

Scottish Interfaith Week

June 2026

Event Planning Guide

Ideas for
planning &
promoting
your event
for Scottish
Interfaith
Week 2026



SIFW Scottish
Interfaith
Week



Interfaith
Scotland

Event planning guide for Scottish Interfaith Week 2026

We invite you to explore the theme of Wellbeing in your events for this year's Scottish Interfaith Week, taking place 8-15 November across Scotland.

This year's theme encourages us to explore what it means to care for ourselves and others. What does it look like to sustain, nurture and uplift one another?

Through events we can explore wellbeing in its many forms: spiritual, physical, mental and social. Think bike rides, shared meals, crafternoons, dancing, space to talk, gardening, meditation and more.



Collectively we can show how Scotland's religious and cultural diversity is a source of resilience, especially in the most challenging of times.

This resource will guide you through planning your event and ways to engage a wider audience.

Please note: You do not have to follow the theme, you can choose any topic you wish to focus your event on.

Planning your event

Think about wellbeing

Take some time to think about wellbeing and what it means to you and your communities.

What kind of wellbeing activities do you engage in? What expertise do you have in your community? How could you bring these aspects into your event?

Consider where the intersections of faith and belief lie within wellbeing. For example, you could explore what faith communities in Scotland are doing to care for mental health.

Identify event partner

Research people in your area who you could collaborate with for an event.

This could include: local and national charities, community networks, councils, libraries and community centres, social businesses, schools, colleges and universities, faith communities,

chaplains, hospitals, youth groups (including Scouts and GirlGuiding), and activism groups.

Reach out and invite them to partner with you on an event for Scottish Interfaith Week. Explain the kind of event you want to hold and arrange a meeting to discuss further.

You may find that many local organisations and groups are overworked and under-resourced. This could mean they do not have the capacity to partner with you, or it could mean having the support of your group to host an event is exactly what they need.

Identify audience

Who are you looking to engage in your event? Your answer will directly impact the type of event you choose to host.

Local community members? Families? Young people?
Members of a neighbouring place of worship?

Choose a format

When choosing your format, consider: your resources (budget, volunteer capacity and preparation time), access to an appropriate venue, whether you will need catering, seating, supplies or a guest speaker.



Informal

Fun activities such as ceilidhs, family fun days and film screenings can be a great way to engage people in your event. These kinds of events can be resource intensive but they can also bring together people of a wide range of ages and identities.

Formal

You may wish to host a more formal event, such as a conference, seminar or forum. This could be aimed at a specific audience, such as members of Scottish parliament, students, police officers, teachers or youth workers.

Partnering with another organisation is a great way to affordably host a formal event because you can combine your resources and reach a wider audience.



The increased gravitas can also lead to greater media attention about the ways faith communities support general wellbeing.

Display

If you are keen to organise something for Scottish Interfaith Week but are struggling with resources or capacity, you may want to consider creating a display rather than hosting an event.

Work with your local library to create a book display for Scottish Interfaith Week. (You can even use our handy [Library Book Display](#) resource.)

Create a photography or art exhibition and host it in your local library, community centre or school during Scottish Interfaith Week. You may wish to work with local faith communities or places of education to create the exhibition.



Wishing trees are another popular way to engage your community. Start a wishing tree in your front garden or neighborhood by writing your wishes on a label and tying it to a tree, and provide labels and pens for other people to write their own wishes. Include a wee sign to explain the purpose of the tree and if there is a specific issue you are hoping to collectively wish for, such as an end to conflict or a sustainable future.

Schools

Building relationships with schools in your area is a great way to engage them in interfaith dialogue and encourage young people's interest in Scottish Interfaith Week.

Invite a local primary or secondary class to visit places of worship in your community.

Talk about wellbeing, or a different topic, at a school assembly or in a classroom visit.



Organise a classroom activity related to an aspect of wellbeing and explore how it intersects with different faiths.

Support a local school to host a family interfaith evening with parents and children taking part in fun and educational activities.

Other ideas

Here's a list of other ideas for inspiration:

- Concert
- Book club

- Potluck
- Walk in nature
- Tour of places of worship
- Open mic
- Poetry or book reading
- Hike
- Volunteer day
- Creative writing workshop
- Cooking class
- Arts and crafts activity
- Meditation
- Wild swim
- Museum visit
- Coffee morning

Promoting your event

How you promote your event will directly impact who attends and what they expect to get out of the event. Here are some essential tips to support you to promote your event effectively.

Design accessible posters

Free design tools such as [Canva](#) can make designing a poster easy and even fun! With plenty of poster templates to choose from, you can feel confident that your poster will be effective and look professional.

Canva has [free tutorials](#) online for you to follow.

If your poster will only be promoted online, you may want to consider designing your poster to be landscape as opposed to the traditional portrait poster style. Sometimes traditional posters can be too information-heavy for sharing online.



Quick tips for designing a poster:

- Write in plain English (avoid jargon or overly-long sentences)
- Use a readable font size (at least 28pt)
- Use a colour palette of only two or three colours

- Use one or two fonts maximum (preferably sans serif)
- Ensure [good colour contrast](#)
- Avoid overlapping text and images
- Use high resolution images
- Only use images you have full permission to share
- Include event host logos
- Ensure the poster has plenty of empty space, so the content does not look squashed

Be deliberate about social media

Think about where your target audience exists online: are they on Facebook, Instagram or elsewhere? Avoid spreading your efforts too thin and be selective about which platforms you promote your event on.

Use other tools

Consider alternative ways to promote your event. Does your community have a newsletter, local newspaper or noticeboard? Utilise promotional tools that already exist and already have an audience.

Many events for Scottish Interfaith Week are published on event websites such as Eventbrite, this can help with engaging a wider audience.

Build momentum pre-event

You can build momentum for your event by scheduling content on social media in the lead up to Scottish Interfaith Week. Facebook and Instagram have in-built scheduling tools that you can use for free.

Consider creating a variety of social media content in advance (such as a 30-second videoclip announcing the speakers or performers for your event, photos from previous Scottish Interfaith Week events you have organised, photo from a planning meeting with your event partner, graphics from the Digital Toolkit) and schedule the content in the lead up to the festival.

Creating content in advance and using scheduling tools will save you time and energy, and prevent you from burning out before your event has taken place. It will also mean more people will have a chance to find out about your event ahead of the festival.

Other resources

The [Inter FaithWeek Toolkit](#) was produced by the UK Interfaith Network in 2016. This valuable guide

is packed with suggestions for marking the week and includes examples and illustrations drawn from the many successful activities to date.

The [Interfaith University Chaplaincy Research Project](#) was developed by Interfaith Scotland and Interfaith Glasgow between 2018 and 2019, and funded by the Scottish Government. The publication includes eighteen pages of interfaith activities that have been run by students, student unions and chaplaincies at Scottish universities.

Other ways to support Scottish Interfaith Week

If you are unable to host an event but would like to support the festival then there are many ways you can help:

- Promote the festival in a newsletter
- Follow us on social media and share our posts
- Mention the festival in a community meeting
- Think about your own networks – who would be interested in putting on an event?
- Ask your local library or community space to hold an event

Follow us on Facebook [@FollowSIFW](#) and Instagram [@scottishinterfaithweek](#).