

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY



Holocaust Memorial Day is an annual event that takes place on January 27th.

HMD was established in the UK in 2000 and the first HMD was held in January 2001. January 27th marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz- Birkenhau concentration camp by soviet troops in 1945. Holocaust Memorial Day seeks to change the future by learning from and remembering the past. Schools are encouraged to participate in Holocaust Memorial Day in order to remember the victims of the Holocaust and more recent genocides. It provides a framework to explore issues of morality, human reactions, individual experiences, responsibilities and larger questions of the role of governments and democracies. The government, including the Welsh Government, encourages schools and LAs to commemorate this event in some way.

Further information and **free educational materials** for primary to post 16 students specific to the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day can be accessed online at <http://education.hmd.org.uk>

The theme for 2017 is 'How can life go on?'

Six HMD 2017 life stories have been translated into Welsh. These stories feature people affected by the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides. Each story is relevant to this year's theme How can life go on? - See more at: <http://hmd.org.uk/resources/stories/hmd-2017-welsh-bilingual-life-stories#sthash.DkxU91gB.dpuf>

The aftermath of the Holocaust and of subsequent genocides continue to raise challenging questions for individuals, communities and nations. How do people react in the immediate aftermath of unimaginable suffering? How can life be rebuilt after such trauma? Is justice after genocide possible? What role do we in the UK have towards individuals, communities and nations who have survived genocide?

Holocaust Memorial Day is not only about commemorating past genocides and honouring those who died, but about standing with those who survive.

By phrasing the theme as a question, HMD 2017 asks audiences to think about what happens after genocide and of our own responsibilities in the wake of such a crime.

This year's theme is broad and open ended, and there are few known answers.

We hope that you will find the materials useful if you wish to commemorate

A FESTIVAL OF FAITHS

On Wednesday 16th of March Goytre Fawr Primary School held 'A Festival of Faiths' to support their Religious Education work. During the day, the pupils took part in a variety of workshops, from creating lanterns decorated with lotus flowers for the Buddhist festival of Wesak, to making a large Sukkah for the Jewish celebration of Sukkot.



In order to bring this event to life, the pupils were joined by representatives from Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Bahá'í and Hinduism. The children were encouraged to ask questions and spend time with these volunteers in order to understand how their faith impacts on their daily life.



At the end of the day, everyone wrote down their thoughts and reflections and came together for an assembly. When the children were asked if they had learnt anything new during the day, every hand went up! Lisa Wilkinson, Deputy Headteacher and RE Co-ordinator said "Our pupils live in a multi-cultural, multi-faith world and days like today help to break down stereotypes and develop understanding and respect for others."



SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2015 – 2016

The SACRE Annual Report was finalised in the autumn term and contains useful information and a summary of all the advice provided to schools over the course of the academic year.

Copies will be distributed to all schools as soon as possible.

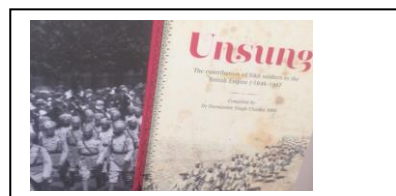
VISITS TO PLACES OF WORSHIP AND VISITORS TO SCHOOLS

SACRE has updated the contact list for school visits to places of worship and visitors to schools. Copies of the revised list will soon be distributed to schools.

If you have a recent experience of visiting a place of worship or receiving a visitor to school and can provide some details for us to share with other schools please do let us know. Details should be sent to Gill Vaisey at gill_press@hotmail.com

UNSUNG

– BOOK BY DR DARMINDER SINGH CHADA



The book *Unsung* has been compiled by Dr Darminder Singh Chadha in order to raise awareness of the contribution of the Sikh soldiers to the British Empire.

The aim of the book, published in the centenary year of the Great War is to remember and pay homage to all Sikh soldiers who served in the British army between 1846-1947 which is the significant part of the Anglo-Sikh history. The author begins the book with a brief history of the Sikh religion followed by the Sikh holocaust where over 30,000 civilian Sikhs were massacred. It shows how Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Kingdom was incorporated into the British Empire. Many young Sikhs fought in the trenches of Western Europe, the deserts of North Africa and the mountains of Italy often in indescribable conditions still holding on to their faith.

