

# INTERFAITH GLASGOW

## Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

# **Interfaith Glasgow**

## **Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

### **Trustees' Report**

#### Board of Trustees and Administration Details

Interfaith Glasgow is registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (No. SC046525), governed by a constitution. The structure of the charity consists of charity trustees who are also the organisation's only members and comprise the organisation's board.

The constitution requires that the board includes individuals from a number of different faith and belief traditions in Glasgow: Bahá'í; Buddhist; Christian (2), Hindu, Jewish; Muslim (2), and Sikh. Further trustees may be appointed who are either people of particular religion or belief, or people who have particular skills, knowledge, connections, or experience pertinent to the purposes of the organisation. In the financial year 2017-18, three such appointments were made to widen religious representation on the board and to bring specific experience and skills to the board. Within the board there are three office bearer roles: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer.

All board members undertake their roles in a purely voluntary capacity. The board has the power to appoint additional trustees and there are smaller working groups to look at matters such as policy and funding. The term of office for board members is three years with the possibility of re-election.

The current trustees are:

Dr. Richie Adams	Police Scotland	appointed: 19/03/18
Dr. Anthony Allison (Treasurer)	Christian – Catholic	
Abdul Aziz	Muslim – Sunni	
Rev. Cedric Blakey	Christian – Scottish Episcopal	
Ruby Bhopal	Sikh	
James Gillies	Bahá'í	
Rev. Roy Henderson	Christian – Church of Scotland	
Emma Christina Leighton	Buddhist	
Manjula Math	Hindu	
Gordon Matheson CBE	Appointed Member	appointed: 01/02/18
Philip Mendelsohn (Chair)	Jewish	
Azzam Mohamad	Muslim – Shia	appointed: 01/02/18
Safa Yousaf (Vice Chair)	Muslim – Sunni	

The Director of Interfaith Glasgow is Dr. Rose Drew, who returned from maternity leave in August 2017. We express our thanks to Lynnda Wardle who covered the position during Dr. Drew's absence.

The office of the charity is Flemington House, Second Floor, 110 Flemington Street, Glasgow G21 4BF.

#### The Objects of the Charity

The organisation is established for charitable purposes only and, in particular, the promotion of religious harmony, equality, and diversity; and the advancement of education through:

- increasing mutual understanding, harmony, and equality between people from different religious traditions and none by providing opportunities for mutual-learning, friendship-building, dialogue, and cooperation



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### **Trustees' Report (continued)**

- supporting and collaborating with other organisations, groups, and individuals whose activities foster positive interfaith engagement
- increasing awareness, understanding, and appreciation of religious diversity and interfaith activity

### Annual Report of the Board of Trustees

In the financial year 2017-18, Interfaith Glasgow continued to work towards the furtherance of our aims through events and activities focused on encouraging friendship-building across religious boundaries; faith and belief dialogue; and practical interfaith cooperation on issues of common concern, such as poverty.

### **World Interfaith Harmony Week Programme and Prize**

Interfaith Glasgow was this year's bronze medal winner of the prestigious H.M. King Abdullah II World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize, in recognition of our activities during World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) in February 2018. WIHW was established by the United Nations to celebrate activities which promote friendship, dialogue, and respect among the world's diverse faith and belief communities and this was the first year we had participated. Our programme comprised three events: a discussion among Jews, Muslims and Christians on what their sacred texts said about how to engage with those who do not share their beliefs; a community meal in the Sikh temple (Gurdwara) with Glasgow's Lord Provost Eva Bolander and people from a wide range of faiths and beliefs, including Muslim (Sunni and Shia), Pagan, Christian, Hindu, Sikh and Jewish backgrounds; and a reflection session involving volunteers from Interfaith Glasgow's Weekend Club which works with Glasgow's refugees and asylum seekers. Judges received 88 submissions from over 1,232 events held around the world. IG Chairman, Philip Mendelsohn, and Director, Rose Drew, were presented with the bronze award by H.M. King Abdullah II at a ceremony in Amman on 24th April. Subsequently, a motion was endorsed by the Scottish Parliament congratulating Interfaith Glasgow and stating their support for our work (see <https://bit.ly/2IFwBGk>).

