

SACRE Collective Worship- September 2016 – (the table below shows only the 6 religions referred to in the Wirral Agreed Syllabus)

Day	Hinduism 	Judaism 	Buddhism 	Christianity 	Islam 	Sikhism 	Information
1				HARVEST FESTIVAL <i>Dates vary</i> Special services are held around this time of year to give thanks for the goodness of God's gifts in providing a harvest of crops along with all the other fruits of society. Displays of produce are often made, usually distributed afterwards to those in need. Increasingly the emphasis is on a wider interpretation than just the harvests of the fields and seas.		INSTALLATION OF THE SIKH SCRIPTURE IN THE HARMANDIR SAHIB Amritsar 1604 CE	In 1604, in the place of worship where the Golden Temple now stands, the Sikhs' fifth <i>Guru</i> , Arjan Dev, installed for the first time the <i>Adi Granth</i> , a volume of scripture for the Sikh community. It consisted of the hymns of the first five <i>Gurus</i> plus those of other 'saint-poets'. Hymns by the ninth <i>Guru</i> , Tegh Bahadur, were later incorporated in the scripture, so forming the present <i>Guru Granth Sahib</i> .
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3					DHUL-HIJJAH 3 – 13 Sep.		For Muslims the first 10 days of the month of Dhul-Hijjah are very holy when good deeds are particularly rewarded by God. These days are the allotted days for the Hajj (pilgrimage) and the first day of Eid-ul-Adha (the feast of sacrifice).
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5	GANESH CHATURTHI (BIRTHDAY OF						Ganesh Chaturthi / Vinayaka Chaturthi is a Hindu festival in honour of Ganesh/Ganesha, (also known as Ganapati and Vinayaka), the god of good fortune and new beginnings. A popular story explains why

	GANESH						Ganesha, the son of Parvati and Shiva, has the head of an elephant. This festival is particularly significant for Hindus from Maharashtra and is celebrated in a major way in Mumbai. Celebrations can last one, five or ten days, and will conclude with the immersion in water of the image of Ganesh.
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11					HAJJ / PILGRIMAGE TO MAKKAH 11-15 September		All Muslims who can afford to do so, and are not prevented through ill-health, are required to make this pilgrimage once in their lifetime (although there is no prohibition on making the pilgrimage more than once). A series of ritual acts are performed by the pilgrims during the first two days of Hajj, prior to the three day festival of Eid-al-Adha which is celebrated in Makkah by the pilgrims.
12					YAUM- ARAFAH/ THE DAY OF ARAFAT (9th Dhul- Hijjah)		The culminating event of the annual pilgrimage to Makkah. Muslims who are on <i>Hajj</i> spend the day in prayer on Mount Arafat to commemorate the end of the revelation of the <i>Qur'an</i> to the Prophet. <i>Surah 5: 4</i>
13					EID-UL- ADHA/THE FESTIVAL OF SACRIFICE (10th Dhul- Hijjah) <i>Muslim</i>		This major festival (<i>al-Eid al-Kabir</i>) marks the end of the <i>Hajj</i> on the tenth day of the twelfth month of <i>Dhul-Hijja</i> . The <i>Hajj</i> is one of the five pillars of Islam. Pilgrims sacrifice animals at the village of Mina on their way back to Makkah from Mount Arafat (where they have spent the first day of the festival) in commemoration of Ibrahim's (Abraham's) willingness to sacrifice his son, Ismail. Muslims all over the world sacrifice an animal if they can afford it. Much of the meat is distributed to the poor, and some is shared with relatives and friends. <i>Surah 37:99-111, 22:26-33 and 3:96-97.</i>

