

THE INCLUSION CALENDAR 2021





January 2021

"These so-called bleak times are necessary to go through in order to get to a much, much better place." David Lynch



In this year's calendar we continue our inclusion theme but cannot disregard the immense impact the coronavirus has had right across the entire World. Coronavirus does not discriminate; anyone can get the virus.

During this challenging time, people are coming together and are supporting one another. We are showing that, even in some of the most difficult and tough times, we can all choose to be kind. Helping each other has been shown to be good for our own mental health, helping to reduce stress and improving overall wellbeing.



January is Cervical Health Awareness Month | Celebration of Life Month | Alcohol Concern Dry January | Thyroid Awareness Month



Last Quarter New Moon



First Quarter

O Full Moon

Special Days

1st Mary, Mother of God – Catholic Christian Gantan-sai (New Year) – Shinto Bank Holiday – England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and ROI New Year's Day/Hogmanay Global Family Day

Hth World Braille Day Bank Holiday – Scotland

5th Twelfth Night – Christian

6th Epiphany - Christian Feast of the Theophany - Orthodox Christian

7th Feast of the Nativity – Orthodox Christian

10th Baptism of the Lord Jesus – Christian

11th Seijin no hi (Coming of Age Day)

- Shinto

13th Lohri/Maghi - Hindu, Sikh

14th New Year - Orthodox Christian Makar Sankranti - Hindu Pongal - Hindu

17th World Religion Day - Baha'i

18th Martin Luther King Jnr. Day 18–25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Christian

19th Timkat – Ethiopian Orthodox Christian

20th Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh – Sikh

25th Robert Burns Night (Burns Night)
Conversion of Saint Paul – Christian

27th Holocaust Memorial Day

28th Data Privacy Day
Thaipusam – Hindu
Tu BiShvat – Judaism

28-30 Mahayana New Year - Buddhist

31st Birthday of Guru Har Rai - Sikh



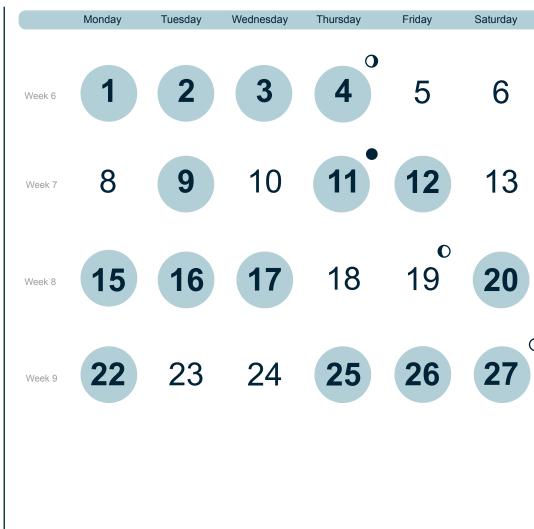
February 2021



"Covid-19 offers us a great opportunity for individual and collective recession. It is a time to go back to the drawing board and rewrite the next phase of our existence. The upcoming generation has to read about how we fought this pandemic with or without vaccines in order to overcome similar situations during their times." Olawale Danie

Random Act of Kindness

Call a friend that you haven't spoken to for a while.















Special Days

Sunday

- 1st World Hijab Day
 1–7 World Interfaith Harmony Week
 Imbolc Lughnassadh Wicca/Pagan
 Northern and Southern hemispheres
- 2nd Candlemas (Presentation of Christ in the Temple) Christian
- 3rd Setsubun-sai Shinto
- 4th World Cancer Day
- 9th Safer Internet Day
- 11th International Day of Women and Girls in Science
 World Day of the Sick
- 12th Red Hand Day for Child Soldiers
 Chinese New Year Confucian, Daoist,
 Buddhist
- 14th Saint Valentine's Day
 Zacchaeus Sunday Orthodox
 Christian
 - **Autism Sunday**
- 15th International Childhood Cancer Day Parinirvana Day/Nirvana Day - Buddhist
- 16th Shrove Tuesday Christian Vasant Panchami Hindu
- 17th Ash Wednesday Christian World Human Spirit Day
- 20th World Day of Social Justice
- 21st Triodion begins Orthodox Christian
- **22nd The Chair of Saint Peter** Catholic Christian
- 25th Intercalary Days begin Baha'i
- 26th Purim Judaism International STAND UP to Bullying Day
- 27th Magha Puja (Sangha Day) Buddhist
- 28th Intercalary Days (end) Baha'i





