

Faith, & Belief Culture guide



Crawley
INTERFAITH
Network

Updated November 2010

Faith, Belief and Culture Guide

Introduction

It has now been two years since the Faith, Belief and Culture Guide was first produced. The feedback and comments have so far been very positive and encouraging. We are delighted that the guide continues to be a useful document providing a rich source of local information.

Background

Building on the success of the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service's Guide, it was felt that a Crawley specific 'companion guide' would benefit residents of the town and provide a resource for statutory, voluntary and community organisations. In addition, it would help to promote faith, belief and culture groups and highlight the wealth of activities that they provide.

The guide is a collaboration between Crawley Interfaith Network (CIFN) and Crawley Borough Council as well as all those groups who have contributed and new contributors in the future keeping this document up-to-date.

How it works

In order to reflect the fact that our communities are continuously evolving and changing, the format of the guide was carefully considered. Designed as a ring-bound folder, the guide can be updated as new groups emerge.

The guide can also be downloaded as a full document via the Crawley Borough Council website at www.crawley.gov.uk/faithculture

The guide is intended to be a live document. It can only remain dynamic and up-to-date if the groups as well as the CIFN and the council take full responsibility for updating one another.

Existing groups can notify us about changes to their information by completing and submitting the form for new entries and updates located at the back of the folder. Or they can complete and submit the online form on the Crawley Borough Council website.

New groups will need to complete the form for new entries and updates. To be considered for entry, the organisation must have attendees that live in the Crawley area. Organisations should also provide a Crawley address in the contact information. Where possible, group pages should include a photo.

The Editorial Group meets twice a year to review new entry applications and amendments to existing entries. New entries will be notified and included in the online version within two weeks. To keep costs to a minimum, updates to the guide will be sent via email for readers to download. To those without email a hard copy of new entries will be sent by post twice a year.

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

For more information, contact Crawley Borough Council's Community Development Team on 01293 438506 or email communitydevelopment@crawley.gov.uk

Editorial Group
Faith, Belief and Culture Guide
November 2010

The information in this guide has been provided by the groups listed.

The entries in this guide are not necessarily an endorsement of any particular faith, belief or cultural activity.



Crawley
INTERFAITH
Network

Foreword

Fifty years ago there were only Christian places of worship in Crawley; Anglican, Baptist and Catholic, Friends (Quakers) and a tiny United Reformed Church. Gradually Christian diversity increased along with a growing population including Methodists and the Free Church.

From the West came The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 'Mormons', Jehovah's Witnesses and the Elim Pentecostal Church, and from the East has come Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Sikhism. This small town was changing and with the help of Crawley Borough Council and organisations like Crawley Campaign Against Racism, Crawley Peace Council and the Friary Church's One World group working together, we organised interfaith events solely to promote religious tolerance and understanding.

Services were held in the Friary Church where representatives from Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism, the Baha'I faith and others attended, often wearing their traditional dress and praying their holy prayers, then interpreting the words for the benefit of the packed church. The usual party followed. Successive mayors and the first Member of Parliament, always attended and always encouraged our efforts as they joined in the enthusiastic buzz of questions and answers.

In addition to Christian churches we now have in our town two mosques, a newly opened vast Hindu mandir and also a small, just as warm, Sri Lankan Hindu mandir and a Sikh gurdwara, all extremely well attended. There are also a number of groups who meet to worship in community centres and private homes, an achievement for a town of our size and clear proof of freedom of worship.

Today our council development workers, encouraged by central government, work with the Crawley Interfaith Network to build on religious harmony in our ever-growing society. Special thanks to those who have, with their hard work, made this guide possible and to all those who have contributed entries and information. With this brilliant example we are moving into the future, celebrating the diversity of faiths in our town.

Queenie Hopcroft
Crawley Interfaith Founder



Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

A Faith, Belief and Culture Guide for Crawley

This publication provides an important insight into the wide variety and many activities of both religious and culturally diverse groups in Crawley. It also highlights the positive role faith groups play in making Crawley a safer and more cohesive place in which to live.

The council's Corporate Plan articulates the importance of bringing people together and its commitment to 'leaving no-one behind'. The guide builds on this theme, demonstrating the importance of partnerships and promoting understanding between faith, belief and culture groups across the wider Crawley community.

The guide brings to life the positive role that these groups play in making Crawley a vibrant and diverse town. It also provides a helpful reference document for service providers, community leaders and representatives. In addition, it encourages opportunities for greater collaboration and increasing understanding and awareness.

I would like to thank Crawley Interfaith Network for helping to prepare and produce the guide. A note of thanks is also due to the West Sussex County Council Fire and Rescue Service, for its production of the county-wide guide, which inspired the development of this publication.

I trust that you will find the guide both interesting and informative.

Phil Rogers
Director of Community Services
Crawley Borough Council



Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

Contents

Afro Caribbean Association (ACA)
Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK (Crawley Branch)
British Humanist Association
Broadfield Christian Fellowship
Celtic and Irish Cultural Society (CICS)
Chagos Island Community Association (CICA)
Chagos Refugees Group UK (CRG UK)
Chagossian Elderly of West Sussex (Crawley)
Chinese Community
Church of England
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)
The Church of Scientology, East Grinstead
Churches Together in West Crawley
Crawley Bangladeshi Welfare Association
Crawley Baptist Church
Crawley Campaign Against Racism
Crawley Educational Institute
Crawley Interfaith Network
Crawley International Mela Association (CIMA)
Crawley Islamic Culture Centre (CICC)
Crawley Kashmiri Women's Association
Crawley Mosque
Elim Church Crawley
Emerald Sports and Social Club
Green Fields Baptist Church
Gurjar Hindu Union (GHU)
Ifield Quaker Meeting
Kingdom Faith Church
Maidenbower Baptist Church
New Hope Church
Portuguese Community
Roman Catholic Churches in Crawley
St Edward the Confessor
St Paul's Methodist Church
Sikh Community Centre Crawley
Siri Guru Singh Sabha
Soka Gakkai International – UK
Sri Lankan Welfare Association Crawley (SLMWAC)
Three Bridges Free Church
Travelling People and Irish Travellers
United Reformed Church
The Vine Christian Fellowship

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

A

Afro Caribbean Association (ACA)

Contact:

ACA
PO Box 546
Crawley
West Sussex
RH11 7BU
Tel/fax: 01293 537263
Email: info@aca-crawley.org.uk
Web: www.aca-crawley.org.uk

Aims of Organisation

- Social integration
- To target mainstream service providers for support and empowering our community
- To make a difference through self-help programmes
- Hosting of regular fundraising events promoting African and Caribbean cultural heritage
- Lobbying mainstream service providers for fair access to welfare support programmes
- Motivating our members with educational and enterprise development projects
- Organising better health campaigns to protect and preserve good health within our community
- Providing opportunities for youths through sporting events.

Activities

- ACA Black History events
- ACA Summer Festival
- ACA Arts, Craft and Dance Theatre
- ACA School Tours

How does membership work?

ACA has a membership of volunteers and welcomes a wide range of people as members. Become a member of ACA and join one of our community action teams and committees. Visit our website for information on joining.

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK (Crawley Branch)

Contact:

Ahsan Ahmedi
15 Monksfield
Three Bridges
Crawley
RH10 1PJ
Tel: 07888 669338
Email: ahsanahmedi@aol.com
Web: www.ahmadiyya.org.uk



Mirza Ghulam Ahmed

Introduction

The community was founded in 1889 when Mirza Ghulam Ahmad claimed to be the Messiah and Mahdi being awaited by all faiths. He claimed that Jesus had not died on the cross nor ascended to heaven but died a natural death in Srinagar, Kashmir where a grave attributed to him is to be found. The community world-wide numbers more than a hundred million.

All faiths are sent from the one God and to live together is the message of true Islam. His mission was to present true Islamic values and beliefs.

The Ahmadiyya community has been meeting in Crawley since 1990. They aim to promote the ethics and practices of Islam, and peace and tolerance among all faith groups through their motto: "Love for All, Hatred for None."

Worship

The Ahmadiyya community observes Muslim daily prayers at the homes of community members and offering Friday Prayer (Jumma) at Furnace Green Centre.

Activities

- Monthly meetings where the whole community gathers to offer prayers and hold meetings of the auxiliary organisation
- Events such as peace seminars to which all are welcome and helping the community at large through raising funds, feeding the poor and visiting the ill in hospitals
- Our youth members are always willing to help anyone in need
- Regular interfaith events and public talks on Islam as well as in schools and arrange visits to the main mosque in Morden, Baitul Futuh Mosque, the largest mosque in Europe with a capacity of 10,000.



Mirza Masroor Ahmad - 5th Caliph

Auxillary organisations

We have three men's groups who meet weekly for various religious education as well as daily prayers.

Atfal (children under 16)

Khuddam (youth 16-40)

Ansar (over 40)

We have two women's groups who also meet weekly and arrange visits to various conferences.

Nasirat (under 15)

Lajna (over 15)

Festivals

Eid-ul-Adha and Eid-ul-Fitr, both held at K2 Leisure Centre

Ramadhan – ninth month of the Islamic year – fasting held over 30 days

Jalsa – a three-day annual gathering of more than 30,000 Ahmadis and guests, many from overseas, listening to prominent speeches and addresses by the 5th Caliph of the Promised Messiah, Mirza Masroor Ahmad.

