

Equality and Diversity UK
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2016

Diversity Calendar



Equality and Diversity UK

January 2016

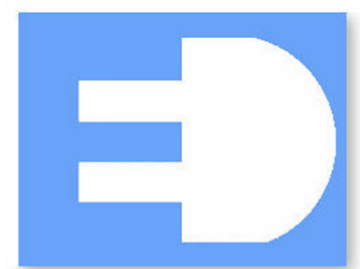
27 January

Holocaust Memorial Day

International memorial day for the victims of the Holocaust, the genocide that resulted in the annihilation of 6 million Jews, 2 million Gypsies (Roma and Sinti), 15,000 homosexual people and millions of others by the Nazi regime and its collaborators



11 January: Human Trafficking Awareness Day



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January 2016

Buddhism

Buddhism is a religion indigenous to the Indian subcontinent that encompasses a variety of traditions, beliefs and practices largely based on teachings attributed to Siddhartha Gautama, who is commonly known as the Buddha, meaning "the awakened one"



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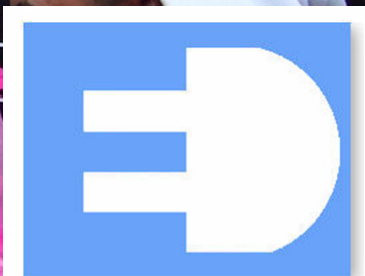
Special Days in January

1	New Year's Day (BANK HOLIDAY) Gantan-sai (Shinto) Shinto New Year
5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)
6	Epiphany (Christian) festival held in honour of the coming of the three kings to the infant Jesus Christ
7	Christmas Day (Rastafari) Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox Christian)
14	Maghi Lohri (Sikh)
15	Makar Sankranti (Hindu) celebrates the sun's journey into the northern hemisphere
24	Mahayana New Year - Buddhist
25	Tu B'Shevat (Jewish) The Jewish New Year for trees

February 2016

LGBT History Month

This is a month to recognise and celebrate the contribution of LGBT people to society



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February 2016

Judaism

is the religion, philosophy and way of life of the Jewish people.

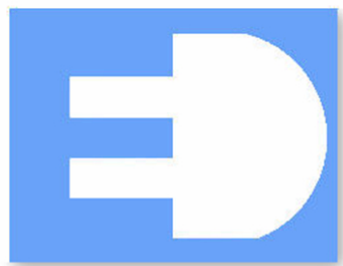
Judaism is a monotheistic religion, with its main inspiration being based on or found in the Hebrew Bible which has been explored in later texts, such as the Talmud



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Special Days in February

2	Imbolc (Pagan) celebrates the awakening of the land and the growing power of the Sun.
3	Rissun (Setsubun) (Shinto) A Spring festival that marks the division between Winter and Spring
8	Chinese New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
10	Ash Wednesday (Christian) The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches. Lent is the season marking the time Jesus spent in the wilderness.
15	Nirvana day (Buddhist - Jain) festival marking the anniversary of Buddha's death



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March 2016

- 1 March** Zero Discrimination Day
- 8 March** International Women's Day
- 21 March** International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 21 March** World Down's syndrome Day
- 20 March** International Transgender Day



March 2016

Islam

is a monotheistic religion articulated by the Qur'an, a book considered by its adherents to be the verbatim word of God and by the teachings and normative example of Muhammad, considered by them to be the last prophet of God. An adherent of Islam is called a Muslim



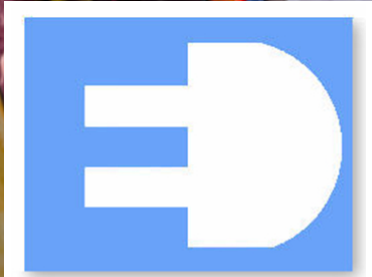
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Special Days in March

