

*Wagna Carta and The Putney Debates:*

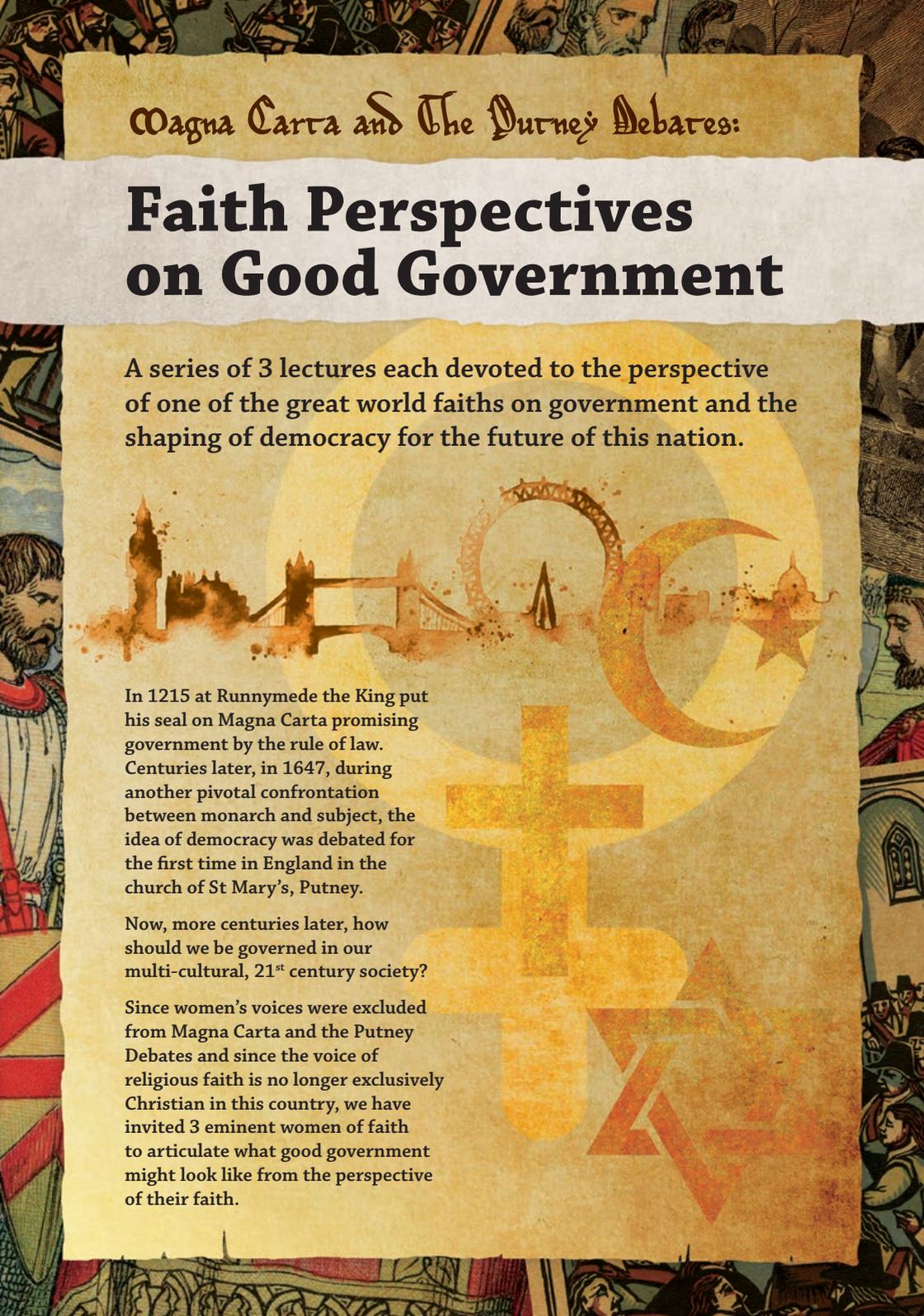
# Faith Perspectives on Good Government

A series of 3 lectures each devoted to the perspective of one of the great world faiths on government and the shaping of democracy for the future of this nation.

In 1215 at Runnymede the King put his seal on Magna Carta promising government by the rule of law. Centuries later, in 1647, during another pivotal confrontation between monarch and subject, the idea of democracy was debated for the first time in England in the church of St Mary's, Putney.

Now, more centuries later, how should we be governed in our multi-cultural, 21<sup>st</sup> century society?

Since women's voices were excluded from Magna Carta and the Putney Debates and since the voice of religious faith is no longer exclusively Christian in this country, we have invited 3 eminent women of faith to articulate what good government might look like from the perspective of their faith.



## The Lectures

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Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October

### Judaism

*Rabbi Baroness Neuberger DBE,  
Senior Rabbi West London Synagogue*

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October

### Christianity

*The Very Revd June Osborne,  
Dean of Salisbury*

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November

### Islam

*Ms Sughra Ahmed*

The lectures all start at 8.00pm in St Mary's Church. Each lecture will be followed by questions and a discussion chaired by Roger Bolton.

Refreshments available from 7.15pm. The evening will finish about 9.15pm.

