

## supporting faith in action in the south west

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# Our Environment is Changing

## 'Energy, Faith and You' The South West Churches' Regional Forum Conference

The South West Churches Regional Forum had one of its largest audiences at the 'Energy, Faith and You' conference on 10<sup>th</sup> January, illustrating the importance attached to environmental issues by churches in the south west region. One of the main messages coming from the conference is that churches can make a difference. They can also work in partnership with other agencies seeking to protect the environment.

Dr Michael Northcott (Reader in Christian Ethics at Edinburgh University) speaking at the event, delivered a grim warning about the impact of climate change, unless we take drastic action to protect the environment. A predicted 0.7m rise in sea level by 2100 would have catastrophic consequences for low lying areas on the South West peninsula.

Stuart Coleman (Devon Association for Renewable Energy, DARE) spoke of the cost effective, energy saving advice his organisation provides and how using renewable energy sources, e.g. solar heating panels, helps protect the environment. A greater use of energy saving light bulbs, alone, could make a big difference.

Jane Lavick (Principle Sustainable Development Advisor, South West Regional Assembly) said that doing nothing to protect the environment is not an option, we all have to take action now. The Regional Assembly is identifying vulnerable assets and locations in the region and is



The SWCRF attracts one of its largest audiences



L to R: Bishop of Bath & Wells, Peter Price; Jane Lavick; Stuart Coleman; Revd. Ward Jones; Dr Michael Northcott; Revd. Heather Pencavel

producing a sustainable energy plan to give a strategic focus to environmental protection activities.

There are a number of practical resources for churches wishing to protect the environment:

- Operation Noah and the cool church toolkit is a practical project with the objective of getting churches, groups and individuals to do something about climate change. [www.christian-ecology.org.uk/noah](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/noah) 'good' energy, tel: 0845 456 1640 / 'green' energy tel: 0845 456 9550
- The Eco-congregation programme has similar goals, but is focused more on the corporate response. <http://www.ecocongregation.org> or contact the Eco-cogregation Co-ordinator, tel: 02476 853061
- Devon Churches Green Action has produced 'COOL IT! Climate Change and the Devon Churches' a report with theological insights on the problem. [http://www.countrysidematters.org.uk/dcga/climate\\_change.html](http://www.countrysidematters.org.uk/dcga/climate_change.html) or write to: DCGA, 96 Old Tiverton Road, Exeter, EX4 6LD.

For more information on issues arising from the conference, contact Rev. Heather Pencavel at *faithnetsouthwest*

**ECO FACT - There is a 10 year window before efforts to stabilize our atmosphere will come too late**

## Advance Notice: Migration - People on the move

The next conference organised by SWCRF on 27th June 2007 in Taunton.

Examining the issues surrounding migration in the South West.

Terms like migrant worker, refugee and asylum seeker can become stigmatising words, leading to confusion and sometimes conflict. Members of these groups often find themselves exploited.

Contact Vena Prater: 0117 955 7430 or [vena@ccisr.org.uk](mailto:vena@ccisr.org.uk)



# Re-starting Lives

Footprints, a registered charity forming part of the resettlement and chaplaincy work within Dorchester Prison, works toward reducing re-offending. Run by the prison Chaplaincy, it helps to successfully resettle those from Dorset and South Somerset.

Begun 2 years ago by the Prison Chaplain, Revd. Terry Sankey, it is based upon a similar scheme, started in the 1980s in Canada, where re-offending rates were halved. Footprints makes intensive efforts to befriend and mentor ex-offenders by linking them with volunteers and working with the Resettlement Unit at Dorchester Prison as part of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). The scheme draws from the practical support of faith and community groups in order to break the cycle of re-offending.

The project now has qualified counsellors and 40 volunteers. The volunteers have completed a Jobcentre course to help them assist clients with accommodation, benefits, drug awareness, safety issues, rules and administrative procedures, so that the clients get the best possible re-start to their lives. Volunteers are welcome, whatever their faith background, the main qualification required for this important work is compassion.