The book is for free distribution however, a small contribution of £5.00 is suggested to the Parkinson's Society as the author has suffered from this illness for nearly 14 years now.

Copies can be obtained from SACRE member Neeta Baicher

Neetabaicher@hotmail.com

DIWALI FOR THREE FAITH TRADITIONS

Diwali or Dīpāvālī is a significant religious festival in Hinduism, Sikhism and Jainism. It is also popularly known as the "*Festival of Lights*" and is a lunar-calendar based event that occurs between mid-October and mid-November. The word "Diwali" is a contraction of "Deepavali" which translates into "row of lamps".



Diwali is an official holiday in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Mauritius, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Suriname, Malaysia, Singapore, and Fiji.

The festival of Diwali symbolizes the victory of light over dark, good over evil and knowledge over darkness.

Hindu tradition: Diwali is one of the biggest festivals in the Hindu calendar and there are multiple reasons why Hindus celebrate this festival. The most popular narrative, based in the ancient Sanskrit epic Ramayana, is of Lord Rama, his wife Sita and brother Lakshmana returning to their kingdom Ayodhya after defeating demon king Ravana.

Jain tradition: Diwali marks the attainment of enlightenment by Lord Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism who laid down the central tenets of the Jain religion as it is practiced today.

Sikh tradition: Diwali commemorates the release of Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh Guru, who was imprisoned by the Mughal emperor Jahangir. When Guru Hargobind arrived in Amritsar, his devotees lit thousands of oil lamps to celebrate his return. For Sikhs, this day is known as *Bandi Chhor Divas* (day of release from prison).

Diwali is also associated with the martyrdom of the elderly Sikh scholar and strategist Bhai Mani Singh in 1737. Bhai Mani Singh was the Granthi (keeper/reader of Sikh scripture) of Harmandir Sahib (popularly known as the Golden Temple). He transcribed the final version of Guru Granth Sahib dictated to him by Guru Gobind Singh in 1704. In 1737, he received permission from Zakariya Khan, the then Mughal governor of Punjab, to hold a religious gathering of the Khalsa for celebrating *Bandi Chhorh Divas* on the auspicious day of Diwali for a tax of 5000 Rupees. He expected to put together the required sum from contributions made by the Sikhs who would assemble that day. But when he discovered the governor's plot to kill the Sikhs during the gathering, he sent out messages warning them not to turn up for the meeting. As a result the tax could not be paid and the governor ordered Bhai Mani Singh's execution at Lahore. Sikhs celebrate Diwali by lighting lamps, distributing sweets, fasting and practising acts of charity.

Local celebrations included a social event in Cardiff and a religious service in the gurdwara in the evening. Our local representative reported that to her the importance of Diwali is sacrifice and charitable work done by faith members and masters and being given strength.

FREE RESOURCES FOR A LEVEL RS

St Mary's Centre website hosts free AS/A Level RE Journals: Challenging Religious Issues which can be accessed via <http://www.st-marys-centre.org.uk/resources/Aleveljournal.html>

Challenging Religious Issues is an online journal supporting A-level Religious Studies for students and teachers. The journal was set up through Welsh Government sponsorship and is published by the St Mary's Centre in English and in Welsh.

- o Articles are written by leading scholars and practitioners
- o A wide range of popular AS and A2 options are covered
- o Activities and live links to recommended websites are included
- o The journal is published every term

Challenging Religious Issues can also be accessed FREE through Hwb Cymru (<https://hwb.wales.gov.uk>).

The Journals cover a range of topics such as Euthanasia, Evil and Suffering, Christian Sexual Ethics and Secular and Religious Meditation.

St Mary's Centre needs evidence to support the continued production of the journal. If you find the journals useful and would them to continue, please take a few minutes to give your feedback. Please reply to gill_press@hotmail.com and your response will be passed on accordingly.

NEW RESOURCES FROM ST MARY'S CENTRE

Two new series of resources for Foundation Phase: Exploring Why and Exploring Our World are available free of charge from the St Mary's Centre.