2	Nineteen Day Fast - start (Bahai) During this period Baha'is go without food or drink from sunrise to sunset.
20	Palm Sunday (Christian) The last Sunday of Lent. Start of Holy Week
21	Noruz (Bahai, Zoroastrian, Hindu) New Year
23	Magha Puja Day (Buddhist) . Celebrates the full moon day of the third lunar month Holi (Hindu) Festival of Colours
24	Purim (Jewish) Purim commemorates the time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination by Esther. Holi (Buddhist)
25	Good Friday (Christian) Good Friday commemorates the execution of Jesus by crucifixion. (BANK HOLIDAY)
27	Easter Sunday (Christian) Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Christ
28	Easter Monday (BANK HOLIDAY) Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian) Birthday of their founder, Zoroaster.

2 April World Autism Awareness Day

8 April International Roma Day



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April 2016



April 2016

Hinduism

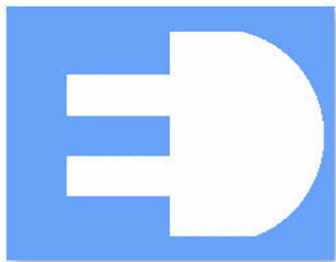
Hinduism is a categorisation of distinct intellectual or philosophical points of view, rather than a rigid, common set of beliefs. Among other practices and philosophies, Hinduism includes a wide spectrum of laws and prescriptions of "daily morality" based on karma, dharma, and societal norms



April						
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Special Days in April

14	Vaisakhi (Sikh) Sikh New Year Festival
15	Rama Navami (Hindu) Birthday of Lord Rama
18	Birthday of Guru Angad Dev (Sikh)
19	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain) Birthday of Mahavir Swami
21	Ridvan - first day (Bahai) The start of a 12 day festival Grounation Day (Rastafarian) The day that Emperor Haile Selassie I visited Jamaica in 1966
22	Theravada New Year (Buddhist) New Year festival for Theravada Buddhists Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu) Birth of the god Hanuman
23	Passover - 1st day (Jewish) The start of the season of Passover



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- 17 May** International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- 21 May** World Day for Cultural Diversity

May 2016

May 2016

Sikhism

is a monotheistic religion founded during the 15th century in the Punjab region, by Guru Nanak and continued to progress through the ten successive Sikh gurus. It is the fifth-largest organised religion in the world, with approximately 30 million adherents.



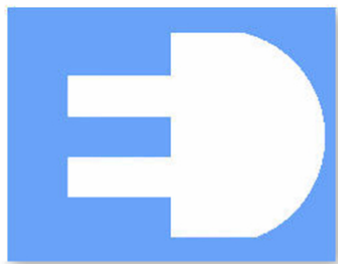
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Special Days in May

1	Beltane (Pagan) Pagans celebrate Beltane with maypole dances
2	Early May BANK HOLIDAY
5	Lailat al Miraj (Islam) The Prophet's journey from Mecca to the 'Farthest Mosque' in Jerusalem. Ascension Day (Christian) marks the last earthly appearance of Christ after his resurrection.
15	Visakha Pujaor (Buddha day) (Buddhist) The most important of the Buddhist festivals. It celebrates the Buddha's birthday Pentecost - Whitsun (Christian) Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and the birth of the Christian Church.
23	Declaration of the Bab (Bahai) Bab was the Forerunner of Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i faith.
26	Corpus Christi (Christian) Roman Catholic festival celebrating the "real presence of Christ in the Eucharist".
29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Bahai) Anniversary of Baha'u'llah's death
30	Spring BANK HOLIDAY

June 2016

20 June **World Refugee Day** is dedicated to raising awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world



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June 2016

Rastafari

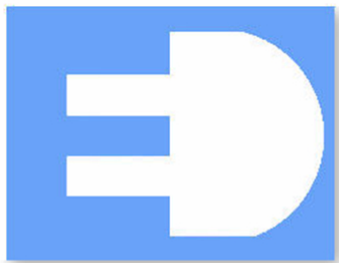
The Rastafari movement is an African-based spiritual ideology that arose in the 1930s in Jamaica. It is sometimes described as a religion but is considered by many adherents to be a "Way of Life." Its adherents worship Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia



June						
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Special Days in June

6	Ramadan start (Islam) Ramadan is the Muslim month of fasting.
11	Shavuot (Jewish) Shavuot is a 2 day festival that marks the time that the first harvest was taken to the Temple.
16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev (Sikh) Guru Arjan Dev was the fifth Sikh Guru and the first Sikh martyr.
21	Summer Solstice - Litha (Pagan) Longest day of the year
29	St Peter and St Paul's Day (Christian) The martyrdoms of both these saints are observed by the Church today



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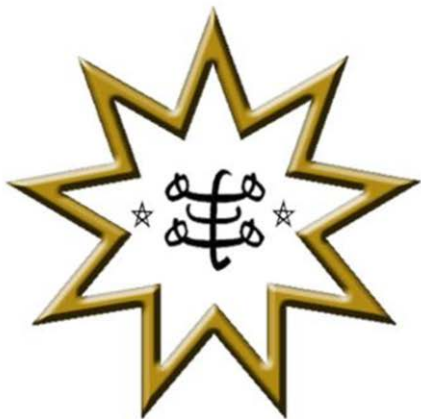
The background of the entire page is a silhouette of a mosque with multiple domes and minarets, set against a bright orange and yellow sunset sky. The sun is visible on the right side, partially obscured by a tall minaret.

July 2016

July 2016

Bahá'í

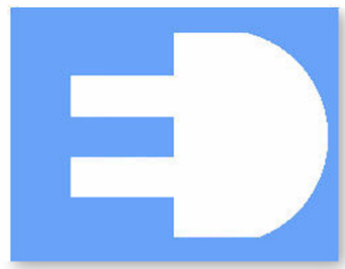
The Bahá'í Faith is a monotheistic religion emphasizing the spiritual unity of all humankind. Three core principles establish a basis for Bahá'í teachings and doctrine: the unity of God, the unity of religion, and the unity of humanity



July						
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Special Days in July

2	Lailat-ul-Qadr (Islam) The Night of Power
7	Eid-UI-Fitr (Islam) The end of Ramadan when Muslims celebrate the end of fasting and thank Allah for His help with their month-long act of self-control.
9	Martyrdom of the Bab (Bahai) Anniversary of the Bab's execution in 1850 in Tabriz, Iran.
13	Obon (Buddhist, Shinto) event for commemorating one's ancestors
16	Constitution Day (Rastafarian) Constitution of Ethiopia was adopted by Emperor Haile Selassie in 1931
19	Asalha - Dharma Day (Buddhist) The anniversary of the start of Buddha's teaching - his first sermon after his enlightenment, "The Wheel of Truth"
23	Birthday of Haile Selassie I (Rastafari) Haile Selassie was the Emperor of Ethiopia. Rastas believe Haile Selassie is God, and that he will return the black community who are living in exile to Africa.



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12 August International Youth Day
23 August International Day for the
Remembrance of the Slave Trade

August 2016

August 2016

Paganism

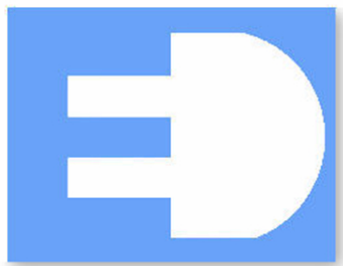
Paganism has become the identifier for a collection of new religious movements attempting to continue, revive, or reconstruct historical pre-Abrahamic religion. There are roughly 300 million pagans worldwide.