B

British Humanist Association



Contact:

Andrew Edmondson
4 Stumblemead
Balcombe
RH17 6LR
Tel: 01444 811413
Email: andrew@westsussexhumanists.org.uk
Web: www.westsussexhumanists.org.uk

Aims of organisation:

- To inform the public about Humanism and Humanist values
- To promote a secular society with freedom of belief.

What do we do?

- Campaign for the rights of the non-religious, working towards ending discrimination and the promotion of human rights
- Work to promote inclusive education and publish educational materials
- Lobby government about our work
- Provide ceremonies for the non-religious.

How does membership work?

West Sussex Humanists is a regional member of the British Humanist Association (www.humanism.org.uk)

We are an umbrella organisation for a growing number of local groups that meet regularly and who represent the interests of non-religion. Membership is informal and our activities reflect the interests of members. Visit the website for more details about your local group.

Celebrations:

January 27 – Holocaust Memorial Day
February 12 – Darwin Day
March 1 – World Book Day
March 8 – International Women's Day
March 22 – World Water Day
April 7 – World Health Day
May 9 – Europe Day
May 20 – Cultural Diversity Day
June 5 – World Environment Day
June 21 - World Humanist Day
September 21 – International Day of Peace
October 1 – International Music Day
October 4 – World Animal Day
October 16 – World Food Day
October 24 – United Nations Day

continued over ...

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

Celebrations continued:

October 25 – International Art Day

November 11 – Remembrance Day

November 20 – Universal Children's Day

December 1 – World Aids Day

December 10 – International Human Rights Day

Broadfield Christian Fellowship

Contact:

Broadfield Community Centre
Broadfield Barton
Crawley
West Sussex
Tel: 01444 400521
Email: fellowship@broadfield.org.uk



Who are we?

Broadfield Christian Fellowship is a local church made up of people from all backgrounds. We are based in the Broadfield Barton Church and Community Centre, which we share with the Church of England and Roman Catholic churches.

Broadfield Christian Fellowship is a Link Church within the Ichthus Christian Fellowship, which is based in South London, and a member of the Evangelical Alliance. We are in fellowship with other evangelical churches in Crawley and have links with various local Christian groups, such as The Lighthouse Project, a Christian ministry to the children of Crawley, Holmsted Manor near Cuckfield run by Youth With A Mission, the International Bible Training Institute in Burgess Hill, and Faith in Action, a local Christian charity providing clothing, equipment and medical supplies to needy churches in Africa.

Services

We meet every Sunday morning at 10.30am in the Social Hall (part of the Community Centre) for worship and teaching. Our worship style is informal and we have a variety of worship leaders and speakers from both inside and outside the Fellowship.

We currently celebrate communion on the third Sunday in each month and at other times as arranged. We have weekly house group meetings, usually on Tuesday evenings.

Every Wednesday at 9.30am we run a coffee shop in the Social Hall at which coffee, tea, biscuits and cakes are served for a nominal donation. Second-hand clothes are also freely available. This provides an important service to the community and many people drop in during the two hours a week it is open.

An extension of this activity has recently started at 5pm every Friday with a 'drop-in' with a hot meal that is open to all. We also host community meals once a quarter after the Sunday morning service. A full cooked meal is provided free of charge and anyone is welcome to come.

On the first Sunday of each month at 7pm we join with other churches in Crawley for celebration, teaching, prayer and fellowship at Crawley Baptist Church, Crabtree Road, West Green.

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide



C

Celtic and Irish Cultural Society (CICS)

Contact:

David Nolan
Celtic and Irish Cultural Society
3 Marion Road
Furnace Green
Crawley
RH10 6QQ
Tel: 07740 358221
Web: www.celtic-irish.co.uk



Introduction

Representing the substantial Irish population in Crawley and welcoming the traditions of all Celtic people living within the area. The events of the CICS often also include Scottish, Welsh, Breton and English folk traditions.

Aims of organisation:

- To promote knowledge of Celtic culture, arts, music and sport
- To co-operate with organisations to further our objectives
- To support and enrich cultural activities organised in the region
- To entertain, to inform and to support.

Activities:

Crawley Fleadh (February/March)

- Events throughout the town highlighting Irish input to the community
- Provide free GAA sports coaching to local schools in Gaelic football and hurling

Crawley Saint Patrick's Weekend (March)

- Events including an annual parade through the town
- Previously covered by BBC and ITV News

Crawley Irish Festival (August Bank Holiday)

- Cover charge pays for additional free events throughout the year
- Attracting more than 10,000 people each year, the event includes live music stages, Irish sports, an Irish dance stage and children's entertainment

Throughout the year we hold Irish language classes, an annual dinner dance and support Celtic and Irish activities.

Our website provides an information portal for local events and information on culture, arts, music and sport.

How does membership work?

Events are open to all. There is a management committee, which meets regularly. Anyone can become involved in the organisations of events.

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide



Chagos Island Community Association (CICA)

Contact:

Hengride Permal
Chairperson
Chagos Island Community Association
9 Spring Platt
Pound Hill
Crawley
RH10 7PW
Tel: 07735040958
Email: hpermal@hotmail.com

Aim of organisation:

To provide welfare support to the Chagos Islanders

What do we do?

- Act as a sign posting service to mainstream organisations
- Ensure the basic welfare needs of the Islanders are met
- Promote cooperation and build partnerships incorporating all black and minority ethnic groups
- Promote the needs of the members to local, regional and national groups to further the aims of the Chagos Islanders
- Help cross language barriers and act as an intermediary agent where required.

How does membership work?

There are 2,000 members. All CICA events are open to all and there is a committee with 15 members democratically elected.

Celebrations

Christmas and other Christian celebrations.

Faith

Members of the Chagos Island Community Association are predominantly Catholic. Most members worship at local Catholic churches including The Friary and Our Lady.

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

Chagos Refugees Group UK (CRG UK)

Contact:

Sabrina Jean
3A Southgate Parade
Southgate
Crawley
RH10 6ER
Tel: 01293 520675
Email: yandangael@yahoo.co.uk

Introduction:

We promote the welfare of the Chagossian community by raising awareness of the culture through typical food, music and dance. We set up activities for the progress of children, young people, senior people and women. We learn to be self-sufficient to protect the interest of the Chagossian community, helping Chagossians in their everyday lives, education, housing and administrative problems. The group was created in September 2008 and has 15 members.

Activities:

We work to help our community who have language difficulties, look for work and we do activities to promote our culture such as sega dance, delicious food and music.

The group meets every two weeks in Southgate. The group is Roman Catholic; however we welcome other communities who want to help or join. We celebrate Chagossian Day (on November 3rd), Easter, Christmas, Assumption, the new year and our culture.



Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

Chagossian Elderly of West Sussex (Crawley)

Contact:

Marie-France Bheeka
15 Greenwood Court
Webb Close
Broadfield
Crawley
RH11 9JH
Tel: 07922 080834
Email: mf-b@hotmail.co.uk

Introduction:

The Chagossian/Diego Garcian elderly came to the UK between 2003 and 2009 and most of them settled in Crawley. They originated from Diego Garcia and the Chagos Islands, which are British overseas territories. They were exiled about 40 years ago to Mauritius to make way for an American military base.

Activities:

The group was created in 2009. It meets twice a month in Crawley to socialise and make friends (usually meeting at Broadfield Community Centre). Members learn to communicate in English and play society games, such as bingo, and crafts, like knitting. The group also goes on outings and helps each other fill out forms. The group tries to help members adapt to their new way of life in the UK.

Most of the members are Catholic and the group celebrates Christmas and Easter. New members from Chagossian/Mauritian culture are welcome to join the group.



Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

Chinese community

There is currently no active cultural group for the Chinese community in Crawley. However, the town does have a sizeable Chinese population.

Up until the Second World War, the majority of the Chinese community lived in Britain's main ports. These communities consisted of a mobile population of Cantonese seamen and a small number of more permanent residents who ran shops, restaurants and boarding houses that catered for the seamen. In the 1950s they were replaced by a rapidly growing population of Chinese from the rural areas in Hong Kong's new territories, who opened restaurants across Britain.

In the 1960s and 1970s they were joined by increasing numbers of Chinese economic migrants from Malaysia and Singapore. Chinese migration continued to be dominated by these groups until the 1980s, when rising living standards in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia gradually reduced the volume of migration.

At the same time, the number of students from China began to rise. Initially there were only relatively modest numbers of post-graduate university students. However, as China got richer throughout the 1990s wealthy parents were increasingly anxious to get their children on English language courses or even school education abroad.

Since the 1990s the UK has seen a rising inflow of economic migrants from areas of China without any previous migratory link to the UK. A relatively small number of skilled migrants enter Britain.

Most migrants arrive to work in unskilled jobs, originally in the Chinese ethnic sector (catering, Chinese shops or wholesale) but increasingly in other sectors i.e. construction or in opportunist or temporary forms of employment as highlighted in Morecambe Bay.

There are a large number of Chinese visitors to Britain studying and working. Chinese are by far the largest group of international students in further education. Crawley's Chinese community centres around the large number of restaurants and the large hospitality industry at Gatwick. There are also two Chinese health shops.



Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

Church of England

The Church of England in Crawley consists of four Parishes: Crawley, Ifield, Worth and Southgate. Each Parish is responsible for a number of churches.

Crawley Team Ministry

This parish oversees St John's, St Peter's, St Richard's and St Elizabeth's. Each church is listed below. Please contact the Parish Office for service times.

