



supporting faith in action in the south west

162 Pennywell Road, Bristol BS5 0TX Tel: 0117 304 2298 Email: info@faithnetsouthwest.org.uk

Nov 2010

FAITHNETSOUTHWEST NEWS AND EVENTS

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Faithnetsouthwest e-news for Nov 2010

FAITHNETSOUTHWEST NEWS AND EVENTS

Faithnetsouthwest conference – Faith in the Big Society?

The conference took place last week and a write up of it will be on the Faithnetsouthwest website soon. We are keen to take forward the views gathered at the conference and to promote the value that faith groups bring to their local communities and how they can add practical support to the ideas behind the Government's Big Society idea, as these are developed. We are keen to get your views, so please feel free to add them when the conference information is available. For more information, contact: alistair@faithnetsouthwest.org.uk

Targeted support project

Faithnetsouthwest is working in partnership on a number of projects as part of its Targeted Support work to empower young people and Black and Minority Ethnic groups to get more involved in their local communities. These include a DVD project in Plymouth, an Inter Faith Week event in Torbay and a faith festival/celebration in Bristol. For more information contact Faithnetsouthwest: info@faithnetsouthwest.org.uk and see the Faithnetsouthwest website: <http://www.faithnetsouthwest.org.uk/j/index.php>

Inter Faith Week 2010

An Inter Faith Week will take place across England and Wales from Sunday 21 to Saturday 27 November 2010.

All Inter Faith Week events that we have been informed of in our area are listed in this e-bulletin. They are also on our website: <http://www.faithnetsouthwest.org.uk/j/index.php>

The aims of the week are: to strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels; to increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society; and to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious belief.

The week is being led by the Inter Faith Network for the UK, working with its member bodies, in consultation with the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Local Government Association and the Equality and Human Rights Commission. Regional Faith Forums in England will again play a key role in supporting and making known the pattern of events in their regions.

If you are organising an event and would like it to be listed regionally, please contact us for an event listing form at info@faithnetsouthwest.org.uk.

For enquiries about Inter Faith Week, email: enquiries@interfaithweek.org.uk. The Inter Faith Week website is www.interfaithweek.org.uk. More information is also available at our website <http://www.faithnetsouthwest.org.uk>.

Faithnetsouthwest Membership and Code of Conduct [{Back to Top}](#)

Faithnetsouthwest has published details of its new membership scheme and code of conduct for members, which is now available from the website.

For more information and membership form please refer to http://www.faithnetsouthwest.org.uk/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=659&catid=37

Work to support Black Church groups

This is a project funded by Faithworks, as part of their Faith to Engage project, to undertake a programme of work on the needs of Black-led churches in the South West region i.e. churches with membership from the Black Caribbean and Black African Christian communities. We are now contacting Black Churches. More specifically, the meetings would look at black led churches or groups in terms of:

- Current participation in local policy-making and what barriers there are to participation
- The numbers of people active in these churches in the Bristol area
- Access to support from other organisations
- Representation from these church communities on other networks or partnerships.
- Whether they have support from other support services locally
- Other problems faced
- What would help them fulfil their aims for working with their own communities and in the wider community.

This project is now being extended to all parts of the South West region, having concentrated in Bristol for the last year.

If you are a member of a group that could benefit from this project, or are aware of one who may, please do get in touch with us, or if you would like to discuss this further, please contact Alistair Beattie on: 0017 304 2298, email: alistair@faithnetsouthwest.org.uk

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9th November - Let's HEAR it for the South West

This South West Stakeholders event will take place between 10 am to 12.30 pm at Rougemont Thistle Hotel, Queen Street, Exeter EX4 3SP.

South West Stakeholders represent civil society across the region. They share a concern that the south west of England will lose out in the scramble for diminishing resources and that our collective voice will not be heard when key decisions are being made. This event will hear updates on the key changes and help raise the voice for the South West.

Registration: Email your details to South West Forum Lynn@southwestforum.org.uk

Thursday 25th November - 'Putting People First – Equality and Diversity Matters'

SW Region Conference, from 10 am to 3.30 pm at Hyde Park Conference Centre (Taunton Rugby Club). People using and delivering health and social care services come from a range of backgrounds, including those based on age, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion/belief and disability. Respecting and acknowledging diversity and providing equality of opportunity, access, participation and inclusion is at the heart of the Putting People First agenda. This conference will explore how to ensure that this happens. Contact: elizabeth_rich@bathnes.gov.uk Tel: 01225 477915

South West Equality Maps - Prototype Phase 1

The maps show Third Sector (voluntary, community and social enterprise) organisations that work specifically in the field of equality in the south west of England or that support and provide advice, guidance and voice for people from the different equality strands.