Footprints recognises that crime has far-reaching effects. The consequences impact victims, offenders, the justice system and the wider community. But by getting the community involved in this project, it becomes part of a process of reconciliation and healing. The scheme has won 2 awards, including a national award from the Howard League for Penal Reform.

The project co-ordinator is Anthony Sherman. His son was once an inmate in Dorchester Prison. In recognition of the support Anthony felt the chaplaincy had given his son, he offered his help to Terry. Working as a volunteer for 6 months, he set up Footprints. Anthony is so committed to this project that he left his business to work full-time for Footprints. His wife, Karen, also volunteers as a counsellor. They now feel that they have at least 3 new 'sons'. They visit one of them in Channings Wood Prison. They have supported him through the death of his wife from a heroin overdose. He now hopes to go to a Christian Community in Dorset and eventually to attend Bible College.

Footprints is now involved in starting a regional community chaplaincy, able to consult with NOMs and obtain funding from a larger base. Funding is always a key issue, although they have received help from local authorities, they are striving for greater awareness of this and other such schemes, with the intention that eventually funding for chaplaincy-led community projects could be supplied by the Government.

[www.cwmission.org.uk/news/view\\_news](http://www.cwmission.org.uk/news/view_news)

**ECO FACT - 7.5 billion tonnes of carbon is emitted worldwide every year, entering the atmosphere, soil & oceans**

# Swindon Goes Green

Swindon is growing rapidly and increasingly environmentally aware. Faith communities find that working in partnership with other bodies allows them a voice on green issues too. Swindon Strategic Partnership launched the Swindon Climate Change Action Plan which is already having an impact. Considered one of the more radical in the UK, it makes recommendations and identifies areas for action.

Through the Strategic Partnership and Churches Together, we have made strong environmental recommendations for new housing developments. The Swindon Churches Together Green Affinity Scheme, a partnership with an 100% green electricity company, is cited in the Action Plan to show what both churches and individuals can do. We try to be visible in other contexts too. For example, providing public lectures at the university. Last year James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool talked on *Jesus and the Earth*. Next October, the ordained scientist Ian James will speak on the environment.

Swindon is a Fairtrade Borough, and churches have made conscious links with environmental justice issues. Fairtrade fashion shows and Fairtrade certificated churches, and an Eco-congregation all attract press interest. This coverage gives us credibility with partners in other sectors. Details are on our website: [www.swindonchurches.ik.com](http://www.swindonchurches.ik.com). Our strength is our internal networks and teamwork. Keeping each other informed is essential. We are more effective as part of a cross-sector forum, as we can address directly overarching moral issues, and take an international view on local issues.

*by Rosemary Power: Faith representative on the Strategic Partnership.*

# Lights After Dark

Is run by Friends of North Dorset Women's Refuge in Shaftesbury. They have 10 self-contained flats for victims of domestic abuse. The refuge is funded by Bournemouth Churches Housing Association, itself funded by local churches, which provides accommodation, care, support and education tailored to the needs of people coming to them.

The refuge is run by Lizzie Kingsbury, with the help of a dedicated group of volunteers and has been open for over 3 years. Lizzie is excited about the expansion of the refuge's work and new education projects.

They promote a culture of care and rehabilitation, teaching both mother and child valuable skills for when they leave the refuge. Lizzie is currently developing more children's activities to meet the standards of the National Curriculum. The project now has a computer and training room. They hope to find sustainable funding sources in addition to donations in order that the project can continue to grow.

[www.cwmission.org.uk/news/view\\_news](http://www.cwmission.org.uk/news/view_news)

# Healing Brokenness

"Healing brokenness" is the term used by a former member of the Pilsdon Community to describe how he felt about the 3 years he spent there. 'The good news about Pilsdon is that it is a place where human-brokenness is accepted and love heals the brokenness.'



