

Each day we #aspire  
to benefit our  
community...

Equality & Diversity  
Calendar



**2023**

## Symbols of some of the major world religions



Sikh



Shinto



Jewish



Pagan



Christian



Rastafari



Hindu



Buddhist



Islam



Zoroastrian



Baha'i



Jain

### Notes for 2023

January

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February

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March

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April

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May

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June

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July

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August

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September

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October

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November

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December

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December

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December

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December







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December








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December

**DISCLAIMER:** This publication may not include all major religious/cultural holidays. Due to variations in cultural and regional religious practices, and the use of different calendars, some dates may vary from what is shown in this calendar.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 <b>New Year's Day</b>  
2 <b>New Year's Day Substitute Bank Holiday</b>	3	4 World Braille Day	5	6	7  	8  
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 World Religion Day  
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 <b>Chinese New Year</b> Year of the Rabbit  
<b>Cervical Cancer Prevention Week 23<sup>rd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup></b>						
23	24	25 Burns Night	26	27 Holocaust Memorial Day  	28	29
30	31					

### Schedule of Religious Dates

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>Gantan-Sai - New Year (Shinto)</b> The annual New Year festival of the Shinto religion.
	<b>6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Epiphany (Christian)</b> Falls on the 12th day after Christmas and is the end of the Christmas season for Western Christians.
	<b>7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Ethiopian Christmas (Rastafari)</b> Rastafarians observe the Ethiopian Christmas Day marked by a large vegetarian or vegan feast.
	<b>15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Makar Sankranti (Hindu)</b> A Hindu festival celebrated in almost all parts of India, Nepal and Bangladesh. It is a harvest festival that falls on the Magh month of the Hindu Solar Calendar.
	<b>15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Tu B'Shevat (Jewish)</b> Jewish 'New Year for Trees'. Begins sundown the night of 15 <sup>th</sup> January.
	<b>20<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti Birthday (Sikh)</b> Marks the birth of the tenth Guru of Sikhs, who also came to be their last guru.
	<b>26<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Vasant Panchami (Hindus, Sikhs &amp; Jain)</b> In honour of the goddess Saraswati, is a festival that marks the preparation for the arrival of spring.



# February 2023

◆ LGBT+ History Month

◆ National Heart Month

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 Dignity Action Day	2 Time to Talk Day	3	4 World Cancer Day	5
6	7 Safer Internet Day	8	9	10	11	12
Eating Disorders Awareness Week 5 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>				National Apprenticeship Week 6 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>		
13 International Epilepsy Day	14	15	16	17 Random Acts of Kindness Day	18	19
20	21	22 World Thinking Day	23	24	25	26
27	28 Rare Disease Day					

## Schedule of Religious Dates

- 1<sup>st</sup> February** **Imbolc (Pagan)** Celebrated by Pagans midway through the winter solstice and spring equinox.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> February** **Candlemas (Christian)** Commemorates the presentation of Christ at the temple.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> February** **Setsubun (Shinto)** Part of the Spring festival. Shinto rite in which good fortune is invoked and evil exorcised.
- 14<sup>th</sup> February** **Valentine's Day (Christian)** Feast day of Saint Valentine and a celebration of love and affection.
- 15<sup>th</sup> February** **Nirvana Day/Parinirvana (Buddhist)** Mahayana tradition remembering the death and enlightenment of the Buddha.
- 17<sup>th</sup> February** **Laylat al-Miraj (Islam)** Holiday commemorating the Prophet Muhammad's journey from Mecca to the 'Farthest Mosque' in Jerusalem where he ascended to Heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to pray five times daily.
- 18<sup>th</sup> February** **Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)** Festival celebrated annually in honour of the God Shiva.
- 21<sup>st</sup> February** **St David's Day (Christian)** Patron Saint of Wales.
- 21<sup>st</sup> February** **Shrove Tuesday (Christian)** The day preceding Ash Wednesday, celebrated in some countries by consuming pancakes.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> February** **Ash Wednesday (Christian)** The first day of Lent marks the beginning of 40 days of penitence and fasting before Easter.