These maps are a prototype and contact information from organisations that have already given their permission has been used, to show how the maps work and what sort of picture it gives. Over time as more contacts are added, the maps will become more useful and comprehensive. Also, as it is tested, using the prototype, information will be gathered about what people want from the maps; how they want to use them and so on. So if your organisation or group, or an organisation you know, would benefit from being on the maps please contact Jack Horwood by e-mailing: jack.horwood@equalitysouthwest.org.uk or tel: 01823 250816

To use these maps you will need to download Google Earth plug in. To do this please see: <http://earth.google.com/plugin/>. This is a free resource. If you have any problems with the download you can get help from Google Earth Help. Once you have downloaded the plug in, click Get Started on the left hand side of the page.

Friday 26 November to Sunday 28 November- Interfaith Dialogue Facilitation Skills

This is a weekend course run by Ammerdown Conference and Retreat Centre in Somerset. This course, run in partnership with St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace and Faithnetsouthwest, is for people involved in, or interested in, interfaith facilitation and dialogue. It will be of benefit not only to those new to facilitation but also those who are already facilitating groups and want to improve their technique or explore a wider range of tools. For more information: <http://www.ammerdown.org/InterfaithDialogueFacilitationSkills.htm>

The Ammerdown Centre, Radstock, Bath, Somerset BA3 5SW Telephone 01761 433709
email: centre@ammerdown.org

Parliamentary Outreach - a free training service from the Houses of Parliament {Back to Top}

Learn how to get your voice heard at Parliament!

Parliamentary Outreach is a non-political service intended to spread awareness of the work, processes and relevance of the institution of Parliament. The aim is to make Parliament more accessible, make it more straightforward to find out what's happening there, and work with groups to ensure that it's easier for people to get involved in issues of relevance to them.

I am the Parliamentary Outreach Officer for the South West of England, and I deliver free, tailored information sessions. The training is very flexible, and it can focus on anything from a basic introduction to Parliament to detailed sessions on how to campaign using Parliament or how legislation is made. The format and length of sessions are also flexible, as it can be anything from a 30 minute briefing to an all-day workshop. I can do this wherever and whenever is most convenient for you (that includes evenings and weekends).

Please contact me if you have further questions or to organise a training session. I can send you some examples of workshops to consider, or we could talk about how this could support or feed into projects you are currently running. Naomi Kent, Parliamentary Outreach Officer - South West of England, Houses of Parliament 07917 488148 kentn@parliament.uk

Vista

Vista is a Somerset based learning and development charity that runs training courses for voluntary, community and social enterprises. They are often free or subsidised for Somerset groups. Contact: www.vistaproject.org.uk

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Bristol, and South Gloucestershire [{Back to Top}](#)

Sunday 14 November - briefing meeting and faith awareness session for all 'Bristol Celebrates' volunteers

Bristol Inter Faith Group, the lead organisation behind this festival, is looking for volunteers to help out on the day. Shifts for the following volunteer roles will run from 11.30am – 3 pm or from 2.30 pm – 6 pm on Sunday 21 November. The briefing meeting and faith awareness session for all volunteers is from 2 pm to 5 pm at Bethesda Church, on the corner of Church Road and Avonvale Road in Redfield, BS5 9HN.

All volunteers will be paid travel expenses (to a maximum of £5) to attend both the briefing session on Sunday 14 November and again for the event on Sunday 21 November and will be provided with a voucher for a free lunch or evening meal (depending on which shift you volunteer for) and tea or coffee in the cafe. Please email sally.reay@bifg.org.uk if you are interested in volunteering.

Sunday 21 November - 'Bristol Celebrates' - A Festival linking Faiths, Cultures and Communities (Inter Faith Week Event)

Bristol is home to a vibrant range of communities, each with their own unique customs and cultures, celebrations and history. 'Bristol Celebrates' will bring together the different cultures and faiths that make Bristol such a special place to live.

There will be an exciting and diverse programme of workshops, guest speakers, music, performance, exhibitions, displays and food on offer throughout the day at The Venue, The City Academy, Russell Town Avenue, Lawrence Hill, Bristol, BS5 9JH. For more information visit www.bristolcelebrates.org.uk

Contact details: Sally Reay: sally.reay@bifg.org.uk

Bernard Omar: bernard.omar@bifg.org.uk

'Bristol Celebrates' is being supported by a number of organisations including the Bristol Inter Faith Group, Faithnetsouthwest, The Pierian Centre, Bristol City Council's Community Development Team and the Bristol Multi Faith Forum.