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17		SUKKOT					A seven day harvest festival also known as the Feast of Tabernacles, which commemorates the 40 years that the Jews spent in the wilderness on the way from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. A temporary hut or booth – called a <i>sukkah</i> – is used during this time for eating meals and for visits and socialising. In hot countries families may live in their <i>sukkah</i> during the festival. The roof, which has to be open in part to the elements, is covered with branches and decorated with fruit. Four species of plant, the <i>lulav</i> (palm branch), the <i>etrog</i> (a yellow citrus fruit), the <i>hadas</i> (myrtle) and the <i>aravah</i> (willow) are used at the festival.
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21					THE FESTIVAL OF THE POOL/EID UL GHADEER (or GHADIR) (18h Dhul- Hijjah) <i>Muslim (Shi'a)</i>		This is a festival observed by Shi'a Muslims. It commemorates an event shortly before the death of the Prophet. When returning from Makkah to Medina after his final pilgrimage, the Prophet, who was travelling with many thousands of his followers, stopped at an oasis (the pool of Khumm) to deliver a sermon. While preaching he is believed by Shi'a Muslims to have raised the hand of Ali, his cousin and son-in-law, and proclaimed, 'For whoever I am his leader, Ali is his leader. O God, love those who love him, and be hostile to those who are hostile to him'. After this statement the Prophet revealed an <i>ayah</i> (verse) of the Qur'an: 'Today I have perfected your religion and completed my favour upon you, and I was satisfied that Islam be your religion' (<i>Qur'an</i> 5, 3.) For Shi'a Muslims the 'perfecting' of the religion of Islam was the announcement concerning Ali, which they understand to be his clear appointment to be successor to the prophet as the spiritual and temporal leader of Islam.
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1	NAVARATRI <i>1-9 October</i> Navaratri means nine nights, and this is the length of the festival.						Hindus from different areas celebrate in different ways. In north India the Ram Lila is performed each night, in celebration of Lord Rama's victory over Ravana. Families from Gujarat gather, wherever they are in the world, to participate in circle dances associated with the Goddess and Lord Krishna. Many Punjabis worship the Goddess daily during Navaratri, and observe a strictly vegetarian diet.
2	GANDHI JAYANTI						Gandhi Jayanti is an Indian holiday that celebrates the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, who is referred to as the 'Father of the Nation'. His birthday is celebrated with services, prayers and painting and essay contests with topics that glorify peace and non-violence, and the singing of Gandhi's favourite devotional song.
3		ROSH HASHANAH 3 – 4 October New Year's Day, Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of ten days of repentance and self examination, during which G-d sits in personal judgment on every individual. The blowing of the ram's horn (<i>shofar</i>) in the synagogue is a reminder of			ISLAMIC NEW YEAR 1438		This day commemorates the <i>Hijra</i> or migration of the Prophet Muhammad from Makkah to Medina in 622 CE, which led to the establishment of the Muslim community there. The day is not universally celebrated amongst Sunni Muslims but is notable as Muslim years are dated from this time and are marked AH (After the <i>Hijrah</i>). In 2015 CE the Muslim year 1437 AH begins. For some Muslim communities this is a day of celebration at the mosque, where stories are told of the Prophet and his Companions. For the Shi'a community the more important significance is that this is the first day of the period of fasting, mourning and remembrance leading up to Ashura.

		Abraham's sacrifice of a ram instead of his son, Isaac. Apples dipped in honey are eaten in the hope of a 'sweet' new year. Genesis 22, Leviticus 23:24-25.					
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7	DURGA PUJA						In Nepal, Bangladesh and (in India) West Bengal and other north eastern areas, Durga Puja is the biggest annual festival and lasts several days. In Kolkata hundreds of <i>pandals</i> (decorated temporary shrines) are put up. The Goddess's slaying of the demon, Mahishasura, is celebrated, and in Nepal the celebration involves animal sacrifices. The festival ends with the immersion of figures of Durga in rivers and sea.
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11	DUSSEHRA / VIJAYA DASHAMI						In north India the day after Navaratri is celebrated as the 'victorious tenth' (Vijaya Dashami) and huge figures of Ravana are filled with fireworks and burned on Ram Lila grounds (public areas). In the UK some temple congregations carry this out on a smaller scale.
12		YOM KIPPUR (DAY OF ATONEMENT) The final day of the ten days of			ASHURA (10th Muharram)		For Sunni Muslims this is one of the two days of a minor fast that the Prophet kept in his lifetime. The second day of the fast may be observed either on the day preceding or the day following the 10th of Muharram. For Shi'a Muslims this is a day when they

