. The primary vision of WHD is to promote Peace, Education and Trade Harmony initiatives globally. WHD partnership organisation "Universal Peace Federation" holds 'General Consultative Status' with United Nations "Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)" this is the highest status granted by the United Nations to non-governmental organisations and (NGO's), thereby allowing them to participate in the work of the United Nations.

The third edition of "Trilateral Global Summit" will be held on 13, 14, 15 of September 2022. Venues of this event include the House of Lords, British Parliament, Royal Society of Arts and the Great Ballroom at 43, Lancaster Gate. There will be discussions upon Investments and Trade followed by Fashion Show and Cultural Programs.

The 'Trilateral Global Summit' is integral to WHD Founder Dr Abdul Basit Syed, global initiative 'Trade 4 Peace' in Promoting integration of the global economy and businesses as a pathway to support Peace in the world. The key focus of the Summit is to pave a collective channel to support trade & investments globally. This Summit is the global platform to appreciate and recognise the achievements of business leaders and humanitarians across the world. It is an exceptional forum to promote bilateral relationships by networking and is pivotal in building collaboration.

The event will host leaders, delegates, and pioneers from various fields from more than 25 countries. Top global leaders' speeches are assured to illuminate the summit.

It is intended the "Trilateral Global Summit" will reconvene in June 2023

Dr Abdul Basit Syed FRSA,

Energy Bills Support Scheme – Fact Sheet What is the Energy Bills Support Scheme?

② Over the past year, global energy prices have soared, with wholesale gas prices alone quadrupling. This has led to an unprecedented rise in household energy bills.

☑ The Energy Bills Support Scheme will deliver a £400 non-repayable discount to eligible households to help with energy bills from October.

☑ This is an £11.7bn scheme which forms part of the £37bn cost of living assistance package for consumers over winter 22/23.

2 The scheme will help around 29 million households across Great Britain.

☑ There is no need to apply for the discount. Energy suppliers will deliver this support to GB households with a domestic electricity connection over six months from October 2022.

Who is eligible for the Energy Bills Support Scheme?

All households with a domestic electricity connection in Great Britain are eligible for the £400 discount. There is no need to contact energy suppliers concerning this. How will I receive the discount?

☑ The £400 discount will be administered by suppliers and paid to consumers over six months with payments starting from October 2022, to ensure households receive financial support over the winter months.

② Households will see a discount of £66 applied to their energy bills in October and November, rising to £67 each month from December through to March 2023.

The discount will be provided on a monthly basis regardless of whether consumers pay monthly, quarterly or have an associated payment card.

② Households will never be asked for their bank details, and those with a domestic electricity connection will not need to apply.

☑ There is no need to contact your supplier as all domestic electricity customers will be automatically eligible. Electricity bill payers should enquire with their supplier if they have not received their first instalment by the end of October.

Breakdown of the delivery process for each payment method:

② Direct Debit customers will receive the discount automatically as a reduction to the monthly Direct Debit amount collected, or as a refund to the customer's bank account following Direct Debit collection during each month of delivery.

② Standard credit customers and payment card customers will see the discount automatically applied as a credit to standard credit customers' accounts in the first week of each month of delivery, with the credit appearing as it would if the customer had made a payment.

② Smart prepayment meter customers will see the discount credited directly to their smart prepayment meters in the first week of each month of delivery.

Traditional prepayment meter customers will be provided with redeemable vouchers or Special Action Messages (SAMs) in the first week of each month, issued via SMS text, email or post. Customers will need to take action to redeem these at their usual top-up point.

Hot Weather!

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heatwave-plan-for-england

advice from the Met Office includes:

- · Look out for others, especially older people, young children and babies, and those with underlying health conditions
- · Close curtains on rooms that face the sun to keep indoor spaces cooler and remember it may be cooler outdoors than indoors
- Drink plenty of fluids and avoid excess alcohol, dress appropriately for the weather, and slow down when it is hot

The Sikh community of Croydon celebrated Vaisakhi (Birth of the Khalsa) on 14th April 2022.

The celebrations started with the morning prayers and refreshments were served all day.

The Croydon Sikhs had the privilege of inviting the Labour Leader Sir Keir Starmer and his councillors to join in the celebrations. Sir Keir conveyed his Vaisakhi message to all the Sikhs in England from the Gurdwara.

He joined the congregation to serve the Langar (food prepared for the congregation) in the hall and honoured the Sikh tradition of eating sitting on the floor.

The Gurdwara also welcomed all the guests from the Interfaith Group on the day and also on Sunday for the Flag changing ceremony.

During the celebration period the newly elected Mayor of Croydon, Jason Perry also visited the Gurdwara.