August						
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Special Days in August

1	Lughnasadh - (Pagan) A harvest festival and one of the Pagan festivals of Celtic origin
14	Tisha B'Av (Jewish) A solemn day that commemorates a series of tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people on this day.
15	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian) A largely Roman Catholic festival celebrating their belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was taken body and soul into heaven.
17	Birthday of Marcus Garvey (Rastafari) Birthday of Marcus Garvey, Jamaican politician who predicted the crowning of a King in Africa
25	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu) Birth of Lord Krishna
29	Summer BANK HOLIDAY Paryushan (Jain) 10 day festival



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21 September World Alzheimer's Day

21 September International Day of Peace

28 September Freedom from Hunger Day

September 2016

September 2016

Humanism

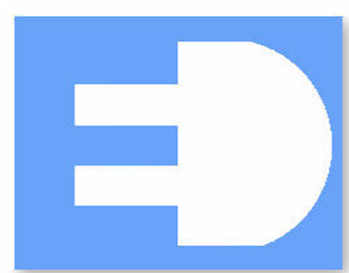
Humanists believe that human experience and rational thinking provide the only source of both knowledge and a moral code to live by. They reject the idea of knowledge 'revealed' to human beings by gods, or in special books.



September						
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Special Days in September

1	First Parkash (Sikh) Celebration of the installation of the Sikh Scripture in the Golden Temple in Amritsar in 1604.
5	Ganesh Charurthi (Hindu) Birth of Ganesh, god of wisdom & prosperity.
8	Nativity of the Virgin Mary (Christian) Roman Catholic and Anglican churches celebrate the birth of Mary, mother of Jesus.
11	Eid-UI-Adha (Islam) Festival of Sacrifice marking the day after Arafat, the most important day in the Hajj ritual. This is a four day holiday Ethiopian New Year (Rastafari) The start of the New Year in Ethiopia is recognised because Rastafarians believe Ethiopia to be their spiritual homeland, and a place to which they want to return.
16	Fast of Gedalliah (Jewish) Fast in memory of the assassination of Gedalliah Ben Achikam, the Governor of Israel during the days of Nebuchadnetzar, King of Babylonia.
22	Autumn Equinox (Pagan) This day is celebrated when day and night are of equal duration.