A registered charity, it operates in the Dorset countryside as a small community offering people of all faiths a place to recuperate in times of need. Whether afflicted by problems at home, substance abuse or simply needing to escape modern life

for a few days or a few years, Pilsdon offers a perfect setting for recovery. It is run with co-operation from the local Doctor's surgery, Community Mental Health Team, Alcoholics Anonymous, Dorset Drug and Alcohol Advisory Service and the Citizen's Advice Bureau. Begun 47 years ago, it is managed by the local Church Warden, Jonathan Herbert with the help of a small group of dedicated volunteers.

There is a rigorous selection process for visitors, and although in more serious cases they do not have the capability to help, Pilsdon's staff support people from a wide range of backgrounds. The average stay is 2 years, but there is no upper time limit for helping people. Those in need can stay as full time guests, as respite visitors for a few days, or, if just passing through, as a temporary wayfarer.

Prayers are held twice a day, but there is no pressure to attend. There is an expectation that everyone will do what they can to help in the kitchen, the garden, with the livestock and the maintenance of the buildings. Eating meals together adds to the sense of community.

The rhythm of life at Pilsdon can offer comfort and certainty to people who have taken the difficult decision to try to change their lives around. As its former member explains, 'it creates the environment in the daily round of rural living to begin the journey of healing and reconciliation - both personally as well as communally... By rights it really shouldn't have worked; so many backgrounds, so many trials, so much woundedness... but it worked beautifully and more often than not with laughter and genuine goodwill.'

For more information see [www.pilsdon.org.uk](http://www.pilsdon.org.uk)

## Get on Board! [www.getonboard.org.uk](http://www.getonboard.org.uk)

A national campaign backed by the Governance Hub, Charity Commission and Volunteering England to raise the profile of trusteeship from 23rd January 2007

For more information about volunteering visit [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk)

ECO FACT - On average our food travels 1300 miles from farm to plate

## Partnerships At Work



POPP brings together older people, Voluntary organisations, Dorset County Council, Local District Councils, the NHS and Primary Care Trust. Local older people help to identify issues and solutions at a local level. POPP helps develop supportive neighbourhoods, ensuring older people can live and receive help in their local community for as long as they wish.

**Are you involved with, or do you have an idea for, a local project for the over 50's?**

POPP are creating a county wide data-base and may be able to provide funding or identify resources for projects.

Call Fiona: 07879 430919, Dorset POPP, Adult Services Directorate, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester DT1, 1XJ, 01305 224841, [f.kent-ledger@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:f.kent-ledger@dorsetcc.gov.uk), [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com)

## Community Building

Not long ago, Cawsand Congregational Church in Cornwall was a derelict hall. Shut in the summer of 2000, after the few remaining elderly members found the burden of continuing too great, it would have remained closed had it not been for the work of Revd. Jill Stephens, who spent that summer sleeping on the vestry floor with her family whilst they tried to keep the place alive.

Tourists and members of the local community alike wondered what she hoped to achieve. But Jill re-started monthly services and succeeded in convincing local people to help refurbish the hall, build a kitchen and install heating.

The members of the hall have made a huge difference. From a neglected and poorly attended building the hall is rejuvenated and now supports two regular monthly services, a Tuesday coffee shop drawing regulars from the over 50s and a monthly children's workshop. In the summers they organise mystery plays that draw audiences of up to 200.

Jill says, 'It's how I see church should be - that people don't see us as isolated, but part of their community.'