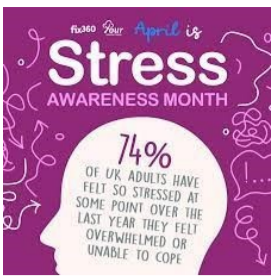
# March 2023

◆ Women's History Month ◆ Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month ◆ Walk All Over Cancer Month

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2 World Book Day	3 World Hearing Day	4	5
6 	7 	8 International Women's Day No Smoking Day 	9	10	11	12
NO MORE Week 6 <sup>th</sup> —12 <sup>th</sup>						
13	14	15	16	17 Red Nose Day World Sleep Day 	18 Global Recycling Day	19 Mother's Day
20 International Day of Happiness 	21 World Down Syndrome Day	22 World Water Day 	23	24	25	26 Purple Day for Epilepsy BST begins
MS Awareness Week 19 <sup>th</sup> —25 <sup>th</sup>			Neurodiversity Celebration Week 21 <sup>st</sup> —27 <sup>th</sup>			
27 World Theatre Day	28	29	30 World Bipolar Day	31		

## Schedule of Religious Dates

- 1<sup>st</sup> March** **Nineteen Day Fast (Baha'i)** Baha'i's fast from sunrise to sunset and spend extra time in prayer.
- 6<sup>th</sup> March** **Purim (Jewish)** Jewish holiday that commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, who was planning to kill all the Jews. This took place in the ancient Persian Empire.
- 6<sup>th</sup> March** **Magha Puja Day (Buddhist)** The day commemorates a time when 1,250 Buddhists spontaneously came together to pay their respect to the Buddha. The spiritual aims of the day are to do only good things and to purify one's mind.
- 7<sup>th</sup> March** **Mid-Sha'ban ( Laylat al Bara'at) (Islam)** is regarded as a night when the fortunes of individuals for the coming year are decided and when Allah may forgive sinners.
- 8<sup>th</sup> March** **Holi (Hindu)** The 'Festival of Colours' celebrates the blossoming of spring and marks the end of winter, the joys of love and the victory of good over evil. Holi also celebrates the Hindu god Krishna and the legend of Holika and Prahlad.
- 8<sup>th</sup> March** **Hola Mohalla (Sikh)** Celebrates Sikh martial skills with displays of horsemanship and mock battles, followed by music and poetry.
- 17<sup>th</sup> March** **St Patrick's Day (Christian)** Patron Saint of Ireland.
- 20<sup>th</sup> March** **Ostara (Pagan)** Spring Equinox. Ostara, or Eostra, is an Anglo-Saxon Goddess who represents dawn.
- 20<sup>th</sup> March** **Norooz/Naw-Ruz (Zoroastrian/Baha'i)** The traditional Iranian New Year holiday.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March** **Ramadan begins (Islam)** Begins evening of 22nd. A month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to Muhammad according to Islamic belief.
- 26<sup>th</sup> March** **Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)** celebrates the birth anniversary of Zoroaster.



# April 2023

◆ Stress Awareness Month ◆ Parkinson Awareness Month

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2 World Autism Awareness Day
3	4 	5 	6 	7 Good Friday Bank Holiday World Health Day 	8 	9 Easter Sunday 
10 Easter Monday Bank Holiday	11 World Parkinson's Day	12	13	14	15	16
17 	18 	19	20 	21 	22	23 
24	25	26	27	28 World Day for Safety and Health at Work	29 International Dance Day	30

- 2nd April** **Palm Sunday** (*Christian*) recalls an event in Christian Scripture of Jesus entering into Jerusalem and being greeted by the people waving palm branches. It is a reminder for Christians of the welcoming of Jesus into hearts and of willingness to follow him.
- 4th April** **Mahavir Jayanti** (*Jain*) The most important religious festival for Jains. It celebrates the birth of Mahavira.
- 5th April** **Passover or Pesach** (*Jewish*) Begins sundown of 5th and ends on 13th April. An important Jewish holiday commemorating the liberation of the Israelites by God from slavery in ancient Egypt.
- 6th April** **Maundy Thursday** (*Christian*) Commemorates the Maundy and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles.
- 6th April** **Hanuman Jayanti** (*Hindu*) Celebration of the birth of Hanuman, the Vanara God, widely venerated throughout India.
- 7th April** **Good Friday** (*Christian*) Christian holiday commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary.
- 9th April** **Easter** (*Christian*) Easter Sunday is a festival and holiday commemorating Jesus Christ's resurrection from death.
- 14th April** **Vaisakhi** (*Sikh*) The harvest festival of the Punjab region and commemorates 1699, the year Sikhism was born as a collective faith. Also known as Baisakhi or Vasakhi.
- 17th April** **Yom HaShoah** (*Jewish*) Begins sundown of 17th. Annual Jewish Remembrance Day for Victims of the Holocaust.
- 18th April** **Laylat al-Qadr** (*Islam*) Considered the holiest night of the year for Muslims. Lailat al-Qadr, the 'Night of Destiny', marks the night in which the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad by Allah.
- 20th April** **First Day of Ridvan** (*Baha'i*) The Ridván Festival is celebrated from sunset 20th April to sunset 2nd May. The festival marks Bahá'u'lláh's time in the garden of Ridván in 1863 and his announcement that he was the prophet promised by the Báb.
- 21st April** **Eid al-Fitr** (*Islam*) Eid al-Fitr is the "Festival of Breaking of the Fast", an important religious holiday celebrated by Muslims world wide that marks the end of Ramadan.
- 23rd April** **St George's Day** (*Christian*) Patron saint of England.



