

# Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Week



Having Faith in Tower Hamlets

Celebrating the diversity of faith communities and promoting cohesion



Drawing from 'Children Ask, Faiths Respond' exhibition

## 12th – 19th November 2006



In partnership with  
**Community  
Organisations  
Forum**

Building stronger communities  
in Tower Hamlets



Funded by

**Communities**  
and Local Government

## Foreword

**It is with great pleasure that Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum launches this week of activities, celebrating the faith communities of this borough. Faith and religion are very much back on the national agenda, although it is clear that the present debates include a great deal of ignorance and misunderstanding.**



**Rev. Alan Green  
Chair,  
Tower Hamlets Inter  
Faith Forum**

Tower Hamlets, with its long history of immigrant communities and social and religious diversity, is very well placed to show the contributions that faith makes to individual and community life and, especially, how the various faith communities can work together sharing common principles of respect and tolerance for one another, for human life and dignity and for creation itself. This involves acknowledging the differences between ourselves and finding sufficient trust to be able to explore those differences with a willingness to challenge and be challenged.

This Inter Faith Week celebrates the existence of so many faith communities in Tower Hamlets. It gives opportunities for members of faith communities, or of none, to find out more about each other; to share aspects of our beliefs, our histories, and our commitments. We are particularly pleased that the Week will also give an opportunity to laugh together - an important means of countering the distortion of faith that results in hatred and violence.

We would like to thank the Department for Communities and Local Government for their funding, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Community Organisations Forum and especially Kuheli Mookerjee for their invaluable support in making this week possible.



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## Eid Party

To kick-start our Inter Faith Week, we are inviting you all to attend an important celebration in the faith calendar. The Teviot Centre is organising an Eid ul-Fitr Party to mark the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting for Muslims.



Fitr means "to break" and therefore symbolizes the breaking of the fasting period, and of all sinful habits. This Islamic holiday is celebrated by all Muslims and is a happy occasion, bringing the family and the community together to thank God for the strength they found during the previous month, and of course enjoy the opportunity to eat whatever they like, whenever they like!

This party is open to all faiths, so come and join members of the Teviot Centre in an afternoon of activities and understand the importance of fasting and other celebrations involved in the Islamic Faith.

## Eid mubarak!

### Event Information

**Time:** 2 pm - 6 pm

**Date:** Sunday 12th November 2006

**Location:** Teviot Centre, Wyvis Street, London, E14 6QD

**Admission:** Free

**Booking:** Not required

## Opening Event



Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum was established to harmonise the collective power of our numerous faiths, as a first step towards fulfilling their potential as a force for positive change.

The official launch event for Inter Faith Week marks a milestone for this collective effort. This special event is a rare opportunity for active members of different faith communities to explore how we can continue to build community cohesion within our borough in an uncertain national and international climate. Sharing their insights are Rev Alan Green, Chair of Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum, and Dr Harriet Crabtree, Deputy Director of Inter Faith Network for the UK. This half-day event will also feature an interactive audience perception survey to understand current local community relations.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to network with people from other faith groups and take positive steps towards building strong relationships between faith communities. Call or email us now to reserve your place.

### Event Information

**Time:** 10 am - 1 pm

**Date:** Monday 13th November 2006

**Location:** Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, E1 6LA

**Admission:** Free

**Booking:** Essential (120 places)

## Film Night

Come along to our free Film Night and watch a skillfully animated multi-faith video directed and produced by young people in Tower Hamlets. Brick Lane, portrays the perceptions of people interviewed along one of London's tastiest streets!



St Hilda's East  
Community Centre



"A tribute to the 97% of Muslims we never hear about in the Western world" - Ismael Ferroukhi, Director, *Le Grand Voyage*

This short film will be followed by the Award-winning film, *Le Grand Voyage* by Ismaël Ferroukhi. The story explores the relationship between a French-Moroccan man and his son on a pilgrimage to Mecca. This excellent BAFTA nominated 2004 film is suitable for all faiths and ages.

### Event Information

**Time:** 6 pm - 9 pm

**Date:** Monday 13th November 2006

**Location:** Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, E1 6LA

**Admission:** Free

**Booking:** Essential (59 places). Please note *Le Grand Voyage* is a French film with English subtitles.

## Exhibition

RiverCultures  
FESTIVAL

Art is a great way of expressing emotions and River Cultures has embraced this concept by organising a **Children Ask, Faiths Respond** project.



30 children from all over Tower Hamlets were asked to draw a cartoon-style picture demonstrating something of concern to them. The young artists were then asked to provide a question related to their image. These questions will be directed to faith leaders at a launch event opened by the Mayor of Tower Hamlets.



Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum would now like to share the children's art with the community, and will be holding a week-long exhibition to display these colourful and intriguing pieces, along with the responses from faith leaders.

Please come and visit the gallery between Wednesday and Saturday and encourage children to become more involved in the faith debate.

### Event Information

**Launch:** 6 pm Tuesday 14th November 2006

**Public viewing:** 11am - 7 pm 15th - 18th November 2006

**Location:** Ninetythree Gallery, 93 Fairfield Road, E3 2QA

**Admission:** Free

**Booking:** Essential for launch event only

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## Tour of Museum of Immigration

Described by Michael Palin as 'one of the most remarkable places in London', 19 Princelet Street is a unique historic building located in the middle of Tower Hamlets.

Its architecture has been shaped by people of different faiths and cultures over the centuries, reflecting the changing character of Spitalfields.

19 Princelet Street is currently hosting Suitcases and Sanctuary, a beautiful exhibition created by today's children from Tower Hamlets, and is well worth a visit.



