



Faith to Engage London Region

Elizabeth Simon,

London Churches Group for Social Action

esimon@londonchurchesgroup.org.uk www.londonchurches.org.uk

020 7222 0281

www.faithtoengage.net

Newsletter Autumn 2010

Faith to Engage London Region

Welcome to our third Newsletter. We will be pleased to receive your feedback on the content of this e-newsletter so that we can include the things which are most relevant to you. Contact Paul Regan at paul@londonchurchesgroup.org.uk with any views.

Faith to Engage is a project that aims to strengthen the voice of churches and faith groups in policy-making across the nine English regions. Funded by the Big Lottery Fund, it is delivered nationally by a leading Christian social action movement Faithworks in collaboration with nine regional partners. London Churches Group for Social Action is the London regional partner.

News from the London Region

What is this Age?

The London Region has arranged a day conference on **Tuesday 19 October 10 am till 3.30 pm** at Westminster Central Hall. **What is this Age?** is an invitation to think radically about age and the future. This will look at the implications of a growing elderly population in the UK. The aim is to inform and reflect on issues of age and motivate imaginative and radical thinking and then action.

Never before in human history have older people outnumbered youngsters. What are the good and bad things that follow from this? What are the implications for democracy? Social care? Family relationships?

This is a roundtable for Church and other Faith Leaders, faith-based organisations, statutory and voluntary agencies to think together about these and other issues prompted by the changing age profile of our population.

The conference will be led by Ann Morisy from PSALM (Project for Seniors and

Lifelong Ministry)

Contributors include:

Rt Hon David Willetts MP, Minister for Universities and Science, author of *The Pinch*
(subject to Parliamentary business)

Baroness Kathleen Richardson of Calow

Please put the date in your diary: Tuesday 19 October 10 am till 3.30 pm
Westminster Central Hall.

The day will cost £20 (includes lunch). To book please contact Elizabeth Simon

Phone: 020 7222 0281

E-mail: esimon@londonchurchesgroup.org.uk

This is a Faith to Engage event and we do hope members will be able to come.

Research

Serving Londoners Survey

The research team is now collecting responses to the pilot questionnaire distributed to faith groups and voluntary agencies in the London Borough of Wandsworth.

When the results have been evaluated it is hoped to extend the survey to up to a further nine boroughs across London, chosen to provide a representative sample for the whole of London. We hope that the data collected will be sufficiently representative to have national significance. London Church Leaders have commissioned Las Casas Institute, based in Blackfriars Hall, the University of Oxford, to undertake the survey, which is being carried out in partnership with the Faiths Forum for London and the London Voluntary Service Council.

If you receive a questionnaire please do complete it and return it and encourage others to do so. It will also provide the base from which in the Faith to Engage project we will work with the Councils for Voluntary Service to develop understanding of, and infrastructure support for, faith sector projects.

Other News Roundup

Items from the [Interfaith Network Bulletin](#):

Cabinet Office and Big Society

The Office of the Third Sector has been renamed the Office of Civil Society and Nick Hurd, Conservative MP for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner, is the Minister for Civil Society, with responsibilities for charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations.

At <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/407789/building-big-society.pdf> is a document outlining the thinking underlining the Government's 'Big Society' concept which is likely to frame thinking about some important dimensions of engagement with, and by, faith communities. The Cabinet Office will have a particular responsibility for taking this cross-Government programme forward. The press release giving background can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2010/100518-news-big-society-launch.aspx

Research project on multi faith spaces

The University of Manchester have launched a new research project, Multi-Faith Spaces: Symptoms and Agents of Social and Political Change. They are currently in the early stages of their investigation and are seeking to locate a wide range of multi-faith spaces to visit and survey; speak with individuals who are (or have been) involved in their design and management; and locate and evaluate key documents and materials.

They would like to hear from anyone interested in taking part in this research, anyone who wishes to nominate a multi-faith space that could be included and anyone who has documents or photographs that might be of interest to the research team. For further information please visit their website at www.manchester.ac.uk/mfs or email mfs@manchester.ac.uk.