# May 2023

◆ Stroke Awareness Month ◆ Local & Community History Month ◆ National Walking Month ◆ Brain Tumour Awareness Month

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 May Day Bank Holiday 	2 	3	4	5 	6	7
<b>Dying Matters Awareness Week 2<sup>nd</sup>–6<sup>th</sup></b>						
8 World Red Cross Day 	9	10	11	12 International Nurses Day	13	14
<b>Mental Health Awareness Week 9<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup></b>						
15 International Day of Families	16	17 International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia	18 	19	20 World Bee Day	21 World Tea Day
<b>Dementia Action Week 15<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup></b>						
22	23 	24	25 	26	27	28 
29 Spring Bank Holiday	30 World MS Day	31				





### Schedule of Religious Dates

- 1<sup>st</sup> May** **Beltane (Pagan)** The anglicised name for the Gaelic May Day festival. Held about halfway between the spring equinox and the summer solstice.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> May** **Twelfth Day of Ridván (Baha'i)** the day on which Bahá'u'lláh and His family left the garden to travel to Constantinople.
- 5<sup>th</sup> May** **Vesak - Buddha Day (Buddhist)** Also known as Visakha Puja. Commemorates the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha, which are all said to have happened on the same date.
- 8<sup>th</sup> May** **Lag BaOmer (Jewish)** Begins evening of 8th. Celebrates the anniversary of the passing of the great sage and mystic Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, author of the Zohar.
- 18<sup>th</sup> May** **Ascension of Jesus (Christian)** The Feast of the Ascension, also known as Ascension Thursday, Holy Thursday or Ascension Day, commemorates the bodily Ascension of Jesus into Heaven.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> May** **Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)** The Bahá'í Era began with the Declaration of the Bab, May 23, 1844, when the Bab announced that he was a messenger of God and foretold the coming of another messenger of God in the near future.
- 25<sup>th</sup> May** **Shavuot (Jewish)** Begins on the evening of 25th and ends on the evening of 27th May. Commemorates the revelation of the Torah on Mount Sinai to the Jewish people.
- 28<sup>th</sup> May** **Pentecost (Christian)** Pentecost is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 28<sup>th</sup> May** **Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh (Baha'i)** This important holy day commemorates the anniversary of the death of the founder of the Bahá'í faith, Bahá'u'lláh, and his teachings.







◆ World Alzheimer's Month ◆ Motor Neurone Disease Awareness Month ◆ Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month ◆ Pride Month







Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
			Volunteers' Week 1 <sup>st</sup> –7 <sup>th</sup>			
5 World Environment Day	6	7	8 World Oceans Day	9	10	11
			Bike Week 3 <sup>rd</sup> –12 <sup>th</sup>			
12	13	14 World Blood Donor Day	15	16 Clean Air Day	17	18 Father's Day Autistic Pride Day
			Nutrition and Hydration Week 12 <sup>th</sup> –16 <sup>th</sup> Men's Health Week 12 <sup>th</sup> –18 <sup>th</sup>			
19	20 World Refugee Day	21 World Music Day Global MND Awareness Day	22 National Windrush Day	23	24 Armed Forces Day	25
			LEEDS LEARNING DISABILITY WEEK 19 <sup>th</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> (TBC) Refugee Week 20 <sup>th</sup> –26 <sup>th</sup>			
26	27	28	29	30		
			Deafblind Awareness Week 26 <sup>th</sup> June– 2 <sup>nd</sup> July			

### Schedule of Religious Dates

-  **8<sup>th</sup> June** **Corpus Christi** (*Catholic Christian*) The festival of Corpus Christi celebrates the Eucharist (Holy Communion).
-  **16<sup>th</sup> June** **Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev** (*Sikh*) Guru Arjan was the fifth Sikh Guru and the first Sikh martyr: he gave up his life for the Sikh people. The way in which he died changed the course of Sikhism forever.
-  **24<sup>th</sup> June** **Litha** (*Pagan*) Midsummer, also known as St John's Day, is the period of time centred upon the summer solstice. It is the longest day of the year.
-  **28<sup>th</sup> June** **Eid al Adha** (*Islam*) Begins evening of 28th and ends on the evening of 2nd July. The festival of sacrifice honours Ibrahim's (Abraham's) willingness to sacrifice his son to God.

