

Forthcoming Festivals/Commemorations

14 April	Baisakhi Sikh
14 April	Birthday of Guru Nanak (Sikh Nanakshahi Calendar)
15 - 16 April	Yom Ha-Shoah/Holocaust Day Jewish
23 April	St. George's Day National
1 May	Beltane Pagan
2 May	Last day of Ridvan Bahai
10 - 16 May	Christian Aid Week Christian
14 May	Ascension Day Christian
16 May	The Prophet's Night Journey and Ascension Muslim
23 May	Anniversary of the Declaration of the Bab Bahai
23 - 25 May	Shavuot Jewish
24 May	Pentecost Christian
25 May	St. Bede the Venerable Christian
1 June	Wesak Buddhist
16 June	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji Sikh
18 June - 16 July	Ramadan Muslim
20 June	Dragon Boat Festival Chinese
21 June	Midsummer Solstice Pagan/Druid/Wicca
21 June	World Humanist Day Humanist
2 July	Dharma Day Buddhist
5 July	Birthday of Guru Hargobind Sikh
9 July	Anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Bab Bahai
13 July	The Night of Forgiveness Muslim
17 July	Eid-ul-Fitr Muslim
15 August	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Christian
28 August	Hungry Ghosts Festival Chinese
29 August	Raksha Bandhan Hindu
1 September	New Liturgical Year Orthodox Christian
9 September	Paryushana Jain
11 September	Ethiopian New Year Rastafarian

P.S. Anyone seeking to find out the dates of additional festivals or commemorations from 1st January to early May should access the many lists available on the internet. Some of the best such lists (in terms of inclusiveness and accuracy) derive from the BBC and RE:Online. The Shap Working Party on World Religion also produces a very good list, but the list must be purchased whether in hard or electronic form

Please send your contributions or comments to;
Linda Papaioannou, Democratic Services Officer, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF
 Telephone 01670 622615
 E-mail: Linda.Papaioannou@northumberland.gov.uk
 For further information, please see NASACRE newsletters at www.nasacre.org.uk and www.multifaiths.com

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Northumberland
 Northumberland County Council

Newsletter for the Standing Advisory Council
 for Religious Education for Northumberland

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Choppington Primary spends the day in Newcastle!



On Wednesday 3rd December 2014, Choppington Primary School went to visit the Hindu Mandir, a Chinese restaurant and a Jewish synagogue.

First of all, we went to the Hindu Mandir to learn about their beliefs. In the temple, we saw a picture of an elephant god named Lord Ganesh. The temple was like a souvenir shop. We saw lots of colours on beautiful paintings. At 10.30 a.m. we took photographs for a while. The Hindu symbol is called Aum. Some Hindu people came to worship. The best festival that Hindu people celebrate is called Diwali. At 11.00 a.m. some Hindus sang a song that went on for ages. At the end of it, all of us had a chocolate that tasted like heaven. The chocolate was real quality. There were some pretty diva lamps. The story of Rama and Sita is also very important to Hindus as it brought up Diwali. Lots of things were pure gold.

Then we headed to Chinatown. It was a magnificent sight. We arrived, then had to go and find a table to sit at. There was a massive buffet with spicy food, crispy and fried, but it was all delicious. I sat next to Mrs. Jones and Jasmine Mole. For my meal, I had noodles, prawn crackers, thin chips, fried chicken, rice and cucumber. Then for pudding I thought about it. I finally made my mind up. I went over to the pudding place and I chose strawberry gateau, swiss roll, chocolate ice cream and pineapple.

We then headed for the synagogue. First we sat in a large hall, then Years 3, 4 and 5 went into the actual synagogue. The rabbi was called Aaron. At the start of the new year, he would blow a ram's horn one hundred times. The skullcap boys wear is called a kippah. A shawl they wear is called a tallit.



By Leyton Stewart. Year 3.



Enquiring Minds” at St. Mary’s CE Middle School, Belford



A very special day was held at St. Mary’s CE Middle School in November 2014; our very first RE Enquiry Day. Much of our RE syllabus is based on different aspects of the Christian faith. For our Enquiry Day we grasped the opportunity to introduce everyone in school, staff and pupils alike, to other religions. Year 5 studied Judaism, Year 6 Hinduism, Year 7 Buddhism and Year 8 completed their study of Islam.

We invited representatives of the faiths to come into school to work with the pupils and give them a first-hand taste of other important religions. Our visitors were warmly welcomed by the students and their presentations were enjoyed by everyone. Someone speaking about their very own religion with deep conviction had a tremendous impact on the pupils’ learning.

After lunch, pupils presented some aspects of their learning in a special assembly attended by parents and other guests. During this time, the whole school were asked to meditate in the Buddhist tradition, as well as find out about the different rituals of preparing for Muslim prayer. This was a great opportunity for all the pupils to show what they had accomplished during the morning, as well as an opportunity for visitors to find out more about the beliefs of others.

It is important in the present world climate to encourage tolerance of others; indeed, this is an important part of our own Christian faith. We hope that this day enabled pupils to consider more fully the beliefs of others, and the importance of people of the world living together in harmony.

We would like to thank all involved in this very special day, especially our visiting speakers. We hope this will be just the beginning for enquiring minds at St. Mary’s

*Alison Hilton,
RE Co-ordinator,
St. Mary’s CE Middle School,
Belford.*

Alnwick The Duchess’s High School has Anne Frank Ambassadors!

On Tuesday 10th March 2015, eleven students from the Duchess’s Community High School in Alnwick accompanied students from two other Northumberland schools to Newcastle to receive training to become Anne Frank ambassadors. We started the day by playing a game called “Human Bingo”, where we had to find a person to fit a certain profile. This helped us to find out a bit more about others from different schools. After this, we were split up into different groups of six. We got to stay in a pair or a threesome with people from our school, then find two pairs or another three people from the other schools. We received two letters a table, each of which was a single letter from Anne Frank. We then had three categories and had to think of words that fitted the categories.

We then learned what the human rights are and watched a video on the history of human rights. We then decided, in our groups, which five rights were the most important. We then decided which one right was the most important out of the five, and what the government and civilians could do to uphold that right. Once we had finished this, we looked at the meaning of genocide and the eight stages of genocide. We then looked at examples of the stages of genocide during the Holocaust. After lunch, we watched a video on the genocide in Rwanda in 1994, then received a talk from Ali, a survivor of the genocide. His story was very powerful and thought-provoking.

Everybody had a good time at the training, and we all met new people and made some new friends.

*Gordon Rae, Student,
The Duchess’s Community High School, Alnwick*

An acrostic poem by Evie Peebles. Year 2, Choppington Primary

Hanukkah is a festival of light.
Antiochus is a wicked man.
Nice story,
Under the temple roof.
Kind Judah Maccabee.
King Antiochus is horrible
And the Maccabees cleaned out the temple.
Hanukkah lasts for eight days and nights.

My thoughts about our visit to Newcastle places of worship

Hi: my name is Matthew and I liked all of them, but the best thing was the Chinese lunch. The Hindu Temple was good. It had all of the gods. The elephant was called Ganesh and there was singing. When they pray, they put money there for good luck and if anyone stole it, they would have bad luck. They have a song. One person rings a bell and one claps. It was good.

By Matthew Geater. Year 5, Choppington Primary.