

# 2012 Multifaith Calendar

**This Calendar has been developed to embrace and celebrate the diversity that our staff, service users and others bring to our Trust. By doing this we can help to create an environment whereby everyone feels that regardless of their differences they are treated equally and with respect, dignity and fairness.**

**It is also aimed to assist anyone organising events.**



**All the dates are shown using the Gregorian (Western) calendar. The calendar is accurate, but some dates may vary regionally because they are determined by the lunar calendar. School dates are taken from Manchester City Council – other area dates may vary.**

**Please note: Jewish festivals and Seventh Day Adventist events usually begin at sundown on the previous day.**

**Chinese calendar – Year of the Dragon.**

**[Sources: BBC – Religions ([www.bbc.co.uk/religion](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion)), NHS Local Events ([www.nhslocal.mhs.uk](http://www.nhslocal.mhs.uk)), Great Britain Holiday Dates website ([www.bankholidaydates.co.uk/GreatBritain/2012](http://www.bankholidaydates.co.uk/GreatBritain/2012)), Manchester City Council, and 2011 Calendar Produced by A. Isherwood and P. Stott]**

## Events in January 2012

<b>Date</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Event</b>
1.01.2012	Christian	<b>Circumcision.</b> Marks the day when Jesus was circumcised.
“	Secular	<b>New Year’s Day.</b> The start of the Western calendar.
“	Shinto	<b>Oshogatsu (or Shogatsu).</b> Shinto New Year, one of the popular occasions for shrine visits.
“	Christian	<b>Festival of St. Basil the Great.</b> – One of the great fathers of the Orthodox Church.
5.01.2012	Sikh	<b>Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh</b> (Nanakshahi calendar), the tenth and the last of the Sikh Gurus. He instituted the Five ‘Ks’ and established the Order of the Khalsa.
“	Jewish	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Tevet</b> - the tenth day of the Hebrew month of Tevet, is a minor fast day in Judaism. It is a "low fast" observed from sunrise to sunset. In modern times, 10 Tevet is one of the days of remembrance for victims of the Holocaust (the main national remembrance day being Yom HaShoah).
6.01.2012	Christian	<b>Epiphany.</b> Celebrates the visit of the wise men to the infant Jesus. In the East, where it originated, the Epiphany celebrates the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan.
“	Christian	<b>Christmas Day (Armenian Orthodox).</b> Armenian Christians celebrate Christmas at Epiphany.
“	Christian	<b>Theophany (Orthodox).</b> Orthodox churches mark the baptism of Jesus on this day.
7.01.2012	Rastafari	<b>Christmas Day (Ethiopian).</b> Rastafarians believe Ethiopia to be their spiritual homeland, and a place to which they want to return.
“	Christian	<b>Christmas Day (Orthodox).</b> Most Orthodox churches use the Julian rather than the Gregorian version of the Western calendar. As a result, they celebrate Christmas 13 days later than other Christian churches.
8.01.2012	Christian	<b>First Sunday after Epiphany.</b> This takes place on 6 <sup>th</sup> January, but most Christians celebrate it on the first Sunday after that date.
“	Christian	<b>Baptism of the Lord.</b> Commemorates the baptism of Jesus. Occurs on the first Sunday after Epiphany. Catholics and Episcopalians celebrate this holy day, but Eastern Christianity celebrates the baptism of Jesus at Epiphany.
13.1.2012	Christian	<b>St Hilary’s Day.</b> Hilary of Poitiers was Bishop of Poitiers and is a Doctor of the Church. This feast day has gained the reputation of being the coldest day of the year due to past cold events starting on or around this date.
14.01.2012	Hindu	<b>Makar Sankrant.</b> This is one of the most important festivals of the Hindu calendar and celebrates the sun’s journey into the northern hemisphere.
15.01.2012	Shinto	<b>Seijin Shiki (Adults’ Day).</b> Japanese who have reached legal adulthood (20 in Japan) in the previous year attend a shrine to give thanks.
18.01.2012	Christian	<b>Week of prayer for Christian Unity (start).</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> January (regardless of the days of the week involved) were originally chosen as they cover the days between the <b>feast of St. Peter and the feast</b>