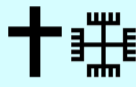





Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
31					1	2
3 	4	5	6	7	8	9 
10	11	12	13	14 International Non-Binary People's Day	15	16 International Disability Awareness Day
17	18 Nelson Mandela International Day 	19	20	21	22	23 
24	25	26 	27 	28 World Hepatitis Day	29	30 International Day of Friendship


-  **3<sup>rd</sup> July** **Asalha Puja Day or Dharma Day (Buddhist)** One of Theravada Buddhism's most important festivals, celebrating the first teaching of the Buddha.
-  **9<sup>th</sup> July** **Martyrdom of the Báb (Baha'i)** Holy day celebrated at noon commemorating the events surrounding the death of the Báb in 1850.
-  **18<sup>th</sup> July** **Al-Hijrah (Islam)** Islamic New Year. Marks the beginning of a new Islamic calendar year, and is the day on which the year count is incremented. Al-Hijra marks the day in AD622 when Muhammad and the first Muslim community migrated from Mecca to Medina. It continues for 29 days.
-  **23<sup>rd</sup> July** **Birthday of Emperor Haile Selassi (Rastafari)** Observes the day on which Emperor Haile Selassie I was born in 1892. Nyabingi session, inclusive of music, chanting and prayer is held to mark the occasion.
-  **26<sup>th</sup> July** **Tish'a B'av (Jewish)** Begins on the evening of 26th and ends on evening of 27th August. Annual fast day which commemorates the destruction of both the First Temple and Second Temple in Jerusalem, which occurred about 655 years apart, but on the same Hebrew calendar date.
-  **27<sup>th</sup> July** **Ashura (Islam)** Marks the tenth day of Muharram in the Islamic calendar. Muslims remember the martyrdom of Hussain ibn Ali, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, at the Battle of Karbala (AD680). Ashura is marked by all Muslims but it is most important for Shia Muslims for whom it's a solemn day of mourning.





# August 2023


Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 Yorkshire Day 	2	3 Cycle To Work Day	4	5	6 Leeds Pride (TBC)
7	8	9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People	10	11	12 International Youth Day	13 
14	15 	16	17	18	19 World Humanitarian Day	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Summer Bank Holiday	29	30 	31			

## Schedule of Religious Dates

- 
**1<sup>st</sup> August**

**Lammas or Lughnasadh** (*Christian/Pagan*) The time of the corn harvest when Pagans give thanks to the Goddess for her gifts. Celts celebrated the Irish God Lugh, while Anglo-Saxons marked the Festival of Hlaefmass - loaf mass or Lammas.
- 
**13<sup>th</sup>—16<sup>th</sup> Aug**

**Obon** (*Buddhist*) Also known as the Festival of Souls, the festival has a very important cultural significance for the Japanese who believe that during this celebration, the souls of their ancestors return to their homes on earth.
- 
**15<sup>th</sup> August**

**The Assumption** (*Christian*) The Assumption of Mary commemorates Mary's ascension into Heaven.
- 
**30<sup>th</sup> August**

**Raksha Bandhan** (*Hindu*) Literally means "the tie or knot of protection". It is an ancient Hindu festival that ritually celebrates the love and duty between brothers and their sisters.



# September 2023

◆ Blood Cancer Awareness Month

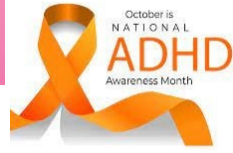
◆ Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 ॐ	7	8 +	9 ॐ	10 World Suicide Prevention Day
11	12	13 World Sepsis Day	14	15 ☆	16	17
18	19 International Talk Like a Pirate Day ॐ	20	21 International Day of Peace World Alzheimer's Day	22	23 International Day of Sign Languages	24 ☞ ☆
25	26 ☾	27	28 ☞	29 World Heart Day Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning + ☆	30	

