



FAITH AND FOOTBALL: BELIEF IN THE GAME

2022-23



**ENGLAND
FOOTBALL**

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INTRODUCTION

The FA stands against all forms of discrimination, as outlined in our strategy 'Time For Change' in which one of our key game changers is to deliver a game free from discrimination.

Our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion strategy called 'A Game for All' (2021 – 2024) outlines the ways in which we want to make our game safe for all, embraces diversity and challenges discrimination both on and off the pitch.

Everyone is acutely aware that discrimination exists in society and often manifests itself through football. Only by the football family coming together to rid the game of hate, can we all make the game truly inclusive.

This practical guide aims to inform you about the six major religions of the UK, providing examples of articles of faith and offering guidance to all to ensure nobody is excluded.

In our previous version of 'Belief in the Game' we explored the intrinsic link between faith and football in the UK dating back to the formation of the organised game in the 19th century.

With the help of this guide, it is hoped faith can be celebrated, explored and embraced through the medium of football that brings so many of us together.



FOREWORD



RABBI ALEX GOLDBERG

**Rabbi, Chaplain and Chair of
The FA Faith and Football Network**

"The FA has an ethos of football for all; this covers every background from our diverse and pluralistic society. Football can open new avenues to faith communities. Indeed, faith communities have contributed historically to the development and growth of football in this country and around the world. We believe it can continue to enrich the footballing world. The FA's Faith and Football Network has proven that there is a passion for football across all religious groups and their various strands and denominations. Football has the power to bring diverse groups of people together, no matter what their background. This updated guide contains our hope and aspirations that football can be enjoyed by increasing numbers from different sections of faith and belief communities: that through simple measures we can enable all to participate in the national game. In England, the work done by The FA and the wider football family in the last few years has been a benchmark for other Football Associations across the world as we continue to look at new and innovative ways to incorporate diversity, cultural and religious literacy within our leagues and individual teams in order to create a welcoming environment for all. We hope that this guide assists all those working to widen our reach in bringing more and more people into our sport that share our passion for the beautiful game of football."

THE HISTORY OF FAITH AND FOOTBALL IN ENGLAND

Within the culture and dynamics of football today, faith and football continue to intertwine. Examples include Muslim footballers who are observing Ramadan being allowed to break their fast during a Premier League game. Many English football clubs were founded by local faith communities and football has often been an integral part of the development of local communities and their integration into mainstream society. See below some dates to note:



EVERTON FC

In 1878 the St. Domingo Methodist Church Sunday School football team played its first match in Stanley Park. After this the successful club implemented a name change to Everton in November 1879.

1878



MACCABI GB

Maccabi GB, the Jewish sports and social charity, was founded in 1937 as a response to many Jewish people being excluded from mainstream sport. Its first football fixtures were played in the Southern League in 1957.

1937



THE ASSOCIATION OF MUSLIM FOOTBALLERS

Nathan Ellington, an ex-professional player and Muslim convert, helped found the Association of Muslim Footballers in 2011, a support network for professional Muslim players.

2011



THE FIRST SUKKAH AND IFTAAR HELD AT WEMBLEY STADIUM.

The first Sukkah (Judaism) was built pitch side and welcomed faith leaders and the first Iftar (Islam) welcomed 400 Muslim and non-Muslim guests

2019

1874



BOLTON WANDERERS FC

In 1874 Reverend Thomas Ogden founded the Christ Church Football Club run from the church of the same name. The Catholic club changed name to Bolton Wanderers in 1877 and was one of 12 founder members of the Football League in 1888.

1919



ST GEORGE'S SETTLEMENT

In 1919 The St George's Settlement Synagogue was founded in the East End of London for the local Jewish community. It was the only synagogue at the time linked to Liberal and Reform Judaism excelled in sports including football.