March 2021

"It took a pandemic to make me realise that I do have a family; that I do have friends; that I do have a heart and that I do have faith." Anthony T. Hincks



Random Act of Kindness

Tell your family members how much you love and appreciate them.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Week 11	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Week 12	15	16	17	18	19	20	21 °
Week 13	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Week 14	29	30	31				

March is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month | Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month | UK Marie Curie Cancer Care Great Daffodil Appeal Month



Last Quarter







Special Days

1st Zero Discrimination Day Saint David's Day – Christian Self Injury Awareness Day (SIAD) International Wheelchair Day Nineteen Day Fast begins – Baha'i

3rd World Hearing Day

7th Meatfare Sunday - Orthodox Christian

8th International Women's Day

11th Lailat al Miraj — Islam Maha Shivaratri - Hindu

14th Nanakshahi (New Year) - Sikh Cheesefare Sunday - Orthodox Christian **Mothering Sunday**

15th Great Lent begins - Clean Monday

- Orthodox Christian

17th Saint Patrick's Day – Christian Bank Holiday – Northern Ireland and ROI

18th Global Recycling Day

19th Saint Joseph's Day – Christian

20th Spring Equinox

Naw-Rúz (New Year) - Baha'i Ostara - Mabon - Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern hemispheres **International Day of Happiness**