		<b>of St. Paul.</b> Some churches and regions use a different week.
21.01.2012	Christian	<b>St. Agnes.</b> Patron of girls, martyred at the age of 13.
23.01.2012	Chinese	<b>Chinese New Year. 2012</b> is the <b>Year of the Dragon</b>
25.01.2012	Christian	<b>St. Paul's Day.</b> Anglicans and Catholics celebrate St. Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus.
27.01.2012	Jewish and Multi-faith	<b>National Holocaust Memorial Day.</b> The UK Memorial Day. It is the anniversary of the liberation of Aushwitz-Birkenau.
28.01.2012	Christian	<b>St. Thomas Aquinas.</b> Doctor of the Church and the patron saint of students and theologians.
	Hindu	<b>Vasant Panchami.</b> Dedicated to Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning and Brahma's consort. The festival marks the beginning of Spring.
31.01.2012	Sikh	<b>Birthday of Guru Har Rai</b> (Nanakshahi calendar). Guru Har Rai was the seventh of the ten Sikh Gurus.

## Events in February 2012

Date	Religion	Event
2.02.2012	Christian	<b>Candlemas.</b> Commemorates the day Mary took Jesus to the Temple of Jerusalem to present him to God.
“	Pagan	<b>Imbolc.</b> Also called Oimeic and Candlemas. Celebrates the awakening fo the land and the growing power of the Sun.
3.02.2012	Shinto	<b>Rissun (Setsubun).</b> A spring festival that marks the division between Winter and Spring and is celebrated with beans.
4.2.2012	Muslim	<b>Milad un Nabi (Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad)</b> – spelt differently in different texts). Shia Muslims celebrate this 5 days later. Some Muslims do not approve of celebrating the birthday, and regard doing so as a religious innovation.
7.02.2012	Buddhist	<b>Magha Puja.</b> Fourfold Assembly of Sangha Day. Marks the day Buddha addressed a meeting of 1250 arahants.
8.02.2012	Buddhist	<b>Parinirvana. Nirvana Day.</b> Festival marking the anniversary of Buddah’s death. Pure Land Buddhist call the festival “Nirvana Day”. Parinirvana is celebrated buy some Buddhists on 8 <sup>th</sup> February.
“	Jewish	<b>Tu B’Shevat Jewish New Year for trees</b> – For religious accounting purposes all trees have their anniversaries on this festival, regardless of when they were planted.
09.01.2012	Muslim	<b>Milad un Nabi (Shia)</b> Marks the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad.
11.02.2012	Christian	<b>Our Lady of Lourdes.</b> Marks the day when St. Bernadette had her first vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
14.02.2012	Christian	<b>St. Valentine’s Day.</b> Now a secular festival rather than a religious one. There are at least three different saints named Valentine.
15.02.2012	Buddhist	<b>Nirvana Day (alternative date).</b> (see 8.02.2010 above).
20.02.2012	Hindu	<b>Mahashivratri.</b> Hindu festival dedicated to Shiva, one of the deities of the Hindu Trinity.
21.2.2012	Christian	<b>Shrove Tuesday. Also called Pancake Day and Mardi Gras.</b> The British name of “Pancake Day” comes from the tradition of making pancakes to use up all the food that could not be eaten during Lent.
22.2.2012	Christian	<b>Ash Wednesday.</b> The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches. Lent is the season making the time Jesus spent in wilderness.
27.02.2012	Christian	<b>Beginning of Lent (Orthodox) – Clean Monday.</b> The start of the ‘Great Lent’ for Orthodox Christians. This day is called Clean Monday, and occurs seven weeks before Orthodox Easter.



