

## Women's Interfaith Coffee Mornings In Merton



Our first Women's Interfaith Coffee Morning in Merton took place during Hospitality Month in March last year. Hosted at the Shree Ghanapathy Temple in Wimbledon, it was a great success and was attended by ladies from the Christian, Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu faiths. We had a delightful few hours, exchanging views on faith, politics and the

meaning of life! And we were enjoying ourselves so much that we didn't realise we had run over our allotted time by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour! But it was a lovely first attempt, at very short notice, and we all resolved to carry it forward. Women members of the Tooting Islamic Centre then hosted a Women's Interfaith Coffee Morning at their mosque and local Muslim School, which was a wonderful and informative event and this was followed by a local Christian Church hosting a similar event.

This year, we hope to encourage women from many more organisations to take part, and to also host events. It would be wonderful if we could aim to have a Women's Interfaith Coffee Morning once a month, hosted at a different place of worship each time. **And the ladies of the Baitul Futuh Mosque in Morden have very kindly agreed to host the first of these Coffee Mornings on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012 from 10.30am-12.30pm.** So please do come and support them and please think about hosting a similar event at your own place of worship.

It's really easy to do - we have even created a universal banner that can be used at each event! We can also provide tea urns and large thermos flask pourers and also help with the basic things needed for a coffee morning – tea, coffee and biscuits etc. to help the event along, if needed.

Many of us have been to schools in the UK and also to university, where we were able to mix with women from many different faiths and backgrounds. Some ladies from certain faiths are never given that opportunity. So we would like to see if we can help to encourage interfaith dialogue on a monthly basis and, as we all know, women are the peacemakers! So we should easily be able to solve the problems of the world over a good cup of tea in good company!

For further information, or to book a Coffee Morning month, please contact Geetha Maheshwaran or Evereth Willis on 020 8545 4637 or email : [Evereth.Willis@merton.gov.uk](mailto:Evereth.Willis@merton.gov.uk)