(Information supplied by: [http://www.cwmission.org.uk/news/view\\_news.cfm?FeatureID=2615](http://www.cwmission.org.uk/news/view_news.cfm?FeatureID=2615))

## West Wiltshire Interfaith Group Shariah Law

A talk by Imam Ilyas Ismail, questions & refreshments  
**18th February 2007, 3-6pm, Civic Hall, Trowbridge**  
Please contact Farzana: 07834 812663 or Michael: 01225 863626  
[Farzana\\_Saker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Farzana_Saker@yahoo.co.uk)

# Exploring our Hidden Heritage

## Becoming visible with the help of Hidden Britain

The South West has close links to tourism, and the region's religious heritage can play a part in this. Many churches are realising their potential to minister to visitors (who may outnumber regular worshippers in some places). The Christian way of life and contribution to the development of Britain is often hidden away in our amazing churches. The challenge is on to share this story with those who do not live locally.

Hidden Britain is a new project to help rural churches make a significant contribution to the local economy by the development of community owned and community led tourism. The concept was developed by Jeremy Martineau, when he was the Church of England National Rural Officer, based at the Arthur Rank Centre ([www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk](http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk)), and government funding supported a two year pilot project in Cumbria to test this idea. The project proved that the concept is sound and effective. As a result, the Arthur Rank Centre set up Hidden Britain (see [www.hidden-britain.co.uk](http://www.hidden-britain.co.uk)) as a not for profit company with the remit to develop 400 Hidden Britain Centres (HBC) across the UK by 2010.

HBC projects can take many forms. The smallest HBC is possibly Duddon Valley in the South Lakes where a network of walks is bringing repeat business from those who love the remoteness of this area. Sometimes a cluster of small places can come together to forge a new marketable identity, and to present a critical mass of businesses to provide sufficient attraction to the visitor who is increasingly



A visitor box can be a simple first step to welcome tourists

planning and booking holidays on-line. Short breaks are the fastest growing part of the tourist economy and our wonderfully diverse countryside attracts a great many visitors. Churches can contribute to making the less well known places accessible and desirable destinations by being open, welcoming and well presented to visitors.

To help promote sustainability each HBC will need to bring together those businesses that provide food and accommodation, as well as the wider range of tourism

enterprises. Each HBC will be encouraged to develop its own website featuring local attractions, events and heritage, as well as provide on-line booking. These local sites will form a key part of the UK marketing of the brand Hidden Britain.



Even small churches have space for a mini visitor centre

In 2006 HB held a national conference at Winchelsea in East Sussex, which claims to be the smallest town in England. The CEO of Visit Britain was warm in his praise of Hidden Britain as a way of engaging local communities in managing their own tourism.

A key step in the development of an HBC will be engaging people locally with the vision to invite local businesses to share at the foundation stage in the planning of the HBC project. Staff from the HB national office endeavour to visit any community wishing to move forward in this way. It is at this stage that the vision and energy of local clergy can be key. Some of the first HBCs were established through the involvement of the local clergy, and although in some places the project has gone ahead without local church involvement, it is felt that these were missed opportunities.

Any community can register for a place in the growing family of new destinations by using the How to do it Handbook (£30) available from the national office. Enquiries for further information can be made to Jeremy Martineau on 01348 874886 or [jeremy.m@onetel.net](mailto:jeremy.m@onetel.net) or to David Long on 02476 853060 or [davidl@rase.org.uk](mailto:davidl@rase.org.uk)

Useful books on rural visitors include:

**Rural Visitors: a parish workbook.** By Francis and Martineau, pub ACORA @ £10

**Open for You: The Church, the Visitor and the Gospel.** Paul Bond. Canterbury Press £14.99

Both are available from the Arthur Rank Centre: Tel. 02476 853060

*This article was provided by Revd. Canon Jeremy Martineau, Hidden Britain*

**ECO FACT - A new coal-fired, greenhouse-gas-belching power station is opened in China every 5 days, but the US will still be the world's biggest CO2 producer until 2020**

## Welcoming Tourists into Churches & Communities

The Churches Tourism Association (CTA) is dedicated to enhancing the experience of those who visit churches and promoting the benefits arising from welcoming tourists. In Nov. 2006 the CTA held a national conference, *Experiencing Sacred Britain* at which advice and ideas for churches interested in increasing their appeal to tourists was on offer.