1966



PUNJAB UNITED SPORTS FC

Punjab United Sports FC formed in 1966, one of the first Sikh-based football clubs. This club formed the basis of the Punjabi Wolves, generally recognised as the largest organised group of ethnic football club supporters in the world.

2012



FIFA HIJAB BAN

In 2012, The FA led an appeal against the FIFA ban on Muslim women wearing the hijab (headscarf) whilst playing football. The appeal was successful and all religious head coverings deemed safe are now allowed on the field of play.

FA RULES & LAWS OF THE GAME: RELIGION & BELIEF

Football must be flexible and accessible to ensure it is open to all communities and faiths. Below are the rules of the game most relevant to faith communities. To see 'The Laws of the Game' as set out by IFAB, please go to this link [here](#).

As part of The FA's commitment to providing equal opportunities for all to participate in football, Rule B5 was amended in 2005 in order to include all religions:

RULE B5 FOOTBALL AND RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

- a. A Participant cannot be compelled to play football on bona fide occasions where religious observance precludes such activity, save where the Participant:
 - i. Has consented to do so on such occasions; or
 - ii. Is registered as a player under written contract, which shall be taken as consent to play on such occasions unless otherwise provided for in the contract.
- b. Annually, when planning programmes, Competitions shall define and notify agreed dates of such occasions.

Some common examples of Rule B5 in practice are below:

A GRASSROOTS LEAGUE FIXTURE WHICH FALLS DURING RAMADAN

Under the above rules any fixtures that fall within Ramadan can be played either after sunset or after Eid (the celebration at the end of Ramadan). Some Muslims will have different interpretations and observance of Islam and therefore it is always advisable to consult with anyone affected by these changes in advance.

The Islamic calendar is slightly different to the Western calendar and typically Ramadan falls 11 days earlier each year.

A YOUTH CLUB'S FIXTURES FALLING ON A FRIDAY NIGHT OR SATURDAY MORNING

Jews observe the Sabbath from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday. Under Rule B5, if requested by that community, any club or league would be obliged to move those fixtures to a more convenient time for anyone observing the Sabbath.

CLOTHING

What players wear on the pitch is governed by FIFA. But what happens when a player wants to express their religious observance whilst still enjoying the beautiful game?

Below are the laws that are relevant and some frequently asked questions on this subject:

FIFA Law 4

THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

Players are required to wear the following separate items:

- A jersey or shirt – if undergarments are worn, the colour of the sleeve should be the same main colour as the sleeve of the jersey or shirt;
- Shorts – If undershorts are worn, they are of the same main colour as the shorts;
- Stockings;
- Shinguards;
- Footwear.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

(taken from 'The Laws of The Game' The FA – [link here](#))

(1) Safety

Referees should ensure that players do not wear articles which may constitute a danger to other players or to themselves. Referees should set a good example by removing their own rings and jewellery.

Referees, however, should make allowances for articles of faith (e.g. a player of the Sikh religion wearing a Kara in a match), provided that they are not dangerous and that adequate covering be applied as protection.

The Equality Act 2010, the legal context

Under The Equality Act, 2010, many organisations, clubs and leagues will now have an obligation to operate in an inclusive and non-discriminatory way. The Equality Act covers all areas of diversity or 'protected characteristics' as they are known, these are:

- Race;
- Sex;
- Disability;
- Religion;
- Age;
- Sexual orientation;
- Gender Reassignment;
- Pregnancy;
- Marriage or Civil Partnership.

For more information and guidance on the Equality Act, click [here](#).

† CHRISTIANITY

Christianity's origins begin in the first century and shares some of its early history with Judaism. In the 2011 census, over 31 million people identified as Christian in England.

Stemming from the life, teachings and death of Jesus of Nazareth (Christ), Christianity is the world's largest religion as well as the most widely diffused of all faiths with more than two billion followers. The most important religious book for Christians is the Bible.

KEY DATES

Good Friday: Commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary.