The Croydon Sikhs would like to Thank all the Interfaith Group members who joined us for the Vaisakhi Celebrations.

Nirmal Singh Kalsi

Civil Servants from London offices Volunteer at Gurdwara

I had a request from my Faiths Forum Lead, SFI Jeevan who asked me, if we would support 25ish civil service men/women who are looking to volunteer at a Gurdwara. I was happy to oblige and thought it was a great idea for people to see what is involved and required to keep a gurdwara going and safe

Planned for **9th August 2022** from 10am to 3pm which was Welcome the group, go through formalities, fire drill, and allocate areas of work and provide lunch and Sikh presentation.

Agenda for the day - 10am - volunteers arrive

Welcome and walk around the Gurdwara & guiet reflection in the prayer hall.

Meet the committee & Sevadaars on site.

10:45am assign volunteers to Darbar sahib - Langar hall - Kitchen - Stock rotation – and Library.

13:30 - LUNCH

14:00 - Presentation of Sikh. What is Seva Talk & Q&A with Faith leader/Management of Gurdwara

15:00 - FINISH

Questions raised for Surinder:

How did you get to where you are?

How do you find working in a male dominated environment?

Are there any specific examples of where you've had to confront forms of gender-based prejudice? Does that still happen today even though you're a trustee?

Can you tell us about your project Rakkha Hate Crime?

Questions on Sikhism:

What are the key values of Sikhism? Do you open the langar to everyone?

Does the Gurdwara do interfaith work?

Can you tell us a bit about why it's necessary to cover the crown of your head? Are there any other rules that people following Sikhism have to follow?

Throughout the day, I took pictures of the seva taking place.

I asked them before doing the Sikh presentation – How do they feel from what they have done today compared to other volunteering tasks they have done before. They wrote one word or comments on their experience.

Here is Eve Jackson lead team for the group and their feedback:

As a team we went to Croydon Gurdwara for our volunteering day. The day was such a fantastic experience. We all loved meeting Surinder and the other members of the Gurdwara, and we learnt so much about Sikhism and the running of the Gurdwara.

Throughout the day we were tasked with cooking, washing up, sorting out the stocks, mopping the floors and cleaning the walls. It was a great honour to be able to do Seva for this community. Surinder was extremely welcoming and made us all feel at home.

I am so glad we did our volunteering day at Croydon Gurdwara and want to come back!





Did you know 2 million people in the UK are blind/severely sight impaired

Improve your knowledge, understanding and confidence around disabled people. Improve your customer care service!

Diversity and Equality Awareness.

Visual Awareness Workshops with Croydon Vision

- ü Different eye conditions different ways of seeing the world
- ü How disabilities and visual impairment affect people
- ü Communication written, audio and tactile
- ü The Dos and Don'ts
- ü Barriers & solutions
- ü Accessible and adapted technology
- ü Disability and the Law
- ü How to guide a blind person

Book now - for more information contact Odette.battarel@Croydonvision.org.uk
Workshops can take place at Croydon Vision or in your premises.

Duration: 2 hours Cost: £45 per person-booklet and certificate included.

Learn about Croydon Vision your local Sight Loss Charity. Help us support 1,000s of blind and partially sighted residents in the Croydon Area.

The money we receive from the workshops will directly contribute towards the work we do in the community.

The <u>London Interfaith Fun Run</u> is back, and we would like to invite you to take part, challenge yourself, and make a difference at the big interfaith event of the summer.

The Fun Run is an opportunity to celebrate our diverse communities, have a great day out, and fundraise for some important causes. As someone who has been involved with the Faith & Belief Forum's work, we are hoping that you'll want to run for F&BF at the Fun Run and help us raise some much-needed funds. Every penny we raise helps us to continue our work of bringing people from different backgrounds together in schools, universities, workplaces, and communities.

Held at **StoneX Stadium on Bank Holiday Monday 29 August**, this event is all about uniting people and showing how great our faiths, beliefs and cultures are when we work together.

You can choose between the 1k, 5k or 10k untimed routes which you can run, jog, or walk. There will also be plenty of interfaith activities and encounters, performances from a diverse range of faith and belief groups, food stalls, and much more!

[&]quot;What struck me was the importance of clear communication in aiding visually impaired people, as well as the emotional and physical impacts of being visually impaired. The workshop was, informative, enjoyable and so worthwhile" C.L. May 2022

Please sign up to the Interfaith Fun Run here: https://www.interfaithrun.org

Introduction to the Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home. Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1 September as a day of prayer for creation for the Orthodox in 1989. The World Council of Churches (WCC) was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending the celebration from 1 September until 4 October. Following this, Christians worldwide have embraced the season as part of their annual calendar. Pope Francis made the Roman Catholic Church's warm welcoming of the season official in 2015. In recent years, statements from religious leaders around the world have also encouraged the faithful to take time to care for creation during the month-long celebration. The season starts 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. Throughout the month-long celebration, the world's 2.2 billion Christians come together to care for our common home.