Contact:

Parish Office
Church Walk
Crawley
RH10 1HH
Tel: 01293 522692
Email: crawleyparish@phonecoop.coop

St John the Baptist

High Street
Crawley
RH10 1HH

Built: c1250

Style of worship: Liberal, inclusive Church of England
Turning-Point Coffee Shop every Saturday at 10am



St Peter's Church

Ifield Road
West Green
Crawley
RH11 7BG

Built: 1892

Style of worship: Liberal, inclusive Church of England
There is a book sale on the first Saturday of every month excluding January from 10am-1pm.



St Richard's Church

Crossways/Gales Drive
Three Bridges
Crawley
RH10 1QF

Built: 1995

Style of worship: Liberal, inclusive Church of England
Coffee morning every Tuesday from 10.30am-12 noon



Ifield Team Ministry

This parish oversees St Margaret's, St Alban's, St Leonard's and St Mary Magdalene.

Contact:

Parish Office

Ifield Street

Ifield

Crawley

RH11 0NN

Tel: 01293 537578

Email: office@ifieldparish.org

St Alban's Church

Gossops Drive

Gossops Green

Crawley

RH11 8LD

Web: www.st-albans-church.co.uk



Thursday community morning from 10am-12 noon.

There is a junior choir at 6.30pm and Joint Choir at 7pm – both meet on Fridays.

St Leonard's Church

Martyrs Avenue

Langley Green

Crawley

RH11 7RZ

Web: <http://members.lycos.co.uk/stleonardschurch/>



St Margaret's Church

Ifield Street

Rectory Lane

Ifield

Crawley

RH11 0NN



A mother and toddler group, Squeals on wheels, starts at 10am at Lychgate Cottage every Thursday.

Crazy Christians meet at 7pm every Friday.

St Mary Magdalene

Francis Edwards Way

Bewbush

Crawley

RH11 8GG



Southgate Team Ministry

The Southgate Ministry is responsible for St Mary's, St Andrew's, Holy Trinity and Christ the Lord. Please contact the Parish Office for service times.

St Mary's Parish Office

c/o St Mary's Rectory
Forester Road
Southgate
Crawley
RH10 6EH
Tel: 01293 547261
Email: saintmaryssouthgate@googlemail.com
Web: www.stmarys.crawleychurches.org

Christ the Lord Church of England Church

Broadfield Community and Church Centre
Coachmans Drive
Broadfield
Crawley
RH11 9BA
Web: www.broadfieldchurch.org

Built: 1980

Midweek groups include drama, ladies group and Bible groups. A toddler group meets every Monday at 9.30am and there's a free coffee shop every Monday at 10am.

Holy Trinity

Ashdown Drive/Titmus Drive
Tilgate
Crawley
RH10 5EU
Web: www.crawleychurches.org/holytrinity



St Andrew's Church

Weald Drive/Furnace Place
Furnace Green
Crawley
RH10 6NU
Web: www.crawleychurches.org/standrews

St Mary's Church

Wakehurst Drive
Southgate
Crawley
RH10 6EH
Web: www.stmarys.crawleychurches.org



Built: 1958

The Gate coffee shops opens on Thursdays 9.30am-1.30pm.

Worth Team Ministry

The Parish of Worth, Pound Hill and Maidenbower is responsible for St Barnabas and St Nicholas churches.

Parish Office

St Barnabas Church
Worth Road
Pound Hill
Crawley
RH10 7DY
Tel: 01293 403163
Email: office@worthparish.co.uk

St Barnabas

Worth Road
Pound Hill
Crawley
RH10 7DY



St Nicholas

Church Road
Worth
Crawley
RH10 7RT



For more information visit:

A Church Near You at www.acny.org.uk

Diocese of Chichester at www.diochi.org.uk

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)

Contact:

Old Horsham Road
Southgate
Crawley
RH11 8PD
Tel: 01293 520639



The Chapel on Old Horsham Road

Introduction:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been in the Crawley area since the mid-19th Century. The chapel in Crawley was dedicated on May 18 1967.

The spiritual leader or 'Bishop' is a member of the congregation who has been asked to serve as a volunteer in this position because the Church has a lay ministry rather than paid clergy. All church service is voluntary.

The Church is sometimes known by its nickname 'Mormon'.

Worship:

Services are held every Sunday at 10am and visitors are always welcome. The main family worship service is called the sacrament meeting in which we sing hymns, offer prayers, partake the sacrament (communion) and have two or three speakers.

Visitors are also welcome to attend other Sunday meetings that follow sacrament meeting:

- Sunday school classes are offered for each age-group, beginning with 12 year olds
- Primary meetings consist of a group service and age-oriented classes for children aged 3-11
- A nursery is available for children aged 18 months to 3 years
- Young Women meetings provide classes for those aged 12-17
- Relief Society meetings are for women aged 18+
- Priesthood meetings provide age-oriented classes for males aged 12+

For further information visit www.lds.org.uk or www.mormon.org



Church members at the Interfaith Garden in West Green Park as part of a Let's FACE it! project

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

The Church of Scientology, East Grinstead

Contact:

Jackie Watson
Tel: 01293 522280
Email: jwat6@aol.com

Introduction:

L Ron Hubbard developed much of Scientology in the UK, first in London and later in East Grinstead, where he set up his home in 1959.

The Church in East Grinstead is involved in social betterment programmes, helping local people with problems such as illiteracy, drug abuse and criminality. Many Scientologists in the Crawley area are trained as volunteer ministers to assist in the areas above, together with providing help to overcome problems of stress, conflict in relationships, difficulties in work and much more.

Worship:

Sunday service is at 11am. Other religious services, including spiritual counselling and study courses, are available throughout the week.

Activities:

Religious services are available seven days a week, as above. Many other events take place throughout the year, such as musical events, arts festivals, Say No To Drugs concerts and others. Community services such as those outlined above occur every day.

Tours of Saint Hill Manor and Saint Hill Castle are conducted in the afternoons daily (large groups by appointment).

Festivals:

March: L Ron Hubbard's birthday celebration (the first or second Saturday after his birthday (March 13)

May: Anniversary event of the publication of Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health (first or second Saturday after May 9)

October: Anniversary celebration of the formation of the International Association of Scientologists – a weekend of events usually the third weekend in October
For more information visit www.scientology.org.uk or www.sainthill.org.uk



Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

Churches Together in West Crawley

Contact:

Roger Baker
38 Lanercost Road
Southgate
Crawley
RH11 8YA
Tel: 01293 533658
Email: rogerbk@talktalk.net
web: www.ctsussex.org.uk

Introduction:

Representatives from the Christian denominations in West Crawley meet four times per year to arrange their programme of activities:

- Events for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-24)
- Ecumenical service on Homelessness Sunday
- The Unity Walk when members, friends and family visit all the Christian places of worship on a Saturday.

They also arrange speakers for some of their meetings.

The Christian denominations that are represented are:

- Roman Catholic – Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Langley Green and St Theodore's, Gossops Green
- Church of England – St Albans, Gossops Green, St Leonard's, Langley Green, St Margaret's, Ifield and St Mary Magdalene's, Bewbush
- Quaker – Friends' Meeting House, Ifield
- Salvation Army – Ifield
- United Reformed Church – Trinity Church, Ifield

For more information on Churches Together contact Ian Chisnall, Sussex Co-ordinator, on 07976 811654 or email ianpchisnall@aol.com



Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

Crawley Bangladeshi Welfare Association

Contact:

Mr Mirza
11 The Parade
Northgate
Crawley
RH10 8DT
Tel: 07958 900916
Email: mirza04@hotmail.co.uk

Aims of organisation

- To provide education services
- To provide welfare support and run positive activity for the Bangladeshi community
- Act as a signposting service to mainstream organisations
- Promote community cohesion
- Enhance cultural understanding and awareness.

Activities

There is a children's club, which runs for children aged 5-15 with weekend clubs offering a range of activities from classes to games.

The adult part of the group is being established and currently offers monthly meetings.

How does membership work?

There are more than 50 children regularly accessing the children's club. There is a management committee with 14 co-opted members.

Celebrations

All Muslim festivals and celebrations.

Faith

The Bangladeshi community is of Muslim faith.



Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

Crawley Baptist Church

Contact:

Crabtree Road

West Green

Crawley

RH11 7HJ

Tel: 01293 546177

Email: info@CrawleyBaptistChurch.org.uk

Web: www.crawleybaptistchurch.org.uk

Introduction:

Crawley Baptist Church was established by a small group of Christians in 1883 who built a church in Station Road, which survived until a stray World War II bomb destroyed the Sanctuary in 1943.

The fellowship continued to meet in the rear halls until 1954 when the group moved into their new building in West Green as part of the Crawley Development Corporation's policy to provide a church, shops, pub and schools in each neighbourhood of Crawley.

In 2002 that building was demolished to make way for a modern church building designed to serve the local community in the 21st century.

Worship:

There are two services on Sunday morning at 9.15am and 11.15am. These are for all the family, with worship, prayer and Bible talks. Children have their own activities for part of the time and once a month stay in for the whole of the all-age worship service. Between services the congregation enjoy a drink and chat in the Rainbow Lounge.

On Sunday evenings they meet at 6.30pm and worship together. In addition people meet to worship on alternative Thursdays at 10.30am. Check the next meeting on the online calendar at www.crawleybaptistchurch.org.uk

Activities:

There are a number of activities for seniors:

- Pilgrims meet for lunch and speaker on the first and second Tuesday of each month except August
- The Friendship Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month except August
- T.Set meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month except December
- Once a month we hold a joint service here at 7pm for all churches to worship together. This is on the first Sunday of each month.