Easter Sunday: Commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Christmas: Celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

IN FOOTBALL

Christianity in football is visible in many different ways. In 2020, professional football players Leon Legge and Joel Ward, along with former professional footballer and current England U18 Assistant Manager Michael Johnson, discussed their Christian faith. You can read more about their discussion on Christianity [here](#).

SOME EXAMPLES OF ARTICLES OF FAITH





CASE STUDY:

MATT BAKER SPORTS CHAPLAIN

Matt is the National Director for England & Pastoral Support Director in English Football for Sports Chaplaincy UK.

Joining in 2009, in a role supported by the Premier League, English Football League and Professional Footballers' Association, Matt co-ordinates, guides and trains new Chaplains who enter the world of sport.

Since 2000 Matt has been Chaplain to Charlton Athletic FC, a role which he holds close to his heart. As a Chaplain in football, Matt supports players of *all* faiths, including assistance with praying or finding out more about faith.

In his role as Chaplain, Matt also works with non-playing staff offering pastoral and spiritual support as well as engaging with fans of the club.

“THERE'S SO MUCH MORE GOING ON IN PEOPLE'S LIVES. TO HAVE SOMEONE TO TALK TO WHO'S OUT OF THAT, WHO'S OUT OF THE CLUB BUT ON THE EDGE OF IT WHO CAN BE TRUSTED IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL TO HELP.”

[From The FA's Faith and Football programme series which you can listen to here](#)

ISLAM

Islam is the world's second largest religion, and its followers are known as Muslims.

Muslims believe that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is a messenger of God. Muslims believe that Islam was revealed in Mecca, Arabia. The most important religious book of Islam is the Quran, believed to be the word of God. In England, more than 2.5 million people identified as Muslim in the 2011 census.

There are five basic pillars of Islam: Declaration of faith, prayer, charity, fasting and pilgrimage.

KEY DATES

Ramadan: In the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. Muslims worldwide commit to a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community. Muslims fast during daylight hours.

Eid al-fitr: Celebrated at the end of Ramadan where many Muslims perform acts of charity.

Eid al-adha: Lasts for four days with many Muslims performing charitable acts and kindness during this time.

IN FOOTBALL

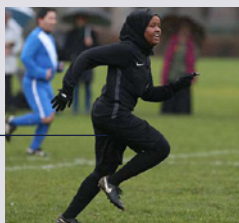
There are many prominent Muslim footballers such as Paul Pogba, Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah.

Many clubs provide facilities for prayer, such as a multi-faith room. Blackburn Rovers FC has begun offering Halal alternatives to traditional football foods as well as providing the opportunity for many children of South Asian heritage to attend matches.

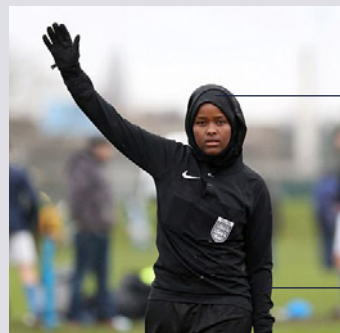
Yashmin Harun (BEM) set up MSA (Muslimah Sports Association) which has grown to include a partnership with Frenford FC to provide an opportunity for Muslim females to enjoy football. Yashmin has since become a Director of London FA and an FA Council Member.

SOME EXAMPLES OF ARTICLES OF FAITH

Full-length leggings



Hijab



Long sleeve under garment



CASE STUDY:

KHIZRA MOSQUE SOCCERCISE

As part of their ongoing legacy work for UEFA Women's EURO 2022, Manchester FA began working with Khizra Mosque in Cheetham Hill after offering an initial taster Soccercise session. The Mosque had been affected by continuous closure periods over the course of the pandemic, but once restrictions were lifted and the Mosque could open regularly again, the team were ready to start work. Participation of Asian women is significantly lower across Greater Manchester, so Manchester FA wanted to show them that everyone was welcome in football.

One participant said: "Football isn't just for the boys. I'll have to get a sports tracksuit like the coach now."