Thursday 9th December - Midwinter Circle - An evening of readings and music with members of Bristol's different religious traditions.

7.30pm at Redland Friends Meeting House, 126 Hampton Road, Bristol BS6 6JE

There will be 'bring and share' vegetarian and non-alcoholic refreshments.

Contact details: Anula Beckett: anula.beckett@bifg.org.uk

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Thursday 18th November (Inter Faith Week Event)

"Interfaith Dialogue on the Road to Heaven," with Rev Simon Howell, Interfaith Advisor for Bath & Wells Diocese and Team Vicar in Keynsham. The evening starts at 7.30 pm and takes place in Bath Islamic Centre, 8 Pierrepont Street, Bath BA1 1LA

All welcome. Contact janeohara@blueyonder.co.uk for further details

Wednesday 8th December - Bath Interfaith Group

Richard Carder leads on 'Enlightenment for Atheists?' A discussion of Ken Wilber's philosophical work on human development from cavemen upwards, based on such books as 'Up from Eden' & 'A

Theory of Everything'. At 7.30 pm in the home of Misha and Richard Carder, 76 Lower Oldfield Park, Bath BA2 3HP
Please bring Christmas nibbles! Contact: 01225 313531

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Equalities Representatives Wanted for Neighbourhood Partnerships

Volunteers are being sought to be equalities representatives on each of the 14 Neighbourhood Partnerships (NPs) across Bristol. Neighbourhood Partnerships are made up of agencies, local councillors and local residents who come together to shape services for the benefit of the local community. Meetings take place 4 to 8 times per year and are an opportunity to influence services and improvements in your neighbourhood.

You will need to live in the relevant NP area and be from an equalities group (equalities is defined as covering gender, race, disability, age - older people, transgender, faith and lesbian/gay/bisexual equality. Young people will have their own representative so this area is not included in the equalities representative role). For an informal discussion and an application form please contact Gillian Douglas, Bristol City Council, tel: 0117 922 2664 or e-mail Gillian.Douglas@bristol.gov.uk

7th November - Diverse Doors Open Day

Not many cities in the world with a similar size to Bristol can claim that they have all the seven world religions in one place. In this, Bristol is uniquely placed. To share the rich faith cultures found here the Bristol Multi-Faith Forum is organising Diverse Doors Open Day on Sunday, 7 November, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. You are invited to explore the different religions as they open their doors to all. It is an event for the family, with the opportunity to sample food from the various faith communities.

Several churches and mosques with their unique mix of people and culture will welcome all with light refreshments. Participating for the first time will be The Amitabha (Buddhist) Centre and the Bristol Hebrew Congregation. The Christian Science Society - the only religion founded by a woman - and the Bahà'is with an all inclusive faith tradition will also open their doors.

Diverse Doors Open Day aims to build bridges of understanding between people of faith and the secular society and to create better relationships between faith communities.

For more information visit: www.bristolmultifaithforum.org.uk

Or email: info@bristolmultifaithforum.org.uk or telephone 07832 377745.

14th of November - E@B (Elim at Bristol) hosts John Archer

So who is he? Well he's a comedian, magician, actor, singer, musician, writer, didgeridoist. He's an acclaimed comedian and illusionist who uses his creative gifts to communicate Gods Love.

Venue: E@B (Elim at Bristol) - Jamaica Street, Stokes Croft, Bristol BS2 8JP.

It starts at 7 pm and admittance is free. For further information call 0117 923 2847

Thursday 25th November - Churches Together in Greater Bristol Forum meeting

The forum will be an informal evening providing an opportunity for sharing food together and praying and planning towards new initiatives for Christians working and sharing together in the city. It will take place from 6 pm to 7.30 pm at 162, Pennywell Rd, Easton, BS5 0TX. This will be a time of preparation and it would be helpful for catering purposes if you could confirm your attendance by contacting Alison Paginton alison@ccisr.org.uk or telephoning 0117 955 7430.

This meeting is part of the preparation for a major event planned for Saturday 5th March 2011, called SPECTRUM, which will bring together Christians from across the Bristol area united in interest and awareness for the city and in prayer and service, to celebrate the diversity of engagement with the needs of the people of Bristol. The event will be a day of musical celebration with choirs and music groups from across the city and a major place of sharing between the many

Christian projects who will be present, demonstrating their work in the city. The event will culminate in a shared act of worship and fellowship focused on what we share through prayer and service.