UNICEF and Religions for Peace release guide for religious communities

UNICEF and Religions for Peace have released From Commitment to Action: What Religious Communities can do to Eliminate Violence against Children. The joint guide, produced with input from religious actors and child protection specialists, aims to help religious communities harness their spiritual, moral and social strengths to prevent, respond to and eliminate violence against children.

From Commitment to Action outlines practical ways that religious leaders, theologians, educators, community mobilisers and others can respond to violence directed towards children that are in keeping with the recommendations of the Violence Study. It also includes concrete suggestions for how these actors can work effectively with governments, civil society and United Nations agencies.

For more information, please contact Kate Donovan at UNICEF New York at +212 326 7452 or kdonovan@unicef.org or Andrea Louie at Religions for Peace at 212 687 2163 or alouie@religionsforpeace.org. Alternatively please visit www.unicef.org/media/media_53664.html.

Inter Faith Week 2010

The second national Inter Faith Week for England and Wales is taking place from Sunday 21 to Saturday 27 November 2010.

One World Week

This year's One World Week takes place from 17 to 24 October.

Items from [Community Mission](#):

The Community Mission newsletter has lots of interesting information some of which is included below. This material is produced by Liveability and Tearfund through the Community Mission partnership. Here are some extracts:

The London Evening Standard has launched a Dispossessed Fund to help **small charities based in London tackle poverty in many different forms**. It is offering between £250 and £5,000 to charities with a turnover of £30,000 and under which involve a large number of volunteers. Projects can address poverty through training and education to help people back into work, fighting violence and gangs, improving mental and physical health and addressing homelessness and older adult poverty. Each London borough's funding is administered by a local charity and has slightly different guidelines and criteria. Some boroughs have already allocated their grants but most have not. Grants must be spent by 31 March 2011. To apply select your London borough and follow the application instructions.

The Allen Lane Foundation, set up by the late Sir Allen Lane, founder of Penguin Books, offers grants to **charities in the UK that help those who are disadvantaged** including asylum seekers, migrant workers, older people, offenders and ex-offenders, people with mental health problems, people experiencing abuse and gypsies and travellers. Grants of up to £15,000 are available and are given over one to three years. The aim of the work should be to make a lasting difference to people's lives, reduce isolation and encourage disadvantaged groups to take part in community life. Several Christian charities have received funding. Read the application criteria, exclusions, grants awarded in 2009 or apply by answering the 11 questions on their website. For more information, phone 01904 613 223.

National Churches Trust provides **grants to churches in the UK for structural repairs or facilities that will benefit the local community and worshipping community**. The building must be used regularly for worship, part of a denomination that is a member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and involve an architect or surveyor that is accredited. Repair grants of £10,000 and above are available for projects over £50,000 for essential work to safeguard the building. Community grants from £2,500 to £25,000 can be used to benefit the church and local community, but this must not exceed 50% of the total project. Read the FAQs, read about recent grants awarded or download an application form. For more information, contact the grants team or phone 020 7600 6090.

MODCARE assists **organisations in the UK engaged in education, furthering health or relieving poverty, distress or sickness**. Funding is awarded to projects supporting children and young people, older people or disabled people. There is no application form, deadline or website. Apply in writing to Mr Anthony Oliver Salt, MODCARE, 100 Colworth Road, London, E11 1JD or phone 020 7218 3023.

Churches for All, the network of Christian disability organisations, is hosting *Enabling Church: disability, wholeness and Christian theology* on 7 October at Friends Meeting House, London. Aimed at church leaders, members and community project staff, the event will focus on increasing the engagement of disabled people within church life. Workshops include providing help for carers, including children with disabilities and dealing with the onset of disability. Speakers include Joni Eareckson Tada (by video link) and Malcolm Duncan, founder of 'Church and Community' and others. It is £25 per person and can be booked online on the Premier Radio website. For more information, phone 08456 525 252.

