

Faith to Engage London Region

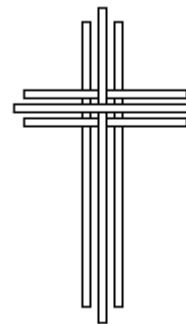
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Newsletter Autumn 2011

Faith to Engage London Region

Welcome to our fifth 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 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

Serving Londoners Survey

We are still working on the Report of the results of the pilot survey – now expected early in the New Year!

The August riots

The London Churches Group for Social Action, supported by the Church Leaders Executive, has undertaken a short term enquiry to gather information into what the experience of churches was of the riots in their areas of London, and how they responded. The information has been obtained mainly by interviewing key individuals. The report will include reflection on the information gathered, to support future action. It is intended to complete the enquiry by the end of November and report early in 2012.

The Faiths Forum for London will be holding a major event in the Spring **Reclaiming London Together** focussed on young people: why some young people got involved in the disturbances and how our young people can be better supported. In London nearly one-quarter of those arrested for riot-related offences was under the age of 18 and another 38% were aged 18 to 24.

Housing Benefit Changes

On Monday 11th July, 2011, the London Churches Group for Social Action and Housing Justice launched a short guide, a [Blueprint for Action](#), to enable clergy (vicars, pastors and priests) and other church pastoral workers to offer practical help to people who find that their benefit payments no longer cover their rent, leaving them unable to make ends meet. The launch included: [background briefing about Housing Benefit](#) (from Alison Gelder, Director of

Housing Justice); other [changes linked with the Welfare Reform Bill](#) currently before Parliament (from Rev Paul Nicolson of Zacchaeus 2000); [theological support](#) for this kind of church response (from Rev Angus Ritchie of the Contextual Theology Centre) as well as opportunities to hear from people affected and agencies who are helping them.

Housing Justice, with the LCGSA and other partners, are now following up the meeting held on 11 July. The housing benefit caps announced last year began to come into effect in April 2011 but are likely to be felt increasingly from January 2012.

We would be most grateful if London churches could feed back any experience they have of the impact of these caps. In particular,

- Have you had any pastoral contact with people affected by the Housing Benefit caps? Please let us know numbers, a brief description of individual circumstances and any action you have been able to take to support those affected.

We look forward to hearing from you so that we can assess what further response might be needed. Please reply to info@housingjustice.org.uk with Housing Benefit Caps in the subject field.

Also Zacchaeus 2000 (Z2K) has received a grant to assist tenants in difficulty to negotiate lower rents with their current landlords, see tenants through the courts if it comes to eviction and provide grants for deposits for a new tenancy for those who cannot afford them.

Z2K has employed two full time case workers for this project. They are preparing a full brief and contact details which can be sent to you so that you can refer cases suffering hardship to them. The project will run for a year in Westminster and then London wide for two years.

See www.z2k.org.

London Mayor Election 2012

London will be going to the polls on 3 May 2012 to elect a new Mayor. Interestingly, the candidates for the three main parties are a re-run of the 2008 election. The London Church Leaders /Faith to Engage with the Evangelical Alliance will be holding a major Hustings for the churches to question the main candidates at St James's Church, Piccadilly, on Wednesday 18 April in the early evening. **Please save the date in your diary and watch this space for more details!**

Other News Roundup

From Faith Based Regeneration Network UK

Multi Faith Spaces Conference

Wednesday, 21 March 2012 - Thursday, 22 March 2012

This conference will be an important part of the project funded by the AHRC/ESRC Religion and Society Programme and will include the launch of photographic exhibition on multi-faith spaces which will then tour the UK before travelling overseas.

What is faith based social action?

FbRN's Practical Spirit was warmly welcomed last year and is still available online, free to download, from the FbRN website.

An updated FbRN leaflet 'What is Faith Based Social Action?' is available in hard copy and online.

'More than Measurement: Assessing Quality Through Reflection in Faith Based Social Action' - The results of the VISIBLE project, a partnership project between the Faiths and Civil Society Unit, Goldsmiths, University of London, UK and FbRN are available in an Executive Summary and full report format. Both are downloadable from the FbRN home page. Contact Jane Winter, VISIBLE Programme Manager at FbRN (janewinter@fbrn.org.uk) to follow up issues.