### **Scottish Interfaith Week (SIFW)**

SIFW continues to present an important opportunity to raise awareness of, and participation in, interfaith activities. This year 25 events took place across Glasgow. Of these, Interfaith Glasgow organised three (our Family Fun Day, a Scriptural Reasoning event, and a Faith-to-Faith event) and supported others. Our flagship event was our annual Interfaith Family Fun Day, which was well-attended (approx. 180 participants) by people from at least nine different faith and belief traditions. The primary focus of the event was to introduce participants to elements of Glasgow's different religious traditions through arts and crafts activities.

### **Scriptural Reasoning**

Scriptural reasoning continued to prove to be an effective way for adherents of different faith and belief traditions to continue to explore the foundational texts of different traditions; and explore differences and similarities both between and within traditions. Scriptural reasoning, in its genesis, was predominantly limited to the monotheistic faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. However, during Scottish Interfaith Week 2017, Interfaith Glasgow expanded its remit to include Hindu and Sikh scriptures and this expanded remit was met with much success.



## **Interfaith Glasgow**

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#### **Trustees' Report (continued)**

##### **Festivals Exchange**

Now in its third consecutive year, the Festivals Exchange Programme continues to prove itself as a unique opportunity for people from any faith and belief background to gain a better understanding of the religious festivals of their neighbours through first hand experience. This year focused on two Festival Exchange events: Mawlid al-Nabi (The Prophet's Birthday) at the Zia ul Quran Mosque in January 2018; and, Good Friday at St Albert's Roman Catholic Church in March 2018. Both events had a wide representation of faith and belief communities in attendance.

##### **Faith-to-Faith**

In 2016-17, we launched the innovative 'Faith-to-Faith' series in partnership with St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art. This series of monthly dialogue events explores issues and topics related to religion and contemporary society, such as: poetry and spirituality, refugee voices, and gender and sexuality; among others. This series has been very well received.

##### **Weekend Club**

Interfaith Glasgow's 'Weekend Club' has continued to grow both in terms of attendee numbers and reputation. This year we have held 11 Weekend Club events, welcoming more than 500 participants from Syria, Iran, India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Libya, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Poland, Eritrea, and Somalia. Events have ranged from Hogmanay parties and Burns suppers to Spring Picnics and a pantomime at the Citizen's Theatre. Our unique interfaith approach to refugee integration has been commended by the Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees (which has established a Weekend Club in Edinburgh based on our model) and the City Convener for Equalities and Human Rights, Councillor Jennifer Layden.

##### **Interfaith Food Justice Network**

We have continued to support the Interfaith Food Justice Network (IFJN), which brings together local groups and organisations in Glasgow who are working to tackle food poverty from a variety of faith and belief perspectives. Those involved include Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Humanists and many non-religious people. IFJN members seek to support each other's work and use their collective voice to push for food justice – based on their shared vision, laid out in the Interfaith Food Justice Declaration. The IFJN is partly funded by Sustain and is co-ordinated by Interfaith Glasgow in partnership with Faith in Community Scotland's Transformation Team. The support provided has this year included hosting bi-annual networking events, servicing monthly meetings of the network's Development Group, and supporting the delivery of One Big Picnic (see below) and the 'Interfaith Food Share' WhatsApp group.

##### **One Big Picnic**

This year saw a new innovation in the form of the One Big Picnic, a volunteer-led, free community meal in George Square in Glasgow city centre to promote unity and dignity. The event was organised by the IFJN Development Group with support of IG and Faith in Community Scotland's Transformation Team. On Sunday 3rd September 2017 a wide range of faith and belief groups involved in tackling food poverty, handed out over 2,000 food portions to people from diverse backgrounds. In addition, musicians provided free entertainment and participants had the opportunity to try on a Sikh turban or a Muslim hijab. The event was such a success that there are now plans for it to become an annual event.