Parents and toddlers meet on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings during term time.

Holly Hedgehog for 3-5 year olds meets on Monday, Thursday and Friday during term time.

The Music and Drama Groups meet on Friday evenings.

Our Contact Centre provides a safe, friendly and neutral place where children of separated families can spend time with one or both parents and sometimes other family members.

Every year the Church holds a Community Week where members engage in activities and projects for groups and organisations in the locality. Recent projects have included repainting school classrooms, litter clearance and gardening.

Festivals:

The main festivals are Easter and Christmas.



Crawley Campaign Against Racism

Contact:

Acting Chair: Queenie Hopcroft
27 Hollybush Road
Crawley
RH10 8DY
Tel: 01293 542968

Aims of organisation:

To work towards combating racism in all its forms and at all levels.

What do we do?

We work towards creating contacts between community groups furthering community cohesion and racial harmony. We also help to fight the resurgence of fascism in Europe.

How does membership work?

We were formed 33 years ago in response to racism in Crawley. We are completely independent and work purely on our sense of justice and humanity.

Celebrations:

We have an annual international party (with the sponsorship of Crawley Borough Council) where people from different ethnic backgrounds come together to celebrate their rich diversity through music, dance and refreshments.

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

Crawley Educational Institute

Contact:

PO BOX 1020

Crawley

RH10 1HX

Email: info@ceiuk.com

Web: www.ceiuk.com

Introduction:

We run several weekly educational classes. Our classes cater for both young and old. We cover a vast range of subjects including maths, English and Islamic studies.

How does membership work?

We have no formal membership structure and are open to anyone attending our various weekly classes.

Aims:

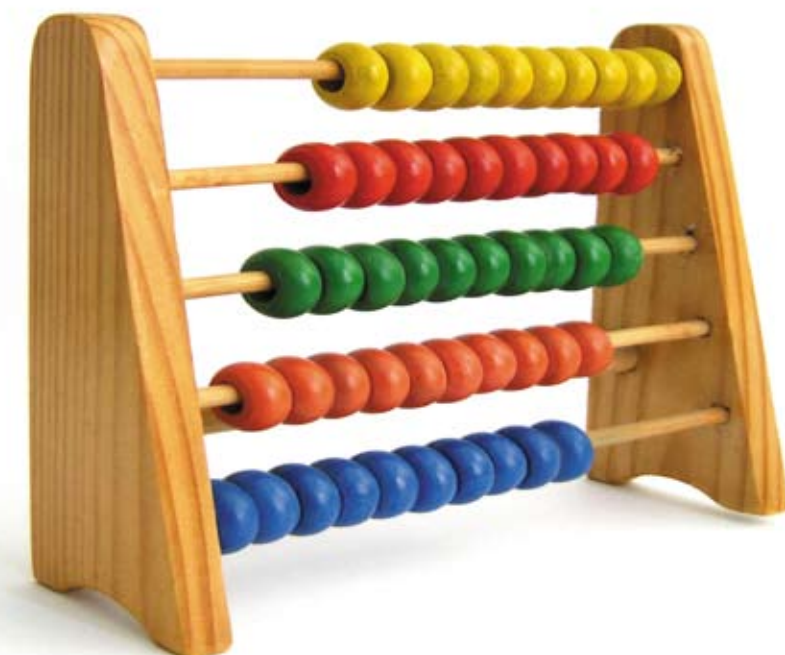
To develop educational excellence throughout Crawley.

Celebrations:

We have held several celebratory events, usually to coincide with a completion of a particular course. In addition, we also celebrate the two Eid's on an annual basis.

Organisation:

We operate using an informal group of volunteers. Anyone interested in contributing is welcome to join us in continuing this project.



Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

Crawley Interfaith Network

Contact:

CIFN

St John's Parish office

Church Walk

Crawley

RH10 1HH

Tel: 01293 532730

Email: steveinn@msn.com

ashel@hotmail.co.uk



Introduction:

In the 1990s a small group of local residents from diverse backgrounds came together to promote positive dialogue between faith groups. This initial idea grew and developed and later, with the assistance of Crawley Borough Council and Laura Moffatt MP, the Crawley Interfaith Network was launched in June 2005.

Crawley Interfaith Network:

- Holds four public meetings per year including an AGM, with a speaker of a different faith at each meeting
- Presents talks on different religious traditions and current affairs
- Organises visits to national and local places of worship, including visits during key festivals
- Is a member of Faiths in Sussex, a partnership between Horsham, Brighton and Hove, and Worthing and delivers biannual workshops
- Provides speakers for schools and youth groups
- Offers advice to local agencies on matters of faith
- Works in partnership with local agencies to deliver projects that build good community relationships and cohesion
- Produces a regular six monthly calendar of events (events are open to the general public).

Aims of organisation:

- To encourage an atmosphere of goodwill and peace between different faith communities
- To promote and reflect on common beliefs as well as acknowledge differences and celebrate diversity
- To help create understanding and respect between faith groups, and with those of secular belief in Crawley
- To be an initial contact point whenever there is a need for consultation or assistance on multi-faith issues.

For more information on interfaith work visit www.interfaith.org.uk,
www.interfaithalliance.org, www.interfaithonline.org or www.worldfaiths.org

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide



Crawley International Mela Association (CIMA)

Contact:

Crawley International Mela Association
c/o The Hawth
Hawth Avenue
Crawley
RH10 6YZ
Tel: 01293 552941
Web: www.crawleymela.org



Aims of organisation:

- To be a showcase for the arts, particularly performing arts such as regional dance and music, and to be a platform for local artists of all ages and cultures
- To further racial and cultural harmony by celebrating the cultural diversity of all of Crawley borough's cultural and ethnic communities
- To advance general public understanding of ethnic and cultural values by providing an opportunity for exploration and learning about traditions, beliefs, art, music, businesses and occupations which contribute to Crawley borough's creativity, wealth and happiness.

Activities:

The Mela Association provides:

- Multi-cultural community services in Crawley and more generally across West Sussex
- A community outreach programme which takes cultural performers, artists and others to local schools and groups
- The annual Multi-Faith Children's Parade
- Youth and fundraising concerts and activities
- The popular July Mela Festival weekend.

How does membership work?

The Association is entirely volunteer-led. Volunteers are welcome to contribute to all activities. Any active volunteer is automatically a member of the Mela Association. The executive committee is elected from association members by member vote at the annual general meeting.

What do we celebrate?

Essentially, we celebrate the rich cultural diversity which makes Crawley a dynamic and interesting area. Our members cover almost all of the local faiths.

What does your organisation consist of?

The association consists of volunteer/members, who elect the executive committee each year at the AGM. There is also a Mela management committee, which reports to the membership at AGM and handles funding matters.

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide



Crawley Islamic Culture Centre (CICC)

Contact:

153 London Road
Crawley
RH11 7SQ
Tel: 01293 528488
Email: info@crawleymasjid.com

Introduction:

CICC was established in 1978; it started with a single congregation room and now has various facilities including the main hall being converted into a large prayer room. There are also parking facilities for the disabled and prayer facilities for women too. The CICC provides services to the whole of the Muslim community in Crawley, including Islamic education.

CICC is a volunteer based organisation and is a registered charity. CICC provides a wide range of community services promoting welfare, brotherhood and social cohesion. The ethics of the centre are based on pure Islamic values promoting justice, modesty, equality and welfare.

The aim of the centre is to modernise and build a new centre catering for the ever-growing needs of the Muslims in Crawley. The centre also provides a venue for various religious activities throughout the year, especially in the holy month of Ramadan, where all Muslims are required to fast. The centre also provides facilities for social gatherings and other community engagements such as weddings and funerals.

Worship:

The religion of Islam is the acceptance of and obedience to the teachings of God which He revealed to His last prophet, Muhammad. CICC is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year providing round the clock worship facilities. Islam is the only religion practised at CICC. Islam is based on the five fundamentals known as 'The Five Pillars of Islam'.

Friday prayers, known as 'Jumma Prayer, is the most important service and is compulsory upon every Muslim, who is required to observe the other prayers and has no reasonable excuses to abstain. It falls on Friday of every week and is especially important because:

- It is the occasion earmarked by Allah for the Muslim to express their collective devotion
- It is an appointment to review our spiritual accounts of the week gone by and get ready for the following week just as people do in any other business
- It is a convention for Muslims to reassure themselves and confirm their religious bonds and social solidarity on moral and spiritual foundations
- It shows how Muslims give preference to the call of God over and above any other concern

Activities:

CICC provides Islamic education for the entire Muslim community. It is also a centre for social and cultural activities, bringing all sections of the community together.

There are evening classes for young girls and boys, teaching them reading and understanding the Arabic language and meaning of the Holy Quran.

There is also provision for the elderly where once a week most of the elders meet where they enjoy a gathering with refreshments provided.

Festivals:

There are two major festivals in the Islamic calendar and are known as 'Eid Days'. There are two Eid festivals during the year and these are celebrated in certain Islamic months and with the appearance of the moon. The first Eid is celebrated for three consecutive days after the holy month of Ramadan. The second Eid festival is celebrated after the pilgrimage of 'Hajj' is performed. Approximately 5.5 million people perform Hajj each year. It is compulsory for every adult Muslim who has the financial means and is physically able to do so.

