



Kingston Faith and Belief Forum

October 2026 Bulletin - Contents

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Title of article or notice	Become a community resilience champion
Author	Resilience Planning Team, RBK
Short summary	Access FREE high-quality training and an opportunity to apply for a grant of £1,000 for your organisation. All sessions will run in November on Tuesdays between 6pm and 9pm, topics include: → Introduction to Community Resilience → Emergency First Aid Training → Understanding Community Safety → Hate Crime & Social Cohesion → Responding to emergency events & local response to emergencies → Addressing Climate & Weather-related Events and Psychosocial Support → Public Health issues → Understanding Buildings & Premises Risks By completing the programme, your organisation will have: 1. Increased its preparedness for emergencies such as heatwaves, severe weather events and flooding.

	2. Built practical knowledge and skills to support residents during crises. 3. Have the knowledge to develop a Community Resilience Plan tailored to your organisation or community. 4. Have an opportunity to become part of a local network working together to improve resilience across Kingston.
Request of the Kingston Faith and Belief Forum	Spaces are limited. Organisations can send different participants to the sessions. Sessions are free. Reserve a place for your organisation

Title of article or notice	An evening with Sharone
Author	Kingston Liberal Synagogue
Short summary	Please join us this Friday 2 October to hear from Sharone, whose parents were taken captive on October 7th 2023 and father was killed by Hamas, but who devotes her time to promoting peace and human rights.
Request of the Kingston Faith and Belief Forum	See flyer below

Title of article or notice	Community engagement on improvements to Kingston Riverside
Author	Participation and Engagement Team, RBK
Short summary	We're inviting community members to help shape the next stage of improvements to Kingston Riverside. We're exploring how the riverside can become a more welcoming, accessible and enjoyable place for people of all ages. We're particularly interested in hearing from people who live locally or use the riverside regularly. Participants will take part in a series of four workshops, including a Riverside Walk Audit. They'll have the opportunity to share their experiences, identify what works well and what could be improved, and help develop

	recommendations for future improvements. We really appreciate participants taking the time to share their experiences. As a thank you for their time and contribution, participants will receive a £20 voucher for each session they attend, with tea and coffee provided. The sessions will take place: Thursday 15 October Thursday 22 October Thursday 5 November Thursday 12 November Please note that participants should be able to attend all four sessions. Times: 10:30am–12:00pm Location: The Gallery, Rose Theatre, 24–26 High St, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 1HL
Request of the Kingston Faith and Belief Forum	We're accepting registrations until 4 October, with successful applicants notified by 8 October. We'd be grateful if you could share this opportunity with anyone who may be interested. We're keen to hear from people with a range of experiences, including those who may have personal experience of barriers when accessing or using the riverside. Find out more and register your interest: Kingston Riverside: Continuing to improve accessibility

Title of article or notice	World Quaker Day
Author	Kingston Quakers
Short summary	Kingston Quakers warmly welcome anyone curious to come to this meeting for worship especially designed for newcomers. There will be a focus on peace. Join us afterwards for coffee, chat and shared lunch.
Request of the Kingston Faith and Belief Forum	Sunday 4 October, 10:30am onwards Location: Kingston Quaker Meeting House, Fairfield East, KT1 2PT (poster below)

Title of article or notice	‘Challenging Hate Together’ Forum
Author	Community Safety team, RBK
Short summary	Faith and Belief Forum Members are invited to the Challenging Hate Together Forum. This forum provides an operational working space for local community groups, voluntary sector partners, and frontline service representatives to collaborate directly on grassroots issues related to hate crime. The next scheduled dates are: 29th October 2026, 2 - 4pm 12th January 2027, 4:30pm - 6:30pm 20th April 2027, 2 - 4pm All taking place at Queen Anne Suite, Guildhall, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, High Street Kingston upon Thames Surrey KT1 1EU
Request of the Kingston Faith and Belief Forum	Contact the Community Safety team if members would like to be added to Challenging Hate Together Forum invites. Please specify which dates you would like to join and whether you would like to be added to future forum sessions.

Title of article or notice	Princess Alice Hospice ‘Interfaith Steering Group’
Author	Rehman Anwer, Princess Alice Hospice
Short summary	Princess Alice Hospice is setting up an 'Interfaith Steering Group'. The objective of the group is to meet every month and discuss topics around death, dying and bereavement support along with identifying bereavement support and training opportunities.
Request of the Kingston Faith and Belief Forum	If you would like to join or learn more, please contact Rehman Answer, Email: rehmananwer@pah.org.uk or Mob: 07411945201

Title of article or notice	Safeguarding Q&A for voluntary and faith communities
Author	Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership
Short summary	A key takeaway from VCSE partners from our previous engagement was the request for a short online forum, such as this online Q&A session—where Voluntary, Community and Faith organisations can bring their safeguarding questions, queries, and any challenges they may be facing. We will have representatives from LADO, SPA and KRSCP to help answer your queries and support your practice. 6 October from 2:30 - 3:30pm
Request of the Kingston Faith and Belief Forum	Please share with your safeguarding leads. Book on the learning portal here if you would like to attend

Title of article or notice	Kingston Community Gathering
Author	Dialogue Society
Short summary	Join us for a wonderful community gathering filled with delicious food and great company! This in-person event is the perfect opportunity to connect with friends and neighbors in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Date: Sunday 18th October 2026 Time: 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM Location: Kingston Quaker Centre, Fairfield East, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2PT Admission: Free and open to everyone! Come for the delicious food, stay for the meaningful conversations, and leave with new friendships and unforgettable memories.
Request of the Kingston Faith and Belief Forum	Let us know you are coming by using Eventbrite