National Inclusion Week 26<sup>th</sup> September—2<sup>nd</sup> October

## Schedule of Religious Dates

- 6<sup>th</sup> Sept** **Krishna Janmashtami** (*Hindu*) The birthday of Hinduism's favourite God - Lord Krishna.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Sept** **Nativity of the Virgin Mary** (*Christian*) Refers to the traditional birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Sept** **Anant Chaudas** (*Hindu*) The Anant Chaturdashi fast holds a great deal of importance in the Hindu religion. The festival is also known by the name of Anant Chaudas. The day commemorates the Lord of numerous avatars, Lord Vishnu.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Sept** **Rosh Hashanah** (*Jewish*) Begins evening of 15th. Jewish New Year festival which commemorates the creation of the world. The biblical name is Yom Teruah literally "day [of] shouting/blasting", sometimes translated as the Feast of Trumpets.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Sept** **Ganesh Chaturthi** (*Hindu*), also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi, or Vinayaka Chaviti is a Hindu festival celebrating the arrival of Lord Ganesh to earth from Kailash Parvat with his mother Goddess Parvati/Gauri. An auspicious day celebrated to pray to the God so that every new activity that is started is successfully completed without any obstacles.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Sept** **Paryushan Parva** (*Jain*) One of the most important annual holy events for Jains. Paryusana means "abiding and coming together". It is a time when the Jains take on vows of study and fasting. The festival ends with the celebration of Kshamavani (forgiveness day).
- 24<sup>th</sup> Sept** **Yom Kippur** (*Jewish*) Yom Kippur translates as the Day of Atonement and is the holiest date in the Jewish calendar.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Sept** **Mawlid an Nabi** (*Islam*) Begins on evening of 26th and ends on evening of 27th October. Eid Milad ul-Nabi (Mawlid, Milad-un-Nabi) is the celebration of the life of the Prophet Muhammad. Some Muslims in the United Kingdom mark this occasion by fasting or with special prayers.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Sept** **Mabon** (*Pagan*) The Autumn Equinox. Mabon marks the middle of harvest and is a time of equal day and equal night. Mabon is a time of celebration and balance.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Sept** **Michaelmas** (*Christian*) The feast of Saint Michael. The Archangel St. Michael is the Patron Saint of the sea and maritime lands, ships and boatmen, horses and horsemen. He was the Angel who hurled the devil, Lucifer, down from Heaven for his treachery.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Sept** **Sukkot** (*Jewish*) Translated as Feast of Tabernacles or, sometimes, Feast of the Ingathering. Sukkot has a double significance: one is from the Book of Exodus and marks the end of the harvest time. The other is from the Book of Leviticus and commemorates the Exodus and the dependence of the People of Israel on the will of God.



# October 2023

◆ Black History Month    ◆ Down Syndrome Awareness Month    ◆ Breast Cancer Awareness Month    ◆ ADHD Awareness Month

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 International Day of Older Persons World Vegetarian Day
2	3	4 World Animal Day	5 World Teachers' Day	6 World Cerebral Palsy Day	7 	8
<b>Backcare Awareness Week</b>				<b>3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup></b>		
9	10 World Mental Health Day	11	12	13	14 World Hospice and Palliative Care Day	15 
<b>Baby Loss Awareness Week</b>				<b>9<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup></b>		
16 World Food Day 	17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	18	19	20	21	22
23 	24	25	26	27	28	29 World Stroke Day  BST ends
30	31 Halloween  					

### Schedule of Religious Dates

- 7<sup>th</sup> October**    **Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah (Jewish)** Begins evening of 7th and ends on evening of 9th October. "Rejoicing of Torah" is a Jewish holiday that celebrates and marks the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings, and the beginning of a new cycle.
- 15<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> Oct**    **Navratri (Hindu)** One of the greatest Hindu festivals. It symbolises the triumph of good over evil. Navratri is also known as Durga Puja. During this period Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati are worshipped as three manifestations of Shakti, or cosmic energy.
- 16<sup>th</sup> October**    **Birth of the Bab (Baha'i)** Báb, which literally translates as 'the gate', was a prophet and forerunner of the Bahá'í revelation.
- 16<sup>th</sup> October**    **Birth of the Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)** The holy day celebrates the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í faith.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> October**    **Dasara (Hindu)** Dasara/Dussehra marks the end of the Navratri festival and Durga Puja. On the final day of Dasara celebrations, huge effigies of Ravana, Kumbakarna and Meghnath are burned.
- 31<sup>st</sup> October**    **All Hallows Eve (Christian)** Also called Halloween, it begins the three-day observance of Allhallowtide, the time dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs and all the faithful departed.