Tourists are 'anyone, local or visitor, who does not usually worship in the church'. Attracting these people into churches realises some of the full potential of the buildings, but also increases understanding and value for their heritage.

The CTA encourages rural churches to consider opening their doors during the day. One area where this has been successful is Wrexham, which has a network of Open Churches. ([www.openchurchnetwork.co.uk](http://www.openchurchnetwork.co.uk)). Where possible, well-informed 'welcomers' to guide tourists around makes a visit memorable and worth recommending to others.

Making connections with other tourist attractions in the area is useful, such as becoming part of a tourist trail with a local theme. E.g. local historical events or persons, literary landscapes, or spiritual journeys. It can also be beneficial to form partnerships with other local groups and people, such as schools, local societies, artists and musicians. Try making contact with the Diocesan Tourism Officer for your area too.

The CTA stresses that good marketing can be the key to success. It is important to ensure that flyers, leaflets or posters for events intended to attract tourists be professionally produced, as visitors are unlikely to take amateur advertising seriously. Many small churches may consider this a prohibitive cost, but the CTA suggests ways to spread the marketing load.

Local solutions to marketing problems can be very successful. Consider charging a fee for advertising space in church leaflets and offer the church as a venue for events (which creates revenue and serves to advertise the church). Leaflets for other attractions, B&Bs and hotels could be placed in the church and a reciprocal service sought. Often inviting hoteliers, tourist information staff and organisers of other events to the church for a guided tour with light refreshments can foster this sort of mutual promotion.

Resources may also be available from, e.g. English Heritage Capacity Building Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund, Lottery Project Planning Grants, Local Authorities, and the SW Regional Development Agency's Destination Management project. Research is always an important first step.

For more see, [www.churchestourismassociation.org.uk](http://www.churchestourismassociation.org.uk)

## Wish You Were Here!

### Ideas from a Glastonbury parish

Tourists flock to Glastonbury, especially in the summer months, and at the benefice of St John's they are coming up with ways to welcome them. David Gowland is tasked with promoting St John's through tourism. He returned from the CTA conference brimming with ideas. In 2004, long before the conference, they asked 'Why do visitors come into the



church?' They learned that people came for specific services (weddings, civic services, etc.), one-off events (festivals, concerts, etc.), refreshments, a prayerful space, and many because they were passing by, they had time to fill, and 'it was raining' was a common refrain! Time spent in church was usually 30 minutes, many left after just a few.

At St John's they realise that they need to know whether visitor's needs are actually being met. They ask, '*what is the need of every stranger at our doors?*' and with the help of sensitive questioning they find that visitors expect the experience to be Authentic, Welcoming and Rewarding.

You need to let visitors know about you, so St John's has already installed new eye-catching signs, and considering having multilingual signs made to extend a wider welcome. It is important to think about the range of attractions your church offers. St John's have assessed their marketing strengths and can promote the church as '*something for everyone*'; with architectural, historical, spiritual and artistic features, as well as a cafe and unique items. They want to encourage visitors to linger by ensuring that information and / or people are available to show them points of particular interest.

Understanding tourism in your area is essential. Glastonbury is a tourist 'honey pot'. St John's will see if they can benefit from mutually advertising events with the Abbey and the Tor, perhaps becoming included in a *Grail Trail / Spirituality Trail*. It is useful to know when tourists may be at a loose end, offering talks, concerts or events when other attractions are closed.



You can also make tourists feel welcome by marking their important dates, like Australia Day, with celebratory events.

Building on their strengths will help to make St John's part of the vibrant tourist appeal of the area.

This information was provided by David Gowland, photos by Gill Hammond. [www.stjohns-glastonbury.org.uk](http://www.stjohns-glastonbury.org.uk)

# White Paper Offers Greater Role for Faith Communities

**Strong and Prosperous Communities** is the title of the Local Government White Paper launched in October by the Department of Communities and Local Government. Ruth Kelly, Secretary of State says that it will mean: 'changing the way we work – to enable local partners to respond more flexibly to local needs; to reduce the amount of top-down control from central government; and to enable citizens and communities to play their part.' The main thrust of the White Paper is to give increased power to local authorities, while requiring them to secure the participation of local citizens and communities.