Leigh Gell of Manchester FA praised the session: "The energy I experience every time visiting the Mosque is absolutely amazing. People were reluctant and nervous to begin with, but we have now created an enjoyable and inclusive atmosphere. We have found a template that works, and I can't wait to replicate it across Manchester and Trafford."

You can read more about Soccercise at Khizra Mosque [here](#)

I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS ANY SPACE FOR ME IN FOOTBALL UNTIL I SAW HOW IT COULD BE ADAPTED. THE WOMEN LOVE THE EXERCISE EACH WEEK AND HAVE SHOWED AN INTEREST IN THEIR OWN HEALTH AND WELLBEING!

Participant at Soccercise session

ॐ HINDUISM

Hinduism is one of the world's oldest religions, originating in India more than 4,000 years ago. Hinduism beholds that there is a cycle of birth, death and rebirth which is governed by Karma (the influence of one's actions on present and future lives). There are over 800,000 Hindus in the UK and it is estimated over a billion Hindus worldwide. Originally written in Sanskrit, the two holy books of the Hindu religion are known as the Revealed text and Remembered text.

KEY DATES

Holi: Celebrating the triumph of good over evil, Hindus celebrate the Festival of Love which also signifies the arrival of spring and the end of winter. Lasting a day and a night, Hindus traditionally gather in front of a bonfire and pray that their internal evil be destroyed.

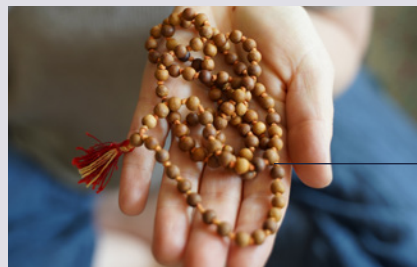
Diwali: This lasts for five days from the 13th day of the dark half of the lunar month (Ashvina) to the second day of the light half of the lunar month (Kartikka). In the Gregorian calendar this is usually between October and November. It is known as the Festival of Light. This is because Diwali symbolises the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance and is often accompanied with fireworks. Food can also be a major focus of the festival.