Ethical Investment Guide for Churches

Stories of money, greed, and protest filled the media headlines during the recent National Ethical Investment Week in October 2011. Calls for more ethical behaviour on the part of banks, investors and institutions, including the Church of England, continue to be very vocal.

To promote awareness about ethical investment, the UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF) in collaboration with the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility have launched the 'Action Guide for Churches'. This 12 page report, sponsored by CCLA Investment Management, provides useful information and materials on how church groups can encourage members to consider green and ethical investments. The Guide includes ideas and resources for worship, displays and newsletter articles.

It can be downloaded: www.neiw.org/charities_churches. (Under 'Smart Choices' button)

[From Community Mission:](#)

Funding Sources

Charities working with children and young people, and those with disabilities as well as people affected by deprivation, can apply to The Leathersellers' Company for funding. A small grants programme offers grants up to £3,000 although the average is £500-£1,500 on a one-off basis. The main grants programme offers up to £5,000 for a period of four years although larger grants are sometimes made. There is no application deadline and applicants will be notified within six weeks if their application is being recommended to the grant panel for decision. Grants for work in Greater London will be prioritised although work in other parts of the UK is also supported. Apply online or for more information email Geoffrey Russell-Jones or phone him on 020 7330 1451.

The Anchor Foundation provides funding to Christian charities that address social exclusion with healing and arts projects. Grants of between £500- £10,000 are available and sometimes the grant will be spread over two or three years. Grants can be used for either capital or revenue costs. Examples of projects supported include a dance project aimed at

un-churched people, workshops about ageing and an arts project to make icons. The next application deadline is 31 January for the April board meeting.

[StreetSmart](#)

Street Smart raises thousands of pounds for homeless charities in the UK every winter by offering restaurant diners the ability to add a donation to their bill. StreetSmart has now announced that homeless charities can apply for between £500-£15,000 to help homeless people make a better life for themselves. Particular focus will be on projects addressing mental and physical health, employability and sustainable independent living. There is no formal application process but charities must outline their aims, current achievements and the specific area of work that they are fundraising for. The deadline for applications is the end of December 2011. If the project meets the criteria, a StreetSmart representative will visit the project during January or February 2012. [Visit the website](#) or email [Glenn Pougnet](#) at StreetSmart.

[LandAid](#) is a grant funder established by the UK property industry to help young people aged 16-25 to access the facilities, skills and opportunities to achieve their potential. They have [two funds available](#), each offering between £5,000-£25,000 to UK-based charities. The Training, Education and Support grant is to help young people receive recognised qualifications and the Capital Projects Fund is for refurbishment, conversion, extension or new build of facilities for young people including hostels, youth centres and accommodation. The deadline for both grants is 31 January 2012.

Read the [FAQs](#) or [sample application form](#), [apply online](#) or phone 020 3102 7190 for more information.

Finding appropriate funding sources for church and Christian community projects can take a large amount of time and sometimes lead to frustration when applications are not successful. **The Directory of Social Change** encourages projects to subscribe to one of their funding websites in order to find the best sources of funding. Join over 3,000 other subscribers and begin the search for funding today by visiting their website. The cost of an annual subscription is £225-£250 but several websites offer a free demo.

London Catalyst offers grants to charities that work to improve the lives of people limited by ill health, poverty and disability. It has two grant schemes. Special interest grants help projects that tackle health inequalities and the limiting effects of ill health, disability and poverty, with a focus on projects making a difference in an area of unmet need. The small grants scheme supports health and social welfare projects in areas of high need, especially those that encourage cooperation between health and community groups. Average grants awarded are below £10,000. Read the annual report and accounts 2010 for past awarded grants, guidance for grant applicants or complete an online application.

Conferences and Research

CAP is running a new study of Christian attitudes to poverty and inequality in this country. Complete their online survey and contribute your thoughts on poverty and what the Church should be doing about it. They are also looking for a range of views and ideas about **what their focus should be** over the next five years.

A new network of money and debt advice ministries has been launched, designed to give money outreach projects and ministries the opportunity to discuss and campaign on the issues behind their clients' money difficulties. The **Community Voice Forum** is a collaboration between Credit Action, Community Money Advice, Christians Against Poverty, Stewardship and Crown Financial Ministries and will represent frontline Christian money advice workers and volunteers. Read the CVF Charter, register with the forum or email the Community Voice Forum.