		repentance, and is the holiest day of the year in the Jewish calendar and it is marked by 'afflicting the soul' – expressed through a total fast lasting 25 hours. Jews spend the eve and most of the day in prayer, asking for forgiveness and resolving to improve. The Book of Jonah is read.					recall a great tragedy that took place on Muharram 10, AH 61 (680 CE). The Imam Husayn (son of Ali and Fatimah and therefore grandson of the Prophet) travelling with his family and many followers, was attacked by the troops of the Caliph Yazid. After eight days without water Husayn was killed and his family and followers massacred at Karbala (now in Iraq). Shi'a Muslims remember the events in the days leading up to Ashura when they fast and recall these terrible events.
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20						CONFERRING OF GURUSHIP ON THE GURU GRANTH SAHIB BY GURU GOBIND SINGH.	In 1708, shortly before his death, Guru Gobind Singh (tenth Guru) said that, instead of having a human Guru, from now on the scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib, would be Guru.
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24			PAVARANA				The last day of the Rains Retreat (the <i>Vassa</i>) is known as <i>Pavarana</i> Day or 'Leaving the <i>Vassa</i> '. <i>Pavarana</i> means 'to invite' and on this day monks who have completed the Retreat invite their fellows to admonish them for any failings. It is also known as ' <i>Sangha</i> Day'.
25		SIMCHAT TORAH					This festival, which means 'Rejoicing in the <i>Torah</i> ', marks the completion of the annual cycle of reading from the <i>Torah</i> . As the reading should be continuous, a second scroll is begun again as soon as the final portion of the <i>Torah</i> has been read from the first scroll; so, as the reading from Deuteronomy ends, with the next breath, Genesis begins without a break – the <i>Torah</i> is a circle that never ends. Most progressive Jews celebrate this one day earlier, combining it with the eighth day of Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret.
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30	DIVALI / DEEPAVALI This is a New Year festival 1-5 days long. Lights are hung out, fireworks lit. A festival of light, coinciding with the darkest night of the month. Generally Linked to the return of Rama and Sita from exile.					DIVALI (Bandi Chhor Divas) <i>Sikh</i>	Sikhs also celebrate Divali since Guru Hargobind, the sixth Guru, was released from Gwalior prison on this day. The Guru refused to accept release when it was offered him by the Emperor Jehangir unless 52 imprisoned Hindu princes were also given their freedom. To meet the Emperor's condition that only those who could hold on to his cloak could leave the prison, the Guru had a coat with long tassels made. The Golden Temple in Amritsar is illuminated at this time and firework displays take place there. It is a time for new clothes, presents and sweets.

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INTER FAITH WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE, 16-23 October. Prayers from the literature of several different world religions are published each year in a special leaflet for use in this week. This custom receives the support of members from many different religious communities.

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1			ANAPASATI DAY The last day on which the <i>Kathina</i> may be held. On the final day of the three months long Rains Retreat, it is observed by monks in the Theravada tradition. Cloth is presented to the <i>Sangha</i> by members of the lay Buddhist community, and this is transformed into a <i>Kathina</i> robe, made up by sewing patches of cloth together. This is then presented by the monks present to one particular monk, often a virtuous one,	ALL SAINTS' DAY <i>Christian (Western Churches)</i> <i>(The Catholic Church in England and Wales moves this festival to the nearest Sunday if it falls on a Saturday or a Monday.)</i>			This day provides a chance to offer thanks for the work and witness of all Christian saints, recognising that not all are known or specially celebrated.
2				ALL SOULS' DAY			On this day in particular the departed are remembered and prayers on their behalf are offered. From earliest times Christians have prayed for the souls of the dead. In the year 998, All Souls, 'the faithful departed', began to be remembered in the Church calendar on this day.