IN FOOTBALL

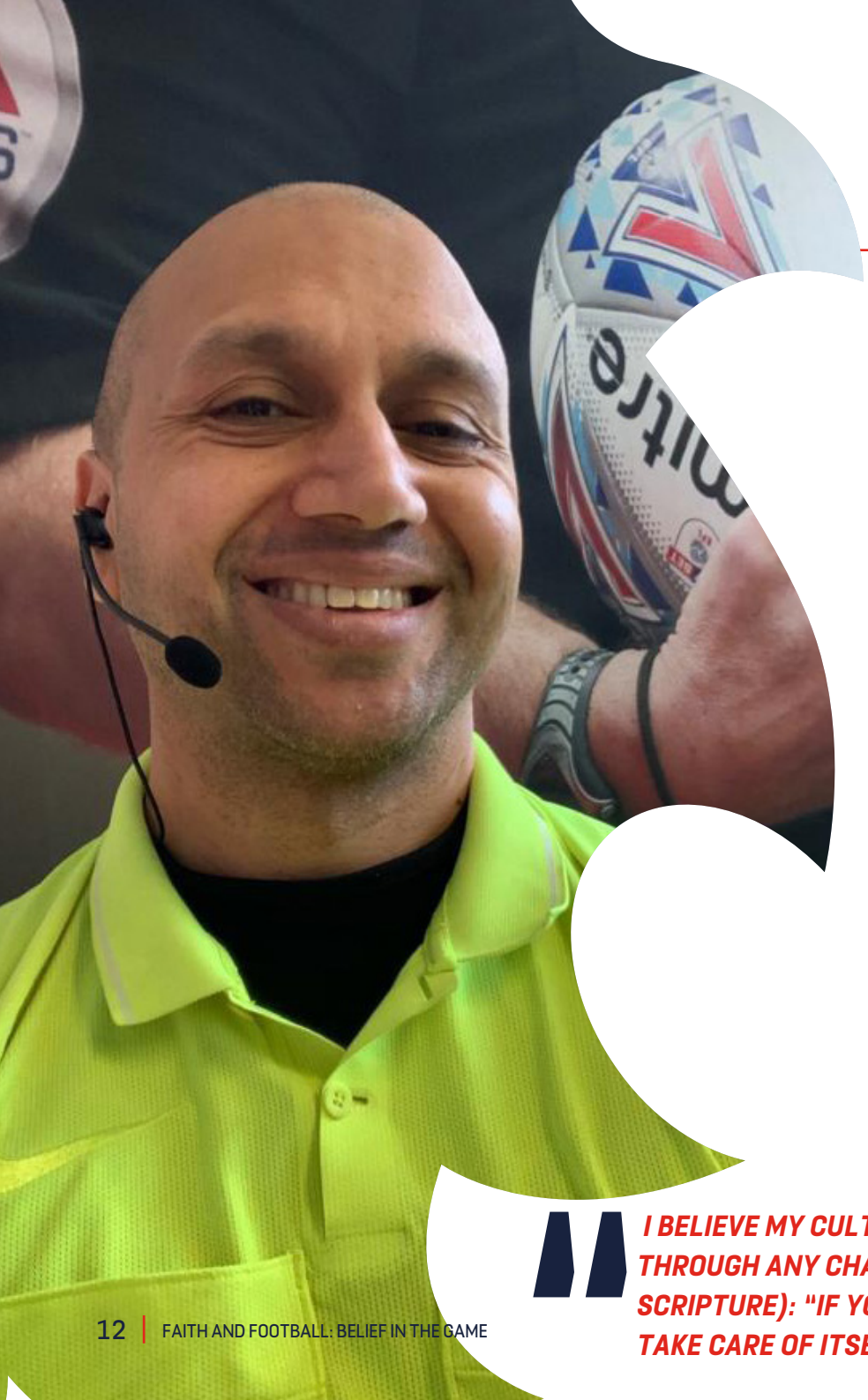
Dinesh Gillela is a former AFC Bournemouth player, now playing at Hereford FC. In 2021 he spoke about his journey and the importance of Holi which you can read more about [here](#).

Across Diwali, football came together in 2021, to celebrate one of the most important dates in the Hindu calendar. Blackburn Rovers held a Diwali celebration, inviting the local community and they were joined by First Team Manager Tony Mowbray. You can see more of their Diwali celebration [here](#).

EXAMPLE OF AN ARTICLE OF FAITH



Mala



CASE STUDY:

MINESH GUPTA, REFEREE

Minesh's football journey began just like any other, playing football in the playground at school. Despite growing up in a family that didn't really understand football when he was younger, Minesh has spent most of his life involved in the beautiful game and more than 25 years as a referee.

Starting on a Duke of Edinburgh award scheme he chose to become a referee and "10 Thursdays later I was a referee." Starting at 16 in open-age football was always tough but through lifelong friends he made and his faith, Minesh persevered and in January 2022 was promoted to referee Step 3-4 football.

Minesh cites the allyship of the friends he made early in his refereeing career and more recently, through being involved in Black, Asian and mixed heritage ethnicity referee support group, and FA Equality of Referee Opportunity Group supporting him in his refereeing whilst allowing him to support both groups work on addressing under-representation in refereeing.

Minesh said: "Finding and being exposed to people from similar backgrounds to me made me feel like I am not on my own."

Minesh states he may not appear "overtly" religious but he is "very religious internally." Through his Hindu faith he prays in the morning and evening, often visiting his local temple.

Offering words of advice to anyone wanting to be involved in football, Minesh said: "Remember you are allowed to enjoy the sport. People will accept you for who you are and don't try to change your identity to be accepted."

