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Residents from across Peterborough are invited to enjoy a spectacular celebration of unity at an open-air festival this weekend.

Peterborough Inter-Faith Council and Peterborough City Council are hosting the Faith Festival and Food event, which will offer a variety of traditional food from different countries, cultures and religions.

This year's event will be extra special, seeing as 2018 marks 40 years since the Peterborough Inter-Faith Council was formed.

The festival will be held in Cathedral Square on Saturday, May 12 from 12pm until 3pm as part of the council's City of Festivals programme, which features a number of large-scale events throughout 2018.

It will include presentations from children of different faiths in the form of hymn, song, poetry and dance with the theme of cohesion and unity. There will also be performances of Opera, Bhangra and Bollywood dancing as well as a Sufi musical band.

Dr Jaspal Singh, Chair of Peterborough Inter-Faith Council, said: "We hope to see as many people as possible from different faiths enjoying the food on offer and hearing about some of the beautiful places of worship that are found throughout the city.

"This year is our 40th anniversary, so it is going to be a real celebration. We want to show that Peterborough is for everyone, regardless of colour, creed, religion or gender."

The full line-up for the event is below:

- > 12pm: Welcome and Introduction – A brief history Dr Jaspal Singh DL, Chair Peterborough Interfaith Council
- > 12.10: Speeches from City Dignitaries

Faith Group Presentation:

- > 12.30: Bhuddist Community - reading/prayer
- > 12.35: Children from the Hindu community - musical recitation
- > 12.50: Liberal Jewish Community - reading/song
- > 1pm: Islamic contribution by Iqra Academy Peterborough - recitation
- > 1.10: Children from the Sikh community - hymn from The Holy Guru Granth Sahib Ji
- > 1.20: Catholic Christian Group – hymns

Cultural Programme:

- > 1.30: Bhangra dance by Preet Kala Sangam Group - traditional Punjabi folk dance
- > 1.50: Peterborough Opera Group - epithalamium and wedding chorus from Romeo and Juliette by Gounod, bridal chorus from Lohengrin by Wagner Va Pensiero by Verdi, chorus of wedding guests from Lucia di Lammermoor by Donizetti
- > 2.10: Sufi Muslim Music by Munshid Group - traditional spiritual music and song
- > 2.30: Classical and traditional Indian dance by Fusion group
- > 2.45: Presentations and thanks to local places of worship, VIP's and friends
- > 3pm: Close

The event will be attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Peterborough as well as several other dignitaries, including Peterborough MP Fiona Onansanya, the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire Julie Spence OBE.

Food is free, but contributions to the Peterborough Inter-Faith Council will be welcomed.

More information can be found on [the council website](#).