## Events in March 2012

Date	Religion	Event
1.03.2012	Christian	<b>St. David's Day (Patron saint of Wales).</b> Many Welsh people wear a daffodil which is a national symbol of Wales.
2.03.2012	Christian	<b>Women's World Day of Prayer.</b> This is celebrated on the first Friday of March.
"	Baha'i	<b>Nineteen Day Fast (start).</b> Ends 20 <sup>th</sup> March. During this period Baha'is go without food or drink from sunrise to sunset.
3.03.2012	Shinto	<b>Hina-matsuri – Festival of Dolls.</b> Celebrates daughters in the family.
5.03.2012	Christian	<b>St. Piran's Day.</b> Piran is regarded as the patron saint of Cornwall and tin miners.
7.03.2012	Jewish	<b>Fast of Esther (Taanit Esther).</b> A fast in commemoration of the fast of Mordechai and Esther, a courageous young Jewish woman who saved the Jewish people living in Persia from extermination.
8.03.2012	Hindu	<b>Holi.</b> The Hindu spring festival celebrated by throwing colours on each other, dancing and feast. People smear each other with bright coloured powders, and coloured water. The bright colours represent energy, life, and joy.
"	Jewish	<b>Purim.</b> Commemorates the time when Esther courageously saved the Jewish people in Persia from extermination.
9.03.2012	Sikh	<b>Hola Mohalla</b> (Lunar calendar). A three day festival of military exercise and mock battles, together with religious discussions and devotional music, on the day of Hindu festival of Holi. (Sikhs also celebrate Holi).
"	Jewish	<b>Shushan Purim.</b> In some places Purim is celebrated one day later. In this case it is called Shushan Purim.
16.03.2012	Soka Gakkai International (SGI)	<b>Kosen-rufu Day (1958)</b> - a day to remember to share the benefits of Buddhist practice with friends, keeping the flow of kosen-rufu going. <b>Youth Day</b>
17.03.2012	Christian	<b>St. Patrick's Day – Patron saint of Ireland.</b>
18.03.2012	Christian	<b>Mothering Sunday.</b> This is the fourth Sunday of Lent (Simnel Sunday), when Simnel cakes are eaten.
19.03.2012	Christian	<b>St. Joseph,</b> husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
20.03.2012	Pagan	<b>Spring Equinox – Easter</b> Spring Equinox celebrates the renewed life of the Earth that comes with the Spring. It is a solar festival, celebrated when the length of the day and the night are equal (this happens twice a year, at Spring and Autumn Equinox)
21.03.2012	Baha'i	<b>Naw-Ruz.</b> Baha'i New Year.
"	Zoroastrian	<b>Jamshedi Noruz (Fasli).</b> Zoroastrian New Year in the Fasli calendar.

“	Shinto	<b>Shubun-sai – Equinox Day.</b> A day for visiting graves. Also associated with Buddhism.
23.03.2012	Hindu	<b>Ugadi (Yugadi)</b> Ugadi (literally 'the start of an era') is the New Year festival for Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in southern India. It occurs on the first day of the month of Chaitra
25.03.2012	Christian	<b>Annunciation.</b> Marks the angel Gabriel's message to the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to the incarnation of Christ. It also celebrates the incarnation itself as the date falls 9 months before Christmas.
26.03.2012	Zoroastrian	<b>Khordad Sal (Fasli). The birthday of Zoroaster.</b> Celebrated on this day in the Fasli calendar. Also known as the Greater Noruz.

## Events in April 2012

Date	Religion	Event
1.04.2012	Hindu	<b>Rama Navami. Birthday of Lord Rama</b> , an incarnation of Vishnu and the hero of Ramayana.
"	Hindu	<b>Swaminarayan Jayanti.</b> This day marks the birth of Lord Swaminarayan for followers of the Swaminarayan tradition.
"	Christian	<b>Palm Sunday.</b> The sixth and last Sunday of Lent. Marks the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and the start of the Holy week.
5.04.2012	Jain	<b>Mahavira Jayanti.</b> The birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira, the 24 <sup>th</sup> Tirthankar and the "founder" of modern Jainism.
"	Christian	<b>Maundy Thursday.</b> The day of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and established the ceremony known as the Eucharist.
6.04.2012	Jewish	<b>Fast of the First Born.</b> Observed only by firstborn males, on the day before Passover. This fast celebrates the survival of the firstborn sons from the 10 <sup>th</sup> Plague of Egypt.
"	Hindu	<b>Hanuman Jayanti.</b> This festival marks the birth of the Monkey God, Hanuman.
"	Buddhist	<b>Theravada New Year.</b> New Year festival for Theravada Buddhists, celebrated for three days from the first full moon day in April.
"	Christian	<b>Good Friday.</b> Friday before Easter, commemorating the execution of Jesus by crucifixion.
7.04.2012	Jewish	<b>Passover (First Day).</b> The start of the season of Passover when Jews commemorate the liberation of the Children of Israel who were led out of Egypt by Moses. Work is not permitted on the first two and the last two of days of Passover.
"	Christian	<b>Holy Saturday (Western)</b>
8.04.2012	Christian	<b>Easter Sunday (Western).</b> Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ – his return from death after crucifixion. The most important Christian festival. Most years Orthodox Christians celebrate Easter on a different date.
13.04.2012	Sikh	<b>Vaisakhi.</b> The Sikh New Year Festival, which also commemorates the founding of the Khalsa by the tenth Guru Gobind Singh. (Also spelled Baisakhi).
14.04.2012	Sikh	<b>Birthday of Guru Nanak</b> (Nankshahi calendar) – the founder of the Sikh religion. This festival is also currently celebrated according to the Lunar calendar, but this may change.
"	Sikh	<b>Hola Mohalla</b> (Nanakshahi calendar). Hola Mohalla is currently celebrated according to the lunar calendar, but this may change.
"	Jewish	<b>Passover – final day.</b> The eighth and final day of Passover. Note that Passover lasts for seven days in Israel.
15.04.2012	Christian	<b>Easter (Orthodox)</b>
18.04.2012	Sikh	<b>Birthday of Guru Angad Dev</b> (9 <sup>th</sup> of the ten Gurus). (Nanakshahi calendar).