The White Paper gives an opportunity for faith communities to play a greater role in local and regional development. Here are some of the main points:

- ◆ Individuals and community groups to have more say over services
- ◆ Encourages the empowerment of local people to manage their neighbourhoods
- ◆ The diverse nature of the third sector is recognised – it will be empowered and build the capacity to be the voice of under-represented groups
- ◆ It will be easier for communities and community groups to take on buildings – a fund will be established to give local authorities support in refurbishing buildings marked for transfer for community groups
- ◆ Funding: grants as well as contracts have a crucial role and should be used where appropriate, particularly in

relation to small community groups and when building the capacity of the third sector

- ◆ Recognises that short term funding creates inefficiency, three year funding will be the norm.

A more detailed briefing on the local government white paper is available from the National Council of Voluntary Organisations, tel: 020 7713 6161 or visit [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/policy/localgovernment/](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/policy/localgovernment/)

## **FAITH REPRESENTATION**

*A report by*

*The Church Urban Fund (CUF), Coventry University & the Faith Based Regeneration Network (FbRN)*

**on behalf of the**

**Department of Communities & Local Government**

For the complete report or the summary document please contact Billy Dann at

**[billy.dann@cuf.org.uk](mailto:billy.dann@cuf.org.uk)**

or visit **[www.cuf.org.uk/default.asp?id=147](http://www.cuf.org.uk/default.asp?id=147)**

**Swindon Inter Faith Group  
Annual General Meeting  
28th February**

**7.30pm, The Pilgrim Centre**

**Contact: Margaret Griffiths 01793 534923  
Barbara Aftelack 01793 536815**

## **Marking a Milestone for Abolition**

Political, business, trade union and church leaders signed a Statement of Regret, presented by the Bristol Black Churches Council and Churches Together in Bristol, marking 200 years since the abolition of slavery in England.



Harold Clarke, Director of the Churches Council for Industry and Social Responsibility said, 'We choose to make this Statement of Regret because we hope to move on from the present by continuing to build a city offering hope and expectation for all. This hope is based upon our belief that all are children of God and equal in his sight. We cannot rest until every person is equally involved.'

The Statement reads: *We the signatories regret wherever and whenever inhumanity is exercised, but in 2007 we especially recognise the evil of the transatlantic slave trade. We cannot imagine the pain and suffering inflicted upon millions of individuals and families and the significant changes forced upon thousands of communities in Africa, the West Indies and other places by slavers of whatever race or faith. 1807 was the beginning of the end of slavery through the passing into law of the anti-slavery bill. We give thanks for those who struggled to initiate this change and look to a time when slavery of every kind is abolished.*

Events marking this bicentenary are being organised throughout the country, more information can be found at [www.setallfree.net](http://www.setallfree.net)

*This information was provided by CCISR: [www.ccisr.org.uk](http://www.ccisr.org.uk)*

## South West Foundation Funds

The SWF has allocated over £2.5 million to around 700 Voluntary and Community Organisations in the region over the past 5 years. Grants are for small groups with charitable aims operating primarily in rural areas, market and coastal towns. The Foundation currently has 3 grant programmes.

**Small grant programme** - those working with the most in need in the community. Up to £1,000, although most are £200-£600, processed within around 14 days.

**Network Development fund** - run in partnership with Creating Excellence. Up to £1,000 enabling people and organisations to support each other, network and share good practice.

**Solid Foundations programme** - specific to Torbay. Aimed at groups working with people disadvantaged in the labour market.