Norooz (New Year) - Persian/Zoroastrian

21st Sunday of Orthodoxy – Orthodox Christian

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

World Down Syndrome Day

22nd World Water Day

24th World TB Day

25th Annunciation to the Theotokos

- Orthodox Christian

The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary - Christian

26th Khordad Sal (Birth of Prophet Zarathushtra) - Zoroastrian

28th Palm Sunday - Christian Passover – Judaism Holika Dahan – Hindu

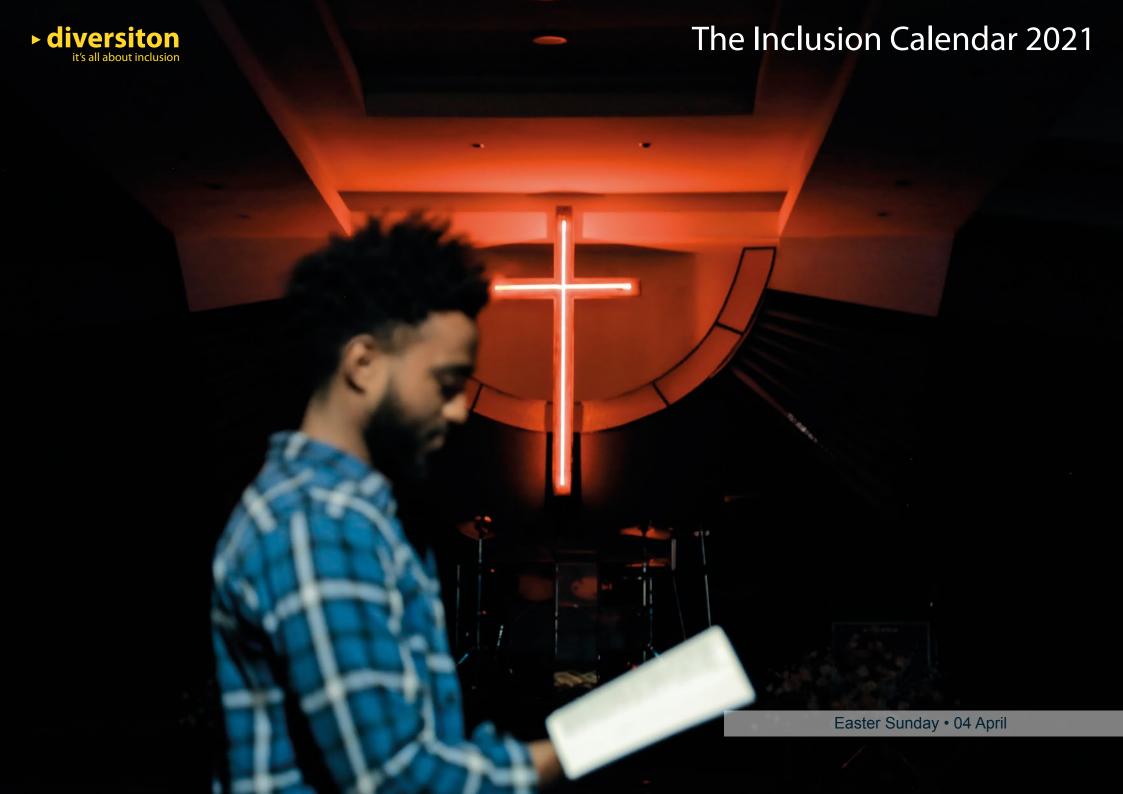
Lailat al Bara'ah - Islam

British Summer Time begins

29th Holi – Hindu Hola Mohalla – Sikh

30th World Bipolar Day

31st International Transgender Day of Visibility



April 2021

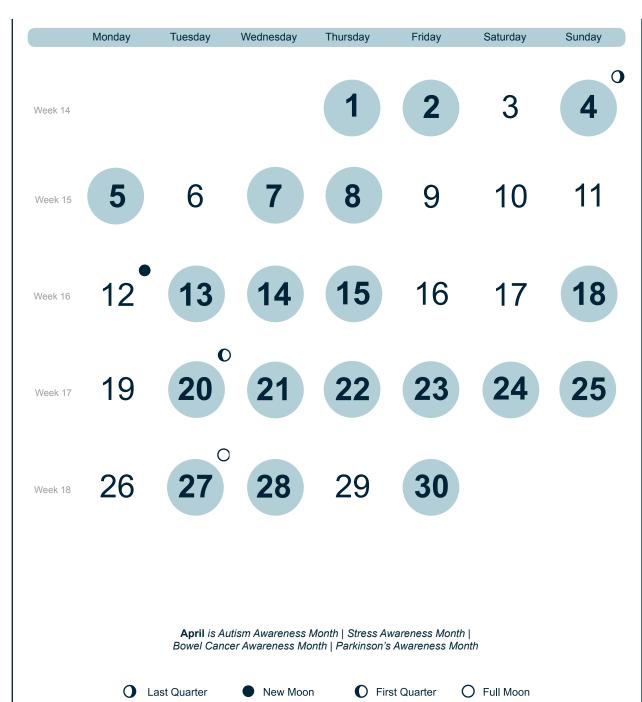
"The CEO is of no more importance than somebody cleaning the floors or that takes a bucket and mops the floors. I think that this is a time as a reset where we really have to re-evaluate how we treat workers, how people are paid, how can we get them into a role where they receive an equity as part of their compensation... they have something that appreciates. All these things I think are important as we go through this reset in business." Mark Cuban - Entrepreneur and owner of Dallas Mavericks



Random Act of Kindness

Leave an online review for your favourite lunch spot or restaurant, telling everyone how great they are.





Special Days

- 1st April Fool's Day Maundy Thursday – Christian
- 2nd World Autism Awareness Day Good Friday – Christian Bank Holiday – England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
- 4th Easter Sunday Christian
- 5th Easter Monday Christian
 Bank Holiday England, Wales,
 Northern Ireland and ROI
- 7th World Health Day
- 8th International Romani Day Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) – Judaism
- 13th Ramadan begins Islam
 Ugadi/Telugu New Year Hindu
 Songkran (Thai New Year) Buddhist
 Ramayana begins Hindu
- 14th Tamil New Year
 Birth of the Khalsa (Vaisakhi) Sikh
 Yom HaZikaron (Israeli Memorial Day) –
 Judaism
- 15th Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) Judaism
- 18th Birthday of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sikh Birthday of Guru Angad Dev – Sikh
- 20th First Day of Ridvan Baha'i
- 21st Rama Navami Hindu
- 22nd Earth Day
- 23rd Saint George's Day Christian
- 24th Lazarus Saturday Orthodox Christian
- 25th Palm Sunday Orthodox Christian World Malaria Day Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist
 - Christian
 - Mahavir Jayanti Jain
- 27th Hanuman Jayanti Hindu Theravada New Year – Buddhist
- 28th World Day for Health & Safety at Work Ninth Day of Ridvan Baha'i
- 30th Holy Friday Orthodox Christian Saint James the Great's Day
 - Orthodox Christian

