

# Mission and Discipleship Council

## e-news

Edition No 45, May 2010

Welcome to e-news, which, as ever, gives information on events, resources and websites that may be of interest to church folk throughout Scotland. It may be that some of the Conferences and Events listed are outwith Scotland, but we consider it important to make you aware of what is happening elsewhere and to offer you the opportunity of accessing additional information through website links.

The intention of e-news is to be ecumenical, both in content and readership, so please feel free to forward it to friends and colleagues who may also find it helpful. If introduced to e-news by someone else forwarding it to you, please contact us and we will add you to the distribution list. If you would prefer to be removed from the distribution list, please e-mail 'UNSUBSCRIBE E-NEWS' to [sreeves@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:sreeves@cofscotland.org.uk)

Please send details of future events, resources and websites for inclusion in the **June** edition, by **28 May**, to **Sheila Reeves** at [sreeves@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:sreeves@cofscotland.org.uk)

### Conferences and Events

**BIG BOOK SALE in aid of Christian Aid** has a wide variety of books, fiction and non-fiction, hardback and paperback. If you are in Falkirk, with a few minutes to spare, why not come along and have a browse – you never know what you might find, or who you might meet! **8 May**, 10am–3pm, Falkirk Old & St Modan's Parish Church, Kirk Wynd. For further information, contact Fiona Scott at [fscottfalkirk@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:fscottfalkirk@blueyonder.co.uk)

**PSP ARTS FESTIVAL** This week-long event includes an opening service with guest speaker, Donald Smith (Scottish Storytelling Centre), four free organ concerts, a guitar concert, sing-alongs with Vocal Vibes junior choir and Wildfire women's choir, an evening of Argentine Tango and a 'Come and Sing' Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. **9–15 May**, Pilrig St Paul's Church (corner of Pilrig Street/Leith Walk). For further information, contact Martin Ritchie on 07984 466855 or visit [www.pilrigstpauls.org.uk/page.php?14](http://www.pilrigstpauls.org.uk/page.php?14)

**THE SPIRITUAL CARE OF OLDER PEOPLE – an Interfaith Dimension** How do we care for our older people and how do we honour their experience and wisdom? What different approaches are there across cultures and faiths and what can we learn from one another? The Festival of Spirituality and Peace, Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association and Faith in Older People are holding a Civic Café discussion to explore these and other questions. **11 May**, 1.30–3.30pm, St John's Church, Edinburgh (corner of Princes Street/Lothian Road). This is open to people with a professional or personal interest in the issue and attendance is by invitation. To express an interest in taking part, contact Fiona Park on 0131 221 2273 or [civic.cafe@festivalofspirituality.org.uk](mailto:civic.cafe@festivalofspirituality.org.uk)

**HEALTH AND HEALING – Central to Church life?** is a day event to support development of health and healing within the life of local congregations. Starting with our own roots in the Bible and the history of the church, there will be an opportunity to consider appropriate responses for churches in our current culture: where complementary health is becoming normal, spirituality is now part of NHS guidelines and churches offer many different approaches to healing. The day has been created through partnership between the Church of Scotland Ministries Council and the Christian Fellowship of Healing, whose Chaplain Rev Jenny Williams will facilitate the day. The event will take place in three different locations:  
**13 May** – 10 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh; **3 June** – Letham St Marks, Perth; and **10 June** – Old Kirk, Ayr. 10.30am – 4pm on each occasion. For further information, contact Catriona Shehi on 0131 225 5722 or [cshehi@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:cshehi@cofscotland.org.uk) Download the programme and booking forms from [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/priorityareas.htm](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/priorityareas.htm)

**BIBLEFRESH** is a movement of churches, agencies, colleges and festivals seeking to encourage and inspire churches across the UK to a greater confidence and appetite for the Word of God. The centrepiece of the initiative is to make 2011 a Year of the Bible and asks churches to make four pledges to help the whole church gain greater skill in handling the scriptures and a greater passion for hearing and obeying the Bible. Scottish launches will take place on **24 May** (Glasgow, lunchtime; Edinburgh, evening) and **25 May** (Dundee, lunchtime). For further information, visit [www.biblefresh.com](http://www.biblefresh.com)