“	Sikh	<b>Birthday of Guru Tegh Bahadur</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> of the ten Gurus). (Nanakshahi calendar).
19.04.2012	Jewish	<b>Yom Hashoah. The Jewish Holocaust Memorial Day.</b> The date is chosen as the closest date (in the Jewish calendar) to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.
21.04.2012	Bahai	<b>Ridvan – first day.</b> The most important Bahai festival - the start of the 12 day festival when Bahai's celebrate the day when Baha'u'llah said that he was the prophet predicted by the Bab.
“	Rastafari	<b>Anniversary of Haile Selassie's visit to Jamiaca.</b> Halie Selassi was the Emperor of Ethiopia. Rastafarians believe he is God, and that he will return to African members of the black community who are in exile.
23.04.2012	Christian	<b>St. George's Day.</b> St. George is the patron saint of England.
25.04.2012	Jewish	<b>Yom Hazikaron.</b> A day of remembrance on the day preceding Israel's Independent Day.
26.04.2012	Jewish	<b>Yom Ha'atzmaut.</b> Israel's Independent Day.
28.04.2012	SGI	<b>Declaration Day</b> (Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism established (1253))
29.04.2012	Bahai	<b>Ridvan (Ninth day).</b> This marks the arrival of Baha'u'llah's family at the Ridvan Garden.

## Events in May 2012

Date	Religion	Event
1.05.2012	Pagan	<b>Beltane.</b> Pagans celebrate Beltane with maypole dancing, symbolising the mystery of the Sacred Marriage of Goddess and God.
2.05.2012	Bahai	<b>Ridvan (Twelfth day).</b> Marks Baha'u'llah's departure from Ridvan garden.
"	Sikh	<b>Birthday of Guru Arjan Dev</b> (5 <sup>th</sup> of the ten Gurus). (Nanakshahi calendar),
3.05.2012	SGL	<b>Soka Gakkai Day</b> - On May 3, 1951, Josei Toda was inaugurated as the second Soka Gakkai president.
5.05.2012	Buddhist	<b>Wesak or Buddha Day.</b> The most important of the Buddhist festivals. It celebrates the Buddha's birthday, and, for some Buddhists, also marks his enlightenment and death.
10.05.2012	Jewish	<b>Lag B'Omer</b> A minor holiday on the 33rd day of the Omer commemorating a break in the plague during the lifetime of Rabbi Akiva.
17.05.2012	Christian	<b>Ascension Day.</b> Marks the last earthly appearance of Jesus after his resurrection. It is celebrated 40 days after Easter.
20.05.2012	Jewish	<b>Yom Yerushalayim.</b> Jerusalem Day.
"	Christian	<b>Ascension Day,</b> normally celebrated 40 days after Easter. The Catholic Church in England and Wales celebrate it on the following Sunday instead.
23.05.2012	Bahai	<b>Declaration of the Bab.</b> The Bab was the Forerunner of Baha'u'llah, founder of the Bahai faith. His mission was to prepare the world for the coming of the Baha'u'llah.
"	Sikh	<b>Birthday of Guru Amar Das</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> of the ten Gurus). (Nanakshahi calendar).
25.05.2012	Christian	<b>St Bede the Vulnerable</b> – The great Anglo-Saxon saint and scholar from Jarrow.
27.05.2012	Jewish	<b>Shavuot (first day)</b> This is a two festival that marks the time when the first harvest was taken to the Temple. Also known as the Festival of Weeks. Work is not permitted for the duration of the Festival.
"	Christian	<b>Pentecost – Whitsun.</b> The 7 <sup>th</sup> day after Easter, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and the birth of the Christian Church.
29.05.2012	Bahai	<b>Ascension of Baha'u'llah.</b> Anniversary of the Baha'u'llah's death in Israel.