I BELIEVE MY CULTURE AND FAITH HAS HELPED ME TO GET THROUGH ANY CHALLENGES. QUOTING FROM THE GITA (HINDU SCRIPTURE): "IF YOU DO YOUR DUTY IN LIFE, THE REST WILL TAKE CARE OF ITSELF."



SIKHISM



Sikhism originated in the 15th century CE. According to Sikh tradition, Sikhism was established by Guru Nanak and subsequently led by nine successive Gurus. Upon the death of the 10th Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Sikhs believe the spirit of the eternal Guru transferred itself into the sacred scripture of Sikhism – Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. During the 2011 census, over 420,000 people in England identified as Sikh.

Baptised Sikhs often wear the five K's which are symbols of faith (Kesh – uncut hair, Kara – a steel bracelet, Kanga – a wooden comb, Kacchera – cotton underwear and Kirpan – a steel sword).

KEY DATES

Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji: Guru Gobind Singh Ji (5 Jan 1667-21 Oct 1708) was the 10th of the Sikh Gurus and became the leader of the Sikhs aged nine. He is known as a great warrior, poet, and philosopher who introduced many traditions such as covering one's hair with a Turban.

Vaisakhi: Commemorating the historic formation of the 'Khalsa' or 'Pure Ones' dating back to 1699. Sikh temples, known as Gurudwaras, across the world will be decorated and a procession known as a Nagar Kirtan will be held where the Sikh holy scripture (Guru Granth Sahib Ji) is escorted through the streets by the congregation.

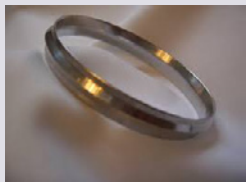
IN FOOTBALL

The Sikh refereeing family, Jarnail Singh, Sunny & Bhupinder Gill are history makers. Jarnail was the first Sikh to referee an English Football League match and his two sons, Sunny & Bhupinder became the first pair of British South Asians to officiate in the same match. In August 2021, The FA marked South Asian Heritage Month by producing a six-part series to highlight positive stories of Asian participants across the game. You can see their video [here](#).

2021 was a year of history-making for the Asian community in football. Sikh brothers Amar and Arjun Purewal faced each other in the FA Vase Final at Wembley Stadium, becoming the first British South Asian brothers to do so. Find out about their story [here](#).

SOME EXAMPLES OF ARTICLES OF FAITH

Kara



Kirpan



Kangha



Dastar (Turban)



Kacchera





CASE STUDY:

KALJIT ATWAL FREESTYLE FOOTBALLER

Football freestyling means Kaljit has the world at her feet – literally. Using the power of social media to share her skills and love of the game, Kaljit has racked up a huge following.

Kajit was born in Germany but moved to England at the age of eight. She has had some of her skills showcased on the FIFA Women's World Cup social media pages.

Her footballing career has taken her around the world including playing for the University of West Florida.

"Freestyle allows me to do what I want to do; I want to carry on breaking barriers doing what I do."

***I HOPE THAT I CAN MAYBE INSPIRE OTHER
KIDS TO LIVE THE LIFE THEY WANT TO LIVE,
WHICH IS A HUGE BARRIER TO BREAK IN THE
ASIAN COMMUNITY.***

[You can listen to more from Kaljit in her interview with Epic Brum here](#)



JUDAISM

Originating in the Middle East more than 3,500 years ago, Jewish people can trace their history back to the prophet Abraham, who is also prominent within Christianity and Islam. Judaism was founded by Moses, a Jewish Prophet, who is believed to have written the Jewish holy book, the Torah. Judaism is the fifth most populous religion in the UK and has a rich history of religious text. The Torah is believed to have been revealed to Moses and contains God's Laws which all Jews must try to adhere to, in order to bring holiness into every aspect of their lives. In 2011, 260,000 people identified as Jewish as part of the census in England.