Lag BaOmer - Judaism



May 2021

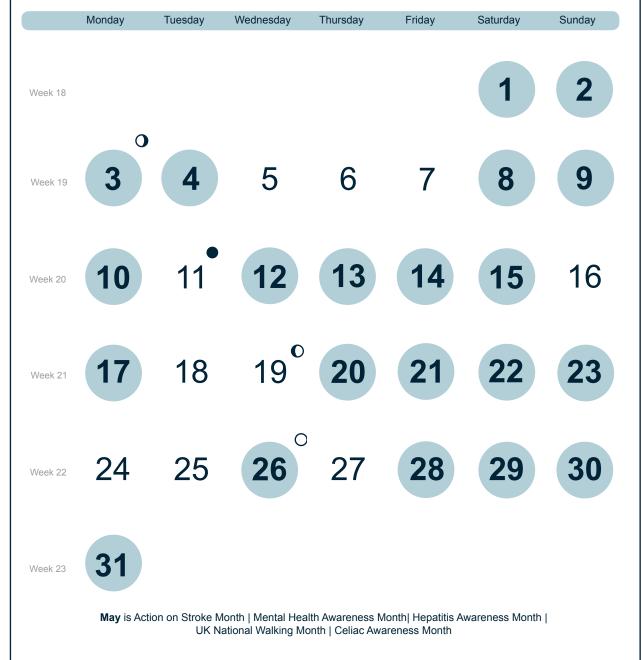
"We have a chance to do something extraordinary. As we head out of this pandemic we can change the world. Create a world of love. A world where we are kind to each other. A world where we are kind no matter what class, race, sexual orientation, what religion or lack of or what job we have...Let love and kindness be our roadmap." Johnny Corn



Random Act of Kindness

Donate to your local foodbank or to a charity that is close to your heart.







- 1st Beltane Samhain Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern hemispheres Twelfth Day of Ridvan – Baha'i
- 2nd Birthday of Guru Arjan Dev Sikh Pascha (Easter) – Orthodox Christian
- 3rd Bank Holiday England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and ROI Feast of Saints Philip and James – Catholic Christian
- World Press Freedom Day
- 4th International Firefighters Day
- 8th World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day
- 9th Lailat al-Qadr Islam
- 10th Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day)
 Judaism
- 12th International Nurses Day
- 13th Ascension Day Christian Eid al Fitr Islam
- 14th Akshaya Tritiya Hindu, Jain Feast of Saint Matthias – Catholic Christian
- 15th International Day of Families
- 17th Shavuot *Judaism* International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- 20th Global Accessibility Awareness Day
- 21st World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- 22nd International Day for Biological Diversity
- 23rd Pentecost Christian
 Birthday of Guru Amar Das Sikh
 Declaration of the Báb Baha'i
- 26th Vesak Buddhist
- 28th Ascension of Baha'u'llah Baha'i
- 29th International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
- 30th Trinity Sunday Christian
- 31st Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Catholic Christian

Bank Holiday – England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland World No Tobacco Day

All Jewish holidays begin at sundown on the evening before.



Last Quarter

New Moon

First Quarter

er C

O Full Moon



June 2021

"Only now do we value every breath that escapes our lips. Perhaps now we will learn to be grateful." Saim A. Cheeda



Random Act of Kindness

Hold open the doors for people.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 23		1	2	3	4	5	6
Week 24	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Week 25	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Week 26	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Week 27	28	29	30				

June is Motor Neurone Disease Awareness Month | Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Awareness Month | LGBTQ Pride Month | Men's Health Awareness Month | Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month