# **Interfaith Glasgow**

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### **Trustees' Report (continued)**

#### **Religion and Belief Awareness**

Interfaith Glasgow was commissioned by the Glasgow Equality Forum to organise a 'Religion, Belief, and Equality in Glasgow' conference in March. One of the outputs from this conference was the noted need for more education and training in both the private and public sectors to raise awareness of religion and belief. Interfaith Glasgow has begun engaging directly with by beginning to offer awareness raising sessions for private sector organisations; something we hope to continue to build on.

#### **Partnership**

Maintaining and developing connections, networks, and partnerships is essential to interfaith work. Our work, moreover, requires cooperation with organisations concerned with equalities, education, good interfaith / intercultural relations, and social justice. A few specific examples from the past year include: strengthening our links Glasgow City Council through, for example, our Chairman's participation with the Leader of the Council in a meeting of UK Core Cities at Westminster, the Lord Provost's support of our WIHW programme and One Big Picnic, and Councillor Jennifer Layden's support of our Weekend Club; consolidating a close working relationship with Glasgow Equality Forum through our delivery of the 'Religion, Belief, and Equality in Glasgow' conference as well as regular attendance at GEF meetings; and deepening our mutually beneficial relationship with Glasgow Museums, especially St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, through our Faith-to-Faith series. Through our support of the Interfaith Food Justice Network, moreover, we have consolidated links with organisations all over Glasgow who work to tackle food poverty from a variety of faith and belief perspectives. And delivering our Weekend Club events has required that we work closely with other agencies, such as the Scottish Refugee Council, Backbone, the Citizen's Theatre, and a variety of faith communities, enabling us to introduce 'New Scots' to organisations in the city geared to help them. We have also developed and consolidated relationships with the organisations that have funded our work this year, including: The Scottish Government, Voluntary Action Fund, Endrick Trust, BEMIS, Scottish Refugee Council, Sustain, and the Goldberg Family Trust.

#### **Organisational Development**

We continue to consult with our supporters and diverse faith and belief communities at our AGM and other events to help us generate ideas for future relevant projects and to ensure we continue to serve Glasgow's diverse communities.

Our board continues to meet every 6 to 8 weeks and we hold regular staff meetings and staff progress reviews. On-going training and support is offered as appropriate.

Our annual publication, Flourish, continues to showcase our activities and is an important tool for us to share our work with the wider public. We continue to use and develop our social media platforms and website.

#### **Funding**

Following a cut in core funding from the Scottish Government, we continue to seek opportunities to diversify and strengthen our funding portfolio so as to establish our work on a more secure footing. We are grateful to all those trusts, organisations and individuals which have funded our activities. We have recently introduced facilities for donations to be made online through our website and our Facebook page.

# Interfaith Glasgow

## Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

### Trustees' Report (continued)

#### Financial review

At the end of the year the charity held £3,197 in the bank. The unrestricted cash funds were overdrawn by £420 due to payments in advance for salaries and held on account by the payroll administrator. The restricted funds cash balance at the end of year was £3,617.

Interfaith Glasgow is funded on a project basis and unrestricted reserves would not be included in this funding. The Trustees consider that a level of reserves of £5,000 to cover costs of redundancies and other costs associated with winding up the organisation is reasonable and are looking at ways to generate further funds to meet this target.

Approved by the board of trustees on ..... 25/06/18 ..... and signed on its behalf

**REDACTED**

Signed  
Philip Mendelsohn



# **Interfaith Glasgow**

## **Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

### **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Interfaith Glasgow**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

The trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed .

**REDACTED**

Date ...4/7/18.....