For more details on Islam visit www.islam-guide.com



Crawley Kashmiri Women's Association

Contact:

Rubina Shamim

Tel: 07739675129

Email: rubina.shamim@westsussex.gov.uk



Aims of organisation:

The charity's objectives are for the benefit of the inhabitants of Crawley and the surrounding area and in particular for the benefit of those female inhabitants who are Asian or of Asian origin by:

- Advancing education in the English and Urdu languages and in other subjects
- Assisting people who are in financial hardship or sickness or who are otherwise in need
- Protecting and preserving health
- Providing recreation and other leisure time pursuits to improve quality of life.

Activities:

- Day care service for women over 50
- Information, advice and guidance service for BME communities
- Cultural/language classes
- Asian women support services.

What does your organisation consist of?

Our management committee consists of four officers and nine members.

What do you celebrate?

Religious events including Eid-ul-Duha, Eid-ul fitr and multi-cultural events.



Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

Crawley Mosque

Contact:

Arif Syed
Broadfield Mosque
Broadwood Rise
Broadfield
Crawley
RH11 9SE
Tel: 01293 553070
Email: imam@crawleymosque.com
Web: www.crawleymosque.com

Introduction:

The mosque was formed in 1981 in a terraced council house in Fennel Crescent and moved to its present, purpose-built location in 1994.

Some very dedicated people, some of them now passed away may Allah's peace be upon them, worked relentlessly to bring this dream to reality to have their own mosque, which is fit for its purpose.

The aims of the mosque as laid down in its constitution is:

- To promote and advance the teaching of the Holy Prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon him) and his companions, according to the Sharia Law laid down in the Holy Quran
- Provide facilities and services for worshipping
- Provide Islamic and cultural education
- Provide a site for Islamic marriages
- Provide space for mediation and spiritual guidance
- Provide Islamic funerals
- Promote opportunities for community development
- Promote community cohesion
- Raise funds for good causes.

Worship:

The building is open to the public during praying time, which is five times a day, 365 days a year. The actual praying time differs in accordance with sunrise and sunset each day. These are before sunrise, afternoon, late afternoon, sunset and evening. The praying time and other events are displayed on the mosque's web-site at www.crawleymosque.com

Activities:

The mosque:

- Hosts Islamic awareness training in partnership with AKSAA four times a year for the provider of statutory services and non statutory agencies
- Hosts visits from local and regional schools
- Provides training opportunities to statutory agencies
- Holds seminars and conferences
- Facilitates lectures from renowned scholars

- Raises funds for disasters in the world
- Facilitates community functions within Islamic parameters
- Holds women and group activities – e.g. Islamic awareness, women's health etc.
- Holds Children Islamic School from 5-7pm Monday to Friday
- Holds youth activities
- provide (nikka marriages) services
- Islamic burial services together with mortuary
- Mediation services
- From 2011 we will be providing a free nursery facility for two and a half - five year olds (under government free scheme).

Festivals:

Ramadan

Eid ul Fitr

Eid ul Adha

Shab'a barat



E

Elim Church Crawley

Contact:

Rev. Phil Johnston

Langley Drive

Langley Green

Crawley

RH11 7TF

Tel: 01293 552244

Email: enquiry@elim-church.org.uk

Website: www.elim-church.org.uk



Introduction:

Elim Church Crawley was established in Crawley about 45 years ago. Its main congregation is based in Langley Green. Due to growth in the last few years it now holds its Sunday morning services at Ifield Community College.

The church established a new congregation in Bewbush in 2005. This congregation meets at Bewbush Community Primary School on Sunday mornings.

Worship:

Every Sunday at 10.30am at Ifield Community College, every Sunday at 6.30pm at the Elim Church Centre, Langley Drive and the first Sunday of the month at 7pm at Crawley Baptist Church.

Beliefs:

At the heart of our faith is the belief that God has made Himself known through Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus died and came back to life again so that people could know God personally. Our aim is to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and to help people to follow Him.

What does your organisation do?

We worship, pray and study the Bible together on Sunday mornings and evenings, and in smaller groups during the week. We hold different sorts of events (usually involving food!) to bring people together and provide opportunity for building relationships.

Serving the local community is important to us and to that end we encourage people to get involved in events that will be helpful to our community.

Our activities cover a broad spectrum of interests and age groups. Men's groups and women's groups are important parts of our programme, as are a toddlers' group and a youth club. We also run the Alpha course for those who want to find out about basic Christian beliefs.

Just recently we have begun to offer English for Speakers of Other Languages courses both for those who are part of the church and for those who are not connected with it at present.

How does membership work?

We invite those who want to be members to attend an evening called Getting into Elim. During this evening we outline the vision and values of the church. We also ask those attending to share their stories of how they decided to become a follower of Jesus. We have about 100 members.

The church is led by a leadership team. There also many members of the congregation who serve the church in a voluntary capacity.

What do you celebrate?

We celebrate Christmas and Easter. Pentecost Sunday is important to us as well, as we believe that the Holy Spirit is able to help us and guide us today.

We also celebrate what is happening in people's lives at present. People are encouraged to share stories of answered prayer, changed situations etc. We see these things as evidence of God at work today.



Emerald Sports and Social Club

Contact:

The Emerald Club
Southgate Pavilion
Southgate Avenue
Crawley
RH10 6HG
Web: www.emeraldclubcrawley.co.uk

Introduction:

The Emerald Sports and Social Club, or Emerald Club, is the Irish Centre for Crawley. It was set up during the 1990s following the successful launch of a number of Irish events at the Southgate Pavilion.

The history continues with Irish-themed events such as set-dancing classes, regular live music, a monthly dance and live GAA sports matches televised on the big screen every Sunday during the Gaelic football and hurling season. The Emerald Club also hosts the Irish Senior Citizens Network, which meets each Tuesday. It also provides a venue for Irish dance schools to practice.

The Emerald Club also provides a home for Saint Francis Rugby Club, Crawley Cricket Club and facilities for external events to be hosted at the venue.

Events:

The Emerald Club hosts events throughout the week:

- Set Dancing Classes
- Crawley Jazz Club
- Traditional Music Session
- Crawley Blues Club

Membership:

The Emerald Club is a social club for members only. Membership costs £12 per year to join (members of the cricket and rugby clubs become members as part of their membership). However, registered members can sign in visitors.



Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

G

Green Fields Baptist Church

Contact:

Ashdown Drive
Tilgate
Crawley
RH10 5DR
Tel: 01293 562637
Email: greenfieldsbc@aol.com



Church Minister: Revd. Peter Farquhar

Church Secretary: Vena Snell

Community members come, both to develop their spiritual relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and also to develop community relationships with each other.

The church offers a programme of Bible study and fellowship groups, youth clubs, parent and toddler groups throughout the week.

Green Fields carries out supportive ministry to the homeless community in this region and to those who work on their behalf at Crawley Open House.

Activities:

Sunday mornings at 10.30am:

- Holy Communion Services on second Sunday of each month
- All-age service on fourth Sunday of alternate months
- Sunday drama club for children and young people

Fourth Sunday of each month at 6.30pm:

- Combined Communion Service with Crawley Baptist Church and Haven Baptist Church. Venues alternate, contact for more details.

Mondays:	6.15pm: Choir rehearsal 7.15pm: 3rd Crawley Girl Guides
Tuesdays:	10am: Parents and toddlers' group 3.15pm: TC (after-school) Club (up to school year 4) 5.30pm: Youth group (school years 9-11)
Wednesdays:	10am: Parents and toddlers' group 6pm: 1st Furnace Green Brownies 7.45pm: Bible study group/prayer group 7.45pm: Fellowship group
Fridays:	5.30pm: Friday Club (school years 5-8)

We also hold Alpha courses, book sales, children's holiday clubs and home groups. For more details on any of these events, contact the church office.

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

Gurjar Hindu Union (GHU)

Contact:

Sanatan Mandir and Community Centre
 Apple Tree Centre
 Ifield Avenue
 Crawley
 RH10 OAF
 Tel: 01293 530105
 Email: bharatlukka@hotmail.com
 Web: www.crawleyhindu.com



Introduction:

Established in 1968, The Gurjar Hindu Union (GHU) serves the needs of the local community and also looks to share the rich cultural and spiritual history of India more widely in society through local initiatives, events and experiences.

GHU is a volunteer-led organisation and has established itself as a well run, sustainable organisation. The GHU has managed to provide a state of the art centre serving the needs of the community and people of Crawley.

Opened in 2010 by the Gurjar Hindu Union (a local charitable organisation) the Apple Tree Centre has conference and meeting rooms, sports courts and changing rooms, plus full kitchen and catering facilities.

The magnificent Sanatan Mandir (spiritual centre) is a place of worship for the whole community. The adjoining Apple Tree Centre offers not just business, celebration and sporting use but also gives the wider community a range of new opportunities:

Activities:

- Cultural activities for children such as dance and languages
- Sacred ceremonies and Arti in the Mandir (temple) every day
- Activities for the elderly
- Cultural activities and religious festivals
- A day care centre for older people
- Basic skills training in subjects including classic and modern Indian dance and language
- Cultural activities including Indian cookery demonstrations, healthy living and music recitals
- Cultural celebrations including Diwali, Holi and Navrati

Festivals:

There are a great number of festivals over the year including Holi, in which bon-fires signify the burning of the demones Holika and 'colours' / paints that are traditionally made from medical herbs are playfully thrown, and Diwali in which lights and lamps signify the victory of good over evil within every human being.