Last Quarter







Special Days

- 1st Global Day of Parents
- 3rd Corpus Christi Catholic Christian
- 4th International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- 5th World Environment Day
- 7th Bank Holiday ROI
- **10th Ascension of the Lord** *Orthodox Christian*
- 11th Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Christian
- 12th World Day against Child Labour Global Wellness Day
- 14th World Blood Donor Day
- 15th World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- **16th Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev** Sikh
- 17th World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
- 18th Autistic Pride Day
- 20th Pentecost Orthodox Christian World Refugee Day Father's Day
- 21st Summer Solstice
 - **Litha Yule** *Wicca/Pagan Northern and* Southern hemispheres
 - **World Humanist Day**
- 22nd UK Windrush Day
- 24th Nativity of Saint John the Baptist
 - Christian
- 26th International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- 29th Feast of Saints Peter and Paul
 - Christian



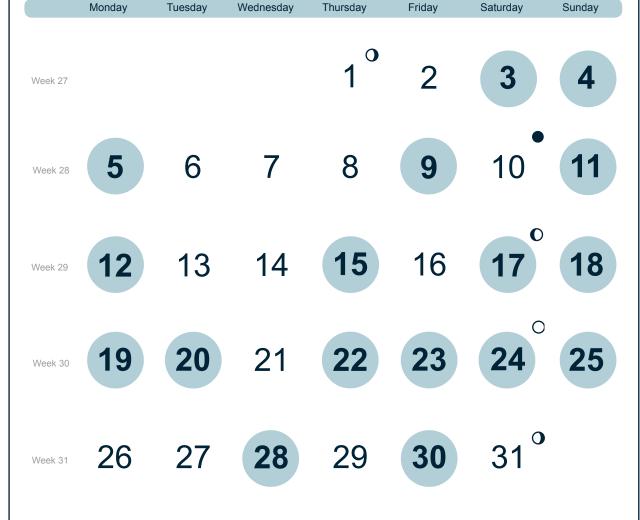
July 2021

"One virus has put all mankind of our planet to a survival test challenging the ability, intelligence and knowledge of humans." Syed Badiuzzaman



Random Act of Kindness

Thank a Teacher with a gift.





July is UV Safety Month | Make a Difference to Children Month | International Women with Alopecia Month | Group B Strep Awareness Month

Last Quarter New Moon



O Full Moon

Special Days

Saint Thomas the Apostle – Christian

4th **US Independence Day**

Birthday of Guru Hargobind – Sikh

Martyrdom of the Báb – Baha'i

11th World Population Day

12th Orangemen's Day Bank Holiday - Northern Ireland

15th Saint Vladimir the Great Day

- Orthodox Christian **World Youth Skills Day**

17th World Day for International Justice

18th Nelson Mandela International Day Tish'a B'av - Judaism

19th Waqf al Arafa – Islam

20th Eid al Adha - Islam

22nd Feast Day of Saint Mary Magdalene Christian

23rd Birthday of Guru Har Krishan - Sikh

Birthday of Emperor Haile Selassie - Rastafari

24th Pioneer Day - Mormon Christian Asalha Puja (Dharma Day) - Buddhist

25th Saint James the Great Day – Christian

28th World Hepatitis Day

30th World Day against Trafficking Persons International Day of Friendship



August 2021

"Struggling for the right words to say. Feeling a bit helpless and anxious. I am used to being team mates with people from all over the world, something I love most about cycling. It has occurred to me that every person in the world right now is my team mate, because every single person can make a difference in this flight. We are all in this together." Lizzie Deignan, Former World Road Racing Champion



Random Act of Kindness

Give a stranger a compliment.





	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
eek 31							1
/eek 32	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
eek 33	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
eek 34	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
eek 35	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
eek 36	30°	31					
	August is	Health & Safet	y Month Psorias Children's Eye I	is Awareness Mo Health & Safety N		Business Month	
	O La	st Quarter	New Moon	O Firs	t Quarter (Full Moon	

Special Days

- 1st Lammas Christian
 Fast in honour of Holy Mother of Lord
 Jesus Orthodox Christian
 Lughnasadh Imbolc Wicca/Pagan
 Northern and Southern hemispheres
- 2nd Summer Bank Holiday Scotland and ROI
- 6th Transfiguration of the Lord Orthodox
 Christian
 Feast of Transfiguration of Our Lord
 - Feast of Transfiguration of Our Lord