## Events in June 2012

Date	Religion	Event
3.6.2012	Christian	<b>Trinity Sunday.</b> The first Sunday after Pentecost. Christians meditate on the nature of God as 'Three in One'.
6.06.2012	SGI	<b>SGI – Europe Day</b>
7.06.2012	Christian	<b>Corpus Christi</b> Roman Catholic festival celebrating the "real presence of Christ in the Eucharist". The festival falls on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday.
10.06.2012	Christian	<b>All Saints' Day (Orthodox).</b> This day honours all saints, known and unknown, of the Christian church. Western churches celebrate All Saints Day on 1 <sup>st</sup> November.
“	Christian	<b>Corpus Christi</b> (Catholic Church of England and Wales) Corpus Christi falls on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. The Catholic Church in England and Wales celebrates it on the following Sunday instead.
16.06.2012	Sikh	<b>Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev</b> (5 <sup>th</sup> of the ten Gurus). (Nanakshahi calendar). The first Sikh martyr. He also compiled all of the past Gurus' writings into one book, which is now the Sikh holy scripture: the Guru Granth Sahib.
20.06.2012	Pagan	<b>Summer Solstice – Litha.</b> Longest day of the year.
29.06.2012	Christian	<b>St. Peter's Day.</b> Observed by Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran churches. One of the oldest saints' days.



## Events in July 2012

Date	Religion	Event
3.07.2012	Buddhist	<b>Asala – Dharma Day.</b> The anniversary of the start of Buddha’s teaching – his first sermon, “The Wheel of Truth”, after his enlightenment.
4.07.2012	SGI	<b>Day of Mentor and Disciple</b> - the aim of the mentor-disciple relationship in Buddhism is not that the mentor exacts obedience from the disciple, but that the mentor seeks to train the disciple to achieve an even greater state of development than that of the mentor.
5.07.2012	Sikh	<b>Birthday of Guru Hargobind</b> (6 <sup>th</sup> of the ten Gurus). (Nanakshahi calendar).
8.07.2012	Jewish	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Tammuz</b> , an important Jewish fast day.
9.07.2012	Bahai	<b>Martyrdom of the Bab.</b> Anniversary of the Bab’s execution in Iran.
15.07.2012	Christian	<b>St. Swithin’s Day.</b> Swithin (or Swithun) was a Saxon bishop in the 9 <sup>th</sup> Century. Legend has it that the weather on his feast day, 15 <sup>th</sup> July, will determine the weather for the next 40 days.
18.07.2012	Zoroastrian	<b>Jamshedi Noruz</b> , Zoroastrian New Year. (Shenshai calendar).
19.07.2012	Zoroastrian	<b>Jamshedi Noruz</b> , Zoroastian’s New Year (Qadami calendar).
20.07.2012	Muslim	<b>Ramadan.</b> Muslim month of fasting period starts.
22.07.2012	Christian	<b>St Mary Magdalene</b> – Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran and Eastern Orthodox churches consider the first person to see Jesus at his resurrection a saint. She is also important in the Bahá’í faith
23.07.2012	Rastafari	<b>Birthday of Haile Selassie I.</b> Haile Selassie was the Emperor of Ethiopia. Rastafarians believe he is God, and that he will return to African members of the black community who are in exile.
“	Sikh	<b>Birthday of Guru Har Krishen</b> (8 <sup>th</sup> of the ten Gurus). (Nanakshahi calendar).
24.07.2012	Mormon	<b>Pioneer Day.</b> Commemorates the arrival of the first Latter Day Saints pioneers in Salt Lake City. In 1847.
“	Zoroastrian	<b>Khordad Sal</b> (Qadami calendar). The birthday of Zoroaster.
“	Zoroastrian	<b>Khordad Sal</b> – also birthday of Zoroaster (Shenshai calendar).
29.07.2012	Jewish	<b>Tisha b’Av.</b> A solemn day that commemorates a series of tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people over the years, many of which have coincidentally happened on this day.

