

FEBRUARY 2026

Welcome to the February Newsletter

We have plenty of events lined up for you this month. February is traditionally the gloomiest month of the year, but we hope you will find things to inform, enlighten and entertain you from among these occasions. For those with children who may need entertainment in February, we can offer you a Pantomime (Oh no we can't. Oh yes we can). We have music, meditation and a workshop, as well of course as our regular public event on Tuesday 3rd February, which is resuming as usual this month, on indigenous African beliefs. We look forward to seeing you there!

Rory Allen

Message from the chair

It was amazing news that Professor Avtar Matharu, who devoted so many years to serving as Chair of YIG, was recognised in the New Years' Honours list with a very well merited MBE. Full details are given below, in a tribute from the University of York website: it puts it so well that we give it in full.

Already we are into the second month of the New Year and we seem to be inundated with news from all around the world, much of which is horrendous and frightening. So I do hope we can focus on some positive news in our own lives but also generally. On Thursday 22nd the inspiring 600

candles event in the Minster focused on the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day Bridging Generations, with speeches from children and, as always inspiring and thoughtful music. And then on the actual day, Tuesday 27th, the Civic event was generously hosted by York St Johns and by the Lord Mayor of York, Cllr Martin Rowley, who in an inspiring speech said we die twice, once when the heart stops and then again when we are forgotten! Lord Alf Dubs spoke to us online, and was as challenging as ever about welcoming asylum seekers and refugees. The Speech from Susie Kaufman from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust about the experiences of her family was inspiring, about how the Jewish children who came to the UK were able to build their lives and make fantastic contributions to the country in very many ways.

I look forward to seeing many of you over the next few months and that as we are seeing more and more examples of racism and hatred increasing both in our city and in the country. Let us not forgot that we have more in common than that which divides us and we are all equal, and at the same time, all unique.

Tina Funnell

"Recognition in New Year's Honours for Professor Avtar Matharu.

Professor Avtar Matharu, a leading researcher in the Department of Chemistry, has been awarded an MBE for Services to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Interfaith and Community Cohesion. The award is in recognition of his services to equality, diversity, and inclusion across the University and wider community.

Professor Matharu is an ardent advocate for human rights and all faiths, with his vision for community cohesion and commitment to interfaith work, both locally and nationally.

His commitment to peace, dialogue, and community cohesion is driven by a gentle yet decisive leadership style that successfully connects different faiths and addresses racial inequalities.

Under his guidance, Professor Matharu elevated the York Interfaith Group, galvanising people from all faith groups to work together with the City of York Council, York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, and North Yorkshire Police to tackle critical issues like hate crime and discrimination – a collective achievement previously considered insurmountable.

During moments of significant community tension, such as the Israel/Gaza conflict, Professor Matharu proactively brought together local faith leaders to promote dialogue and reduce local friction.

Within the University of York, Professor Matharu is an exemplary role model for inclusion. He serves on the Chemistry departmental Equality and Diversity Group, which secured the highest award in the Athena Swan Charter in 2018 for advancing gender equality in higher education."

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February's Interfaith Group Talk



We have a change of speaker for this event, though the theme will be similar. We look forward to welcoming Bethel Omeife, who organises Africa Day in York, who will give a presentation on Indigenous African Beliefs, focusing on Nigeria. We are delighted that Bethel will be joining us. We warmly invite you to the meeting and hope you can come!

Planned future YIG talks and events

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month in the Council West Offices (in fully disabled accessible premises). The Meetings start at 7.00 pm with a moment's silence and finish around 8.30pm. People gather from 6.30-ish for drinks and a time to 'catch up'.

Three main themes: connecting with ourselves, and our faith; engaging with our local communities; reaching out beyond York.				
Three approaches to the meetings: presentation OR speaker input (P), discussion (D), practical activity (A).				
2026	Meeting topic	Theme	Approach	Possible meeting lead/speaker
February	Indigenous African beliefs, focusing on Nigeria	World	P	Bethel Omeife
March	Touch – fabric and touch in faiths: Sufism	Local/Ourselves	A, Panel	Bessie (panel); Alicia
April	Mental Health and Faith	Ourselves	D	Mahmood to lead panel
May	Dance and Movement in faiths-body mind connection	Local/World	A,P	Rabbi to lead and others contribute; Alicia