 Christian
- 9th International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- 10th Al-Hijra/Muharram New Year Islam Feast of Saint Lawrence Christian
- 12th International Youth Day
- 15th Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary

 Catholic Christian
 - Dormition of the Theotokos Orthodox Christian
- 19th World Humanitarian Day Ashura – Islam
- **22nd Queenship of Mary** Catholic Christian Raksha Bandhan Hindu
- 23rd International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
- 24th Feast of Saint Bartholomew the Apostle

 Christian
- 29th Beheading of Saint John the Baptist

 Christian
- 80th Summer Bank Holiday England, Wales and Northern Ireland Krishna Janmashtami – Hindu



September 2021

"We are all navigating this new normal together. As we lock arms virtually and try to help one another in the ways we can, our vast world suddenly feels a little smaller and a lot more connected.

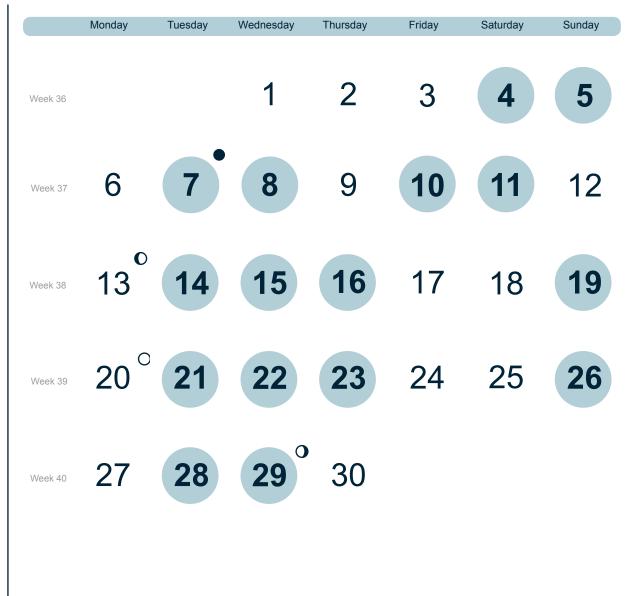
And for that, we are grateful." Michael Dell, CEO of Dell



Random Act of Kindness

Check in with your colleagues and ask how they are feeling with the change in working routine.





September is Sickle Cell Awareness Month | Childhood Cancer Awareness Month |
International Blood Cancer Awareness Month | World Alzheimer's Month |
World Dementia Awareness Month











Special Days

4th	Paryushana	Parvarambha	begins
	_ lain		

5th International Day of Charity

7th Rosh Hashanah – Judaism

8th Nativity of Virgin Mary – Christian Nativity of the Theotokos – Orthodox Christian

International Literacy Day

10th Ganesh Chaturthi – Hindu World Suicide Prevention Day

11th Samvatsari – Jain

14th Triumph of the Cross – Christian

15th International Day of Democracy

16th Yom Kippur – *Judaism*

19th Anant Chaturdashi – Hindu

21st Sukkot – Judaism

Feast of Saint Matthew – Christian
International Day of Peace
World Alzheimer's Day

22nd Autumn Equinox

Mabon – Ostara – *Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern hemispheres*

23rd Bi Visibility Day International Day of Sign Languages

26th World Deaf Day

28th Shemini Atzeret – Judaism International Right to Know Day

29th Michaelmas – Saint Michael and All Angels – Christian Simchat Torah – Judaism

World Heart Day





October 2021

"We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again." HRH. Queen Elizabeth



Random Act of Kindness

Reach out to spend time with a friend, family member or neighbour who is experiencing loneliness.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 40					1	2	3
Week 41	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Week 42	11	12	13°	14	15	16	17
Week 43	18	19	20 °	21	22	23	24
Week 44	25	26	27	28	29	30	31





