

# **Kingston - A Community of Cultures**

## **Spring/Summer 2012 Discussion Programme**

### **Serious believers and serious nonbelievers – *Closer than they think?***

**Marilyn Mason** (Kingston Philosophy Café, South West London Humanists)

**Martin Corner** (Reader, All Saints Church, Kingston)

Thursday 9 February 7.30 pm

### **Conflicting truth claims – *honest engagement and constructive dialogue***

**Rt Rev Dr Richard Cheetham** (Bishop of Kingston)  
**A senior Muslim faith leader** – name to be confirmed

Thursday 26 April 7.30 pm

### **Is there room for religious law in Britain?**

**Stephen Shaw**, (Deputy District Judge and member of the Golders Green Synagogue)

**Muslim authority on Sharia law** – name to be confirmed

Thursday 14 June 7.30 pm

**All Saints Church**  
**in partnership with the**  
**Kingston Inter Faith Forum and**  
**Kingston University Chaplaincy**

**All Meetings in**  
**All Saints Church**  
**Market Place**  
**Kingston**  
**KT1 1 JP**

***Kingston – Community of Cultures reflects the diversity of our town and our university – a place of many faiths.***

***KCC was launched in Autumn 2011, and has already proved a valued place for shared engagement in serious inter-faith issues. The 2012 Spring-Summer discussions are introduced by a mix of eminent visiting speakers and members of the group.***

***Thursday February 9*** The story in the media, helped by controversialists like Richard Dawkins, is all about believers and unbelievers fighting it to the death. But in reality, do the two communities share more than one might think – and could they both gain from a warmer relationship? Explore these issues, introduced by **Marilyn Mason**, Secretary of the Kingston Philosophy Cafe and a card-carrying Humanist, together with **Martin Corner**, Reader at All Saints Church and former Kingston University English lecturer.

***Thursday April 26*** At their consecration, Bishops commit themselves both to *teach the doctrine of Christ* and to *promote peace and reconciliation*. **Bishop Richard Cheetham**, Bishop of Kingston and a former pupil of Kingston Grammar School, is joined by a **senior Muslim cleric** to explore how both deal with what theologians call ‘*conflicting truth claims*’.

***Thursday June 14*** Archbishop Rowan Williams got into trouble when he suggested a possible role for Sharia law in Britain. But some senior judges spoke out in favour of the idea, pointing to the long-established Jewish Beth Din courts in Britain. Even so, could religious law undermine the concept of shared citizenship under shared law? **Stephen Shaw**, a Judge and member of the Golders Green Synagogue, together with a **Muslim expert**, talk about what Beth Din and Sharia law actually involve, and about what British Muslims themselves think on this issue.

***Your chance to explore and share thoughts on these controversial issues.***

**Meetings, in All Saints Church, start at 7:30 pm and finish prompt at 9:00pm.**

**For more information contact [leslie@packerhome.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:leslie@packerhome.fsnet.co.uk)**