The Community Mission contact is Jill Clark email: jclark@community-mission.org.uk

[The New Economics Foundation](#) and the Big Society

The new economics foundation (nef) has produced a briefing on the Big Society - Ten Big questions about the Big Society and ten ways to make it the best of it. <http://www.neweconomics.org/articles/ten-big-questions-about-the-big-society-html>

Co-production needs to go mainstream

Co-production - where public services are designed and delivered with users rather than 'to' and 'for' them - is the key to transforming public services according to a new report by NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) and **nef** (New Economics Foundation).

[Right Here, Right Now](#) is the name of the report which is free to download

[Zacchaeus 2000](#) and McKenzie Friends

Interested in helping vulnerable debtors?

Z2K trains volunteers to help those on low incomes who face court proceedings by acting as a McKenzie Friend, a court recognised non-legal supporter. Volunteers are often individuals who would like to work with Z2K volunteers in London, or community groups throughout the UK or individuals who are already in touch with deprived people and families and would like to set up a local team. If you think you or your community group might be interested, why not come on one of their courses or ask them to organise one for your group.

Please contact Lilian Lee, Administrator

Tel: 020 7259 0801 Fax: 020 7259 0701 Email: admin@z2k.org 34 Grosvenor Gardens London SW1W 0DH

Cost £15 on the day for the course manual and a light lunch – donations welcome.

Big Lottery

The Big Lottery Fund in England is investing up to £200 million in 100 – 150 urban and rural neighbourhoods that have been overlooked for funding. The funding is to set up an independent charitable Trust that will support local funding schemes in the targeted neighbourhood. The Big Local Trust is a ten year programme and they have now announced the first 50. From the table below you will see that eight of these areas are in London. The Lottery is looking for organisations to partner up in delivering this programme.

Hammersmith & Fulham	White City area
Lambeth	North Brixton
Southwark	South Bermondsey
Newham	Custom House
Hackney	Wick Ward
Greenwich	Barnfield Estate/Woolwich Common
Bromley	Mottingham
Waltham Forest	William Morris ward/Priory Court

Up to £5,000 from the Church Urban Fund's Mustard Seed Grant Programme

This programme aims to provide grants to enable churches and faith-based organisations, working in very deprived communities, to engage in social action through supporting them to initiate or develop community work. In particular, Church Urban Fund will support projects that tackle major problems in their area, such as poverty, unemployment, disaffected youth, lack of community facilities, loneliness and isolation, or lack of adequate housing and homelessness.

There must be a strong link between the project and a faith group. The project must be open to all regardless of faith, ethnic origin, disability, gender, age or sexual orientation, except where there is an expressly identifiable need (such as a gender specific homeless project or counselling/ support service). It also needs to be based in the local community and to have local community involvement in identifying needs, initiating responses and running the project.

The project must be directly tackling the effects of profound poverty and should be working in the 10% most deprived areas in England. Church Urban Fund uses the most up-to-date and appropriate Government issued statistics to assist in assessing all applications. You may access an overview for your area by visiting www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk.

If the organisation or project is serving a target group that is deemed to be intrinsically disadvantaged, but not working in the 10% most deprived areas in England, the project may still be eligible. Target groups include, but are not restricted

to: homeless people, people with drug and alcohol problems, refugees and asylum seekers, people working in the sex industry etc

Mustard Seed Grants can pay for specific activities but not for on-going revenue expenditure, existing salary costs, deficit funding, or retrospective spending.

The grant requested should typically represent at least a third of the total funding required and grant requests up to £5,000 will be considered. This is a rolling programme and there are no deadline dates.

For further information on how to apply please visit www.cuf.org.uk/act/cuf-funding

Items from [London Civic Forum](#)

Grants for art organisations and disabled artists

Disabled and deaf artists and art organisations can apply for £1 million in grants from Unlimited Commissions for projects to help celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Projects selected for funding may be displayed across the United Kingdom before and during the Games. Unlimited Commissions will award grants in two rounds with deadlines of 1 October 2010 and 18 April 2011 respectively. For assistance with the application, contact unlimited@london2012.com or for more information click here.