The link to the English resources are:

<http://www.st-marys-centre.org.uk/resources/Exploring%20Why.html>

(Exploring Why)

[http://www.st-marys-](http://www.st-marys-centre.org.uk/resources/Exploring%20Our%20World.html)

[centre.org.uk/resources/Exploring%20Our%20World.html](http://www.st-marys-centre.org.uk/resources/Exploring%20Our%20World.html) (Exploring Our World)

These storybooks and accompanying activities cover aspects of Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism.

The resources will also be available via the Hwb. Resources via the website are free and a hardcopy of the short story versions will be available for purchase @ £2.99 per book from the Welsh Books Council.

MONGOLIAN CAFÉ AT GOYTRE FAWR PRIMARY SCHOOL

As part of the Year 4 Times for Giving RE unit and linked to their topic, the Year 4 class and the School Councillors organised a 'Mongolian Cafe' to raise money for an internet connection for our link school in Tuvshinshree, Mongolia. They planned what needed to be done, wrote letters to various supermarkets asking for contributions and worked in teams to decorate and then serve at the 'cafe'.

It was very popular with the whole school and raised £120.



YEAR 6 RE DAY AT CALDICOT SCHOOL

Year 6 pupils from the Caldicot cluster enjoyed another fabulous day of workshops provided by SACRE faith representatives.

The following responses are just a small selection of thoughts about the day shared by pupils.

“I enjoyed everything today but my favourite was Muhammad’s lesson on Islam. He was awesome and everything he said was very interesting. He is the best teacher ever and I learned so many new things”

Year 6 pupil at Durand Primary School.

“Today was fun as now I know what people from other religions feel like. So now I can relate to how they feel.”

Year 6 pupil at Durand Primary School



“My favourite part of the day was when we learned about good choices and the Bahá’í religion.”

Year 6 pupil at Ysgol Y Ffin.

“Most people thought it was going to be boring, but I found it really fun. All the activities were equally as fun!”

Year 6 pupil at Castle Park Primary School.



“I enjoyed all of the workshops today. I mostly enjoyed the Sikh, Islam and Hindu. It taught me many new things as well as having lots of fun.”

Year 6 pupil at Castle Park Primary School.

“I enjoyed Buddhism because everything is so interesting about their hobbies and style of living.”

Year 6 pupil at Durand Primary School



“We learned about interesting religions today.

I especially enjoyed the meditation session in the Buddhism workshop.”

Year 6 pupil at Dewstow Primary School.

“I really liked doing Buddhism because it was easy to understand and I liked listening and talking about how you have to kill to survive.”

Year 6 pupil at The Archbishop Rowan Williams C. I. W. Primary School.

“It was brilliant learning about the different religions.”

Year 6 pupil at Dewstow Primary School.

“I enjoyed Hinduism the most as it involved a memory game where we drew the important objects that we remembered from the lesson. I also learned that the Hindus give special sweets to God.”

Year 6 pupil at Durand Primary School.



“I learned that Hindus take different things, such as food, to offer to God. I enjoyed trying on the Sikh clothes.”

Pupil at The Archbishop Rowan Williams C. I. W. Primary School.

“Today was fantastic. I learned about religion and I liked learning about Buddhism.”

Year 6 pupil at Castle Park Primary School.

“I have learned that Hindus offer rice, sweets, water, flowers and candles to their Gods. I have also enjoyed learning about Islam and how they don't eat from 2:40pm until 9:30pm.”

Year 6 pupil at Durand Primary School.

“I have learnt more about Christianity than I thought there was. I really enjoyed the lesson.”

Year 6 pupil at Durand Primary School



Evaluations received from teachers would very welcome to help us build on this success in future years.

“A very successful day, well organised and ran very smoothly. I was particularly happy with the variety of religions shared.”

Sue Thomas, Year 6 teacher at Dewstow Primary School.

“The day was very good. The children were engaged in most of the activities. The variety of activities kept their interest; drama, singing, look and draw.”

Sue Wilsher, Year 6 teacher at Castle Park Primary School.