Visit the GHU's website for details of this year's festivities. For more information on the Hindu faith contact the GHU or visit www.hinducounciluk.org

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide



I

Ifield Quaker Meeting

Contact:

Friends' Meeting House
5 Langley Lane
Ifield
Crawley
RH11 0NB
Tel: 01293 533658



Introduction:

Members can be called Friends or Quakers, a nickname given to them in the 17th century.

In 1674 the Ifield Quaker group (or 'Friends') acquired land and constructed the building in which they still meet and worship to this day. The Ifield meeting welcomes people of any or no faith as, although Quakerism was rooted in Christianity, the basis of Quakerism is that all individuals develop their own religious belief through their personal conscience and relationship with the divine.

Some members are involved in various organisations, Quaker and non-Quaker, working on humanitarian and global issues and hold a common belief that all humans are of equal importance and all hold responsibility for the health of humanity and our planet.

Worship:

Each Sunday all are welcome to attend The Meeting at 10.30am. Friends worship in silence and a vocal ministry is open to anyone who feels moved to speak. The silence ends with the shaking of hands, the opportunity to donate to a good cause and social time.

Activities:

A discussion group meets regularly. There are several events that are open to everyone:

- A carol evening in the week before Christmas
- A friendly lunch is held in February and a Summer Gathering in mid summer
- A vigil on Hiroshima Day (August 6) is held in Tilgate Park around the Gingko Tree from 7-7.30pm.

For more information about the Quaker faith contact the Ifield Quaker Meeting or visit www.quaker.org.uk

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide



K

Kingdom Faith Church

Contact:

c/o Oriel High School

Maidenbower

Crawley

RH10 7XW

Tel: 07966 157810 Pastor Paul Taylor

Email: paul.taylor@kingdomfaith.com

Tel: 01293 416873 Pastors Bob and Jacqui Lambert

Email: admin@kfcc.org.uk

Web: www.kfcc.org.uk



Introduction:

We are a lively community of Christians who love God and the people of our town. We are here to make a difference by doing the same things Jesus did. Our purpose is to know Christ and make him known. We are part of Kingdom Faith at Horsham, where we also have a Christian training centre.

We have a good working relationship with other churches, the police and local authorities. Our aims are to help the people of our town where there are issues and needs relating to parenting, loneliness, debt, addictions, sickness, depression and unemployment. We also work in the community with families and couples who may benefit from advice, support and/or guidance. We have seen success tackling these issues in our communities.

Worship:

We formed a new church based in Crawley in 2002 and currently meet at Oriel High School, Maidenbower every Sunday at 10am to worship Jesus, receive faith teaching from the Bible, pray for people and to find friendship, love and acceptance.

During the meeting we have activities for children – crèche for 0-2, J24/7 for 3-4s, 5-7s, 7-11s and 11-14s.

During the week we have many groups who meet during the day and evenings, to meet with God and encourage one another in his love as well as to learn from the Bible. These include children's and youth groups.

We are a praying church with many regular prayer groups. We are aiming to have a joint church prayer initiative 24 hours and seven days a week in the near future.

Love Crawley Outreach:

We believe God has a plan to reach the people of Crawley with a message of hope; and we want people in our town to find out more about knowing Jesus and his love, so reach out into Crawley every week to talk to young people and adults. As part of this 'love Crawley' initiative we offer practical assistance and advice to people needing help with their gardens, equipment repaired or any other ways we are able to assist. Many have had their lives transformed by God's love, forgiveness and healing power.

Youth drop-in project:

We are actively engaged in a project with the support of the local council and the police to set up and run a youth drop-in centre in the town for use in day-time and evenings.

Healing:

We have seen many children and adults healed through prayers of faith. Please ring the church office for someone to visit and pray for you or a loved one. We also support Healing Rooms, an inter-church initiative that offers prayers for healing for all kinds of conditions.

Other initiatives:

We have Street Pastors, a joint church initiative with police and local authority representatives meeting and befriending people out on the streets at night. We also have people going out weekly into the community to talk, listen and build friendship with people in homes, in schools and in hostels.

We have free courses available:

- The WHO? Course, a four-week course in knowing God for yourself
- Developing Disciples, an eight-week course designed for new Christians.



M

Maidenbower Baptist Church

Contact:

Maidenbower Square

Maidenbower

Crawley

RH10 7QH

Tel 01293 536882 or 01293 522489

Email: contact@mabach.org

Web: www.mabach.org or www.sermonaudio.com/mbc



Introduction:

Maidenbower Baptist Church was established in the 1970s in a chapel on Robinson Road (where the Asda building now stands), when it was known as Crawley Reformed Baptist Church. The church was formally constituted on March 8 1975.

As a result of the redevelopment of the town centre, we moved out of Robinson Road and in 1996 began to meet as Maidenbower Baptist Church in Maidenbower Community Centre. We bought land in the centre of Maidenbower and a new building was soon completed, the first services being held there in April 2001. We have been meeting there to worship God, and reaching out with the good news to the local community, and Crawley at large, since that time. Visitors are welcome at any services. For help with transport or more details of any meetings, contact us.

Worship:

Sunday services take place at 11am and 6pm. All are welcome.

Prayer meeting takes place each Wednesday at 8pm

Other meetings:

Sunday School takes place at 10am

Stepping Stones, monthly Bible study on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Contact us for location

Listen and Dine, daytime meeting for senior citizens, meets every four weeks or so. Contact us for details of next meeting)

Activities:

Ministry in local schools

Practical help to members and friends of the church and others as required Pastors available for Christian advice and care

Festivals:

Easter and Christmas



Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

N

New Hope Church

Contact:

Pastors David and Tricia Morgan
The Trinity Building
Ifield Drive
Ifield
Crawley
RH11 0AG
Tel: 01293 540608
Mobile: 07931 903801
Email: david.tricia@talktalk.net

Introduction:

The name New Hope is chosen because the church is made up of people that have been hurt in one way or another, hurt or rejected by family members, partners, friends and in some cases even churches.

New Hope believes that all members are being healed by the love of God through one another in the fellowship.

New Hope's vision is:

- A church where the misfits fit
- The hurting get healed
- The lonely get loved
- The rejected are accepted
- And those with no hope find New Hope.

Worship:

We meet on the last Sunday of the month at 6.30pm for worship.

Events:

Social gathering on the first Saturday of the month

Wednesday evenings we run Alpha course in the main building

We also run a Aikido school, a soft non religious form of self defence practised by the Japanese police force, students range from 14-65 years old at the moment. It helps to build confidence in the old and discipline the young. It involves no kicks or punches so is known as soft marshal arts. All training is free, meetings are held in the main building at Ifield Trinity on Thursday evenings 6.30-10pm

The club is called the Hoyahoya Mikomi School of Aikido which means New Hope.

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide



P

Portuguese community

Introduction:

There is no current Portuguese group in the town but there is a vibrant and active community.

Crawley sees high numbers of Portuguese inhabitants arriving in the town due to the employment opportunities that exist.

Portuguese is the eighth most spoken language in the world and the third most spoken language in Western Europe after English and Spanish.

Most Portuguese settlers are from Madeira, a small island on the African side of Portugal. In 2002 when the euro became its currency Madeira's prosperity suffered. Many families have found it difficult to survive and looked for new opportunities further afield.

Family is extremely important in the Portuguese culture and many settlers will have a large extended family surrounding them. In fact, the importance of their families is recognised in their frequently long names. A person may have four names, sometimes five. A first name, a second name, their mother's name and their father's name. When married a fifth name can be added. The first name is not always what is used as this is sometimes the same first name for all females in the family so the person will actually be known by their second name.

Faith:

Catholicism is the main faith for the Portuguese community. Therefore, Christian events are largely celebrated. Saints, as part of this, are also celebrated with emphasis on St John, St Peter and St Antonio. The longest day of the year – June 21 – is St John's Day and there are large outside parties staged to celebrate this.



Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

R

Roman Catholic Churches in Crawley

Contact:

The Friary
Haslett Avenue West
Crawley
RH10 1HR
Tel: 01293 524176
Web: www.crawleyparish.org



Introduction:

The earliest post-Reformation record of Catholics in the Crawley area goes back to 1582 when two parishioners were named as recusants (Roman Catholics who refused to attend the services of the Church of England). It was only in the mid-nineteenth century that the Catholic parish in Crawley was founded by the Franciscans.

Crawley parish is made up of seven church communities served by the Parish team based in the centre of the town.

In addition to the celebration of Mass and the other sacraments, the parish is involved in various ways with the life of the town through social concern groups, prayer groups and our schools.