June	Planning meeting: devise themes and create sub- topics			
July	Sikh Temple visit	Local	A	Avtar Sarah
August	Picnic			TBC
September	Religious faiths in Japan (world)	World	P	UoY and YSJ Japanese Society Alicia
October	Language in faiths; diversity and silence and ritual; Part B	World/Ourselves	P, D	Alicia and panel Bessie
November	Chaplain's role in emergency services.	Local	P	Emma Ward, Operational Training Administrator, Firefighters Lisa Armstrong Andy Hardy Bessie Sarah
December	AGM and meeting on taste and food – food as part of culture and faith celebration	Local /ourselves	A, P	Informal meeting Alicia

6th February: Lunchtime concert at the Unitarian Chapel, followed by Energy Cafe

On Friday 6th, York Unitarians in St Saviourgate is hosting a **concert from 12.30-1.30** with David Hammond (piano) and ESK (violin & guitar folk tunes). £5 entry on the door. This is followed at 1.40-2.30 by an **Energy Café**. **York Energy Advice** give support and advice to elderly people or those with limited incomes to help them with energy saving ideas in their homes. Have your queries answered about managing your home to save energy. Share your experiences and chat to advisors. Tea, Cakes & Advice for a small donation towards the work of the group. For more information phone 01904 922249 or check out www.yorkenergyadvice.org.uk



Lunchtime Concert & Energy Cafe

**Fri 6th February at St. Saviourgate
Unitarian Chapel, YO1 8NQ**

12:30pm-1:30pm music performed by:

- * David Hammond (piano): E. Grieg, A. Dvořák, E. Satie & more
- * Esk (viola & guitar): original contemporary folk tunes

1:40pm-2:30pm Energy Cafe
Have your questions answered about managing energy bills, keeping warm and upgrading your home to save energy. Share your experiences and chat to our advisors. Tea and cake by donation.

Thanks to York Unitarians, all proceeds go to the York Energy Advice free support service.

More info: yorkenergyadvice.org.uk, tel. 01904 922249
Donate online: buytickets.at/yce

Tickets: £5
cash on the door

Please book ahead if you prefer online payment - see the link below



**York
Energy
Advice**
by York Community Energy

York Energy Advice provides FREE support for York residents on a low income, or aged 65+, or with a long-term condition. We also provide peer-learning support, events and paid services for those planning energy-saving home upgrades.



unitarians
YORK UNITARIANS

Community Reflection Evening at Derwenthorpe, Monday 16th February

Mahmood will be hosting another in the series of evenings of meditation, music and fellowship at the Derwenthorpe Supersustainable Centre, from 7.30-9.00 pm.



Community Reflection Evenings

Inspiring passages presented in an uplifting and
reflective atmosphere, enhanced by music.
Followed by open discussion and
light refreshments

All welcome

Monday 16th February 7.30 - 9pm at the Super Sustainable Centre
Derwenthorpe, YO31 0RW

Thursday 19th February to Saturday 21st February: "Into the Cinderverse"



‘Into the Cinderverse’ Pantomime is an in-person event hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, West Bank, Acomb, York, YO24 4ES, next to West Bank Park.

A family-friendly show full of laughs, boos and cheers that you won’t want to miss. Secure your tickets for free for your chosen performance on Eventbrite. Dates as follows:

Thursday 19th February 7pm

Friday 20th February 7 pm

Saturday 21st February Matinee at 2 pm and an evening and final performance at 7 pm

Ample free and accessible parking and building. Refreshments available at half time. Please see Eventbrite link below or search for ‘Into the Cinderverse’ on Eventbrite for your free tickets.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--york--85683703/into-the-cinderverse/>

Eid and Nowruz Card Workshop



Join us for a card-making workshop, with the opportunity to make E-Cards.



Who: Everybody Welcome

Cost: Free of charge

When: Tue 17 Feb (drop in sessions)

10am-12noon & 1pm-3pm

Where: York Theatre Royal,
St Leonard's Place, YO1 7HD



DAVID
SKAITH
MAYOR



FUNDRAISING QUIZ NIGHT



YORK INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK

Empowering women and supporting health & wellbeing

6th March 2026

 **7pm to 10pm • £8.50 entry**

**Get ready for an unforgettable fundraising
quiz night!** 🎉

Big laughs, brilliant raffle prizes, plus stand-up bingo
& amazing auction items up for grabs!

Don't forget about the pea and pie supper, see you
there!