## Events in August 2012

Date	Religion	Event
1.08.2012	Pagan	<b>Lughnasadh – Lammas.</b> A harvest festival and one of the Pagan festivals of Celtic origin which split the year into four.
2.08.2012	Hindu	<b>Raksha Bandhan.</b> Hindu festival that celebrates brotherhood and love. ‘Raksha Bandhan’ means a thread of protection.
6.08.2012	Christian	<b>Transfiguration.</b> Orthodox Christian feast commemorating the sudden emanation of radiance from the person of Jesus that occurred on the mountain.
10.08.2012	Hindu	<b>Janmashtami – Krishna Jayanti.</b> This festival marks the birth of Krishna, the most highly venerated deity in the Hindu pantheon.
14.08.2012	Muslim	<b>Lailat al Qadr – Lailat al Qadr,</b> the Night of Power, marks the night in which the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad by Allah.
15.08.2012	Christian	<b>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.</b> A largely Roman Catholic belief that the mother of Jesus was taken body and soul into heaven.
“	Christian	<b>Dormition of the Theotokos.</b> An Orthodox festival that commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ's mother. ‘Dormition’ means “falling asleep”.
17.08.2012	Rastafari	<b>Birthday of Marcus Garvey,</b> the Jamaican politician who predicted the crowning of a King in Africa, and instigated the ‘Back to Africa’ movement.
18.08.2012	Zoroastrian	<b>Jamshedi Noruz (Shenshai) –</b> Zoroastrian New Year's Day in the Shenshai calendar.
19.08.2012	Muslim	<b>Eid-ul-Fitr.</b> The end of Ramadan when Muslims celebrate the end of fasting and thank Allah for His help with their month long act of self-control.
23.08.2012	Zoroastrian	<b>Khordad Sal (shenshai) –</b> The birthday of Zoroaster, celebrated on this date in the Shenshai calendar.

## Events in September 2012

Date	Religion	Event
8.09.2012	Christian	<b>Nativity of Thoetokos.</b> Orthodox Christians celebrate the birth of the Virgin Mary.
“	Christian	<b>Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary.</b> Celebrated by the Roman Catholics.
“	Christian	<b>Feast of the Birth of Mary.</b> Orthodox, Roman Catholics and Anglican Churches celebrate the birth of the Virgin Mary.
11.09.2012	Rastafari	<b>Ethiopian New Year.</b> The start of the New Year in Ethiopia is recognised because Rastafarians believe Ethiopia to be their spiritual homeland, and a place to which they want to return.
14.09.2012	Christian	<b>The Triumph of the Cross –</b> Catholics and Orthodox Christians reflect on the salvation they believe inherent in the symbol of the Cross.
17.09.2012	Jewish	<b>Rosh Hashanah.</b> Jewish New Year, a two day festival during which work is not permitted.
19.09.2012	Jewish	<b>Fast of Gedalliah.</b> Fast in memory of the assassination of Gedalliah Ben Achkam, King of Babylonia.
20.09.2012	Jain	<b>Paryushana.</b> The most important Jain festival, consisting of eight (Swetambara) or ten (Digambara) days of intensive fasting and repentance. A time for reflection.
22.09.2012	Pagan	<b>Autumn Equinox.</b> Autumn Equinox (also known as Mabon or Harvest Home) is celebrated when day and night are of equal duration before the descent into increasing darkness and is the final festival of the season of harvest.
23.09.2012	Catholic	<b>Saint Pio of Pietrelcina –</b> Catholics honour the 20th century Italian stigmatist, popularly known as Padre Pio.
26.09.2012	Jewish	<b>Yom Kippur.</b> Day of atonement – the most solemn day of he Jewish year.
29.09.2012	Christian	<b>St. Michael’s Day (Michaelmus).</b> A feast day in honour of archangel Michael, one of the only two angels mentioned by name in the Bible (the one is Gabriel).