The three Catholic schools in the parish are:

- St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary, Southgate Drive, Crawley, RH10 6HD
01293 521009
- Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Primary, Hare Lane, Crawley, RH11 7PZ
01293 526057
- St Wilfrid's Catholic High School, Old Horsham Road, Crawley, RH11 8PG
01293 421421

Clergy Team:

Rev Monsignor Tony Barry, Parish Moderator
Rev Andrew Bayes (Deacon)
Sr. Hannah Murray

The seven church communities are:

Christ the Lord

Broadfield Barton
Broadfield

Services:

- Sunday Mass: 9.30am
- Sacrament of Penance: on request



Convent Chapel

Borers Arms Road
Copthorne
RH10 3LN
Tel: 01342 712088

Services:

- Mass: Tuesday 7.30am

St Francis and St Anthony (The Friary)

Haslett Avenue West
Crawley

Services:

- First Mass of Sunday: Saturday 6pm
- Sunday Mass: 9.30am, 11.30am and 5.30pm
- Weekday Mass: Monday to Saturday 12.15pm
- Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 11am, 5pm or at call



St Theodore of Canterbury

Gossops Green Lane
Gossops Green

Services:

- First mass of Sunday: Saturday 6.30pm



Our Lady Queen of Heaven

Stagelands
Langley Green

Services:

- Sunday Mass: 11.15am
- Polish Mass: 9.30am (first Sunday of the month)
- Sacrament of Penance: First Saturday 10.30-11.30am



St Edward the Confessor

Hillcrest Close
Pound Hill

Services:

- Sunday Mass: 11am
- Weekday Mass: Monday and Thursday 10am
- Sacrament of Penance: Third Saturday 10.30-11.30am



St Bernadette's

Tilgate Way
Tilgate

Services:

- Sunday Mass: 9am
- Weekday Mass: Tuesday 7.15pm

For more info contact Crawley parish or visit
www.catholic-church.org.uk



Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

S

St Paul's Methodist Church

Contact:

Sue Conroy
56 Woodfield Road
Northgate
Crawley
RH10 8ER
Tel: 01293 519586
Web: www.crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk



Introduction:

Our mission statement at St Paul's is quite clear – we are here to introduce you to Jesus Christ so that together we may come to know him better.

Methodism is a denomination within Protestant Christianity. The Methodist movement started with the evangelistic teachings of John Wesley in 18th century Britain, and through vigorous missionary activity, spread throughout the British Empire, the United States, and beyond.

Originally it appealed especially to the poor and uneducated, who were ignored by the Church of England of the day. John Wesley was an Anglican priest who did not originally intend to start a breakaway church, but was forced to this extreme by opposition from the Church of England. In contrast to the Calvinists of the 18th century, Methodism emphasizes that Christ accomplished salvation for every human being.

John Wesley's brother Charles wrote thousands of inspirational hymns, many of which are still popular in all parts of the Christian church.

In the 19th century, the Methodist church continued its support for ordinary people by nurturing the early trade union movement. In the 20th century the Methodist church was one of the first to ordain women as ministers. It is closely associated with Action for children, the children's charity.

Today, the differences between Methodism and other Protestant churches are minor, and Methodism enjoys good relations with all Christians. Methodists do have a formal service book but most services are informal. The Wesley brothers themselves greatly valued the Anglican liturgy and tradition. Methodism now has about seventy-five million members worldwide.

In 1951, Methodists in the New Town of Crawley started meeting in an upper room of a barn where The Boulevard now stands. It soon became apparent that a larger space was needed, and the church hall with its canteen and meeting rooms opened in 1953 on its present site. The modern eight-sided church was opened in 1966, giving a beautiful space for worship and freeing the hall for other activities.

Renovated and expanded for the Millennium celebrations, the church buildings now offer a large vestibule area with a café serving drinks and snacks, and a fine range of meeting rooms of various sizes.

Sunday Services:

9.30am Worship – A traditional Methodist service with hymns old and new, prayers for ourselves and others, a sermon and a warm and welcoming fellowship
10.30am Coffee – Time for a cuppa and a chat; here the first congregation meets those arriving for the 11am service

10.45am Sunday School – Time to learn and grow, as the children share in our Sunday School, known as King's Kids

10.45am Discussion Group – Adults meet to discuss current issues from a Christian perspective

SPY – Our youth group on every Sunday at 11am

11am Worship – A service in a more modern style, accompanied by our Worship Band and singers. Familiar and new songs and a sermon in a conversational style. Ideal for those seeking to learn more of the Christian faith in a friendly atmosphere

Midweek Activities:

Loaves and Fishes – St Paul's own coffee shop is open Monday to Friday term time. It starts at 10.30am, immediately after morning prayers at 10am and continues until 2pm for teas, coffees, light lunches and company

Chatterbox – Tuesdays from 1pm during term time. A club for pre-school children that gives parents and carers a chance to meet and chat over a cup of tea

House Groups – Several groups meet at different houses for Bible study, prayer and fellowship

Women's Fellowship – Wednesdays from 2pm. A weekly meeting for ladies with interesting speakers and refreshments

Cubs and Scouts – Children's clubs that are open to children of all faiths

The Church Choir welcomes new members with practice on Friday at 8pm and participation in the Sunday services.

Oasis – 1st and 3rd Thursday at 1.15pm. A 20 minute quiet, reflective service in the midst of a busy week.

Festivals:

Methodism celebrates the traditional Christian festivals. The main ones are:

- Advent (Time of waiting for Christ's coming again as well as preparing to celebrate Christmas)
- Christmas (Christ's birth)
- Lent (Christ overcoming temptation)
- Easter (Christ's death and resurrection)
- Pentecost (the coming of the Holy Spirit to the believers)
- Harvest Festival (Thanksgiving for God's gifts and prayers and donations for the world's poor)

Sikh Community Centre Crawley

Contact:

142 Buckswood Drive
Crawley
RH10 8JG
Tel: 01293 532915
Email: ranjitsbedi@hotmail.com
Web: www.sikhcommunitycentrecrawley.co.uk



The Sikh Community Centre Crawley (SCCC) is a long established minority ethnic led charitable organisation serving Crawley. The Organisation's main focus is to serve the needs of our community and help to integrate them into mainstream society.

SCCC, as a volunteer organisation, is committed to sharing its rich and spiritual Sikh heritage more widely through common intercommunity experiences. Presently all our Sikh religious ceremonies and festivals are conducted in a hired Church hall.

We have embarked on a flagship project to build a gurdwara and community centre at Overdene Drive, Ifield. We have already signed a Design & Build contract to build this centre. The construction will start in October 2010, at a cost of £1.8M and take around 1 year to complete.

This centre will cater for all the Sikh religious ceremonies fulfilling the spiritual needs of its community. Engagements, marriages, language learning, special seminars for the old (social & health issues) and the young (tackling & minimising the dangers of drug/drink abuse, social responsibility, crime, alienation etc) will also be conducted there.

Ultimately our aim is to provide and offer higher standards of accessibility to the community, conducive to equality, inclusiveness and dissemination of learning and experience. We will implement, promote and demonstrate our organisation's ethos through this development.

We will actively develop the social and economic success of Crawley, allowing it to be a focal point for Sussex and help its members to make new friends and be an integral and important part of this dynamic town while maintaining their ethnic identity. It will become our responsibility to greatly enhance Crawley as a truly multicultural town in tune with a modern society.

Worship:

Presently our religious ceremonies are conducted once a month, in a hired hall, on a Saturday between 6.30 - 10pm. All are welcome to attend and the doors are open to all faiths.

Community Activities:

We have been conducting Punjabi language classes for the younger generation and many have attained their Punjabi GCSE. In these classes they are also taught about Sikh religion and heritage.

Around two social, fundraising functions are held every year in Crawley. Here we have ample opportunity to communicate, with all those present, our aims and aspirations. Community needs, future plans and the progress its committee members have made or are making are also highlighted.

Regular dialogue and meetings with our elder and our younger generations are held to discuss social, health and other issues.

Festivals:

During the year many Sikh festivals (birth of our first guru Siri Guru Nanak Dev ji and Martyrdoms of our other Sikh Gurus Tegh Bahadur and Arjan dev ji) are organised and celebrated. Birth of Khalsa (birth of the Sikh religion) together with Waisakhi, Diwali and Holi are part of the festivals within our yearly Sikh festival calendar.

For further information on SCCC activities please feel free to contact us at the above address. You can also visit us at: www.sikhcommunitycentrecrawley.co.uk



Nishan Sahib hosting ceremony at our Overdene Drive site, with a prayer to our wahe guru ji for guidance and blessing (August 15 2010)



Plans for the new community centre in Ifield

Siri Guru Singh Sabha

Contact:

Jaswant Singh Jhans
27/29 Spencers Road
West Green
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 0BD
Tel: 01293 528671
Email: jjhans@btinternet.com



Introduction:

This Sikh group started meeting in Crawley in 1969. The Siri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara was built in 1982 and has served the Sikh community ever since. Many festivals and family celebrations have taken place there over the years and the committee is hoping to build a second floor in order to accommodate the religious and social requirements of the Sikh community.

Worship:

The Gurdwara welcomes anyone who wishes to visit. Worship takes place throughout the day on Sunday and from 10.30am-12 noon on weekdays. On Wednesday a women's only worship takes place from 10.30am-2pm.

Activities:

Langar (free food that symbolises the equality of all men) is served almost every day and all are welcome.

School groups have visited the Gurdwara in the past and are welcome to come and learn about the Sikh faith.

Punjabi classes take place from 6-8pm on Fridays.

Gurpurbs (festivals):

The Birthday of Khalsa

The Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the first Guru

The Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji

The Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur

The Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji

For more information visit www.sikhworld.co.uk or www.info-sikh.com





Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

Soka Gakkai International – UK

Contact:

Nikhil Chhibber
2 Dakin Close
Maidenbower
Crawley
RH10 7LJ
Email: information@sgi-sws.org.uk
Web: www.sgi-sws.org.uk



Introduction:

The SGI in Crawley is part of a broad humanistic movement, the Lay Society for Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism, a T'ien T'ai Mahayana school founded in the 13th century, and is dedicated to the promotion of the Daishonin's teachings and world peace. SGI-UK is a registered charity and consists of a board of trustees and a national assembly. All 10,000 members are equal but some choose to take on leadership and administrative responsibilities.

