

# York Interfaith Group

December 2025



## Welcome to the December newsletter

Unforeseen circumstances in the editorial household mean that the December newsletter this year is much abbreviated, but do not worry. Our readers will still receive a full record of YIG activities that happened in November. We will be sending out a supplementary bulletin, in early December, describing the many and varied events that were held during Interfaith Week, as well as some other meetings. Meanwhile, this newsletter has just two purposes: to remind you about our forthcoming AGM, held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December in the Auden Room in West Offices, to which all addressees are very cordially invited; and to announce our programme of events for 2026, so that you can start pencilling events into diaries.

Rory Allen, Editor

**Our December Meeting will be LIVE**

**at City of York Council, West Offices, Station Rise, York YO1 6GA**

**Tuesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7.00 - 8.30 pm.**

**A.G.M**















## OUR PROGRAMME FOR 2026

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
January	Transitions and liminality: traditions associated with January	Local/Community	P, A	James Rance  Bessie
February	Indigenous religions of Africa; late celebration of world religion day (Sun, 18 Jan 2026) - talk on African religions – pre-Christian days and differences between North & South Africa	World	P	Roy Love  Sarah
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

FAITHS	July	August	September	October	November	December	
BAHA'I	9 Martyrdom of the Bab			22 The Birth of the Bab 23 The Birth of Baha'u'llah	25 Day of the Covenant 27 Ascension of Abdu'l-Bahá		
BUDDHIST	10 Asalha Puja / Dhamma Day 11 Entry to the Vassa		23 Higan	7 Pavarana Day	5 Anapansati Day 6 Loy Krathong	8 Bodhi Day	
CHINESE		29 Qixi - Double Seventh Festival 29 Herd Boy and Weaver Girl	6 Hungry Ghost Festival 28 Confucius' Birthday	6 Rabbit in the Moon Festival 29 Double Ninth Festival			
CHRISTIAN		15 Blessed Virgin Mary 15 Assumption of the B. Virgin Mary [RC] 15 Dormition [3] (Julian) 15 Dormition of the Mother of God [3] 19 Transfiguration [3]	Harvest Festival [Date Varies]	Harvest Festival [Date Varies] 31 All Hallows' Eve	1 All Saints' Day 2 All Souls' Day 30 St Andrew 30 Advent Sunday	8 Immaculate Conception [RC] 24 Christmas Eve 25 Christmas Day	
HINDU		9 Raksha Bandhan 15-16 Janamashtami / Krishna Jayanti 26-27 Ganesh Chaturthi	22-1 Oct Navaratri 30 Durgashtami	2 Gandhi Jayanti 2 Dussehra 21 Divali / Deepavali 22 Govardhan Puja (Gujarat New Year)			
JAIN		9 Raksha Bandhan 21-28 Paryushan Parva 24 Samvatsari		21 Divali 21 Mahavir Nirvana			
JAPANESE	13-15 O-Bon (Tokyo)	13-15 O-Bon (Japan)	21-25 Higan 23 Shûbun No Hi		15 Shichi-Go-San	31 Omisoka	
JEWISH [1]		3 Tisha B'Av	23-24 Rosh Hashanah	2 Yom Kippur 7-13 Sukkot 14 Shemini Atzeret 15 Simchat Torah		15-22 Hanukah	
MUSLIM [2]	6 Ashura		27 Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad [Milad un Nabi]				
RASTAFARIAN	23 Birthday of Haile Selassie I		11 Ethiopian New Year's Day		2 Anniversary of the Crowning of Haile Selassie I		
SIKH			1 Installation of the Guru Granth Sahib in the Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar	6 Conferring of Guruship on Guru Granth Sahib in 1708 CE 20 Bandi Chhor Divas 21 Divali	5 Birthday Guru Nanak 24 Martyrdom Guru Tegh Bahadur	21 Martyrdom Sahibzada Ajit Singh & Sahibzada Jujhar Singh 28 Martyrdom Sahibzada Zorawar Singh & Sahibzada Fateh Singh	
ZOROASTRIAN [PARSEE]	1 Jashn-e-Tirgan [IZ] 6-15 Fravardigan [K] 16 Navroze [K] 21 Khordad Sal [K]	5-14 Fravardigan / Muktad [S] 15 Navroze [S] 20 Khordad Sal [S]	1 Fravardin Mah Parab [S]	1 Jashn-e-Mehregan [IZ]		26 Zaratosht-no-Diso [IZ]	
PAGAN / DRUID [4]		1 Lammas / Lughnasadh	22 Autumn Equinox [Mabon / Alban Elued]	31 Hallowe'en 31 Winter Nights 31 Samhain / Samhuinn		21 Yule [Wiccan/Pagan] 21 Winter Solstice Alban Arthan / Alban Arthuan	
Some Other Notable Dates			29 Michaelmas	12-19 Interfaith Week of Prayer for World Peace	9 Remembrance Sunday 9-16 Interfaith Week 30 St Andrew's Day	10 Human Rights Day 31 Hogmanay	
Own Dates							

(\*) 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] Ali 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