## Events in October 2012

Date	Religion	Event
1.10.2012	Jewish	<b>Sukkot or Feast of Tabernacles.</b> Commemorated the years that the Jews spent in the desert on their way up to the Promised Land, and celebrates the way in which God took special care of them under impossible conditions. Sukkot lasts for seven days, and work is not permitted on the first two days.
2.10.2012	Christian	<b>Feast of the Guardian Angels</b> A Catholic festival celebrated annually on 2 October in honour of guardian angels.
7.10.2012	Jewish	<b>Hoshana Rabbah</b> , the 7 <sup>th</sup> Day of Sukkot.
8.10.2012	Jewish	<b>Shemini Atzeret</b> – the assembly of the 8 <sup>th</sup> day. In Israel the festival is combined with Simchat Torah.
9.10.2011	Sikh	<b>Birthday of Guru Ram Das</b> (4 <sup>th</sup> of the ten Gurus). (Nanakshahi calendar).
“	Jewish	<b>Simchat Torah</b> – Rejoicing in the Torah. This marks the completion of the yearly cycle of weekly Torah reading.
12.10.2012	SGI	<b>Anniversary of the Inscription of Dai-Gohonzon (1270)</b>
13.10.2012	Christian	<b>St. Edward's Day.</b> Edward the Confessor, King of England, built the Westminster Abbey where there is a shrine to him, and where the saint is also celebrated on January 5 <sup>th</sup> each year, the anniversary of his death.
16.10.2012	Hindu	<b>Navaratri</b> (nine nights), symbolises the triumph of good over evil and marks the start of autumn.
20.10.2012	Baha'i	<b>Birth of the Bab.</b> Celebrates the birth of the precursor of the founder of the Baha'i faith.
24.10.2012	Hindu & Sikh	<b>Dusseera.</b> Celebrates the birth of victory over the evil demon Ravana.
26.10.2012	Muslim	<b>Eid - Ul – Adha.</b> Festival of Sacrifice marking the day after Arafat. The Day of Arafat is the most important day in the Hajj ritual. This is a four day holiday.
31.10.2012	Christian	<b>Hallowe'en</b> (All Hallow' Eve). The night before All Saints' Day (All Hallows' Day). Its origins date back over 2000 years to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain.
“	Pagan	<b>Samhain</b> (Hallowe'en). (Pronounced 'sow inn') marks the Feast of the Dead. Many Pagans also celebrate it as the Old Celtic New Year (although some mark it as Imbolc).

## Events in November 2012

Date	Religion	Event
1.11.2012	Christian	<b>All Saints' Day</b> (Hallowmas, All Hallows'). (Catholic Churches in England and Wales). This is when Anglicans and Roman Catholics honour all saints, known and unknown, of the Christian faith. Orthodox churches celebrate it on the first Sunday after Pentecost.
2.11.2012	Christian	<b>All Souls' Day.</b> An opportunity when Roman Catholics and Anglo-Catholic churches commemorate the faithful departed. They remember and pray for the souls of people who are in Purgatory; All Souls' Day is celebrated on 3 <sup>rd</sup> November if the 2 <sup>nd</sup> is a Sunday.
"	Rastafari	<b>Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie I.</b> Haile Selassie was the Emperor of Ethiopia. Rastas believe he is God, and that he will return to African members of the black community who are living in exile.
11.11.2012	Multi-faith	<b>Armistice Day</b> (Remembrance Day). Marks the end of the First World War on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. At 11.00 hours on this day people in UK pause for 2 minutes silence to remember those who gave their lives in past conflicts.
"	Multi-faith	<b>Remembrance Sunday.</b> The second Sunday of November is marked by ceremonies at war memorials and cenotaphs to remember those who gave up their lives in conflicts.
12.11.2012	Baha'i	<b>Birth of Baha'u'llah.</b> Celebrates the birth of the founder of the Baha'i faith.
13.11.2012	Hindu	<b>Diwali</b> (Deepavali). The festival of lights is the most popular of all the festivals from South Asia. It is an occasion for celebrations by Hindus, Jains and Sikhs.
"	Jain	<b>Diwali</b> (Deepavali). The festival of lights is the most popular of all the festivals from South Asia. It is an occasion for celebrations by Hindus, Jains and Sikhs.
"	Sikh	<b>Diwali</b> (Deepavali). The festival of lights is the most popular of all the festivals from South Asia. It is an occasion for celebrations by Hindus, Jains and Sikhs.
15.11.2012	Muslim	<b>Al-Hijira.</b> Islamic New Year. Marks the migration of the Prophet Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina.
"	Shinto	<b>Shichigosan</b> (7- 5- 3 festival). A festival to give thanks for children. Often celebrated on the nearest Sunday to the 15 <sup>th</sup> to allow working parents to take part.
17.11.2012	Christian	<b>St Hilda –</b> The 7th century Northumbrian monastic and saint.
18.11.2012	SGI	<b>Celebration of Founding of Soka -</b> The word "soka," which was coined by Toda and Makiguchi, is a combination of Chinese characters meaning "create" and "value."
23.11.2012	Shinto	<b>Niinamesei.</b> Labour Thanksgiving Day, a national holiday in Japan and originally a harvest festival.
24.11.2012	Sikh	<b>Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur</b> (9 <sup>th</sup> of the ten Gurus). (Nanakshahi calendar). He is honoured as a champion of religious freedom. He was executed for refusing to convert into Islam.
"	Muslim	<b>Ashura.</b> Islamic holy day observed on the 10 <sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Muharram. Shi'ite Muslims