**Get your tickets
on the door or at
Eventbrite:**



EVENTBRITE LINK

www.yorkwomen.org.uk



**York Hospital Sports and Social Club
Whitecross Road, York, YO31 8JR**



Clifford's Tower Commemoration

Monday 16 March, 6.30pm.

Clifford's Tower, Tower Street, York YO1 9SA.

A commemoration of the 1190 massacre of York's Jewish population at the site of York Castle at Clifford's Tower, attended by the Lord Mayor and Civic Party.

The commemoration will include music, spoken accounts and contributions, concluding with prayer and an act of remembrance.

For enquiries contact Laura Swiszczowski on email: laura.swiszczowski@york.gov.uk, and Bianca Vartic on email: bianca.vartic@york.gov.uk.

Details of times and how to book to attend will be provided nearer the time.

YLJC Events Coming up Soon.....

Purim: 1st March – save the date! Event will be put on Eventbrite but it is a fun festival with a performance and feasting.

Vintage Clothes Event: 21st March, starting with an interfaith service at 11 am followed by Vintage Clothing Sale in aid of York Food Bank. Venue TBC for both occasions.

For further events by the YLJC, see the website at: [York Liberal Jewish Community | Jews in York](http://YorkLiberalJewishCommunity.co.uk)

UK Interfaith Leaders Convene to Chart the Future of Multi-Faith Collaboration



Over 40 key leaders and representatives, drawn from diverse faith and belief organisations and interfaith bodies across England, gathered in November 2025 in London for a critical meeting to discuss and determine the future of the interfaith movement.

Hosted by the Baha'i community, the event provided a necessary platform for leaders to address the current landscape, following significant changes within the sector, and to explore establishing a new, sustainable national structure for interfaith engagement.

The agenda was focused squarely on charting a path forward, moving beyond existing challenges to foster deeper cooperation and impact. The meeting was chaired by Canon Hilary Barber, Vicar of Halifax Minster and one of the final co-Chairs of the Inter Faith Network for the UK which closed in 2024. It included vital context-setting presentations:

- Carrie Alderton of the Faith & Belief Forum provided an update on Inter Faith Week and the findings of the "Bursting the Bubble" Report, highlighting successes and areas needing further development.
- Ravinder Kaur Nijjar of Religions for Peace offered an essential perspective on "The Current Context," framing the strategic imperative for unity and coordinated action.

The central component of the afternoon was an extensive, hour long discussion titled "The Future of the Interfaith Movement." Participants focused on three core thematic areas:

1. Learning from the past: Exploring the potential need for an overarching structure or process to succeed previous bodies like the Inter Faith Network.

2. Shared values: Identifying common ethical and spiritual ground across diverse traditions to strengthen collaboration.

3. Strengthening multi-faith social action: Pinpointing practical ways to expand joint efforts on pressing community and societal needs.

Crucially, the assembly considered a range of structural options for the future, including maintaining the current collaborative status quo, establishing a Working Party to plan a new umbrella body, or agreeing to reconvene in the New Year for continued strategic discussion.

The meeting concluded with a dedicated session focused on agreeing upon clear next steps, assigning responsible individuals, and setting actionable timelines to ensure today's dialogue translates into tangible progress.

Deepak Naik of contributing body, United Religions Initiative UK, said, "Today marks a pivotal moment for faith and belief communities in the UK. This wasn't just a meeting; it was a collective commitment to build a stronger, more resilient future for interfaith work. By focusing on shared values and coordinated social action, we can ensure the UK's rich faith landscape continues to contribute positively to society."

Canon Hilary Barber said: "I was delighted to chair this meeting. Interfaith dialogue and multi-faith social action are at a vulnerable stage in this country, with the Inter Faith Network closed and conflicts abroad impacting seriously on community relations here. We need a new way forward urgently and the meeting was about starting on that journey."

We are happy to report that the York Interfaith Group was represented at this key meeting by Penny Coppin-Siddall and will be providing support and comment as the process rolls forward in finding the best way to continue to support interfaith relations and engagement at both a local, regional and national level in the future. We will keep you informed as things move forward in this process this year.

Penny Coppin-Siddall

600 Candles Holocaust Commemoration event, York Minster, 22nd January

Despite wind and rain, the York interfaith and Jewish communities were well represented at this event, at which each candle out of the six hundred symbolizes the deliberate murder of ten thousand individuals on the basis of nothing but their ethnic origin. Canon Maggie McLean opened by reminding us of the need to build bridges between the past and the future, between memories and actions. The lesson of this event for today is that we must stand up against cruelty and injustice, wherever we find it.