Poverty & Homelessness Action Week

29 Jan – 6 Feb 2011

Raise your voice and make sure everyone is counted!

There is going to be a census of the population in 2011, as there is every 10 years. The census will try to list all of the people who live in the country – but chances are many won't be included, notably the 'hidden homeless' as well as destitute asylum-seekers. Housing Justice invites campaigners and groups everywhere to make sure everyone is counted, by taking part in Poverty & Homelessness Action Week:

- Use Housing Justice free resources to organise a special event to raise awareness or funds.
- Help excluded people to register for the census, or make their voices heard.
- Join with thousands of other campaigners across the UK.

Visit www.actionweek.org.uk now for more information and free resources

Items from [London Civic Forum](#)

Olympic Opportunities e-Bulletin Re-Launched

The Big Opportunity - the campaign managed by London Civic Forum which helps London's VCS make the most of the opportunities provided by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games legacy has relaunched its bi-monthly e-bulletin. The e-bulletin has been made possible by a partnership with London Voluntary Service Council and funding from the London Development Agency

If you would like to receive a copy free of charge simply e-mail
thebigopportunity@londoncivicforum.org.uk

Mayor's Proposals for Devolution

Responding to the Government's decision to dismantle the Government Office for London (GoL) with immediate effect, the Mayor has published his 'Proposals for Devolution' which set out his plans for a better focused GLA group with greater powers and more accountability. The Mayor's proposals, which would be subject to government approval and changes in legislation, would see the London region of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) devolved to the GLA and the functions of the London Development Agency (LDA) folded into the GLA. A resulting London housing and regeneration body would be an executive arm of the GLA and the LDA would cease to exist as a separate body, although its functions would continue.

For more information please visit

<http://www.london.gov.uk/who-runs-london/mayor/publications/business-and-economy/mayors-proposals-devolution>

News from [Housing Justice](#)

Introduction to Homelessness Training 2 October and 6 November

Housing Justice runs a very popular one day training workshop on homelessness and related issues. It is particularly suitable for volunteers in churches and smaller homelessness projects or people who are new to working in the field. This one day workshop is often over subscribed so early booking is recommended!

The training covers: Role of the church, statutory and voluntary sector; homelessness law and local authority duties; mental health awareness; drugs and alcohol awareness; boundaries/dealing with conflict.

COST £25 per person for Housing Justice member organisations

NOTE HJ Membership includes 2 free places but please get in touch if cost is an issue. Some bursary places are available for unfunded churches or small organisations and for low/unwaged volunteers.

DATES Saturday 2 October and Saturday 6 November

10.00am-4.00pm

Venue: Housing Justice 22-25 Finsbury Square London EC2A 1DX

Nearest tube: Moorgate

More info/bookings Contact Titi on: t.shonibare@housingjustice.org.uk or call 020 7920 6600

[More Than Gold Vision Tour](#) Helping your church make the most of the 2012 Games

Your church is invited to one of the **nationwide briefing events** taking place during **October and November**. To see the publicity click [here](#)

These 90 minute briefings give your church the opportunity to –

- Hear **how churches responded at past Games** – from Atlanta to Beijing – through outreach, hospitality and service
- Learn of the **tested programmes and resources** for all ages, to be available through More Than Gold
- Identify the **best way for your church to be involved**– and dream a little of what could be done

London - Central Wednesday 03/11/2010 Regent Hall 7:30 - 9:00pm (refreshments from 7pm)

London - East Thursday 04/11/2010 Leyton Orient Football Ground 12pm - 2:00pm (for ministers and church leaders, lunch inc.)

London - East Thursday 04/11/2010 Leyton Orient Football Ground 7:30 - 9:00pm (open meeting refreshments from 7pm)

Further information

If you have not already joined the 'Faith to Engage' project, and would like to join please use the portal at <http://www.faithworks.info/form.asp?id=8926> You will then be able to get more information on a regular basis.

If you would like further information about the London region contact Elizabeth Simon, the Executive Officer at esimon@londonchurchesgroup.org.uk