

WIHW The World Interfaith Harmony Week February 1-7 2026 in Westmorland and Furness and Kendal Cumbria England UK

<https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/>

Report by WFDEIP Westmorland and Furness Diversity Equity and Inclusion Partnership (formerly SLEDP South Lakeland Equality and Diversity Partnership) about WIHW 2026 in Westmorland and Furness England UK

WFDEIP Westmorland and Furness Diversity Equity and Inclusion Partnership (formerly SLEDP South Lakeland Equality and Diversity Partnership) was delighted that WIHW World Interfaith Harmony Week was again celebrated in Westmorland and Furness including South Lakeland and Kendal. Councillor Guy Tirvengadam (Former Mayor of Kendal and Chair of WFDEIP and founder of Kendal Unity Festival) commented "I am always delighted that Kendal puts on a variety of events in WIHW. It is wonderful that a small town is able to make an important contribution to the vital work of understanding each other and social cohesion". Jacquetta Gomes (WFDEIP Lead on Interfaith and Multifaith) said "Westmorland and Furness is a wonderful place to live and I am pleased that it continues to offer opportunities to participate in WIHW".

We are especially proud that we may be offering an event by the oldest person to lead an event who demonstrates to the world that anyone of any age can make an important contribution to understanding and peace. 96 year old retired Roman Catholic Priest Monsignor Francis Slattery has been involved in interfaith work in Cumbria since 2002. He has received local and national recognition for his contribution. He has held a WIHW events every year since 2017 (except 2023), including a celebration of his 90th birthday in 2019.

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/your-council/equity-diversity-and-inclusion/westmorland-and-furness-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-partnership-network>

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/your-council/equity-diversity-and-inclusion>

WFDEIP Westmorland and Furness Diversity Equity and Inclusion Partnership 7 Day Event

WFDEIP Westmorland and Furness Diversity Equity and Inclusion Partnership supported two daily half hour at home sessions every day of Inter Faith Week at 7am and 7pm. Participants read The Golden Rule and to undertook an appropriate practice from any faith or none (for example chanting, meditation, reading, reciting). The Golden Rule is available at

<https://www.worldfaiths.org/> <https://www.worldfaiths.org/goldenrule>

<https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/pec-events/westmorland-and-furness-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-partnership-wfdeip-will-hold-2-sessions-at-home-every-day-of-wihw-world-interfaith-harmony-week/>

<https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/pec-events/westmorland-and-furness-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-partnership-wfdeip-will-hold-2-sessions-at-home-every-day-of-wihw-world-interfaith-harmony-week/1769990400/>

Monday February 2nd 10-12 Event in The Mayors Parlour Kendal Town Hall

The Mayor of Kendal Councillor Richard Sutton hosted an event to celebrate WIHW. The guests included the WFDEIP Westmorland and Furness Diversity Equity and Inclusion Partnership Lead on Interfaith and Multifaith Jacquetta Gomes who assisted The Mayor in organising the meeting, the Chair and members of the SLIF South Lakeland Interfaith Forum

Committee and representatives of local faith communities. A helpful and informative workshop was led by a SLIF South Lakeland Interfaith Forum committee member.

This event was included on the Kendal Town Council Facebook page

Kendal Town Council Facebook 12 February 2026

“On Monday 2nd February, the Mayor was pleased to host a World Interfaith Harmony Week Event in the Mayor's Parlour. This involved a talk and a workshop, and was a very interesting event for all.”

<https://www.facebook.com/kendaltowncouncil>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1212802930964833&set=a.266253088953160>

<https://www.facebook.com/kendaltowncouncil/posts/pfbid0Yyfej1GEBBPPBuhLTYLGWQAWYqct3mE7kvktaVC5L2vVCxKWWFJoWqohq3mjgNacl>

Monday February 2nd Event led by a 96 year old retired Roman Catholic Priest

Monsignor Francis Slattery (a 96 year old retired Roman Catholic Priest) led an afternoon session of meditation/prayer and study. Monsignor Slattery commented “Every year this is an occasion to celebrate our differences and richly varied beliefs. It was a joy to be able to come together and just express what we do have in common, even if we do have differences of expression. What we did was share a time of meditation or prayer, of reading the Psalms and a Blessing. This many of us did in our own homes. It was a simple reminder of our togetherness, a fact we share a common language when speaking of our faiths and a joy in knowing others have similar expressions. We have to be thankful at this time for this simple act of faith which hopefully binds us more closely together.”

<https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/pec-events/participate-at-home-in-session-of-meditation-or-prayer-and-study-run-by-a-96-year-old-retired-roman-catholic-priest-who-may-be-the-oldest-person-to-lead-a-session-in-wihw-world-interfaith-harmony-wee/>

Tuesday February 3rd Visit by Sri Lankan Buddhist Monk Venerable Mahaova Ariyadhamma

Visit by Sri Lankan Buddhist Monk Venerable Mahaova Ariyadhamma who is known locally as an honorary Kendalian. He has taught BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) for a decade since 2015.

Wednesday February 4th Westmorland and Furness Faith Covenant Working Group Meeting at Rookhow Quaker Meeting House Rusland Valley

The Westmorland and Furness Faith Covenant Working Group met at Rookhow Quaker Meeting House in the Rusland Valley.

Westmorland and Furness Faith Covenant

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/your-council/equity-diversity-and-inclusion/westmorland-and-furness-faith-covenant>

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/your-council/equity-diversity-and-inclusion>

Rookhow Quaker Meeting House

<https://rookhow.org.uk/>

WIHW Resources

WFDEIP Westmorland and Furness Diversity Equity and Inclusion Partnership (formerly SLEDP South Lakeland Equality and Diversity Partnership) is honoured that the booklet *Cumbrian Supplement for the national booklet* by South Lakeland Equality and Diversity Partnership (SLEDP) (Second Edition 2019), is on the WIHW website resources page and will have been used in WIHW 2024.

WIHW webpage Resources

<https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/resources/>

Guides

[https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Cumbrian Supplement for the National Booklet-2009.pdf](https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Cumbrian_Supplement_for_the_National_Booklet-2009.pdf)