Other speakers commented on the link between history and hope, and the need to feel compassion for all those who, like the victims of the Jewish Holocaust, face exile from their homeland and persecution up to the present.

We cannot be silent in the face of suffering, repression and the murder of civilians, happening today. We can all contribute with acts of humanity that shine a light in the darkness of violence and hatred. The task remains to build a world in which the deliberate killing of civilians is a thing of the past. We light the candles as a sign of hope that we can achieve this.

Friendship across the boundaries of religion, origin and ethnicity is needed, so that we can see one another with empathy. We need to insist on justice and compassion.

Rory Allen





YIG Stand at Holocaust Memorial Event at York St John's, 27th January



Left to right: Tina Funnell, Avtar Matharu, Claire Douglas, Dee Boyle and Varsha Gulati

The month of Ramadan, 17th February to 18th or 19th March

Two Meaningful Moments, Not Just One!

February often draws attention for one major reason in Muslim communities: the approaching month of **Ramadan**, the Islamic month of fasting and reflection. In the weeks leading up to it, Muslims around the world prepare carefully — setting personal goals, attending talks, and planning how to make the most of this spiritually important time.

Yet, in the rush toward Ramadan, another significant period is often overlooked: the month of **Sha’baan**, which immediately precedes it.

Why Sha’baan Matters

Sha’baan holds special meaning in Islam as a time of preparation, reflection, and renewal. Islamic tradition teaches that during this month, people’s actions are presented to God. For many Muslims, this makes Sha’baan a time to consciously improve behaviour, increase acts of kindness, and seek forgiveness — almost like tidying one’s inner house before an important guest arrives.

Particular attention is given to the middle night of Sha’baan (which falls on different dates each year in the Gregorian calendar). This night is traditionally associated with forgiveness, reconciliation, and letting go of resentment. Muslims are encouraged to repair relationships, calm anger, and remove grudges — ideas that resonate far beyond religion.

The Prophet Muhammad emphasised that real strength lies not in physical power, but in controlling anger. He taught that helping others is among the best of deeds — and that even a simple smile counts as an act of charity. These teachings place compassion, emotional intelligence, and social responsibility at the heart of faith.

What Is Ramadan?



Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, which is about 11 days shorter than the solar calendar. This is why Ramadan moves earlier each year.

During Ramadan, many adult Muslims fast from dawn to sunset. This includes abstaining from food, drink, smoking, and intimate relations during daylight hours. Before dawn, families eat a light meal called *Suhoor*, and at sunset they break the fast with *Iftar*, traditionally beginning with dates and water. Ramadan ends with **Eid al-Fitr**, a joyful festival marked by communal prayers, meals, charity, and celebration.

Why Muslims Fast

Fasting in Ramadan is not about punishment or weakening the body. Instead, it is understood as a structured opportunity for **self-discipline, empathy, and spiritual growth**.

Alongside physical fasting, Muslims are encouraged to be mindful of their behaviour: avoiding anger, gossip, and harmful speech, while increasing generosity and patience. The aim is to strengthen self-control and moral awareness; skills that help people face everyday challenges long after Ramadan ends.

Importantly, Islamic teachings are pragmatic and compassionate. Those who are ill, travelling, pregnant, elderly, or unable to fast are exempt, and can make up the fast later or give charity instead. This reflects the belief that the fast is meant to build strength, not cause harm.

By the end of Ramadan, many Muslims report a renewed sense of confidence; discovering that with intention, patience, and support, difficult things can become manageable. This positive outlook is a recurring theme in Islamic teachings, which encourage balance rather than extreme asceticism.

In essence, both Sha'baan and Ramadan offer lessons that speak to universal human values: reflection, self-improvement, kindness to others, and the power of intentional living.

A wisdom story about Gautama Buddha

I have just been sent this lovely story from Mahendra Verma, one of the founding members of YIG.
Dee Boyle

Several stories from Buddha's life have been shared by Osho during his discourses. My personal favourite is as follows.

Buddha along with his disciples would travel from place to place to share his truth. One day he was passing through a village and several people came and started abusing him. Buddha stood there, listened silently, very attentively, and then said, 'Thank you for coming, but I am in a hurry. I have to reach the next village, people will be waiting for me there. I cannot devote more time to you today, but tomorrow am coming back and I will have more time. You can gather again, and tomorrow if something is left that you wanted to say and have not been able to, you can say it. But today, please excuse me.'