Thursday 9th December

Midwinter Circle - An evening of readings and music with members of Bristol's different religious traditions, with bring and share vegetarian and non-alcoholic refreshments. Starts at 7.30 pm at Redland Friends Meeting House, 126 Hampton Road, Bristol BS6 6JE

Contact details: Anula Beckett: anula.beckett@bifg.org.uk

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15th November - Life After Death - What Cornwall's Faith Communities Believe (Inter Faith Week Event)

Sharing beliefs on Death, Dying and Heaven across the different Faith Communities. Come to contribute and to learn. All welcome. Starts at 7.30 pm at New County Hall, Truro (Refreshments from 7 pm). For more information contact 01872 247213 or e-mail

andrew.yates@truro.anglican.org

Take Part Cornwall launches 'How To' Guides

Take Part Cornwall is rolling out a series of free 'How To' Guides and other publications designed to stimulate interest in volunteering and community action in Cornwall. Produced by Cornwall VSF, the 'How To' Guides have introductions to getting active in the community. The Guides were launched in August, with a second wave available in the autumn.

If you would like to stock 'How To' Guides and other Take Part publications, please contact John Holmes at Cornwall VSF on 01872 241584 or john.holmes@cornwallvsf.org

Hot Desking For Charities & Social Enterprises

East Cornwall desk space for hire by the day, exclusive to charities, voluntary sector organisations and social enterprises. East Cornwall CVS now offers hot desking with free car parking, in their charity office space at Lanivet, nr Bodmin. From only £15 a day, you get access to ECCVS's office facilities including kitchens and the Third Sector Resource Library.

To arrange a viewing, please contact Elizabeth Gooch on 01208 832763 / 832765.

East Cornwall Council for Voluntary Service, Unit 3, St. Ingunger Country Offices, Lanivet, Nr Bodmin, PL30 5HS

Tel: (01208) 832763 / 832765

Email: admin@eccvs.org.uk

Website: www.eccvs.org.uk

Calling Volunteers aged 16-25!

The Volunteer Cornwall team offers free, one to one advice and support for young people aged 16-25 who want to get involved in volunteering in the local community. Whatever your passion is – whether it's sport, the arts, children, music or the environment – your Youth Volunteer Advisor can help you find an opportunity that is perfect for you. Furthermore, they can help you to get recognition for your achievements too. For more information visit: www.volunteercornwall.org.uk/

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Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th November - South West Forum Annual Conference

This year's conference is at the Thistle Hotel, 3 Queen Street, Exeter and is entitled "The Health and Social Care Landscape is Changing". It is an opportunity to find out what lies ahead for VCS organisations involved in health, social care and welfare.

Contact details: Tel. 01392 247901 or admin@southwestforum.org.uk

9th November 2010 - Fundraising on a Shoestring [{Back to Top}](#)

This course is for charities feeling the pinch in these difficult economic times. Costing just £59 plus VAT, this half day course takes place at St Sidwells Centre, Central Exeter from 1.30pm - 4.30pm. As well as being useful for charities without the resources to invest in growing fundraising, it will also be valuable to other fundraisers in revealing some new techniques and ideas. For more information: <http://www.torcom.org.uk/content/company-solutions-fundraising-shoestring>

Saturday 13th November - Festival of Faiths (Inter Faith Week event)

Inter Faith groups from all over Devon will be converging on Oldway Mansion in Paignton, to celebrate Inter Faith Week 2010. From 10.30 am to 4 pm, a whole day of celebration has been organised. It includes drama, dance, singing, story-telling as well as the presentation of aspects of faiths. Young people from Torbay and Plymouth have made an invaluable contribution to the planning. Entertainment for children (0 -10 years) will enable families to attend. This Festival is free, with lunch provided, and everyone is welcome. Admission is by booking only, and with limited seating you are advised to book on 01752 - 254438 or e-mail info@pcfcd.co.uk as soon as possible.

24th November - An Inter Faith Community Storytelling Event (Inter Faith Week Event)

Bridge of Stories presents the evening from 7 pm to 9 pm, at Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity, 3a, Watts Road, St Judes, Plymouth, PL4 8SE. Bridge of Stories is a group of young people from different faiths who come together weekly to share stories. On this evening they will be performing some of those stories both individually and as a group for an audience of invited faith community members as well as welcoming anyone from the general public. There will also be food and music. For more information: email hannah@pcfcd.co.uk or tel: 01752 254438

Wednesday 24th November - Big Society - Local Focus

Presentations include: 'Big Society - South West Forum', 'BIG Lottery' and Devon's Voluntary and Community sector survey report. There will also be displays and information stands. The venue is the Watermark, Ivybridge from 10 am – 12 noon. It is free for CVS members; non-members £10 per person (refreshments included). For further information or to book a place contact Kristine on 01803 862266 or cvs@southhamscvs.org.uk

Meeting Dates for Unity Plymouth at the Council House:

27th November 2010

18th December 2010

Representatives/ Councillors are invited from various organisations. If anyone wants a particular issue discussed, then please use the contact details below. Meetings are free to all members of the Communities and family and friends are welcome. Recreational facilities for children are provided and cultural food is provided free by volunteers.