 Last Quarter New Moon



First Quarter



Special Days

- 1st International Day of Older **Persons**
- 2nd International Day of Non-Violence **Feast of the Guardian Angels** - Christian
- 4th Saint Francis' Day Christian **Blessing of the Animals** – Christian
- 6th Navaratri begins Hindu **World Cerebral Palsy Day**
- 9th Birthday of Guru Ram Das Sikh
- 10th World Mental Health Day
- 11th International Day of the Girl Child
- 14th World Sight Day
- 15th International Day of Rural Women Dussehra - Dasara - Hindu **Global Handwashing Day**
- 16th World Food Day
- 17th International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- 18th Feast of Saint Luke Christian
- 19th Mawlid al-Nabi Islam
- 24th United Nations Day
- 25th Bank Holiday ROI
- 26th Intersex Awareness Day
- 28th Feast of Saints Simon and Jude Christian
- 29th World Stroke Day
- 31st All Hallows' Eve Christian Samhain (Halloween) - Beltane
 - Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern
 - hemispheres

Reformation Day – Protestant Christian

British Summer Time ends



November 2021

"It is only in our darkest hours that we may discover the true strength of the brilliant light within ourselves that can never, ever, be dimmed." Doe Zantamata



Random Act of Kindness

Leave a bouquet of flowers at the hospital, the nurses will know who needs it the most.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 45	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Week 46	8	9	10	110	12	13	14
Week 47	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Week 48	22	23	24	25	26	27 °	28
Week 49	29	30					





Last Quarter







Special Days

- 1st All Saints' Day Christian
- 2nd All Souls' Day Christian **Coronation of Emperor Haile** Selassie I – Rastafari
- 4th Diwali Deepavali Hindu, Sikh, Jain Bandi Chhor Divas - Sikh
- 6th Birth of the Báb Baha'i
- 7th Birth of Baha'u'llah Baha'i
- 8th Intersex Day of Solidarity
- 9th Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
 - Catholic Christian
- 11th Armistice Day Interfaith
- 13th World Kindness Day
- 14th Remembrance Sunday 14-21 UK Interfaith Week **World Diabetes Day**
- 15th Nativity Fast begins Orthodox Christian
- 17th International Students' Day
- 19th International Men's Day Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev - Sikh
- 20th Universal Children's Day **Transgender Day of Remembrance**
- 21st Presentation of the Theotokos
 - Orthodox Christian
 - Feast of Christ the King Christian
- 24th Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur
- Sikh
- 25th International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women Day of the Covenant - Baha'i Thanksgiving – USA
- 27th Ascension of Abdu'l-Bahá Baha'i
- 28th Advent Sunday Christian
- 29th Chanukah Judaism
- **30th Saint Andrew's Day** Christian Bank Holiday - Scotland





December 2021

"Pandemics are an especially demanding test... because we are not just trying to protect people we know, but also people we do not know or even, possibly, care about". Nicholas Christakis, Yale University



Random Act of Kindness

Offer to help wrap presents for elderly neighbours, friends or family.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 49			1	2	3	4	5
Week 50	6	7	8	9	10	11°	12
Week 51	13	14	15	16	17	18	19 [°]
Week 52	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Week 53	27 °	28	29	30	31		





Last Quarter







Special Days

- 1st World AIDS Day
- 2nd International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 3rd International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 8th Feast of the Immaculate Conception

 Christian
 - Rohatsu (Bodhi Day) Buddhist
- 9th International Anti-Corruption Day
- 10th Human Rights Day
- 18th International Migrants Day
- 20th International Human Solidarity Day
- 21st Winter Solstice
 - Yule Litha Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern hemispheres
- 24th Christmas Eve Christian
- 25th Christmas Day Christian
 Feast of the Nativity Orthodox
 - Feast of the Nativity Orthodox Christian
- 26th Saint Stephen's Day Christian Boxing Day
 - Feast of the Holy Family Catholic Christian
 - Zarathosht Diso (Death of Prophet Zarathushtra) Zoroastrian
- **27th Bank Holiday** England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and ROI
- 28th Bank Holiday England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and ROI Holy Innocents – Christian
- 31st New Year's Eve/Hogmanay Watch Night – Christian



Inclusion Partners 2021































































































































The Inclusion Calendar 2021



Holocaust Memorial Day • 27 January

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is the international day to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, the millions of people murdered under Nazi persecution, and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. It marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. Each year, Durham University's Jewish community hosts educational talks and other events to commemorate HMD. We also light the Durham Castle purple to mark this important day and to show our solidarity.