**FRONTIER, FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP: The Mission of World Christianity** These lectures, by Prof Dana L Robert, Boston University School of Theology, will explore three themes in the shaping of world Christianity since the Edinburgh 1910 World Missionary Conference, and reflect on their significance for 21<sup>st</sup> century mission: 'Mission Frontiers from Geography to Justice', **24 May**, 6pm, University of Glasgow Chapel, 9 University Avenue, Glasgow G12 8QQ; 'Friendship in the Creation of World Christianity', **25 May**, 7pm, St Columba's Church, 5 Clifford Road, Stirling FK8 2AG; and 'Mission Visions of Worldwide Christian Fellowship', **26 May**, 5.30pm, New College, The Mound, Edinburgh EH1 2LX. For further information, contact [david.miller@icc.ac.uk](mailto:david.miller@icc.ac.uk) or [donald@scottishstorytellingcentre.com](mailto:donald@scottishstorytellingcentre.com)

**MANIPULATION OR MOTIVATION? How to make the most of the time, skills and experience of your volunteers** is the title of a training day to equip those who manage volunteers in churches and Christian community projects. It will be practical and realistic so that what is learned can be implemented straightaway. Attendees will leave equipped and encouraged to make the most of their volunteers. **26 May**, 9.45am–3.30pm, St John's, Walshaw Street (off Great Horton Road), Great Horton, Bradford BD7 4AB. £20/person (including lunch and drinks), to be paid on the day. For further information and to book, contact [Ruth Smith](mailto:Ruth.Smith@bradforddiocese.org) or phone 0113 350 8070.

**ALPHA VISION EVENINGS** will look at how communities can be impacted through Alpha and associated ministries and will include worship, inspirational vision, equipping and practical teaching. **2 June**, 6.30pm, Credo Centre, Aberdeen. For further information and to book, contact Rona Main [WMMain45343@aol.com](mailto:WMMain45343@aol.com) **3 June**, 7pm, The Barn Church, Culloden. For further information and to book, contact June Munro [june.munro@btinternet.com](mailto:june.munro@btinternet.com) Both events are free, but donations are welcome to help cover costs.

**EDINBURGH 2010 – witnessing to Christ today** Plans are well under way for the conference to be held in Edinburgh from **2–5 June**. It is planned to stream the closing event on 6 June at 4pm over the internet. For further information, visit [www.edinburgh2010.org](http://www.edinburgh2010.org)

**LIVE THE FUTURE TODAY with a carbon conversations course** Over six meetings, learn about carbon emissions at home, in travel, in food and in the things you buy; measure your footprint; discuss the low-carbon future you want; choose actions that fit with your life-style; and share hopes, dreams, fears and actions. **2, 9 & 23 June, 7 & 21 July**, final meeting date tbc. Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> floor flat in Polwarth, Edinburgh. £15 including a copy of the Carbon Conversations handbook. For further information, contact Caroline on [caroline.brett@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:caroline.brett@yahoo.co.uk) It is hoped to run future courses across the central belt, so even if you can't make this course, please get in touch. The course is run in association with The Iona Community/Wild Goose Resource Group and designed and endorsed by Cambridge Caron Footprint. Visit [www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org](http://www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org)

**ORGANS ROADSHOW AND RECITAL** Makin, the church organ builder, is holding an event to showcase a three manual Makin custom organ, an Opus 17, Sweelinck 27, Westmorland Village, Westmorland Sapphire and a new compact Westmorland Custom three manual drawstop instrument. The day will be very casual with ample time for organists to play any or all of the organs, enjoy some drinks with light snacks and browse and play a selection of Oxford University Press and Kevin Mayhew organ music which will be on sale. **12 June**, 10am–4pm, Kinoull Parish Church, Perth. For further information and to register, contact 01706 888100 or [roadshows@makinorgans.co.uk](mailto:roadshows@makinorgans.co.uk) For general information, visit the Makin website at [www.makinorgans.co.uk](http://www.makinorgans.co.uk)

**ALPHA ACCELERATE** are training evenings for those new to Alpha or those who want to brush up on the basics. Topics will include 'Alpha DNA' and 'Alpha Toolkit'. **14 June**, 7pm, Cathcart Trinity Church, Glasgow. For further information and to book, contact Kieran Dunne [kieran.dunne@alpha.org](mailto:kieran.dunne@alpha.org) **16 June**, 7pm, Morningside Baptist Church, Edinburgh. For further information and to book, contact Brian Fleck [brian.fleck@hotmail.com](mailto:brian.fleck@hotmail.com) Both events are free, but donations are welcome to help cover costs.