For more information contact Jan Crawley 01934 529 999  
[jcrawley@southwestfoundation.org.uk](mailto:jcrawley@southwestfoundation.org.uk)

# Funding Sources

## Connecting Communities Plus (Community Grants)

Reminding applicants from 'locally run & managed voluntary & community organisations' Round Two of the process has begun. The **deadline is 29 Mar 2007**. Grants up to **£12,000**.

Feedback offered until 20 Mar 2007.

Contact - 01223 400343, [www.cdf.org.uk](http://www.cdf.org.uk), or e-mail - [ccplus@cdf.org.uk](mailto:ccplus@cdf.org.uk)

## 5x30 - Funding for Devon Projects

Funded by Sport England 5x30 is a Mid & West Devon project based on WHO guidelines for 30 minutes exercise 5 times a week. They provide funding & support to any group to encourage exercise. Projects may vary, from regular seated exercise sessions for seniors, to tree-planting events, to setting up dance groups.

Information: Tel. 01884 234290, email. [admin@5X30.org](mailto:admin@5X30.org) or [www.5X30.org.uk](http://www.5X30.org.uk)

## A Small Step Makes A Big Difference

St. Mary's church in Shirehampton, Bristol, won a national award for its work with the local community. Priest-in-charge, Revd. Canon Christine Froude, spoke to *faithnetsouthwest* on their successes.



Narnia at St Mary's

Christine says, 'We try to share God's Love in anything we try and do, to be here for our community and to be the church in the community. So we open the building, and every day people come in for tea and coffee to sit down and have a chat, it's a safe place to come if you are on your own, and it is free as well, and then it is a short hop from sitting in the coffee area with your child playing in the children's corner to coming for a service, because you have got used to the building and the atmosphere, and you are not anxious about coming in here.'

The church has been redeveloped, adapting the area nearest the church entrance, to make it a café / drop-in area, which leads straight to the church worship area - so it is literally a small step from one to the other. They were able to pay for structural changes by selling their old

church hall to the NHS, who were building a new medical centre there. Other changes came through local fundraising. Christine and the leadership team drew up a 'wish list' for the church and involved local people in achieving the wishes through creative fundraising projects.

Trust is a vital factor in getting church support for community development, 'we needed to build up a huge amount of trust, although people may not have understood what was going to happen, or totally felt comfortable with it, there was trust that I, and the leadership team that I drew around us, weren't going to take them any place they could not manage'.

The church has a number of community projects, including: youth work with other churches; a green sub-committee on environmental issues; a memorial chapel and grounds for local people to scatter the remains of their loved ones, particularly those who cannot afford a crematorium service. St. Mary's works in partnership with organisations such as Hope's Place, a project promoting sexual health for young people, and the Severn Credit Union who are to set up a branch in the church. They also run evening concerts with refreshments.

Although the church benefits from a central location, Christine says 'if you have a vision of what you want to do, the values

that underlie that vision are exactly the same whether you are in the middle of Shirehampton or whether you are in deepest Dorset or whether you are at Bristol Cathedral'.



Revd Christine Froude

A transcript of this interview is available in full on the *faithnetsouthwest* website.

# L is for...Bringing you the *faithnews*

## jargon-buster

Explaining some of the jargonese afflicting readers in their daily work.

**LAA** - Local Area Agreement between Local Authorities and other service and community organisations, assists the government to prioritize and allocate additional local funding for stronger, safer and healthier communities.

[www.phel.gov.uk/glossary](http://www.phel.gov.uk/glossary)

**LPSA** - Local Public Service

Agreement, linked to LAAs, together they prioritize the provision of local public services for negotiation with central government. [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

**LDF** - Local Development Framework

documents prepared by district councils, unitary authorities and national parks outlining local planning strategies. With the Regional Spatial Strategy they determine how the planning system will shape local communities.

[www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk)

**LEGI** - Local Enterprise Growth Initiative aim to release the productivity potential

in deprived areas through enterprise and investment, boost local economies and build sustainable communities.