KEY DATES

Yom Kippur: The day of 'atonement' is celebrated 10 days after another holy date 'Rosh Hashanah'. Jews traditionally observe this date with a day-long fast, confession and intensive prayer. Jews may spend most of the day in a synagogue.

Sukkot: Lasting seven days, Jews will spend time eating in a Sukkah (small temporary structure) to remind themselves of the Israelites wandering in the desert for 40 years.

Passover: Celebrating the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and the 'passing over' of the forces of destruction. Passover is celebrated with great pomp and ceremony including a meal called a seder where foods of symbolic significance commemorating the Hebrews' liberation are eaten, and prayers and traditional recitations are performed.

IN FOOTBALL

Prominent Jewish participants in football include former Chelsea and West Ham manager Avram Grant, and former Chelsea midfielder Dean Furman.

Furman has recently spoken about his aspirations to encourage and inspire Jewish footballers in the future.

In late 2021, The FA joined Watford FC in a Chanukah celebration where the club launched their first Jewish Supporters Group. More details on the overall initiative are overleaf.

EXAMPLE OF AN ARTICLES OF FAITH



Kippah



CASE STUDY:

WATFORD FC JEWISH SUPPORTERS' GROUP

Watford FC and its Jewish Supporters' Group hosted more than 100 Jewish Hornets at a Chanukah Party held at the club's Vicarage Road Stadium in December 2021. It was an historic occasion, believed to be the first time a Premier League club has hosted a Chanukah Party for supporters, and the event proved incredibly popular, with places quickly oversubscribed.

Rabbi Mordechai Chalk, the religious leader of Watford and District Synagogue and the Jewish community in Watford, led the ceremony to light the Chanukah candles along with the speakers and members of club staff. Guests sang the Chanukah songs and were entertained by Israeli musical artist Noam Frank.

“ TO BE ABLE TO CELEBRATE CHANUKAH WITH OUR JEWISH FRIENDS IS IMPORTANT TO US, AS PART OF OUR COMMITMENT TO REMOVING ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION FROM OUR GAME. WE HAVE ADOPTED THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE (IHRA) DEFINITION OF ANTI-SEMITISM, AND WE ALSO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT KEY RELIGIOUS DATES SUCH AS CHANUKAH TO HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF BELIEF IN FOOTBALL AS PART OF OUR WIDER FAITH AND FOOTBALL PLAN. ”

Dal Singh Darroch

Head of Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Programmes



BUDDHISM

Buddhism is a spiritual religion that focuses on personal development. Started more than 2,500 years ago in India, Buddhism teaches that human life is a cycle of suffering and rebirth, but that if one achieves a state of enlightenment (Nirvana), it's possible to break this cycle forever.

In England during the 2011 census, 238,000 people identified as Buddhist.

The teachings of the Buddha (the founder of Buddhism) can be found in the Tripitaka, and these sacred texts are known as the important source of authority to Buddhists.

KEY DATES

Vesak Day (Buddha Day): The most important Buddhist festival is celebrated on the full moon of the lunar month of Vesakha. The day marks the birth, enlightenment of and death of the Buddha. Vesak day is a day of good deeds, chanting and meditation for Buddhists worldwide.

IN FOOTBALL

The late Leicester City FC owner, Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, was one of the most high-profile Buddhists in British football. Under his stewardship, the club went from the Championship to Premier League winners in 2016. The club installed a Buddhist shrine at their ground and following his tragic death, his funeral followed the traditional Buddhist customs.

EXAMPLE OF AN ARTICLES OF FAITH



Mala



CASE STUDY:

VICHAJ SRIVADDHANAPRABHA

The late Leicester City FC owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha was a prominent Buddhist. Traditions and customs of Buddhism have become a common sight at Leicester City since he took over the club in 2010. His tragic passing in 2018, along with the members of the helicopter he was in, have been marked at the club with the unveiling of a statue to remember "The possible man".