**REACHING CHINESE STUDENTS DAY** Alpha Scotland and Stirling Baptist Church are joining together to present the first ever Student Alpha training day for those interested in working with Chinese students. The training day will include a keynote address by Dr Mark Muller from OMF Diaspora Ministries, as well as Student Alpha conference practical training, food and fellowship. **19 June**, 10am–4pm, Stirling Baptist Church. £20 per delegate (discounts of £10 for student workers and £5 for students) including a hot Chinese buffet lunch and resource pack to take away. [For more information and to book click here](#)

**SOLAS 2010** is an all age weekend to light up the Scottish Festival landscape with a vivid mix of music, debate, theatre, comedy, film and visual art. Solas works from within the Christian tradition to try and create a new cultural space in Scotland – a space that is open, generous and critical; a space that responds to the provocations of art, politics and faith without 'dumbing down' or 'selling out'; a space for participation as well as performance, for dancing as well as debating, for comedy as well as campaigning, for pictures as well as words; and a space for artistic and cultural exchanges, bringing together people of different faiths and no faiths. **25–27 June**, Wiston, Biggar. Music acts include McIntosh Ross, Peatbog Faeries and We See Lights, and confirmed speakers include Richard Holloway, Douglas Alexander and Kathy Galloway. For more information, visit [www.solasfestival.co.uk](http://www.solasfestival.co.uk)

**TO BOLDLY GO...** is the title of the Church of Scotland National Youth Assembly 2010. 16–25 year olds with a Church of Scotland connection are invited to take part in four days of thinking about mission for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scotland, exploring what to say to the Church about Fashion, Politics, Violence and Peacemaking, and enjoying worship, prayer, celebration, fun and conversation. **3–6 September**, Stirling University. For further information and to book, contact Jane McCarthy on 0131 225 5722, [jmccarthy@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:jmccarthy@cofscotland.org.uk) or visit [www.madstuff.biz](http://www.madstuff.biz)

**SURFING THE EDGE: Cultivating Mission-Shaped Life in a New Space** is the title of conference offered as part of the Mission & Discipleship Council's Leadership Development programme. Alan Roxburgh, author of books including 'Crossing the Bridge: leadership in a Time of Change', 'The Missional Leader' and 'Introducing the Missional Church', will lead sessions including 'Mapping our location', 'How we are trained', 'Theological/Biblical perspective on our situation', 'Actions that won't work' and 'Actions that create a new future'. **13–15 September**, Apex Hotel, Dundee. £250 (Church of Scotland ministers can use their Study Leave entitlement). For further information or to book, contact Sheila Reeves on 0131 225 5722 or [sreeves@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:sreeves@cofscotland.org.uk)

**DIGGING DEEPER – what does it mean to be a follower of Jesus as a child?** is the title of this year's National Children's Assembly. There will be fun, laughter, new friends, play, worship, pilgrimage and Fischy Music, for children in P6 and P7. **16–19 October**, the Isle of Iona. £60 per child. For further information and to book (before the deadline of 2 June), contact Wendy Kerr on 0141 352 6946 or [wkerr@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:wkerr@cofscotland.org.uk)

## Resources

**DAMARIS** is an educational charity with a Christian foundation (but working with people of all faiths and none), committed to rigorous study and effective communication as it seeks to relate biblical Christian faith and contemporary popular culture. Damaris operates in three departments: the [Church](#) department is sometimes referred to as 'missionary training for people who stay at home'; the [Schools](#) department specialises in the provision of innovative and excellent resources for schools; and the [Media](#) department seeks to make a positive contribution to contemporary popular culture. For further information, visit [www.damaris.org/cm/home/damaris](http://www.damaris.org/cm/home/damaris)

**IRENIC** (Inter Religious ENcounter Information Consultancy) seeks to assist participants in inter-faith dialogue. The May newsletter is full of stories from the interfaith world. Visit <http://irenic.org.uk/irenica/irenica-issue-6-may-2010/> For previous (and future) issues, visit <http://irenic.org.uk/irenica/>

**RELATIONS WITH OTHER FAITHS (RWF)** is the title of a monthly newsletter produced by Iain Stewart, the Mission & Discipleship Council's Inter-Faith Support Worker. The May edition features the Jewish festival of 'La Baomer' and details of forthcoming Inter-Faith events. Visit [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/extranet/xmissiondisciple/xmdresources.htm#rwof](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/extranet/xmissiondisciple/xmdresources.htm#rwof)