*See back page for more details*

## The Speakers

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### **Rabbi Baroness Neuberger DBE**

was educated at Cambridge and Leo Baeck College. She served the South London Liberal Synagogue 1977-89, chaired Camden & Islington Community Health Services NHS Trust 1993-1997, was CEO of the King's Fund until 2004, Chancellor of the University of Ulster 1994-2000 and Bloomberg Professor of Divinity at Harvard University 2006. She was a Trustee of the Booker Prize Foundation, and a founding trustee of the Schwab Charitable Trust, in memory of her parents. Created a life peer in 2004 (Liberal Democrat, but now a Cross Bencher) she was Prime Minister Gordon Brown's Champion for Volunteering 2007-2009 and chaired One Housing Group and the Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity for the Lord Chancellor 2009-2010. Rabbi Julia is a Trustee of the Van Leer Group Foundation and Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and has been Senior Rabbi of West London Synagogue since March 2011.

In 2013 she was appointed by the Care and Support Minister Norman Lamb to chair a Review of the Liverpool Care Pathway for Dying Patients, which was published in July of that year.

Among her books is 'Not Dead Yet - a Manifesto for old age' (2008 Harper Collins), and 'Is that all there is?' (June 2011 Rider). Rabbi Julia is a social commentator and writes and broadcasts regularly on a variety of social and religious issues.

## **Sughra Ahmed**

is Programmes Manager at the Woolf Institute in the Centre for Policy and Public Education, where she has responsibility for the design and delivery of research and training on issues such as faith, belief, communities, and integration. She has published a number of papers and key reports: *Seen and Not Heard: Voices of Young British Muslims* (2009) and *British by Dissent* (2014). Sughra is a Trustee of the Inter Faith Network UK, the Chair of the Islamic Society of Britain and a Specialist for the Christian Muslim Forum. Sughra has a BA (Hons) English Language and Literature and an MA Islamic Studies; she is a qualified Chaplain and holds a Diploma in Islamic Jurisprudence. She regularly contributes to debates in the media and is also a contributor to Radio 4's *Thought for the Day*. She was awarded the Noor Inayat Khan Memorial Award for Muslim Woman of the Year at the British Muslim Awards.

## **June Osborne**

is a Northerner and a lifelong supporter of Manchester City. After graduating in Social Sciences from Manchester University she went on to train for the Church's ministry at St John's College, Nottingham and Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. In 1980 she served her curacy as a Deaconess at St Martin-in-the-Bullring in Birmingham and was also Chaplain of Birmingham Children's Hospital, moving on to the Old Ford parishes in Tower Hamlets in 1984. At that time she was on General Synod and was a member of its Standing Committee and panel of Chairmen.

June moved to Salisbury in 1995 as one of the Cathedral's four Residentiary Canons and became Dean in 2004. June has led a delegation of the Church of England to an Anglican Communion conference in South Africa addressing the issues of global poverty and the Millennium Development goals and recently helped Christian Aid pilot Immersion Training for women leaders in India. Through the Salisbury diocesan link with South Sudan she trains the Deans of that province. She is a Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire, helps select new Deans, has a barrister husband and two adult children.

## **Roger Bolton**

is the presenter of *Feedback* on Radio 4. Roger regularly failed to learn his Sunday School verses because he couldn't stop listening to Hancock's Half Hour on Sunday lunchtimes. When he joined the BBC as a general trainee he worked for Malcolm Muggeridge on *The Question Why*, and has been asking that question ever since.

Roger Bolton ran *Panorama*, *Tonight* and *Nationwide* and was fired twice over coverage of the Irish Troubles. He joined Thames TV to run *This Week*, where his "Death on the Rock" programme almost got him fired again. Roger set up an independent production company, specialising in religion, current affairs and history, and began to present. A poacher turned game keeper, he fronted Channel 4's *Right to Reply* series for five years. From 1998 to 2010 Roger presented *Sunday*, Radio 4's main programme for religious news and current affairs. He now presents *Feedback*, which reflects the questions and concerns of radio listeners and challenges the BBC on their behalf.

## Lecture Information

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All lectures start at 8.00pm and are free. The church is fully accessible. Free soft drinks, wine and nibbles available from 7.15pm in the church café, Putney Pantry (limited to the first 100 people). The lectures will be followed by discussion, projected to end around 9.15pm

## Travel Directions

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St Mary's is on Putney High Street by the river at the south end of Putney Bridge. Many buses pass the building. District Line underground to Putney Bridge or overground trains to Putney station. There is no parking available at the church but parking is available in side-streets from 6.30pm.

St Mary's Church, Putney High Street, SW15 1SN

[www.parishofputney.co.uk](http://www.parishofputney.co.uk)



**The Parish of Putney**



**MAGNA**  
800<sup>th</sup>  
**CARTA**

The Parish of Putney in association with the Putney Society.

This series of Lectures has been made possible by generous funding from the Magna Carta Trust's 800th Anniversary Committee which is charged by the Magna Carta Trust to co-ordinate activities, raise the profile of the anniversary and deliver a number of key national and international aspirations.

For more information, visit  
[www.magnacarta800th.com](http://www.magnacarta800th.com)