Venue: Council House next to Civic Centre, Plymouth city centre. All Meetings are 1pm - 5 pm.

For further information please call: Ikenna 07868834898 or Chaz 07950957909

For further details: www.unityplymouth.co.uk

Faithnetsouthwest Project in Devon

Faithnetsouthwest as part of its targeted support project is looking for examples of innovative and inspiring projects run by faith groups for young people and people from diverse cultures. This information will be used to highlight and share the good practice. This will be done by publishing a report, holding workshops and sharing the good news widely with the voluntary and statutory sector.

By gathering and sharing this information and encouraging different sectors in Devon to work in partnership, provision for young people and people from diverse cultures will be greatly enhanced. This project will also improve the engagement of young people and people from diverse cultures in the wider community.

If you have good news to share or want to know more about this project contact Clare Mortimore clarmort@hotmail.com

DORSET, BOURNEMOUTH AND POOLE (**DORSET, BOURNEMOUTH AND POOLE**)

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Advertisement for new Chaplaincy Service Development Posts - Borough of Poole Chaplaincy

Voluntary Chaplaincy Service Development worker – Part-time: one day per week; temporary, for one year. Remuneration: c.£7,000. This role will involve negotiating with the potential client organisation, developing and deploying materials for the recruitment, vetting, training, support, monitoring and reporting of volunteers, and being involved in these activities through the pilot phase in at least one chaplaincy field.

For further details and application form please either download from website <http://www.chaplaincypoole.info/> or contact Michelle Brett, Chaplaincy Administrator, Parkstone Christian Centre, Commercial Road, Poole BH14 0JW 01202 733580 m.brett@poole.gov.uk
Closing date for applications: 19th November 2010

International Integration Group and Polish Support Group

9.30 am -11.30 pm St Christopher's Church Hall, Arnewood Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth BH6 5DW

International Integration Group meetings take place every second Thursday of the month. All nationalities welcome. Share your country, culture, traditions. Fun activities and tasty, healthy food and drinks.

The groups run all year, including holiday time. Children welcome.

Admission £3/family, guests free of charge.

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17th November - The Stepping Up Conference 2010

9.30 am to 2 pm, CityWorks, Alfred Street, Gloucester GL1 4DF

Are your income streams disappearing? Come to this conference and hear how voluntary and community groups in Gloucestershire are finding new ways to generate their own income in the

face of funding pressures. Listen to speakers who are themselves changing the way their organisations are run - a) to re-focus their strategy, costs, prices and marketing to afford to keep delivering their social aims b) to capitalise on the opportunities of personal budgets and c) to create new ways of working within the older people care world.

Book a place with jane.grindey@co-operativefutures.coop or contact Jane Grindey on 0845 4562 506 for more details. The full agenda will be available in the Autumn. www.glossteppingup.org

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County Ecumenical Officer

Somerset Churches Together is seeking to appoint a new County Ecumenical Officer to work with churches and church leaders across the region of Somerset and Avon. Details can be found on the SCT website www.sctog.org.uk. For a complete application pack contact: Christine Treanor, The Bishop's Palace, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2PD Tel: 01749 672341; christine.treanor@bathwells.anglican.org

Closing date for applications is 26th November 2010

The Pathology of Hate

A series of three evenings of presentations, witnesses and discussion around the issue of 'Lessons from the Holocaust - preventing the virus of hate spreading'.

11th November - The Basic Symptoms - Fear of the "other"

18th November -The Epidemic - Rise of hate in Nazi Germany

25th November - The Pandemic - Genocide

The venue for all three is The Studio at the Brewhouse Theatre and Arts Centre, Coal Orchard, Taunton, TA1 1JL at 7 pm until 9 pm.

Wednesday 24th November - Freedom of Speech discussion (Inter Faith Week Event)

Should there be limits on freedom of speech? South Somerset Multi-Faith Forum presents a pub – bar discussion with some input on the subject, with Jo Morgan (South Somerset Equalities Officer), Tony Reece (Exeter Synagogue), Ngar Whiteford (Ba'hai), Rev Tim Richards (United Reformed Church). Chaired by: Rev Hugh Ellis (Team Rector – Langport Area).