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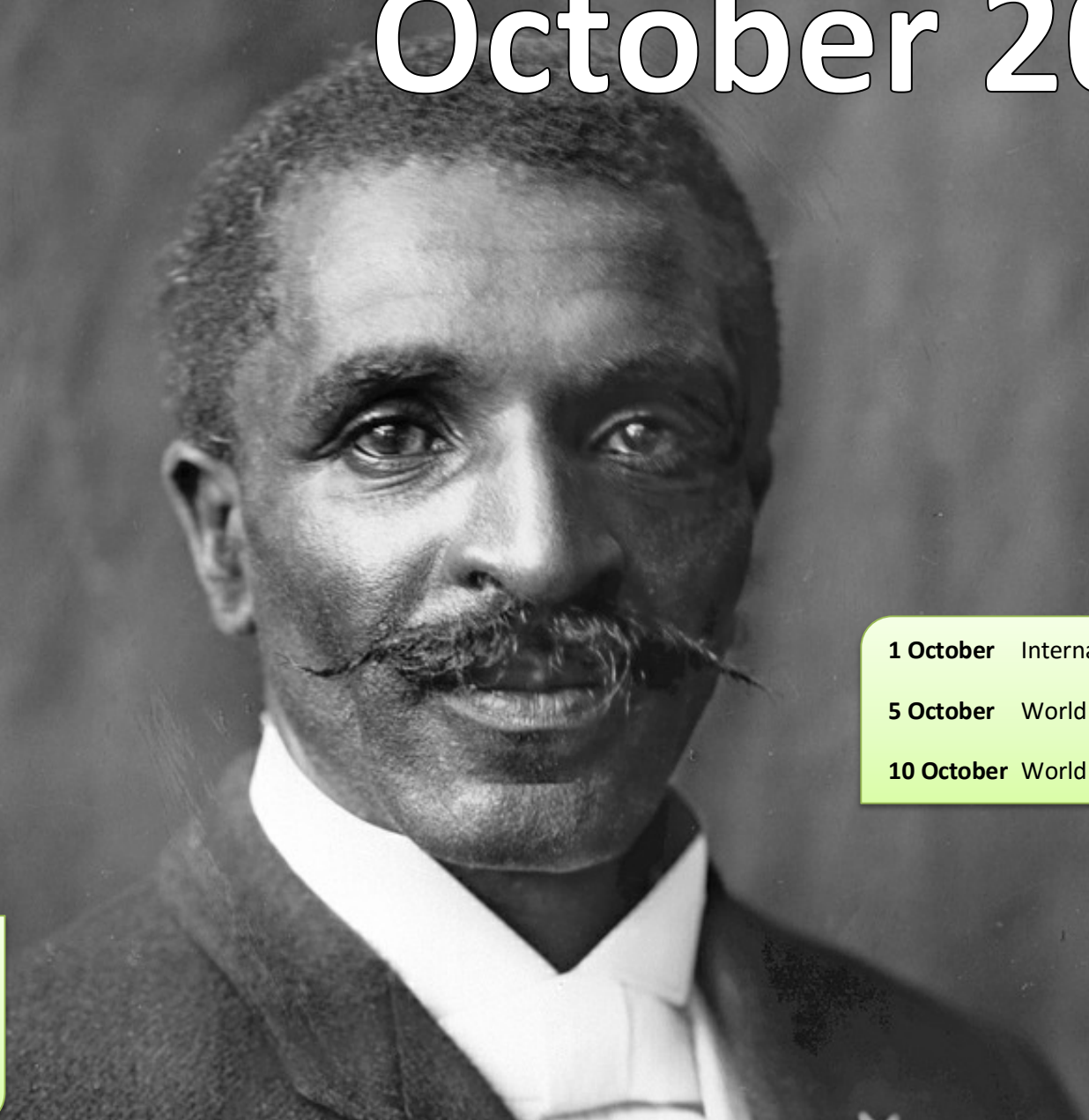
Diversity Calendar

October 2016

- 1 October** International Day of Older Persons
- 5 October** World Teachers Day
- 10 October** World Mental Health Day

Black History Month

A celebration and exploration of black history, heritage, culture and achievements



October 2016

Zoroastrianism

Zoroastrianism is one of the world's oldest monotheistic religions. It was founded by the Prophet Zoroaster in ancient Iran approximately 3500 years ago.

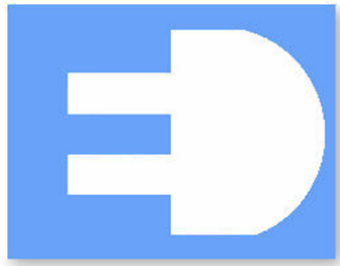
Zoroastrians believe there is one God called Ahura Mazda (Wise Lord) and He created the world.



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Special Days in October

1	Navaratri start (Hindu) symbolises the triumph of good over evil and marks the start of autumn.
2	Rosh Hashanah - 1st day (Jewish) Jewish New Year. A two-day festival during which work is not permitted. Al-Hijira (Islam) Islamic New Year. Marks the migration of the Prophet Mohammad from Mecca to Medina.
11	Dasara (Hindu) Celebrates Lord Rama's victory over the evil Ravana. Ashura (Islam) The martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson, Hussein. Yom Kippur (Jewish) Day of Atonement - the most solemn day of the Jewish year.
16	Sukkot (Jewish) commemorates the years Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land.
20	Birth of the Bab (Bahai) Celebrates the birth of the precursor of the founder of the Baha'i faith. Birth of the Guru Granth (Sikh)
30	Diwali (Hindu, Sikh, Jainism) The festival of lights is the most popular of all the festivals from South Asia.



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November 2016

- 9 November** International Day against Fascism and Anti-Semitism
- 15 November** Start of Anti-Bullying Week
- 25 November** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

November 2016

Jainism

Jainism is an ancient religion from India that teaches that the way to liberation and bliss is to live lives of harmlessness and renunciation.

