

**DIARY DATE – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015**

**World Autism Awareness Day**

The annual World Autism Awareness Day is April 2nd 2015. Every year, autism organisations around the world celebrate the day with unique fundraising and awareness-raising events. For more info follow the link;

<http://www.autism.org.uk/>



**DIARY DATE – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

**World Health Day**

Each year the World Health Organisation selects a key health issue and encourages people from all ages and all backgrounds to hold events that highlight the significance of this issue for good health and well-being. This year's campaign is all about safe food. <http://www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/2015/en/>

**DIARY DATE – 20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

**Depression Awareness Week**

Held every year in April, Depression Awareness Week is an opportunity to raise awareness and funds to try to end the stigma associated with depression. For more info follow the links below:

[www.depressionalliance.org](http://www.depressionalliance.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Depression-Awareness/102016913169320>



**DIARY DATE – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015**

**St George's Day (Patron Saint of England)**

St George's emblem, a red cross on a white background, is the flag of England, and part of the British flag. He is perhaps most famous for slaying a dragon. The story of St George and the Dragon dates back to the Middle Ages when the dragon was commonly used to represent evil, so it's an excellent tale of good triumphing over evil. Since then St George has been popularly identified with English ideals of charity, chivalry and courage.

**AUTISM**

Here are some facts and statistics about autism, and how it can affect children, adults and their families.

The term autism is used to describe all diagnoses on the autism spectrum including classic autism and Asperger syndrome. Autism is a serious, lifelong and disabling condition. Without the right support, it can have a profound, sometimes devastating effect on individuals and families.

Autism is much more common than many people think. There are around 700,000 people in the UK with autism, that's more than 1 in 100. If you include their families, autism touches the lives of 2.7 million people every day.

- Autism doesn't just affect children. Children with autism grow up to be adults with autism
- Autism is a hidden disability - you can't always tell if someone has it
- Autism is incurable, but the right support at the right time can make an enormous difference to people's lives
- Over 40% of children with autism have been bullied at school
- Over 50% of children with autism are not in the kind of school their parents believe would best support them
- 1 in 5 children with autism has been excluded from school, many more than once
- At least 1 in 3 adults with autism are experiencing severe mental health difficulties due to a lack of support
- Only 15% of adults with autism in the UK are in full-time paid employment
- 51% of adults with autism in the UK have spent time with neither a job, nor access to benefits, 61% of those out of work say they want to work

For people with Autism, the world is a confusing place that they struggle to make sense of. In particular, they have difficulty understanding and relating to other people, and taking part in everyday family and social life. You will come into contact with people who have autism so I'd encourage you to follow the link to learn more;

<http://www.autism.org.uk/about-autism/autism-and-asperger-syndrome-an-introduction/what-is-autism.aspx>

### The Cost of Ignoring the Needs of Disabled Customers

UK businesses, including pubs, hotels and restaurants, are losing an estimated £1.8bn a month by ignoring the needs of disabled customers, according to a report by Scope and the Extra Costs Commission. A survey of over 2000 disabled people found the 75% of participants and their families have stopped spending money at restaurants and other businesses as a result of poor service and lack of disability awareness.

[UK businesses lose £1.8bn a month by ignoring the needs of disabled customers](#)

### EHRC REPORT FINDINGS

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has published findings from a recent report – Religion and Belief in the Workplace and Survey Delivery.

Nearly 2,500 people responded, making it the largest ever survey carried out by the Commission. The largest number of responses came from Christians.

Some reported that they feared their religion is losing its place in the workplace and in society more generally.

A recurring theme among some employees was the pressure they felt they were under to keep their religion hidden at work and feeling discriminated against when it came to wearing religious symbols or expressing their beliefs. This was particularly felt by Christians.

People reported being mocked for their beliefs including Christians, who said their colleagues assumed they were bigoted.

Jewish and Muslim participants said they found it hard to get time off work, even as part of their normal annual leave, for religious observance.

Others alleged that they were excluded from meetings, or passed over for promotion or recruitment due to their beliefs and felt unable to raise the issue for fear of repercussions.

Humanists and atheists reported feeling excluded in workplaces which held prayer meetings or events in religious buildings.

Christian parents reported their children being ridiculed in schools for their beliefs – for example for believing that God created the world. Humanist parents also reported their children being mocked – for example one young child being told that he didn't deserve Christmas presents because he didn't believe in God.

For the full report visit;

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/our-work/key-projects/your-experiences-religion-or-belief>

### EASTER

Easter is the oldest and the most important Christian Festival, the celebration of the death and coming to life again of Jesus Christ. For Christians, the dawn of Easter Sunday with its message of new life is the high point of the Christian year; <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/christianity/easter.shtml>



### PASSOVER

Passover is one of the most important festivals in the Jewish year. At this time Jewish people remember how the children of Israel left slavery behind them when they were led out of Egypt by Moses over 3000 years ago. Passover 2015 begins on the evening of April 3rd and ends on the evening of April 11th.

A highlight is the Seder meal held in each family's home at the beginning of the festival, when the story of their deliverance is recounted as narrated in the Haggadah (the Telling, the Story). Matzah (unleavened bread) is eaten throughout the festival, as are other foods that contain no leaven. Everyone at the Seder each has a cushion to lean on. This is to remind them that they are now free people, no longer slaves.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/judaism/passover.shtml>

Happy Passover