



Faith communities and Thank You Day – some initial ideas

Thank You Day is about inviting communities throughout the UK to get together to say thank you to everyone who has helped us get through the past year - from the shopkeepers and teachers, to the friends, families and next door neighbours.

Through this incredibly difficult year, we know that faith groups throughout the UK have particularly stepped up and gone above and beyond, reaching out to their communities and across divides to run food banks, hold online prayer and worship, connect with those who are lonely, and so much more.

We want to make sure that faith groups are a central part of Thank You Day - in giving, receiving and facilitating acts of thanks. This could include:

- An interfaith ‘service of thanks’ on the morning of the 4th July, with faith leaders and community representatives from a host of faith traditions coming together for a powerful national moment. We should also look to stream it live on social media platforms - and could explore whether one of the broadcasters would be interested in showing it. We are currently scoping out whether Westminster Abbey or St Pauls’ Cathedral would be available, or may wish to consider somewhere like Birmingham too. We may also want to consider different regions coming together to organise more local interfaith services of thanks on 4th July (or in the week leading up) as well.
- The creation of a 2-3 minute video with people from lots of different faiths and backgrounds saying “thank-you” in different languages. This could highlight the importance of thanks / gratitude in their faith and touch on all the amazing things faith communities have done through the crisis. We would look to promote this on social media as another way to promote the rich diversity in our country.
- Ensuring we all spread the word throughout our communities to encourage grassroots faith groups to get involved. This might include encouraging places of worship throughout the UK to open up for community events, coffee mornings or thank you parties - or to come together in their local communities to organise interfaith events of thanks. These might provide an opportunity for places of worship to restate their commitment to their local communities in the year ahead. We will be producing resources to give people the tools they need to host such events.