The essence of Jainism is concern for the welfare of every being in the universe and for the health of the universe itself.



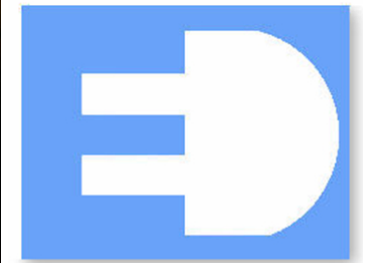
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Special Days in November

2	<p>Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie I (Rastafari) Haile Selassie was the Emperor of Ethiopia.</p> <p>All Souls' Day (Christian) All Souls' Day is an opportunity to commemorate the faithful departed.</p>
11	<p>Armistice Day (Multifaith) Marks the end of the First World War on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918.</p>
12	<p>Birth of Baha'u'llah (Bahai) This day celebrates the birth in 1817 of the founder of the Baha'i faith.</p>
14	<p>Birthday of Guru Nanak (Sikh) The founder of the Sikh religion</p>
24	<p>Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh) Guru Tegh Bahadur was the ninth Sikh Guru</p>
27	<p>Advent (Christian) The beginning of the ecclesiastical year</p>

December 2016

- 1 December** World Aids Day
- 2 December** International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 3 December** International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 18 December** international Migrants' Day



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December 2016

Christianity

Christianity is the most popular religion in the world with over 2 billion adherents. 42 million

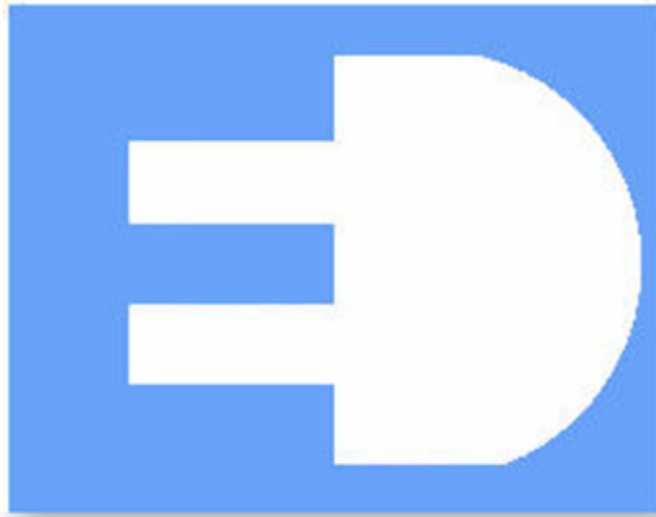
Britons see themselves as nominally Christian. Christians believe that God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to save humanity from the consequences of its sins



December						
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Special Days in December

8	<p>Bodhi Day (Buddhist) On Bodhi day some Buddhists celebrate Gautama's attainment of enlightenment under the Bodhi tree at Bodhgaya, India.</p> <p>Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Catholic) Celebration to remember Mary's conception as being without sin, therefore, immaculate.</p>
12	<p>Milad un Nabi (Islam) The Prophet's Birthday</p>
21	<p>Winter Solstice - Yule (Pagan) Yule is the time of the winter solstice. Within the Northern Tradition, Yule is regarded as the New Year.</p>
25	<p>Christmas Day (Christian) BANK HOLIDAY - Western Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Hanukkah (Jewish) Hanukkah is the Festival of Lights and marks the restoration of the temple by the Maccabees in 164 BCE.</p>
26	<p>St Stephen's Day (Christian) St Stephen, the first Christian martyr, is celebrated on this day.</p> <p>Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian) death of the prophet, Zoroaster</p> <p>Boxing Day BANK HOLIDAY</p>



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Equality and Diversity UK are a specialist training company focusing on equality and diversity in the private, public and voluntary sectors.

We provide training courses, seminars, resources and the Equality and Diversity Network

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