**WORDLE** is a resource that provides a free customised 'word cloud' – it takes text provided by you and gives prominence to words that occur most often, and also allows the use of different fonts, layouts and colours to create attractive pictures. It has been used by many churches and projects and has proved to be a good way of creatively communicating the message rather than just including normal text. Visit [www.wordle.net/](http://www.wordle.net/)

## Feedback

This section is available for anyone to report on a Conference or Event they have attended, or a Resource they have used (whether as a result of information given in e-news or not). Please send any contributions to [sreeves@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:sreeves@cofscotland.org.uk)

### THE BIGGEST FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT EVER

The Fairtrade Foundation thanks all who took part in 'The Big Swap' and made this year's Fairtrade Fortnight the best yet. From human tea bags to producer meet and greets, [watch just some of the highlights](#).

### Inspiration for your next Big Swap

Scotland was the biggest of swappers, registering over 85,000 switches to Fairtrade products in just two weeks. Hertfordshire County Council passed a resolution in support of Fairtrade and launched a campaign to become a [Fairtrade County](#). Swappers in Wales favoured tea, chocolate and fruit as their top three Fairtrade products to start buying. Browse [thousands of Fairtrade products](#) you can swap to today.

## Rural Church

**REGIONAL RURAL NETWORK EVENTS** As part of the Scottish National Rural Network, regional events are still taking place throughout the country. Each event includes an update on rural funding streams, LEADER and Rural Priorities, as well as an update on the Scottish National Rural Network. There will be the chance to hear about a project from the local area, as well as one from another region of Scotland. There will also be a discussion session aimed at helping communities to explore what has worked well in the past and what lessons can be learned to springboard into future successes. **Until 28 May**. Full details are available at [www.ruralgateway.org.uk/en/rural-development/regional-events](http://www.ruralgateway.org.uk/en/rural-development/regional-events)

**RURAL DIRECT TEAM** helps constituted community groups across rural Scotland to access rural priorities funding (SRDP). Do not hesitate to [contact us](#) if you need any support relating to Rural Priorities funding, from initial ideas through to the submission of claims. You can contact them at any point in the process on 0845 838 8598 or, specifically: [Barbara Love](#) co-ordinates the service and is responsible for the Highlands and Islands; [Sheila Fraser](#) supports communities in Fife, Forth Valley, Lothian and Borders; [Ian Mathieson](#) works with communities in Argyll, Ayrshire, Clyde Valley and Dumfries & Galloway; [Eleanor Morris](#) works with communities in Grampian, Moray and Tayside; [Barbara Robertson](#) at Voluntary Action Orkney; and [Wendy Hand](#) at Voluntary Action Shetland.

**THE X FACTOR WITHIN – What is the X factor within a rural café church?** It looks as though café culture is here to stay and Costa Coffee has given churches permission to use their shops for regular meetings. A small rural congregation in Norfolk runs a multi-faceted event called Xpressions Café

and works with café, all-age worship and faith exploration concurrently, each held in four parts of an overall venue. The components are called Xpresso, Xplore, Xpressions and Xperience. Although the components begin with X, a very significant element of the story is the release of gifts in lay people who never imagined they could do so much, hence the tag, X factor. Visit [www.churcharmy.org.uk/ms/sc/encounters/sfc\\_issue45.aspx](http://www.churcharmy.org.uk/ms/sc/encounters/sfc_issue45.aspx) and click on 'Encounters on the Edge' to subscribe.

## Help Required / Opportunities

### EAST OF SCOTLAND CHURCHES FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

To be allowed entry to the league, teams need to be associated with a church. Player-manager Steven Wilson has a good squad ready for next season and is looking for a church to sponsor them so that they can use their name in the league. That's all that is required, although, obviously, if the church wanted to give the team strips etc then even better, but they do have some they can still use. If your church might be interested in lending its name to the team, please contact Steven at [stevenedwilson@yahoo.com](mailto:stevenedwilson@yahoo.com) For further information on the league, visit [www.escfa.org.uk/](http://www.escfa.org.uk/)