Stanley Wynd ACIS FCIE  
122 Giles Street  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6BZ

**Interfaith Glasgow**  
**Receipts and Payments Account for the Year Ended**  
**31st March 2018**

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2017/18 £	Total 2016/17 £
<u>Receipts</u>				
Grants	18,189	52,761	70,950	48,000
Donations	5,994	3,410	9,404	1,978
Other income	-	207	207	25
Bank interest	-	1	1	2
Total receipts	24,183	56,379	80,562	50,005
<u>Payments</u>				
Payments for charitable activities:				
Staff costs	2,061	37,149	39,210	18,815
Freelance costs	6,868	6,223	13,091	7,159
Event and project costs	8,334	13,367	21,701	5,381
Print & design costs	-	775	775	608
Staff travel	51	138	189	100
Staff training	-	100	100	162
Office	-	5,770	5,770	281
Insurance	-	353	353	347
Telephone	-	137	137	401
Volunteer expenses	1,008	140	1,148	90
Admin & payroll fees	649	2,337	2,986	674
Bank charges	-	60	60	25
Advance on staff costs paid to the payroll provider	-	2,710	2,710	4,013
Governance costs:				
Board meetings	-	341	341	743
Total payments	18,971	69,600	88,571	38,799
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for year	5,212	(13,221)	(8,009)	11,206
Cash funds brought forward	(1,595)	12,801	11,206	-
Cash funds carried forward	3,617	(420)	3,197	11,206



## Interfaith Glasgow

### Receipts and Payments Account for the Year Ended 31st March 2018

#### Bank and cash on hand

	2017/18	2016/17
	£	£
Opening balances	11,206	-
Surplus / (deficit) for year	<u>(8,009)</u>	<u>11,206</u>
Closing balances	3,197	11,206

#### Restricted funds

	Balance at 01/04/2017	Received	Paid	Balance at 31/03/2018
Weekend Club	(1,595)	14,806	(11,652)	1,559
Vibrancy Fund	-	2,500	(2,500)	-
Food Power	-	5,000	(2,414)	2,586
Glasgow Equalities Forum	-	-	(1,072)	(1,072)
One Big Picnic	-	588	(433)	155
Stella Reekie	-	389	-	389
Family Fund Day	-	900	(900)	-
	<u>(1,595)</u>	<u>24,183</u>	<u>(18,971)</u>	<u>3,617</u>

#### Weekend Club

Funding from Scottish Refugee Council, Endrick Trust, Goldberg Trust, Faith in the Community Scotland and BEMIS for the Weekend Club project - a programme of events providing activities over the weekend for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

#### Vibrancy Fund

A pilot programme funded by Glasgow City Council's 'Vibrancy' fund providing opportunities for people from different faith and belief backgrounds to gain a better understanding and first hand experience of each other's religious festivals.

#### Food Power

Funding from Sustain for the Interfaith Food Justice Network.

#### Glasgow Equalities Forum

Funding to organise a 'Religion, Belief, and Equality in Glasgow' conference in March 2018, received in arrears in April 2018.

#### One Big Picnic

Funding to organise a free community meal in George Square in Glasgow city centre to promote unity and dignity.

#### Stella Reekie

Funds received from the Glasgow Sharing of Faiths for the purpose of honouring the memory of Stella Reekie.

# Interfaith Glasgow Receipts and Payments Account for the Year Ended 31st March 2018

## Restricted funds (continued)

### Family Fun Day

Funding from BEMIS towards the cost of putting on the Family Fun Day.

## Assets and liabilities

Interfaith Glasgow had equipment valued at the year end at approximately £187 (2017: £502). It also had debtors of £9,213 (2017: £11,231). At the year end the charity did not have any liabilities (2017: £15,134)

## Trustee payments

The members of the board of trustees did not receive any remuneration or expenses in either year.

Approved by the board of trustees on 25/06/2018.....and signed on their behalf

**REDACTED**

Signed ..  
Anthony Allison