Young museum makers, in the mysterious and magical 19 Princelet Street.  
Photo: Tom Lindsay

Normally closed to the public, in honour of this very special week for Tower Hamlets, the museum will be opening its doors to a few very lucky visitors. Please remember to email or phone in order reserve a place on this fascinating tour.

### Event Information

**Time:** 3.30 pm - 5 pm

**Date:** Wednesday 15th November 2006

**Location:** 19 Princelet Street, London, E1 6QH

**Admission:** Free

**Booking:** Essential (30 places)

## Workshops

This is a great opportunity for young people to get involved in the faith debate. Tolerance in Diversity, a youth-founded and led community relations charity, based in Tower Hamlets, is hosting workshops run by young people for up to 30 participants between the ages of 11 and 21.



The aim of the workshops is to explore prejudice and discrimination against faith communities, and examine whether faith can bring people together.

Young people are key to improving community faith relations in Tower Hamlets, so get involved and have your say.

Call or email us now to ensure you get your place.

### Event Information

**Time:** 6 pm - 8 pm

**Date:** Thursday 16th November 2006

**Location:** Attlee Youth and Community Centre, 5 Thrawl Street, E1 6RT

**Admission:** Free

**Booking:** Essential (30 places)

## Comedy Night

Anyone who's anyone loves to laugh and, with that in mind, we have just the night for you.



Come along to Wilton's Music Hall, built in the 1850s and now the world's oldest surviving grand music hall where rumour has it that the first ever Can-Can was performed and promptly banned! In 2004 the newly formed Wilton's Music Hall Trust began a restoration drive to open the building to the public to experience and appreciate the heritage of Wilton's through a variety of mediums such as performances, heritage education, guided tours and events.

Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum has rounded up a few of London's top comedians to entertain you at this grand venue. We've persuaded some very humorous individuals to share their hilarious experiences of simply being a person of their faith. So please come and have a giggle with us by calling or emailing us now to reserve your place and look forward to laughing your socks off!



### Event Information

**Time:** 7 pm - 8.30 pm

**Date:** Friday 17th November 2006

**Location:** Wilton Music Hall, 1 Graces Alley, E1 8JB

**Admission:** Free

**Booking:** Essential (100 places)

## Faith Trail



Tower Hamlets is home to an array of different places of worship, reflecting the diversity of the borough. Join us in our Indiana Jones style (well, minus the jungle, elephants and whips) expedition to locate four amazing religious buildings in the area.

We'll begin by gathering at St. John on Bethnal Green, over a cup of Fair Trade tea or coffee, and from there we'll head to the London Buddhist Centre. The Christian Church of St. Dunstan's and All Saints is a 20-minute walk away. We'll then be visiting the East London Central Synagogue, followed by the East London Mosque and Muslim Centre.

It's an opportunity for people of all religions to admire the beauty of their neighbours' place of worship and gain a further understanding of their practices and beliefs. Please call or email us to join in.

### Event Information

**Time:** 12 noon - 4 pm

**Date:** Saturday 18th November 2006

**Location:** Meet at St. John on Bethnal Green (next to Bethnal Green Tube Station)

**Admission:** Free

**Booking:** Essential (40 places)

## Music & Food Festival



This week is all about celebrating diversity in Tower Hamlets so what better way to end the week than to experience the joys of life at our Music and Food Festival. Local faith groups will be holding stalls to display a variety of foods related to different religious celebrations throughout the year.

There will be an opportunity to titillate your palate and sample some sweet and savoury delights. Not only will we entertain your taste buds but your ears too. Faith is intertwined with music, so a variety of musical groups will share their devotional music with the people of Tower Hamlets.

Our grand finale is suitable for all the family, so come join the celebrations with the Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum and guests.



### Event Information

**Time:** 1 pm - 4 pm

**Date:** Sunday 19th November 2006

**Location:** Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, E2 6HG

**Admission:** Free

**Booking:** Not required



## How to book

Booking is easy. All you need to do is contact the  
**Inter Faith Week Team**  
by phone on 0207 426 5051  
or  
by email at [interfaith@towerhamlets.org.uk](mailto:interfaith@towerhamlets.org.uk)

Remember to give us your name, telephone number  
and the name of the events you wish to attend

If you are struggling to find the events, maps of the  
venues are available on our website at  
[www.faithintowerhamlets.com](http://www.faithintowerhamlets.com)

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

## Acknowledgements

### Our Interim Steering Group:

Rev Alan Green (Chair)	St John on Bethnal Green
Hussain Ali	Council of Mosques
Jan McHarry	London Buddhist Centre
Rev Jane Barraclough	Bethnal Green Unitarian Church
Nathaniel Roos	Fieldgate Street Great Synagogue

### Our partners:

Burddette Lawrence	River Cultures Festival
Rev Christopher Burke	St. Dunstan and All Saints Church
David Russell	Jewish East End Celebration Society
Ehsan Hannan	East London Mosque & London Muslim Centre
Harmander Singh	London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Hi Ching	River Cultures Festival
Leon Silver	East London Central Synagogue
Lourdes Colclough	St. Hilda's East Community Centre
Peter Day	Teviot Neighbourhood Centre
Ruksana Noor	Tolerance in Diversity
Shaynul Khan	East London Mosque & London Muslim Centre
Susie Symes	Museum of Immigration and Diversity

### Community Organisations Forum Staff and Volunteers, in particular the Inter Faith Week Team:

Giuseppe Rella	Kuheli Mookerjee
Kamrul Islam	Natalie Butler

**A great big thank you goes to you all for your collaboration with Inter Faith Week**





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FESTIVAL



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