

Latest News March 2011

Sikh Gurdwara visit for Solihull

The Solihull Partnership is working with the Solihull Faiths' Forum to promote awareness of faith festivities across the council. Members, staff and faith communities are being invited to attend the **Gurdwara Nishkam Sewak Jatha** in Birmingham – a place of worship for Sikhs – **on Tuesday 12 April**, as part of next month's Vaisakhi festival, celebrating the Sikh New Year.



The visit will consist of a two-hour site tour of the marble-encrusted Gurdwara, and includes a reading of the Sikh Scripture – Guru Granth Sahib Ji – followed by a recitation of sacred hymns. The service will end with a final prayer followed by Prashaad – a holy sweet. A serving of Langar will also be available afterwards – sacramental vegetarian food from the guru's kitchen.

Vaisakhi, traditionally celebrated on 13/14 April, is a very special and joyous occasion in Sikh households, marking the New Year and the beginning of the harvest season in Punjab, India. In 1699, Sikhism was established as a collective faith. Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Master of the Sikhs, chose Vaisakhi as the occasion to transform Sikhs into a strict code of conduct and, with uncut hair, beard and turban, gave the Sikhs a distinct identity.

The message of Vaisakhi has particular relevance in today's multi-cultural society as the festival promotes friendship and mutual respect as the way forward.

BOOKING: A choice of a daytime or evening visit at either 10am or 6pm is available; Please read the [guidelines for etiquette](#) (also available overleaf) for visiting the Gurdwara.

To confirm your place email [Lydia Cheney](#). Please check with your line manager before making your booking, and please make your own transport arrangements.

For further information contact Nick Tromans on 6145 or ntromans@solihull.gov.uk

Vaisakhi 2011 Open Air Celebrations

Also due to take place in April is the annual Vaisakhi open air celebrations in Handsworth, Birmingham, where people of all faiths join together to celebrate the biggest event in the Sikh calendar.

[Further information about the event will be available nearer the time.](#)

For media enquiries please contact Rav Jagdev, Partnership Marketing and Communications Officer, on 0121 704 8117 or rjagdev@solihull.gov.uk