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14			<p>LOY KRATONG 22-25 November - is celebrated in most of the village and town temples in Thailand and often coincides with a temple's Kathina Day. Degradable baskets are made and filled with folded banana leaves, incense sticks, a candle and sometimes a coin. These are launched on rivers, canals ponds or the sea, while a wish for good fortune is offered to the spirits of the water. Eels and turtles are sometimes liberated into the water at this time.</p>			<p>BIRTHDAY OF GURU NANAK</p>	<p>Although the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak, was born in April 1469, his birth anniversary (one of Sikhs' most widely celebrated <i>gurpurbs</i>) is still generally celebrated on the full moon day of the lunar month of Kartik. As is the case with other <i>gurpurbs</i>, an <i>akhand path</i> (a complete, unbroken reading of the Guru Granth Sahib) commences two days earlier so that it ends on the morning of the festival.</p>
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24						MARTYRDOM OF GURU TEGH BAHADUR	1675 - As ordered by the Mughal emperor, Aurangzeb, the ninth Guru was beheaded (in Sis Ganj, near Chandi Chowk in Old Delhi) for upholding Kashmiri Brahmins' refusal to convert to Islam. These Hindus had turned to him for help and he had told them to inform Aurangzeb that they would convert if the Guru converted. Guru Tegh Bahadur is honoured for sacrificing his head rather than his faith for the religious freedom of those of a different religious persuasion from himself.
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27				ADVENT SUNDAY <i>Christian (Western Churches)</i>			The start of the Christian year, four Sundays before Christmas. It is often celebrated by lighting the first candle in the advent crown – a circular wreath of greenery. A further three candles are lit on subsequent Sundays, culminating with the Christmas candle on the 25th December. This signifies the transition from darkness to light, the light of Christ coming into the world.
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30			ASALHA PUJA Dhammacakka day – <i>'The turning of the wheel of teaching'</i> . This is a Theravada celebration of the First Proclamation by Gautama to five	ST ANDREW'S DAY			Andrew was brother of St Peter, and the first disciple to follow Jesus. He was crucified at Patras in Greece and has been patron saint of Scotland since the 8th century. In the Anglican communion he is associated with missionary activity.

			ascetics in the Deer Park near Benares. In it he taught the Middle Way, the Noble Eightfold Path and the Four Noble Truths.				

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8			BODHI DAY -Some Buddhists celebrate Gautama's attainment of Enlightenment on this day under the <i>Bodhi</i> tree in Bodh Gaya, North India.	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY			Celebrates the doctrine held mainly by Roman Catholics that Mary herself was born free from Original Sin, leaving her sinless for the conception and bearing of Jesus.
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12					THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S BIRTHDAY		Observed by Sunni Muslims on 12th Rabi' Al-Awwal, and by the majority of Shi'a Muslims five days later on 17th Rabi' The day is widely celebrated within the Muslim world and is a public holiday in a number of Muslim countries.
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24				CHRISTMAS EVE			Evening carol services, crib services and Midnight Masses inaugurate the festival of Christmas. Santa Claus (from the Dutch <i>Sinter Klaus</i>) is a legendary figure, based on St Nicholas of Myra, and is supposed to bring presents to children on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
25		HANUKKAH -25 Dec -1 Jan Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights, which celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after the Maccabees recaptured it in 165 BCE. For the eight evenings of the festival, candles are lit from right to left in a <i>hanukkiyah</i> , a nine-branched <i>menorah</i> – one candle for each evening. The ninth candle is the		CHRISTMAS DAY <i>Christian (see also 6/7 January 2014)</i>			Christmas Day Celebrates the birth of Jesus, whom Christians believe to be the son of God. The words of St John's Gospel (Chapter 1:1-18) are read in many churches at this time; these speak of 'the Word made flesh', pointing to Christian belief in the Incarnation (God 'made flesh', or human). Gifts are given as reminders of the offerings brought to the infant Jesus at Bethlehem, and Christmas carols, plays and evergreens are associated with this time, while nativity sets are displayed in many churches and homes. Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-7.

		<p><i>shamash</i> (the servant candle) from which the other candles are lit. Foods cooked with oil – such as doughnuts and <i>latkes</i> (potato cakes) – are traditional to remember the miracle with oil that kept the Temple lights burning so many years ago.</p>					
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10th December - HUMAN RIGHTS DAY - In 1948 The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: 'All human beings are born with equal and inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms.'

The Information in this Collective Worship Calendar is taken from RE Online, which in turn is provided by the **Shap Working Party**. For a printed copy of this material, please visit their **Calendar Page** where access to the full text of the Shap Calendar Booklet can be purchased and downloaded, as can the Shap Calendar Wallchart, three PDFs and twelve Festival Photos.

Marion J Landor (RE Adviser to Wirral SACRE)
July 2016