Buddha's disciples were very angry. They asked him as to why he never reacted to all the abuse. They even wanted to go back and teach a lesson to the villagers. Buddha asked his disciples "how do we get our daily food?", they said "we ask for alms and eat whatever we get". Buddha then said "what if you don't accept the food given by someone?", the disciples said "the person takes it back". Buddha then said to them "When the villagers were abusing me, I merely listened but didn't accept their abuses. Only if I accepted their abuses will it bother me. Now what will they do with their abuses? They will have to take them back as I have not accepted what they gave me."



What a lovely story, and so relevant in this day and age. We are bothered by everyone's comments and opinions on social media, whether they are true or not. If we could only return the comments and opinions with gratitude saying thanks and remain true to our inherent nature, stress and depression would be obsolete!

Maha Shivaratri, 15th February



Maha Shivaratri, 'The Great Night of Shiva') is a Hindu festival celebrated annually in honour of the deity Shiva, between February and March. According to the Hindu calendar, the festival is observed on the fourteenth day of the dark (waning) half of the lunar month of Phalguna or Magha. The festival commemorates the wedding of Shiva and Parvati, and the occasion that Shiva performs his divine dance, called the Tandava.

It is a notable festival in Hinduism, marking a remembrance of "overcoming darkness and ignorance" in life and the world. It is observed by remembering Shiva and chanting prayers, fasting, and meditating on ethics and virtues such as honesty, non-injury to others, charity, forgiveness, and the discovery of Shiva. Ardent devotees stay awake throughout this night. Others visit one of the Shiva temples or go on a pilgrimage to the Jyotirlingams. The festival is believed to have originated in 5th century BCE.

Maha Shivaratri is particularly important in the Shaivism tradition of Hinduism. Unlike most Hindu festivals which are celebrated during the day, Maha Shivaratri is celebrated at night. Furthermore, unlike most Hindu festivals which include expression of cultural revelry, the Maha Shivaratri is a solemn event notable for its introspective focus, fasting, meditation on Shiva, self study, social harmony and an all-night vigil at Shiva temples.

Varsha Gulati

Christian Festivals during February



St Joseph with Simeon who welcomes Jesus as "a light for the gentiles"















On 2nd February, there is a feast with three titles: Candlemas day, the Presentation of baby Jesus, and the Purification of Mary. This feast marks forty days after the birth of Jesus, by which time in most cultures (including the NHS) a baby is regarded as viable.

Jewish law insisted the eldest son belongs to God. At forty days old, he must be presented in the temple and "bought back" by the best sacrifice the parents could afford, a lamb or goat from wealthy parents, a dove or pigeon from poorer parents, a handful of grain from the poorest parents. His mother was taboo, "off-limits", till this date, so a similar sacrifice was offered for her, to welcome her back to ordinary life. Jesus' parents, Mary and his step-father Joseph, offered two doves or pigeons. They must have longed to be able to afford the best sacrifice for this, God's own Son, but they were very ordinary people.

11th February is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the shrine in the Pyrenees where Jesus' mother Mary appeared to the teenager Bernardette Soubirous in 1858, with instructions to dig for a spring of water, and to ask the parish priest to organise prayers and processions. Since then, Lourdes has become the world's most important place of pilgrimage, with processions twice daily and healings and miracles reported from the spring's water.

Ash Wednesday this year falls on 18 February, the start of 40 days penance and prayer in preparation for Easter.