[www.neighbourhood.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk)

**LGA** - Local Government Association promotes the interests of English and Welsh local authorities for better local government. [www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

**LNF** - Local Network Fund for small voluntary and community groups supporting young people aged 0-19. [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/localnetworkfund/](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/localnetworkfund/)

**LSC** - Learning Skills Council government agency responsible for adult training.

[www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/glossary](http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/glossary)

## **Bristol Inter Faith Group Events, Spring 2007**

**Women in World Religions**  
24th Feb

**Amjid Ali, Head of Amanah UK**  
20th Mar

**Council for Christians & Jews**  
**'The use of Hebrew Texts by Christians'**  
19th Feb, 5th & 19th Mar, 2nd Apr

Contact: [derek.jay@bifg.org.uk](mailto:derek.jay@bifg.org.uk)  
0117 955 6971, ext. 210

### **OUT OF THE BOX '2'**

FREE, 30th March 2007, 10.30-16.00

Fair for workers with young volunteers  
**SCAT Conference Centre, Taunton**  
01458 836130, [helpline@somerset-youth.org.uk](mailto:helpline@somerset-youth.org.uk)

## **The Ammerdown Conference & Retreat Centre**

### **The Importance of Listening**

Saturday 3rd March 2007, 9.30am-4pm

### **Ordinary Hero**

**Empowering People to Change their World**

Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th March 2007

For more information, contact: 01761 433709 - [centre@ammerdown.org](mailto:centre@ammerdown.org)

[www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org) - Radstock, BATH, BA3 5SW



is a partnership of four organisations: ISR (The Churches Council for Industry & Social Responsibility), the Exeter Diocesan Board for Church & Society; the South West Council of Faiths and the South West Churches' Regional Forum.

## **Contact us...**

### **Development Officers**

Alistair Beattie, *faithnetsouthwest*,  
c/o ISR, 162 Pennywell Road, Easton,  
Bristol BS5 0TX  
Tel: 0117 304 2298

Clare Mortimore, *faithnetsouthwest*,  
The Maltings Resource Centre, Teign Road,  
Newton Abbot TQ12 4AA  
Tel: 01626 200502

## **Useful Links**

### **Becoming an Eco-Congregation**

See: [www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales/index.html](http://www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales/index.html)

### **Regeneration & Racial Equality**

The Commission for Racial Equality is investigating issues related to regeneration. If you have been affected please see:

[www.cre.gov.uk/about/regeneration/callforevidence.html](http://www.cre.gov.uk/about/regeneration/callforevidence.html)

## **TRAINING COURSES**

### **MIND, Taunton & West Somerset Effective Team Leadership**

23rd February 2007

### **Management & Leadership - the essentials for success**

23rd March 2007

All courses run from 9.30am-4pm  
at Taunton Library.

Contact: Lindy Booth, 01823 334906  
[lindy@mindtws.org.uk](mailto:lindy@mindtws.org.uk)

### **Devon CVS Training Courses**

13th Feb 2007

**Honiton: Promoting Positive Behaviour - FREE for people working with children**

14th Feb 2007

**Ottery St Mary: IT & the Law - advice on the legal obligations of using IT, cost £5-20**

Contact: [jenny@edvsa.org.uk](mailto:jenny@edvsa.org.uk),  
01404 549045

### **Media Day, Devon** making better use of local media

cost, £25-38

28th Feb 2007

Contact: Penny Silvester,  
01884 255734

[office@involve-middevon.org.uk](mailto:office@involve-middevon.org.uk)

## **faithnews / e-news**

If you would be interested in receiving our newsletter by email please let us know.

**Director** Heather Pencavel (Bristol office)  
Tel: 0117 304 2299

**Email** [info@faithnetsouthwest.org.uk](mailto:info@faithnetsouthwest.org.uk)

**Website** [www.faithnetsouthwest.org.uk](http://www.faithnetsouthwest.org.uk)

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