Venue: The Angel, Langport at 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm

RSVP to: Rev Hugh Ellis tel 01458 250 480, e-mail: Hughelli@aol.com

24th Nov Faiths Project Launch (To coincide with Inter Faith Week)

North Somerset Faiths Project Survey is looking into what the spectrum of faith groups across the area contribute to their communities.

The survey aims firstly to identify the contribution that faith communities or groups make to North Somerset. Secondly, to explore the relationship that faith communities or groups have with local government in order to find better ways of engaging with each other for the community benefit. Lastly, to produce a database of all faith groups in North Somerset and the activities they offer. The report is being launched on Wednesday 24th November at the Winter Gardens in Weston-super-Mare, during Interfaith Week, when the directory and full report will be made available.

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10th December - Voluntary Voices Forum.

Voluntary Voices in collaboration with Severnvale Community Network present a debate on the Big Society plus a showcase of South Gloucestershire's voluntary and community sector. Meet and discuss Big Society with MPs and hear from local voluntary and community sector groups. The venue is Baileys Court, Bradley Stoke, BS34 8BH, from 9.30 am to 1 pm, with lunch included. Booking is essential. Contact: clare.adamson@cvs-sg.org.uk

Faith Action Audit

Faith Action Audit produced by Thornbury ChurchesTogether is available. The report can also be read on http://issuu.com/julesclode/docs/testtct_faith_action_audit_b_0037

For further comments, please contact directly, Sally Heath, the Chair of Thornbury Churches Together, on robsal.heath@googlemail.com 01454 419574.

Children & Young People Strategic Partnership Workforce Strategy 2010-2012

South Gloucestershire Council have now released the "Draft Children and Young People Strategic Partnership Workforce Strategy 2010-2012."

This document sets out South Gloucestershire's six priorities for delivering its aspirations for children's services in the next two years. The strategy has been developed through partnership with representatives from South Gloucestershire statutory, private and voluntary organisations. The document can be found on <https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/workforcestrategy20102012/consultationhome>

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6th November - Chaldon Consort to perform in Tisbury

The Chaldon Consort will be putting on a very special performance at St John's Church in Tisbury at 7 pm. The programme will include the Septet Opus 20 by Beethoven arranged for nine wind by Georg Drushetzky. The money raised through the concert will go towards Alabaré's work with veterans. You can book your tickets on line http://www.charitygiving.co.uk/fundraising/eventregister_details.asp?event=1184 or call Elizabeth Young on 01747 870528. For more information about Alabare go to: www.alabare.co.uk

15-19 November – Multi Faith Assemblies - 'Love thy neighbour' (Inter Faith Week Event)

West Wiltshire Interfaith Group with Matravers School, is holding a series of multi faith assemblies specifically for students, teachers and invited guests. The venue is Matravers School, Springfield Road, Westbury, BA13 3QH and they take place at 8.45 am. Over the week, they will cover the Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu traditions. For more information: Email: westwiltinterfaith@googlemail.com or Tel: 07834812663.

24th November - Multi Faith Multi Cultural Day (Inter Faith Week Event)

West Wiltshire Interfaith Group with Matravers School, is holding the event at Matravers School, Springfield Road, Westbury, BA13 3QH, to inform students about different faiths and cultures and explore how cultures may be different to faiths. The event is from 12.30 pm to 3 pm and is specifically for teachers and students at the school and invited guests. Contact: Email: westwiltinterfaith@googlemail.com or Tel: 07834812663

Wiltshire Observing National Inter Faith Week (Inter Faith Week Event)

20th November to 4th December:

Bradford on Avon Library, Bridge St, BA15 1BY

Poster display and an opportunity to speak to people from different faiths on Thursday 25th November 2010 from 10 am to 2 pm

Chippenham Library, Timber St, SN15 3EJ

Poster display from 22nd Nov to 27th Nov during opening hours

Trowbridge Library, Mortimer Rd, Trowbridge, BA14 8BA

Poster display from 22nd Nov to 4th Dec during opening hours and a talk on 1st December from 1.30 pm to 4 pm. The talk will be on the subject of 'Is Faith the Cornerstone of Society?'

An examination of the role that faith, black and minority ethnic (BME) communities (often diverse cultural backgrounds), play in building cohesive societies in a modern and inclusive Britain.