Mary Callan

FAITHS	January	February	March	April	May	June	
BAHA'I	18 World Religion Day	25 - 1 Mar Ayyam-i-Ha	2-20 Baha'i Fast 21 Naw-Ruz	21-2 May Ridvan 29 9th day of Ridvan	2 12th Day Ridvan 24 Declaration of the Bab 29 The Ascension of Baha'u'llah		
BUDDHIST	3 Mahayana (New Year) 16 Shinran Memorial Day	8 or 15 Parinirvana * 18 Sonam Losar (Nepal)	3 Magha Puja 15 Hōnen Matsuri 20 Higan	8 Hanamatsuri 13 Theravada New Year	24 Buddha's B.day 31 Vesakha Puja Wesak		
CHINESE	26 Labajie (Laba Festival)	17 Tuan Yuan / Chun Jie (New Year: Horse)	12 Yuanxiaojie (Lantern Festival)	5 Qingmingjie (Tomb Sweeping Day)		19 Duanwujie (Dragon Boat Festival)	
CHRISTIAN	1 Naming of Jesus / Circumcision / Mary Mother of God 6 Epiphany [Ang/RC] 6/7 Christmas Eve/Day [3] 11 Baptism of Christ [Ang] 11 Baptism of the Lord [RC] 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 19 Theophany [3] 25 Conversion of St. Paul	2 Presentation of Christ in the Temple / Candlemas 14 St. Valentine 17 Shrove Tuesday 18 Ash Wednesday 18 Lent Begins [-Easter] 23 Great Lenten Fast [3]	1 St David 6 World Day of Prayer 15 Mothering Sunday 17 St Patrick 19 St Joseph [RC] 22 Passion Sunday 25 Annunciation [Ang/[3]/RC] 29 Palm Sunday	2 Maundy Thursday 3 Good Friday 4 Holy Saturday 5 Easter Sunday 12 Pascha [3] 23 St George	10-16 Christian Aid Week 14 Ascension Day 21 Ascension Day [3] 24 Pentecost / Whit 31 Pentecost [3] 31 Trinity Sunday	4 Corpus Christi Body & Blood of Christ [RC] 12 Sacred Heart [RC] 29 St. Peter and Paul	
HINDU	12 Birthday of Swami Vivekananda 13 Lohri 14 Makar Sankranti / Pongal 23 Vasant Panchami/ Saraswati Puja	15 Maha Shivratri	3/4 Holi 26 Rama Navami	2 Hanuman Jayanti 14 Tamil New Year			
JAIN			3 Holi 31 Mahavir Jayanti	10 Mahavir Janma Kalyanak			
JAPANESE	1 Ganjitsu (New Year)	3 Setsubun (Bean Scattering) 23 Emperor's birthday	3 Hinamatsuri / Dolls Day Festival 15 Hōnen Matsuri 17-23 Higan 20 Shūbun No Hi	29 Showa Day			
JEWISH [1]		2 Tu B'Shevat	3 Purim	2-9 Pesach 14 Yom Hashoah 22 Yom Ha'Atzma'ut	5 Lag B'Omer 22-23 Shavuot		
MUSLIM [2]	16 The Prophet's Night Journey [Isra and Mi'raj]	3 The Night of Forgiveness [Lailat-ul-Bara'ah] 18 Ramadan (till 18 Mar)	16 Lailat-ul-Qadr: Night of Power 20 Eid-ul-Fitr*		25-29 Hajj 27 Eid-ul-Adha	4 Eid-ul- Ghadir 17 Al-Hijra (1448) 26 Ashura	
RASTAFARIAN	7 Ethiopian Xmas Day 19 Timket			12 Easter Day [3] Faskia 21 Groundation Day			
SIKHI	6 Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh 13 Maghi / Lohri		4-6 Hola Mohalla 14 Nanakshahi (Sikh New Year)	14 Vaisakhi/ Baisakhi		16 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji	
ZOROASTRIAN [PARSEE]	30 Jashn-e-Sadeh [IZ]		11-20 Fravardin 21 Jamshedi Noruz [IZ] 22 Ava Mah Parab[S] 26 Khordad Sal [IZ]	20 Adar Mah Parab [S]	22 Zartosht-no- Diso [S]		
PAGAN / DRUID [4]		1 Imbolc/Candlemas	20 Vernal (Spring) Equinox (Ostara / Alban Eilir)	30 May Eve 30 Beltaine Eve	1 May Day / Beltaine	21 Midsummer Solstice / Litha / Alban Hefin	
Some Other Notable Dates	1 New Year's Day / Hogmanay 18 World Religion Day 27 Holocaust Memorial Day	14 St Valentine's Day	1 St David's Day 17 St Patrick's Day 25 Lady Day	23 St George's Day	1 May Day	21 World Humanist Day 24 Midsummer Day	

(*) Indicates some uncertainty about the date.

[1] Jewish Festivals commence, like Shabbat, at **sunset on the evening of the day prior** to the date shown.

[2] Muslim Festivals begin in the **evening before the Gregorian dates** shown in this calendar.

[3] Indicates a festival celebrated in the Orthodox tradition of the Christian church.

[4] All Baha'i and certain Druid and Pagan festivals also commence in the evening.

[5] IZ, K and S denote three Zoroastrian Calendars: Iranian Zoroastrian, Kadmi and Shahenshai.