The inauguration of the statue was led by Buddhist monks who travelled from Thailand at the request of the Srivaddhanaprabha family, with the ceremony starting with the lighting of candles and incense followed by the reading of Sanskrit prayers by the Buddhist monks. A string stretching the length of the room, representing the Buddha, was blessed from a golden bowl with candle wax to create holy water.

The statue is on public view available to the public. Vichai's legacy will continue to support Leicester City in their future endeavours.

THEY WILL SPEAK OF HIS LEADERSHIP AND AMBITION, BUT ALSO OF HIS GENEROSITY AND KINDNESS. HOWEVER THIS SITE CHANGES, IN ALL THE MOMENTS WE WILL EXPERIENCE TOGETHER, HIS PRESENCE WILL BE PERMANENT.

Leicester City

WIDER RELIGIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

RASTAFARIANISM



Rastafarianism originated in the early 1900s in Jamaica. Nearly 8,000 people in the UK identified as Rastafarian in the 2011 census.

There are nearly one million Rastafarians worldwide. Rastafarians believe in a Judeo-Christian God, Jah, however Rastafarians do not believe in the afterlife. Instead they look to Africa or 'Zion' as a heaven on earth.

BAHA'I



The Baha'I faith is a relatively new faith in the world since its establishment in the 19th century.

Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Baha'I faith taught the essential worth of all religions and unity of all people. Whilst 5,000 people in the UK identified their faith as Baha'I, there are thought to be nearly 5 million followers worldwide.

The Baha'I teachings represent a large number of theological, ethical, social and spiritual ideas and stress the unity of all people, explicitly rejecting racism and nationalism.

ZOROASTRIANISM



Zoroastrianism is an Iranian religion that is believed to be one of the world's oldest continuously-practised organised faiths. In the 2011 UK census almost 8,000 people identified their faith as Zoroastrianism.

Following the teachings of the prophet Zoroaster, some of whose teachings are detailed within one of the most important texts called the Avesta.

There are thought to be over 100,000 Zoroastrians worldwide.

JAINISM



परस्परपग्रहीजीवानाम्

Jainism originated in ancient India. Its adherents are known as Jains. More than 20,000 people identified their faith as Jainism in the UK 2011 census.

The three main pillars of Jainism are:

1. Ahimsā (non-violence)
2. Anekāntavāda (non-absolutism)
3. Aparigraha (asceticism)

The population of Jains is estimated to be up to 12 million worldwide.

REPORTING DISCRIMINATION

THE GRASSROOTS GAME, DISABILITY GAME, WOMEN'S PYRAMID AND THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM

To ensure our national game is inclusive, we all have a responsibility to step up and blow the whistle on discrimination. Here's how:

IF YOU'VE BEEN THE VICTIM OF OR WITNESSED AN INCIDENT OF DISCRIMINATION:

Report it via The FA at Football.ForAll@TheFA.com

Report it to Kick It Out through their [online reporting form](#) or via their reporting app available on both [iOS](#) and [Android](#).
Alternatively, email Kick It Out at report@kickitout.org

For grassroots football - complete the online form you'll find [here](#), which also goes to the County FA. You can also contact the County FA directly.
A full list of County FAs and contact details can be found [here](#).

Please note: If the incident occurs outside 'organised' football (i.e. in competitions not affiliated to the County FA), the County FA can still advise on what your next steps should be).

REPORTING DISCRIMINATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

Whether it's in connection with professional or grassroots football, if you see a post on social media you believe is discriminatory, there are three ways to report it. These are:

By contacting the site on which the post exists – see more information below.

By reporting it to Kick It Out through [their online reporting](#) form or via their reporting app available on both [iOS](#) and [Android](#).
Alternatively, email Kick It Out at report@kickitout.org

By contacting the police, either:

- In person
- By calling the local police on 101
- By completing the online reporting form you'll find here
- By calling 999 if you are in an emergency



**ENGLAND
FOOTBALL**



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