Title of article or notice	The UK Influence of the US Religious Right - with Katherine Stewart
Author	South West London Humanists
Short summary	The UK Influence of the US Religious Right - with Katherine Stewart Mon 9 Nov 7.30 for 8pm start, central Richmond. Booking essential – click here to register and for venue and other details. Organisations espousing hard-line versions of Christianity have enormous political influence in the US. Unfortunately, influential figures on the British far right are now tying a narrative of “civilisational struggle” to the promotion of US-style Christian Nationalism, weaponising culture war issues to promote division and weaken liberal democracy. With funding from American and British sources and ideologically aligned pressure groups, leaders of these movements in Britain Far Right often couple their narrative with elements of nativism, racism, and hostility to Muslims and the nonreligious. Many British Christians are concerned by the attempt to appropriate their faith on the basis of values they do not share, and many British humanists are alarmed at the movement’s antidemocratic aims. Katherine Stewart is an award-winning American author and journalist. Her most recent book, <i>'Money, Lies and God'</i> (2025), is a <i>New York Times</i> bestseller. She closely follows and writes about the rise of the anti-democratic Right in the UK. This is an opportunity to hear from one of the leading experts on the subject.
Request of the Kingston Faith and Belief Forum	Register on Eventbrite here if you would like to attend. Everyone is welcome, but capacity is limited.

Title of article or notice	North Kingston Neighbourhood Plan
Author	Participation and Engagement Team, RBK
Short summary	The draft North Kingston Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the locally led group, North Kingston Forum, working with local residents and the wider community over the past six years. If adopted, the plan will help guide how North Kingston develops and changes in the future. The plan does not replace the council's Local Plan; instead, it provides local policies for North Kingston that will be used alongside the Local Plan when making planning decisions. In this consultation, we are seeking feedback from the local community on whether you support or object to the submitted draft Neighbourhood Plan, its aims, and its policies.
Request of the Kingston Faith and Belief Forum	Please share this consultation with communities and let us know what you think by 2 November. Links to survey and documents

**Friday 2 October 8pm
EREV SIMCHAT TORAH YIZKOR SERVICE
Kingston Liberal Synagogue**

Grieve for the Past. Hope for the Future.

An evening with Sharone Lifschitz



Sharone Lifschitz is a London-based filmmaker whose parents, Oded and Yocheved, were taken hostage on 7 October.

Her mother was released in October 2023. Her father was murdered in captivity and his remains returned after 503 days.

Sharone was born and raised in Kibbutz Nir Oz, where one in four residents were murdered or taken hostage.

Sharone will share her family's story and the unprecedented challenges of rebuilding Nir Oz.

She will also speak about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and her vision for the future



Become a Community Resilience Champion

Access **FREE** high-quality training and an opportunity to apply for a grant of £1,000 for your organisation



Are you passionate about helping your community prepare for and respond to emergencies?

Extreme weather events such as heatwaves, severe cold spells are becoming more common. In Kingston, flooding presents a particular risk, and being prepared can make a real difference to the safety and wellbeing of local residents.

We are looking for Community Resilience Champions who want to learn more about emergency preparedness and help build a stronger, more connected community.

As a Community Resilience Champion, you will play a key role in helping to establish a Community Resilience Network that will work closely with the **Kingston Borough Resilience Forum**. Together, we can ensure that local communities are better prepared to respond effectively during times of crisis and disruption.

The **Royal Borough of Kingston**, in partnership with the neighbouring boroughs of **Richmond** and **Wandsworth**, is offering **FREE face-to-face Community Resilience Training** for members of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector, as well as Faith and Belief groups.

WORLD QUAKER DAY

All are welcome



Kingston Quakers warmly welcome anyone curious to come to this Meeting for Worship especially designed for newcomers.

There will be a focus on peace.

Join us afterwards for coffee, chat and shared lunch.

Sunday 4th of October
10.30 onwards.

Kingston Quaker Meeting House,
Fairfield East, KT1 2PT

Hate Crime Awareness

A hate crime is any crime that seems to be driven by hostility, prejudice, or hatred toward a person because of who they are.

It can relate to five characteristics:

Race or ethnicity

Religion or faith

Disability

Sexual orientation

Transgender identity

Hate crime can include:

Name calling



Online or cyberbullying



Attack or violence



Damage or graffiti



Turn over the leaflet for reporting and support services



→ Safer Kingston Partnership



<https://www.kingston.gov.uk/safety-crime-and-emergencies/how-to-report-hate-crime>

What to do if you experience or witness a hate crime

MET Police

Call 999 in an emergency
Call 101 for non-emergencies
met.police.uk or report-it.org.uk
At your local police station.

Crime Stoppers

(anonymous reporting)
Online via crimestoppers-uk.org
Call 0800 555 111

Kingston Council Housing tenants

Call 0208 547 5003
Contact your housing officer

British Transport Police

Call 0800 40 50 40 or
Text 61016

You are not alone, report and find support

Stop Hate UK - 24/7 help line

Phone: 0800 138 1625
Text: 07717 989 025
Text relay: 18001 0800 138 1625
Chat & BSL: www.stophateuk.org
Email: talk@stophateuk.org

Kingston Race and Equalities Council (KREC)

Call 02085472332
Email: info@kingstonrec.org
kingstonrec.org

Scan the QR
code for
more
information



London Victim & Witness Service

Call 0808 168 9291
Live chat or online form via
londonvws.org.uk



Safer Kingston Partnership



<https://www.kingston.gov.uk/safety-crime-and-emergencies/how-to-report-hate-crime>