SOC-2022-Celebration-Guide-Final-English.pdf (seasonofcreation.org)

"I have heard their cry...I know their sufferings...Come, now! I will send you...I will be with you" (Ex 3: 1-12)

The burning bush is the Symbol for the Season of Creation 2022. Today, the prevalence of unnatural fires is a sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet. Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice.

On the contrary, the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This flame of the Spirit revealed God's presence. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered, and promised to be with us as we followed in faith to our deliverance from injustice.

In this Season of Creation, this symbol of God's Spirit calls us to listen to the voice of creation.

We are encouraged to sign up to the *Laudato Si'* action platform and pledge to make a difference. Everybody has a part to play however small. https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/

(Laudato Si' Animators UK, July 2022)



Anti-Social Behaviour from PC Lucy Holden our faith liaison officer

We have had a few reports of ASB come to us while I have been off, which is not unusual for the summer and school holidays.

What is ASB? In law its defined as "Behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to a person not of the same household as the person". This basically means things like, People throwing litter in a garden, begging, noise nuisance, dog fouling problem, inconsiderate parking, fly tipping, people hanging around on your premises, people smoking drugs on your premises. The list goes on.

How can you prevent it? Money is tight for everyone at the moment, including your religious organisation. So I could say go out and get CCTV, flood lights etc but some of us just can't afford that. If you can, they do work. The best thing to do it report it to us, we can up patrols in the area, speak to the people involved, arrest if necessary, and try and make it stop. Our SNTs are out and about and this is their job to make their areas safe for all that live and use the area. It's also my job to make sure that this is done for you. I will come for visits. I can talk to your congregations about it. We can and we do try our up most to sort it for you.

If you have any questions, requests or want to report anything, please email me. Take care and be safe

Lucy.holden@met.police.uk

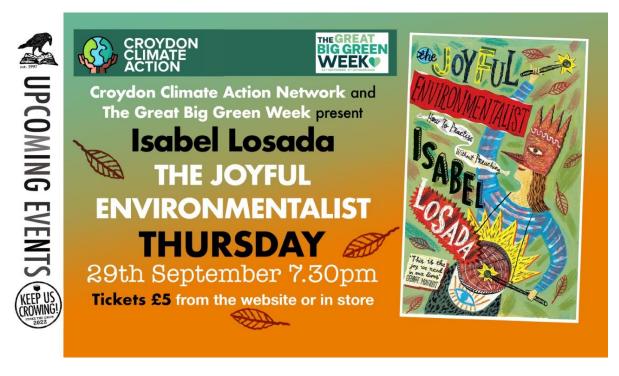
The Heartstone Project

During the last school year, I have been doing a project with a group of Croydon Schools called the 'Heartstone Odyssey project'. This was a national initiative funded by MOPAC and was designed to give pupils strategies to recognise and stop Hate Crime.

The project was based on three stories with an Asian heroine who was helped by some talking mice to recover the Heartstone from its hiding place. This took them to India and all over the British Isles. The children loved the project and produced some great artwork and did a lot of thinking about prejudice and how to stop it.

Some of the pupils involved wrote to local Councillors and invited various speakers into school to question them and find out what can be done. The whole project culminated in an exhibition of work in the Braithwaite Hall which the Deputy Mayor came to along with other dignitaries. There was an exhibition of activities from the Hate crime lead in Croydon and the National leader of the whole project zoomed in from Aberdeen and helped us all do some Indian Dance moves. One of our schools also received a special Trophy for their total immersion in the project. I am hoping that more funding will be available next year to do the project with more schools.

Penny Smith-Orr



Website for tickets: https://booksellercrow.co.uk/author-events/

We have had an email from Ed Ranger from Cemeteries & Crematorium Office Mitcham Road With some proposals for Croydon Cemetery, see below;

- Survey of Mitcham Road Cemetery, to identify any old areas that could **not** previously be buried on , this could be where trees have since been felled and we can now utilise the land once old stumps are removed. Graves will be available for all denominations requiring a burial option.
- Introduce a visual tribute option for **all** cremation services, we currently provide a web streaming facility, this would be a simple additional feature, again, available for all denominations.
- Use previously reclaimed graves where depth for a full adult coffin can not be achieved, and instead, offer these for purchase as a private baby/child plots, again for all denominations

If you have any thoughts on these please contact Edward.Ranger@croydon.gov.uk directly

Thanks for reading our newsletter, if you have something to celebrate or news of your faith community please do let us know

fticroydon@gmail.com