When survival and basic sustainability are the focus, it can be hard to worry about your carbon footprint. **Church Urban Fund's Greening your Church Community Project** reminds us that it is not only our duty but can save money as well as the environment. As well as energy-saving tips and offers, the paper lists a number of green project ideas that could become social enterprises, like furniture/clothes and bicycle recycling projects.

Research shows that many church-goers are open to the idea of leaving a Christian legacy – if only someone would suggest it, and help them take the first steps. **Christian legacy** - the group of leading Christian charities working together to encourage people to leave a legacy to their favourite Christian charities when writing their will – are running a special campaign this autumn. **Tomorrow's harvest** involves a range of free resources to use in your church including sermon and small group ideas. **Register and download the pack.**

[Commissioning for Equality: An introduction to health commissioning](#) is an event aimed to help charities working with children, young people and families connect with the new commissioning environment and improve their chances of winning government contracts. To be held on 25 January at [Cube](#) (Centre for the Urban Built Environment) in Manchester, the day is a partnership between [National Children's Bureau](#) and [FaithAction](#). The day costs £175 for statutory bodies but free for charity and voluntary sector organisations and will have a maximum number of 25 delegates. [Book online](#). For more information email [NCB](#) or phone 020 7843 6084.

Breaking Barriers is the theme for the [2012 Poverty and Homelessness Action Week](#), which is jointly organised by [Church Action on Poverty](#), [Housing Justice](#) and [Scottish Churches Housing Action](#) and supported by a range of organisations to raise awareness of the issues of poverty and homelessness in the UK. The week runs from 28 January to 5 February 2012, though you could use the resources at any time. You can [download free materials and event ideas](#) – from games and activities for children, to preaching suggestions and prayers. If you decide to run an event, don't forget to [register it online](#). For further information or to order printed copies of the resources [contact one of the partners](#).

All charities find it hard to find the time and energy for developing and maintaining good governance, but having engaged and qualified trustees can make all the difference to your effectiveness and sustainability. [Livability](#) has teamed up with Neil Casey from Wild Goose Consulting to offer a training day on these issues. Trustees: can't work with them – or without them will take place in [Leeds on 31 January 2011](#) and [London on 22 February 2012](#). The cost for both days is £20 per person, including lunch, though the London day will revert to the usual price of £30 if booked after 22 January. Book online for [Leeds](#) and [London](#).

God of the poor is the New Wine conference for those ministering in urban priority areas (inner city and estates). Taking place at Hothorpe Hall from 28-29 February 2012, the

conference will be led by those experienced in this ministry, and will feature talks, practical seminars, worship and ministry. Book online. For more information email New Wine or phone 0845 437 8656.

10 Keys for impact – inspiration and guidance for community transformation is a new resource published to celebrate 15 years of Tearfund's IMPACT UK Team. From Being Strategic and Protecting against Burnout to Involving your Community and Communicating your Christian Distinctive, the booklet is full of the collected wisdom and guidance of well-established Christian community projects around the UK. Beyond the top tips and practical advice, there's also a range of additional resources and tools to download online for each key. Download 10 keys for impact as a pdf or email Nicola Chappell for more information.

From Urban Forum

Urban Forum's Guide to Community Resilience has a wealth of practical information that will help you strengthen your community to meet some of the undoubted challenges that we face. For instance, there is a lot of news about SIBs right now and there is a section on what they are and how to proceed in the guide. Take a look at our sample page on SIBs here. There are over 20 different ways to strengthen your community in the guide. We're sure you will find this an invaluable resource.

Living Wage Foundation

The Living Wage Foundation which was launched on 2 May at Westminster Central Hall, has reached agreement with the English regions, Wales and Scotland that there will be a single rate for the Living Wage outside London. This is calculated by the Minimum Income Standard research group at the University of Loughborough, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation <http://www.minimumincomestandard.org/livingwage.htm>

The hourly rate for outside London for 2011 to 2012 is £7.20. The Living Wage Foundation also announced the London Living Wage of £8.30 for 2011 to 2012. This is calculated by the Greater London Authority Economics Unit.

The Living Wage Foundation does three things:

- Helps employers introduce the Living Wage
- Accredits companies who have implemented the Living Wage
- Campaigns to persuade politicians, the public and employers of the value of the Living Wage

For further information see:

<http://www.citizensuk.org/campaigns/living-wage-campaign/the-living-wage-foundation/>

Season's Greetings

Finally, we wish all of you a happy and blessed Christmas and New Year!