Refreshments will be available from 1.30 pm to 1.50 pm. The programme will start at 2 pm. There will be refreshments available from 4 pm at the end of the programme

Devizes Library, Sheep St, SN10 1DL

Poster display from 22nd Nov to 27th Nov during opening hours

Warminster Library, Three Horseshoes Walk, BA12 9BT

Poster display from 22nd Nov to 27th Nov during opening hours

Contact Farzana Saker:

Mobile: 07834812663

email: westwiltinterfaith@googlemail.com

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20th November - 'Muslims in Britain: Uncovering the Past and Debating the Future'

The Aga Khan University's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (AKU-ISMC) is offering this course, which considers the long and fascinating history of Muslims in Britain and will explore topics such as migration, identity, education, gender, art and media. Anyone interested in gaining a deeper understanding of what it means to be 'Muslim in Britain' will find this course both useful and informative. For more details please visit: <http://www.aku.edu/ISMC/shortcourses> or please contact ismc.shortcourses@aku.edu.

24 November – Justthisday

Since 2007, people across the world have taken part in Justthisday, to come together in a stillness and silence, sharing a belief that people are not different from one another. The main event will be at St Martin in the Fields in Trafalgar Square, London. The whole day will be dedicated to discovering and experiencing the power of stillness ending at 7 pm with a performance of a newly written piece by Sir John Tavener, 'Towards Silence, A Musical Journey of the Soul'. For more information see: www.justthisday.org

14th December - Religion and The Big Society: Investigating the Role of Faith Based Groups

This is a Westminster Briefing, hosted by the House Magazine, from 10.40 am to 3.15 pm. It costs £225 per place or £175 for two or more places. The morning of this Policy and Practice Briefing will provide delegates a forum to be informed on and discuss the progress of the Coalition Government's Big Society plans and the consequences and opportunities for faith based

organisations. Delegates will consider the importance of engagement between faith groups and local public bodies and promoting the unique value of faith based organisations.

The afternoon will investigate successful examples of the Big Society in action, with case studies of faith groups delivering services and acting as a bridge between local communities and public bodies. Delegates will gain ideas and insights to take back to their organisations and roles. To register for this event or to view further details: email: Jonathan.fuller@westminster-briefing.com
Phone: 020 7096 2920

Equality Act consultation

The Government Equalities Office has launched a consultation on the new public sector Equality Duty. An important part of the Equalities Act is the public sector Equality Duty which has a key role in ensuring that fairness is at the heart of public bodies' work and that public services meet the needs of different groups.

This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; to advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and to foster good relations between different groups.

This consultation seeks views on the Government's proposals for draft regulations for the specific duties and the list of public bodies that will be subject to the general and specific duties. The Government intends the new duties to come into force in April 2011. A copy of the consultation document and response form can be found at: http://equalities.gov.uk/news/specific_duties_consultation.aspx. The consultation closes on 10 November.

Government acknowledges vital contribution of faith communities and inter faith work

The Government has published its response to the public comments it received on social action in its Programme for Government. As part of its response, in a press release issued by the Cabinet Office, the Government said that "faith communities make a vital contribution to national life" and that "across the country, Christians and followers of other religions are working hard to address problems in their communities. They have the buildings, experience, volunteers and 'reach' that can put them at the very heart of service-delivery to many vulnerable groups. This, and inter faith activity, is an important component of the Big Society we want to build, in which people work together for the common good and to tackle shared problems."

A copy of the press release can be found at www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2010/100730-social-action.aspx.

Free Websites for Local Communities

Get a free website for your Community Group, Non-Profit, or Voluntary Organisation from Cambridge Open Systems as part of its Voice service available to all community groups throughout the UK. The company describes Voice as an easy to use website builder.

Cambridge Open Systems says with a website building package, users can set up a website with no technical expertise required. Pre-built, interactive modules such as picture galleries, discussion boards, and surveys, can be added to websites with a single click.

Visit the Voice website to find out more <http://e-voice.org.uk/news/free-websites>

Free WiFi access for community spaces and charities

Freerunner is a company offering to install free WiFi wireless internet access in 50 public places for at least three years. The company says it will also install the Freerunner service for free in 500 charity buildings, provided that they have broadband access.

For more information visit their Website: <http://www.freerunr.com/about>

For an application form visit Website: <http://www.freerunr.com/community/>

Their email address is: connectmenow@freerunr.com or contact them by telephone on 0800 860 0815.