# November 2023

◆ Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month ◆ Movember ◆ UK Disability History Month ◆ Lung Cancer Awareness Month

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 National Stress Awareness Day  ✝ ☸	2	3	4	5 Bonfire Night
6	7	8  ☸	9	10	11 Armistice Day	12 Remembrance Sunday  ☸ ☸ ॐ
International Stress Awareness Week 7 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup>						
13 World Kindness Day	14 World Diabetes Day	15	16	17	18	19 International Men's Day
20 World Children's Day Transgender Day of Remembrance	21	22 UK Disability History Month begins	23	24  ☸	25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	26  ☸
27	28  ☸	29	30  ✝			

## Schedule of Religious Dates

✝	1 <sup>st</sup> November	<b>All Saints' Day (Christian)</b> Christian festival celebrated in honour of all the saints.
☸	1 <sup>st</sup> November	<b>Samhain (Pagan)</b> A Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter or the "darker half" of the year.
☸	8 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev (Sikh)</b> Also known as Guru Nanak's Prakash Utsav and Guru Nanak Jayanti, celebrates the birth of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak. This is one of the most sacred festivals in Sikhism.
☸ ॐ	12 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Diwali (Hindu/Sikh/Jain)</b> The Hindu Festival of Lights, celebrated every year in autumn in the northern hemisphere. It spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and hope over despair.
☸	24 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh)</b> was a ninth of ten Gurus who founded the Sikh religion. On this day Guru Tegh Bahadur was martyred when he refused to convert to Islam.
☸	26 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Day of the Covenant (Baha'i)</b> The Day of the Covenant is the day when Baha'is celebrate the appointment of 'Abdu'l-Baha' as the Centre of Baha'u'llah's Covenant.
☸	28 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha' (Baha'i)</b> Abdu'l-Baha was the eldest son of Baha'u'llah, the Prophet-Founder of the Baha'i Faith. The Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Baha' commemorates the death and, retrospectively, the life of 'Abdu'l-Baha', who passed away in 1921.
✝	30 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>St Andrew's Day (Christian)</b> Patron Saint of Scotland.



# December 2023

◆ UK Disability History Month (until 22nd) ◆ Universal Human Rights Month

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 World Aids Day	2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities +
4	5 International Volunteers Day	6 +	7	8 ☸	9	10 Human Rights Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 ✡	19	20	21 + ☸	22	23	24 Christmas Eve +
25 Christmas Day Bank Holiday +	26 Boxing Day Bank Holiday ☸ +	27	28	29	30 New Year's Eve / Hogmanay	31

## Schedule of Religious Dates

- +** 3<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> Dec **Advent (Christian)** Advent Sunday is the start of the Christmas season and the beginning of the church year. It is the closest Sunday to St Andrew's Day. Advent Sunday is a time of celebration.
- +** 6<sup>th</sup> December **Saint Nicholas Day (Christian)** The Feast Day of Saint Nicholas is celebrated as a Christian festival with particular regard to his reputation as a bringer of gifts, as well as through the attendance of Mass or worship services.
- ☸** 8<sup>th</sup> December **Bodhi Day (Buddhist)** Commemorates the day that the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni), experienced enlightenment. Bodhi Day is observed in many mainstream Mahayana traditions. In Japanese Zen, it is also known as Rohatsu.
- ✡** 18<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> Dec **Hanukkah (Jewish)** or Chanukah, is a Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire. It is also known as the Festival of Lights and the Feast of Dedication.
- + ☸** 21<sup>st</sup> December **Yule - Winter Solstice (Christian/Pagan)** One of the oldest winter celebrations in the world. It celebrates the rebirth of the Sun and the beginning of winter. The Winter Solstice marks the longest night and shortest day of the year.
- +** 24<sup>th</sup> December **Christmas Eve (Christian)** Day or evening preceding the traditional birthday of Jesus.
- +** 25<sup>th</sup> December **Christmas Day (Christian)** Festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. Also celebrated culturally by a large number of non-Christian people.
- ☸** 26<sup>th</sup> December **Zartosht No-Diso (Zoroastrian)** Death of the founder of Zoroastrianism, Prophet Zarathustra.
- +** 26<sup>th</sup> December **St Stephen's Day/Boxing Day (Christian)** Saint's day to commemorate Saint Stephen, the first Christian martyr.