Lunar New Year • 12 February

Lunar New Year (also known as the Spring Festival) is celebrated across Asia, including in China, Vietnam, Korea and Laos, among other countries. During the two-week festival, people travel to see their family and friends, give gifts, and eat a new year meal. Durham University's Oriental Museum hosts various activities to mark the Lunar New Year, ranging from dragon dancing and calligraphy to storytelling.



International Women's Day • 08 March

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender equality. Within Durham we have an incredible history of women making a difference to the University community as well as the wider, international community. Each year, the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Unit celebrate the achievements of current staff and students as nominated by their peers through the *Durham Women Making a Difference* initiative.



Easter Sunday • 04 April

Easter Sunday is the culmination of Holy Week. It commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his Crucifixion; it is the most important Christian festival. Easter, as with Christmas, has accumulated a great many traditions from different parts of the world. At Durham, our Christian community celebrates Easter Sunday with special church services and various festivities such as the *Annual Easter Chick Hunt* at the Botanic Garden.



Mental Health Awareness Month • May

Mental Health Awareness Month began in the United States in 1949 and was introduced by the organisation Mental Health America. It aims to raise awareness and educate the public about: mental illnesses; the realities of living with these conditions; and strategies for attaining mental health and wellness. In the UK, Mental Health Awareness Week will be held from 10 to 16 May 2021. At Durham, our Counselling Service provides support to both students and staff in identifying and managing difficulties that are impacting their studies or working life. Support is available throughout the year.



LGBTQ Pride Month • June

June is the month dedicated to celebrating the LGBTQ communities all around the world; it is about the rights, achievements, acceptance and pride of their members. At Durham, Pride has grown; and it now includes the parade which sees the local and University communities coming together every year to celebrate diversity.



Disability Awareness Day • 18 July

In the UK, Disability Awareness Day was founded by Dave Thompson MBE DL in 1992 and is hosted by Warrington Disability Partnership. It is a pan disability event which promotes a 'can do' culture focusing on what people with disabilities can do throughout life and work. At Durham University, we are committed to accessibility and we aim to provide an environment that is welcoming for all. In addition to the support we provide to staff and students with disabilities, we promote accessibility through our visitor attractions. At the Oriental Museum, for instance, we organise touch tours for visitors with visual impairment, as depicted in the featured image.



Day of Ashura • 19 August

The Day of Ashura falls on the 10th of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Muslims mark the Day of Ashura with a voluntary day of fasting which commemorates the day Noah left the Ark, and the day that Moses was saved from the Egyptians by God. For Shia Muslims, Ashura is also a solemn day of mourning the martyrdom at Karbala of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. Durham University has a growing Islamic community, with two dedicated Islamic Prayer Rooms located on Old Elvet and on the edge of Grey College. These rooms are used throughout the year, for Friday prayers as well as festivals and celebrations.



Yom Kippur • 16 September

Also known as Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur is the most solemn of Jewish religious holidays, observed on the 10th day of the lunar month of Tishri, when Jews seek to expiate their sins and achieve reconciliation with God. It marks the culmination of the 10 days of repentance that begin with Rosh Hashana. For nearly 26 hours, Jews abstain from food and drink and spend the day in synagogue, praying for forgiveness.



Black History Month • October

Held every October in Britain, Black History Month (BHM) was first introduced in London in 1987 through the Greater London Council, as a means of offering a sense of history, achievement and continuity within the black community. Over the years, it has also evolved into a celebration of cultural diversity and has significantly contributed to promoting inclusion in the UK. Within Durham, a programme of BHM events and activities are organised by various staff and student groups each year, these are diverse in content and have included drumming workshops, alongside walking talks of the history of slavery within Durham.



Diwali • 04 November

Diwali or Divali (also known as Festival of Lights) is one of the major religious festivals in Hinduism, Jainism and Sikhism. It lasts for five days between mid-October and mid-November. The festival generally symbolises the victory of light over darkness. Observances vary depending on faith, such as lighting of oil lamps on the streets and in houses and people visiting their relatives and having feasts. Each year, the University's Oriental Museum hosts a very popular Diwali celebration, with music, food, a traditional prayer ceremony and more.



International Human Rights Day • 10 December

The International Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December which is the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. The UDHR is a milestone document that proclaims the inalienable rights which each person is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.