The Crawley group of SGI-UK is new in 2008, very active and consists of about a dozen members. The larger Mid Sussex chapter includes Horsham and Haywards Heath among others and is the focus for larger study meetings and activities. Please get in touch using the details above – we'd be very happy to hear from you.

Meetings:

The Crawley branch of SGI-UK meets several times each month to discuss the philosophy and practice of Buddhism in daily life. Most meetings are in members' homes or local venues. Larger meetings and courses take place regionally and nationally.

Activities:

SGI-UK supports a variety of local events and activities including courses, artistic programmes, community initiatives and an Institute and Library of Oriental Philosophy.

In Crawley SGI-UK is involved in the interfaith movement and supports World Peace Prayer services at Gatwick Airport and the Crawley Mela festival and outreach activities.

Celebrations:

Declaration of Invocation of the law – April 28 1253

Tatsunokuchi Persecution – September 12 1271

Inscription of Dai Gohonzon – October 12 1279

World Peace Day – October 2

For more information about SGI-UK visit www.sgi-uk.org

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

Sri Lankan Muslim Welfare Association Crawley (SLMWAC)

Contact:

Zaheerul Mansoor
Secretary
PO Box 1006
Crawley
RH10 5WW
Tel: 07789 687811
Email: SLWAC@yahoo.co.uk

Aims of organisation

To provide Islamic education
To organise regular social events for its members
To provide a link between the Sri Lankan Muslims of the town and other organisations, offering a translation service where needed
To provide welfare services and act as a contact point for the Muslim Sri Lankans.

Activities:

Prayers every Friday from 1-2pm at Bewbush Community Centre
Annual cricket tournament with family fun day
Annual Islamic conferences

Celebrations:

Eid
All other Islamic festivals

Membership:

There is more than 250 Sri Lankan Muslim members with a committee of 18. The SWMLAC is hoping to become a registered charity soon.

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

T

Three Bridges Free Church

Contact:

Pastor: Rev Colin Jones
Three Bridges Road
Three Bridges
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1LS
Tel: 01293 886388
Email: pastor@3bfchurch.co.uk
Web: www.3bfchurch.co.uk



Introduction:

Three Bridges Free Church is a diverse group of Christians with people of all ages and backgrounds originating from more than 20 countries around the world.

It is an evangelical church, building all we say and do on the Bible. Worship is both contemporary and orderly. Everyone is welcome to services either as a committed Christian, a seeker or a sceptic. We are a member of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches and associated with the Sussex Gospel Partnership.

Worship:

Every Sunday:

9.30am prayer meeting

10.30am morning worship. A crèche and children's Sunday school are available during the service

Communion takes place after the service on the first Sunday of each month

6pm prayer meeting

6.30pm evening worship

Communion takes place after the service on the third Sunday of each month

The After 8s Youth Meeting takes place on the second Sunday of each month at 8pm

Activities:

Sparklers is run every Monday during term time for children aged 5-8. The children have the opportunity to listen to bible stories, learn memory verses, take part in quizzes, games and singing. Sparklers is free to join and runs from 5.45-7pm.

Fellowship Groups on Tuesdays at 10am at the church and on Tuesdays at 8pm. Call the church for more information.

Spotlight for children aged 8-12 runs every Wednesday during term time from 6-7.15pm. The children have the chance to listen and discuss Bible stories. There is also quizzes, games, tuck shop and regular themed evenings. Spotlight is free although you can bring up to 50p to spend on tuck.

Toddlers spot for children from birth to five (and carers) every Friday in term time from 9.45-11.30am. The children have a wide selection of toys to play with and each week enjoy singing. They are also told a Bible story and then have the chance to join in with a related craft activity. There is also refreshments and time for chatting. 75p for one child (£1 per family with more than one child).

Rock Solid meets every Friday during term time. This is for young people aged 11-15. There are games, activities and regular trips. Please see our website for more information.



Travelling people and Irish Travellers

Contact:

John Dale
Community Liaison Officer
Town Hall
The Boulevard
Crawley
RH10 1UZ
Tel: 01293 438412

National organisation:

There is currently no group in Crawley that represents Irish Travellers. However, they can be represented by a national organisation called Friends, Families and Travellers. Their details are as follows:

Friends, Families and Travellers
Community Base
113 Queens Road
Brighton
BN1 3XG
Tel: 01273 234 777
Email: fft@gypsy-traveller.org

Aim of organisation:

To end racism and discrimination against Gypsies and Travellers, whatever their ethnicity, culture or background, whether settled or mobile and to protect the right to pursue a nomadic way of life.

Introduction:

The Irish Travelling people trace their roots back to the ancient Celtic tribes. They are a largely nomadic group from Ireland who speak a variety of English and Gammon/Shelta. It is thought that they adopted a nomadic lifestyle as a result of Irish persecution under Oliver Cromwell and later in the nineteenth century during the potato famine. Their sense of common identity, their history, their nomadism and their own language sets them apart from (non-travelling) contemporary society.

Irish Travellers like many other Traveller groups follow religious practises closely. A large percentage of Irish Travellers are Roman Catholics while others are members of the Church of England. Irish Travellers often live with strict moral codes and this is reflected in their conservative nature towards issues of modesty, sexuality and bodily functions.

Irish Travellers make up 15 percent of the Travelling community in England and today, most Irish Travellers living in this country were born here and have British passports.

The Race Relations Acts (1976 and 2000) legally recognises that Irish Travellers are an ethnic minority and are technically protected from discrimination and ill treatment. However in practise they continue to experience negative discrimination and racism on a daily basis.

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

U

United Reformed Church

Introduction:

The United Reformed Church was founded in 1972 from Presbyterian, Congregationists and Churches of Christ. Crawley has two United Reformed Churches.



Contact:

Christ Church
Worth Park Avenue
Pound Hill
Crawley
Web: www.christchurchpoundhill.co.uk
Office: 01293 551709
Email: christ_churchunited@btconnect.com

Worship:

Family Worship at 10am

Activities:

Pilots – a youth organisation that meets every Monday at 6.45pm. Children aged 5+ are welcome.

Monday Club – a social club for women meets once a fortnight at 8pm on Monday in the Jubilee Room.

Every Tuesday - prayer and meditation 6.30-7.15pm

The Church family has various worship, pastoral, mission and social clubs. Mission work involves local, national and international issues, for example homelessness in Crawley, supporting various charities and talks on Zimbabwe, and Palestine.

Other groups who use the facilities include Rainbows and Brownies, Worth Park Playgroup, Hillside Women's Club, Crawley Computer Club, Jubilee Women's Club and the Concordia Singers.

Festivals:

Special services held at Christmas, Easter and Harvest

For more information about the United Reformed Church please contact as above or visit www.urc.org.uk

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

V

The Vine Christian Fellowship

Contact:

John Adlington
3 Barnfield Road
Northgate
Crawley
RH10 8HH
Tel: 01293 402853
Email: atwinad@gmail.com
Web: www.thevinecrawley.org.uk



Introduction:

The Vine Fellowship was formed 30 years ago by a small group of families who believed in a body ministry (People ministry), which is where services and worship are dictated by the member's contributions and ideas rather than font led. Through time, this has been adapted. Our Sunday morning service is now slightly more formal but our evening service continues in the original format.

We do not use one building exclusively as we believe that our members are the most important element of the church rather than physical buildings.

Our statement of faith can be found on our website but The Vine Christian Fellowship in summary believe that we should "Be aware of God's presence in our meetings and in our lives, and to proclaim Christ; and to be patient, kind and humble; to be without arrogance, without selfishness, without envy and without resentment and irritability; and to in all ways always continue in faith, trust and hope along this way".

Worship:

We meet for Sunday worship every Sunday at 10.30am in the conference room at Goffs Park Hotel, 45 Goffs Park Road, Southgate West.

On the first Sunday evening of each month, we are involved in a joint churches meeting which is held at Crawley Baptist Church, Crabtree Road, West Green from 7-8pm. At 8pm, you can talk to Christians from other churches and enjoy light refreshments.

Activities:

We run house groups, men's meetings and prayer meetings regularly throughout the week.

We regularly have evening walks and wanders. Please check our website for the latest information. We also have social events throughout the year.-

We also have a programme of work in schools known as the Lighthouse Project.



Faith, Belief & Culture Guide

Form for new entries and updates

Name of group:
(must be a local group with a Crawley address)

Photo:
(could be of an event, building and/or symbol)

Contact address: (including post code, telephone number, email address and website address)
.....
.....

History: (the history of the group in Crawley and its aims)
.....
.....
.....
.....

Worship: (information on days, times of worship and if the building is open to the public or by appointment only)
.....
.....
.....

Community or other activities:
.....
.....
.....

Festivals and other celebrations:
.....
.....
.....

A national website address for more information: (optional)
.....

Please note the Editorial Group will agree entries for the guide. Please send your completed forms to Cath Falvey, Room 214, Community Services, Town Hall, The Boulevard, Crawley, RH10 1UZ, email catherine.falvey@crawley.gov.uk or visit www.crawley.gov.uk/faithculture

Faith, Belief & Culture Guide
