



Seven Key Areas

Key Area 7 Celebration

Contact us at:
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Celebration lies at the heart of all major faiths. It is a core element of faith practice, worship and festivals, and rites of passage such as birth, marriage and, yes, even death. At a time when the climate crisis and environmental challenge may seem insurmountable, celebrating nature and creation is more important than ever before. Because focusing on fear, doom and guilt all the time paralyses people rather than inspires them – and if something is worth celebrating, it is worth saving!

This guideline provides prompts and pointers to help you identify what steps you can take to integrate Celebration into your Faith Plan.

Steps and questions to consider as you develop your Faith Plan

<i>Name of faith community/group/organisation</i>	
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Traditional festivals

Questions	Space for notes and comments
1. What does your faith say about celebrating nature and creation? Have you thought about listing the reasons why it should be celebrated?	
2. Does your faith already hold specific festivals that focus on the natural environment – for example a tree festival or a 'Celebration of Creation'? Could these times of joy and connection be linked to extending ambition or launching new initiatives?	
3. How can traditional festivals become more environmentally friendly?	

<p>What practical changes can you make, such as sourcing local, sustainably produced food, reducing waste or switching to environmentally-friendly decorations?</p>	
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New festivals

<p>1. If you don't currently have a festival of creation in your tradition, could you take an existing festival or custom and adapt its practices and rituals so that there is a more impactful environmental message?</p>	
<p>2. Have you considered creating a brand-new dedicated time of celebration of creation? Where could a new celebration fit within your faith calendar?</p>	
<p>3. If you create a new festival, how often will it be held or celebrated?</p>	

<p>4. Will new festivals be adopted by the faith group globally or in small, specific communities?</p>	
<p>5. How can you ensure that new festivals do not use unnecessary resources that may harm the environment?</p>	
<p>6. How will you fund and resource your new festivals?</p>	

Introducing new traditions

<p>Next steps: <i>Have you considered other stakeholders?</i></p>	
<p>1. Many religious leaders value tradition so much that they have no hesitation in introducing new ones. Perhaps you can introduce a new practice which will be wonderful for Creation as well as for people? The faiths are experts at bringing people together, and their places of worship are often</p>	

wonderful buildings for holding forums for events.	
2. Considering this, could you open up your place of worship for a party or fete on environmental issues; create a forum for debate; issue an invitation to people in your wider community inviting them to come and tell their story?	
3. How would you advertise such events and have you considered the environmental impacts of doing so, such as the use of materials for leaflets?	

Celebrating beautiful places and new developments

1. The natural world, despite the challenges it faces, is still a beautiful place. Sometimes it is the role of faiths, amid distressing ecological predictions, to remind people to celebrate the beautiful, good, heroic and brave things about the world and about life. Do you take time personally to celebrate the environment? Can your personal experiences be shared with others to inspire them?	
2. Can you celebrate good new developments, efforts to protect habitats and ecosystems better, and give thanks? Could you encourage new habits of celebration among members of your	

community in a dedicated space?	
3. How can you remind your faithful to give thanks for the world we live in and all its beauty?	

For more information...

Watch the Faith Plans webinar on [Celebration](#) to hear examples from experts and to access links to key resources.

Explore the resources provided by our partners on these topics:

Traditional festivals

- Church of England: [Creationtide](#) or Season of Creation
- Catholic resources for [Season of Creation](#)
- EAT Foundation – [sustainable food sourcing for event catering](#)
- [Earth and the Jewish Festivals](#): a paper by Rabbi Arthur Waskow
- Orthodox: [Orthodox Creation Care toolkit](#)

Case studies

Why celebrate the earth?

CelebrationEarth!

In September 2020, a series of short films celebrating the contribution of faith groups, artists and conservationists in protecting nature were released as part of a programme line-up of EarthX TV – a new global TV platform dedicated to raising awareness of environmental and social global issues.

The first of the nine videos produced sees Martin Palmer, CEO of FaithInvest and Patron of the Faith Plans, and Miranda Krestovnikoff, Broadcaster and President of the RSPB, discuss why we could be celebrating the Earth.

Watch the 20-minute video [here](#).

Muslim activist helps a new green tradition take root

Greening Friday, Uganda

Just over a decade ago, Hajjat Sebyala Aphwa, a Ugandan social activist, attended an interfaith forum run by the British Council in Nigeria, looking at climate change in Africa.

Inspired, when she returned to her home in Kampala, Uganda, she was determined to do something to raise awareness of the issues among her fellow Muslims. Hajjat immediately went to the Uganda Supreme Muslim Council, which represents most of the country's 5.7 million Muslim community – and so Greening Friday was born.

Greening Friday is an annual day for Muslims to celebrate the environment and since it was first held in 2010, it has become firmly established in the Uganda Muslim calendar. It is held on the second Friday of Ramadan every year, which means huge numbers of people get to hear the environmental message that is preached in the sermon (*kutba*) that day, and it is also broadcast live across Uganda via Muslim radio.

[Click here](#) to read the full story.