**SWITCH TO ECOTRICITY** Ecotricity builds wind-powered turbines, harnessing energy that doesn't pollute and won't run out. With its New Energy tariff, Ecotricity will match the standard price of your regional supplier (NB it is only available in mainland UK). It only takes five minutes to switch and it's probably one of the biggest steps you can take to help fight climate change. If you switch, Christian Aid will receive £15 for its work helping poor communities adapt to climate change. If a business, school or church switches, Christian Aid will receive up to £100! For further information and to switch, contact 0800 0326 100 and quote 'Christian Aid' or visit [www.ecotricity.co.uk/christianaid](http://www.ecotricity.co.uk/christianaid)

**WINDOWS FOR PEACE (UK)** promotes dialogue and understanding amongst Jewish, Muslim and Christian young people, who work together with media and art to promote mutual understanding and reconciliation between the two communities. There will be 16 youngsters from Tel Aviv and Nazareth coming to Edinburgh in July. If you know of any 13–15 year olds who might be interested in meeting them (**around 13–16 July**) and learning more about how they try to build bridges of reconciliation through communication, please get in touch with Nancy Adams at [nancy@newbigging.org](mailto:nancy@newbigging.org) For further information, visit [www.windowsforpeaceuk.org/index.htm](http://www.windowsforpeaceuk.org/index.htm)

## Trusts/Funding

**FiSCAF** – Faith in Scotland Community Action Fund – offers grants of up to £5,000 per annum for three years to faith groups involved in tackling poverty in some way. For further information, contact Kenneth Bell on 0141 221 4544 (Tuesdays only) or visit [www.fiscaf.org](http://www.fiscaf.org)

**Help with Funding Applications** Many people are concerned about how evangelism links to their community work and struggle to get funding and communicate their ethos to statutory bodies. Read the Charity Commission's report on the validity of the Christian basis for most charities at '[Advancement of religion for the public benefit](#)' and [comments on the report](#) from the Evangelical Alliance.

**NOVUM TRUST** provides small short-term grants – typically between £200 and £2,500 – to initiate projects in Christian research and action which cannot readily be financed from other sources. Special consideration is given to proposals aimed at the welfare of young people, investment in training, new ways of communicating the faith, and work in association with overseas Churches or on behalf of immigrants in Scotland. The Trust cannot support large building projects or individuals applying for maintenance during courses or training. The Trustees will next meet in November and the deadline for completed applications is **22 October**. For an application form and guidance notes, email [novumt@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:novumt@cofscotland.org.uk)

**O2 THINK BIG** This programme offers projects up to £300 in grants as well as training, support and mentoring from a number of youth charities. Eligible projects should be run by young people for

young people, and may have the opportunity to apply for a further £2,500 to continue their work. Applications can be submitted at any time. For further information, visit [www.o2thinkbig.co.uk/](http://www.o2thinkbig.co.uk/)

**PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND/PRIORITY AREAS STAFFING FUND** All over Scotland there are congregations who have found that they are able to do what they never thought they could do because of money which they have received from the General Assembly through the Parish Development Fund. If you are seeking to develop work which is community focussed and is responding to local needs and issues, the Fund may be able to help. If you are a Priority Area parish on the main or supplementary list, funding is available towards staffing costs for posts additional to those agreed in your Presbytery Plan. For further information, contact Amy Norton on 0131 225 5722, [anorton@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:anorton@cofscotland.org.uk) or visit <http://churchofscotland.org.uk/councils/pdfund/index.htm>

**The Archer Trust** is a Christian trust providing grants of between £250 and £3,000 to charities and community projects that help disadvantaged people in areas of high unemployment and deprivation. They prioritise charities that make good use of volunteers. There is no application deadline or form to complete. Instead, a letter outlining the project's main objectives, along with the most recent accounts, should be sent to The Secretary, The Archer Trust, Bourne House, Wadesmill, Ware, Herts, SG12 0TT

**THE WOODWARD CHARITABLE TRUST** invites applications from charities working with, or in the areas of; social and ethnic minority groups; prisoners and ex-offenders; homelessness; violence and abuse; arts outreach; disability; environment; addiction. The fund offers grants of up to £5,000 through their small grants scheme and grants of over £5,000 through their large grants scheme. The next application deadline is the **24 May**. For further information, visit [www.woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk/guidelines.html](http://www.woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk/guidelines.html)

## Some Websites to Explore

[www.careforthefamily.org.uk/scotland](http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/scotland) carries details of resources and initiatives for supporting and strengthening family life and values in Scotland today.

[www.eauk.org/slipstream/](http://www.eauk.org/slipstream/) offers a suite of leadership resources to encourage, equip and network leaders across the denominations and generations.