		regard it a major festival marking the martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson, Hussein.
26.11.2012	Baha'i	<b>Day of the Covenant.</b> This minor festival celebrates the covenant of the Baha'u'llah. Bahai's mark the life of 'Abdu'l-Baha' on this day.
28.11.2012	Sikh	<b>Birthday of Guru Nanak</b> (Nanakshahi calendar). The festival may be celebrated by some on 14 <sup>th</sup> April.
"	Baha'i	<b>Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha.</b> Marks the death of the son of Baha'u'laah. This is a minor holy day and work is not suspended.
"	SGI	<b>Spiritual Independence Day</b> Anniversary of the excommunication of SGI from Nichiren Shoshu (1991)
30.11.2012	Christian	<b>St. Andrew's Day.</b> Saint Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, Greece and Russia. The flag of Scotland is the Cross of St. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was originally a fisherman and became the first Apostle.



## Events in December 2012

Date	Religion	Event
2.12.2012	Christian	<b>Advent Sunday.</b> The beginning of the ecclesiastical year on the Sunday closest to November 30 <sup>th</sup> . Advent is the season before Christmas. In Western Christianity, four Sundays are included. In Eastern Christianity, the season is longer and begins in the middle of November.
8.12.2012	Christian	<b>Feast of the Immaculate Conception.</b> Celebrated by Roman Catholics who remember Mary's conception as being without sin, therefore, immaculate.
"	Buddhist	<b>Bodhi Day.</b> On Bodhi Day some Buddhists celebrate Gautama's attainment of enlightenment under the Bodhi tree at Bodhgaya, India.
9.12.2012	Jewish	<b>Hanukka.</b> Festival of Lights, and marks the restoration of the temple by the Maccabees. Hanukka is celebrated at roughly the same time as Christmas, but there is no connection at all between the festivals.
12.12.2012	Catholic	Our Lady of Gaudeloupe – Celebrated by Roman Catholics throughout Central and South America who honour the Empress of the Americas. Peter Owen Jones joined over 5 million pilgrims in Guadeloupe.
13.12.2012	Christian	<b>St. Lucy's Day</b> or the Feast of Saint Lucy is marked by Catholics and Orthodox Christians and also celebrated by members of the Lutheran Church.
16.12.2012	Jewish	<b>Hanukka (Chanuka) – Last day</b>
21.12.2012	Pagan	<b>Winter Solstice.</b> Yule is the time of the winter solstice, when the sun child is reborn, an image of the return of all new life born through the love of the Gods. Within the Northern Tradition Yule is regarded as the New Year.
24.12.2012	Christian	<b>Christmas Eve. The day before Christmas.</b>
25.12.2012	Christian	<b>Christmas Day.</b> The day when Western Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus.
26.12.2012	Secular	<b>Boxing Day.</b> The day after Christmas Day. A secular festival.
"	Christian	<b>St. Stephen's Day.</b> St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, is celebrated on this day by Roman Catholics. The day is also called Feast of Stephen.