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Funding for places of worship built before 1896

The William and Jane Morris Fund is open to applications from churches, chapels and other places of worship built before 1896. The Fund offers grants of up to £1,000 towards work concerned with the conservation of decorative features such as stained glass windows, sculpture, furniture, internal monuments and tombs, and wall paintings. Grants towards major structural repairs and fabric maintenance may be considered under exceptional circumstances. The Fund's committee is composed of Officers of the Society and Fellows with expertise who are able to advise on applications. Applications must be received by 31st March for consideration in the May.

<http://www.sal.org.uk/grants/downloads/morris-form.doc>

Small grants for community groups

The South West Foundation in partnership with the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, has small grants up to £1,000 to invest in small community organisations operating in rural areas, market and coastal towns with the aim of encouraging and enabling people to take part in their communities. Most grants will be in the region of £200-£600 and the programme is currently open for applications with a quick turn around on decisions.

The overall aim of the programme is to support and strengthen small community organisations operating in the rural areas, market and coastal towns of the South West Region. The focus will be on activities that enable people from diverse backgrounds to become engaged in their neighbourhoods and communities and to support those organisations that are bringing about real change to the lives of the people who live in those communities.

Priority is given to charitable organisations with running costs under £15,000. For more information phone 01275 333666 or e-mail info@southwestfoundation.org.uk

Grants of up to £6,000 available to support inter faith activity within local communities

Faiths in Action, a £4m grant programme, has opened a second round of funding. Faith, inter faith, voluntary and community organisations and groups in England can come forward and apply for a grant of up to £6000.

Administered by the Community Development Foundation (CDF) on behalf of Communities and Local Government (CLG), Faiths in Action aims to bring communities together, promoting positive relationships between people of different religions and beliefs.

It is hoped the grants will support a wide variety of local activities in a range of community settings. This includes innovative new ideas as well as 'tried and tested' approaches. Funding awarded to successful organisations will have to be spent by the end of March 2011.

For more information and to find out how to apply, please visit <http://www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/faiths-in-action>. The helpline number is 01223 406533 or e-mail fundingadmin@cdf.org.uk

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Tailoring volunteer services in a multi-faith society

A guide for Volunteer Centres and others providing expertise on volunteering aims to help with developing support in a multi-faith society. Produced by Volunteer Network Centre Newham, 'Let's Connect with Faith' can be downloaded (pdf, 2.3MB) via Improving Support website <http://www.improvingsupport.org.uk/volunteering>

On-Line Launch of the Our Faiths and Our Shared Futures Booklet

This booklet was developed through discussions with faith, organisational and community leaders in the City of Derby and is a local narrative which promotes (i) the respect of diversity (ii) the protection of life and (iii) scriptural narratives against those who promote hate and division between communities in the area.

This booklet has also been developed with young people in Derby and is a useful resource for schools, educational institutions and community organisations who may want to work with young people on projects which promote cohesion and which may also support the development of the Big Society. Further information on the booklet can be found on www.faith-matters.org and you can also contact Fiyaz Mughal on fiyaz@faith-matters.co.uk

Let's Connect with Faith – New Guide

A new Guide entitled 'Let's Connect with Faith' has been produced for Volunteer Centres and others providing expertise on volunteering who want to learn how to tailor their services and develop support for volunteering in a multi-faith society.

Visit <http://tiny.cc/qcv63> for more information.

Multi faith calendar

A new multi faith online calendar is available from Multifaiths to coincide with The Equality Act 2010 coming into force this year. Multifaiths describes its calendar as a one stop resource for culture diversity in one digital online ebook, containing up-to-date information about events and festivals of all the major faiths, including their meaning and importance.

More information can be obtained from their website, which has free as well as paid membership content. <http://www.multifaiths.com/>

Charity Commission good practice guide for faith-based organisations.

The Charity Commission's Faith and Social Cohesion Unit, which closed at the end of August, has made a range of resources for faith-based charities available online. The resources include guidance on how to register as a faith-based charity, along with case studies of mosques to demonstrate good governance. These will join guidance that is already available on the commission website. <http://tiny.cc/rqbh3>

New Guidance for Local Authorities Working with Faith Groups

To provide greater clarity for local authorities with regard to commissioning public services from faith-based groups, the paper, 'Ensuring a Level Playing Field: Funding Faith-based Organisations to Provide Publicly Funded Services' was launched. For more details, visit: www.communities.gov.uk

Realising the Potential of Churches and Faith Buildings

A joint publication from the government and the Church of England to help faith groups identify sources of funding to make their buildings more sustainable by enhancing the facilities and services they offer to local communities. The publication can be downloaded.

Contact www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5991.aspx. [{Back to Top}](#)