

## PROJECT WORKERS SHARING AND LEARNING AT THE RESIDENTIAL



PDF-funded project staff met at the Carnegie Conference Centre in March for this year's residential event. The event kicked off with a conversation about Urban and Rural Poverty and the resulting community needs, led by Rev Martin Johnstone and Rev Alex Millar, followed by musical entertainment provided by Aberdeen's Revelation choir. The choir, and the dinner afterwards, were lauded by all in their Evaluation sheets!

→ Saturday began with an illustration of the power and complexity of networks, led by the incoming Convener, Rolf Billes. Three workshops offered opportunities for learning and the sharing of questions and solutions: Lesley Greenaway (Evaluation and

Professional Development Services) led a session on self-evaluation for service improvement rather than just reporting, Alistair Cameron of Scottish Churches Housing Initiative gave food for thought with case studies about roles and communication within organisations, and finally, Douglas Westwater of Community Enterprise, Ltd., presented on possibilities for sustainability offered by social enterprise. There were plenty of opportunities for tea, coffee, and chatting with other workers, though! and many attendees looked favourably on the idea of a PDF forum to continue their conversations. To judge by our feedback, a good time, and a useful one, was had by all.



## LOVE TO TELL YOUR STORY?

Then send us around 300 words, preferably with a picture, of your community work and it could go on the PDF website or in the newsletter!

## BREATHE ABERFELDY'S INFUSE CAFÉ WINS AWARD

The Infuse Café was awarded the Young Volunteer Group of the Year Award 2010 by Voluntary Action Perthshire (PKAVS), at a dinner held at The Salutation Hotel in Perth at the end of May. awards are held annually to recognise the achievements of volunteering throughout Perth & Kinross.

→ "Walking down the red carpet to the pipes for a champagne reception is a memory I will never forget," said Shannon Langhorn. Jamie Blackstock said: "I was stunned when they called out our name as winners, I couldn't believe it!"

→ Lorna Craig from River City presented the Infuse Cafe committee with certificates and a glass trophy that will be on display in the church centre, and the group also received Millennium Volunteer certificates signed by The First Minister for Scotland, Alex Salmond Millennium Volunteers must have given more than 200 hours of their time to volunteering.

→ Youth Coordinator Franny McGrath explained: "Infuse Cafe was initiated by young people, for young people in S3 upwards. Its committee has all given 100% commitment to ensure that it goes ahead every week - a fantastic example of the positive impact that young people can have on their community.

→ "Aberfeldy Parish Church and P&K Council's Youth Services have worked in partnership now for over two years, it is through this partnership that we can provide the resources for young people to manage their own events. Alexa Keen and her staff work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the Cafe goes ahead.

→ "Finally, it is only through funding that we can ensure these events go ahead and I would like to recognise and thank The Parish Development Fund, The Robertson Trust and The Gannochy Trust."

→ The Cafe runs every Thursday during term time from 8.30-10pm, offering a chance for young people to socialise, listen to live music, play pool, and have coffees or milkshakes. To celebrate their achievement, there will be a special evening open to anyone on the 17 June at Aberfeldy Parish Church where there will be dancing, live music, gladiator joust, bouncy castles and a BBQ, all free from 6-9pm.

## PDF DEADLINE

The next deadline for applications will be 31 August 2010.



## RETROSPECTIVE FROM EX CONVENER

Having been involved with the Parish Development Fund since its inception, it was with some sadness that I stepped down as convener of the committee, and thus ended my involvement with the Fund, at this year's General Assembly.

→ The PDF has been a success. The support and advice offered, together with the grants given, have enabled churches the length and breadth of the country to see their ideas coming to fruition. Churches that had become demoralised are feeling better - seeing that things are happening. Churches that were doing nothing in particular, apart from looking after themselves, are actively serving their wider communities, reaching out to those in greatest need. And confidence grows as a result. Where drawbridges had been pulled up, new bridges are being built as congregations discover anew what it is to be *without walls*.

→ It's been a delight to serve on and then convene the committee. Never once through the years did we allow ourselves to get bogged down. Always, we've remained flexible and have kept before us our role to support local congregations. Each committee member has come to the work with enthusiasm and with experience and know-how. Never once was the phrase heard: 'But we don't do things that way around here!'

→ But what's really made things work is that the staff, without exception, have been thoroughly committed to the Fund and to its ethos. Sure, they have between them a wide-ranging set of skills but the work they've been prepared to put in has been, at times, mind-boggling. I'm grateful to have been able to work with them.

→ My hope is, now, that the Church as a whole will not miss the lessons that have been learnt through this work. As the PDF moves to a new home within the Ministries Council, we should look for a process of sharing to take place to ensure that the Fund becomes all the more effective in its operations and that the denomination is itself influenced by the ways of working that the Fund has facilitated.

→ With Rolf Billes at the helm, as the new convener of the committee, we can have every confidence that these things will happen. I would take this opportunity to wish him and all in their work as they seek to serve Christ - remembering all the while that He came not to be served, but to serve.



## Parish Development Fund

### New Beginnings

Life moves in cycles, with new following on from old, forever in the process of revitalising and reshaping itself. This also applies to the Parish Development Fund which has undergone some changes in the recent past.

Back in May the General Assembly decided that, in order to secure the future of the PDF, it should continue its work as a Consultative Forum within the Support and Development Area of the Ministries Council. Under this new arrangement the Fund Committee will continue to oversee the distribution of funds to its projects and will work in closer proximity with those engaged with Emerging Ministries, Priority Areas Staffing and Faiths in Scotland Community Action.

The Fund Committee has also been revitalised, with a change in convener and vice-convener and the addition of three new committee members. However, what's more important is that the PDF continues to serve local communities where people work creatively and tirelessly to make their dreams come true and to benefit those for whom the projects we fund make such a big difference.

In this issue of the newsletter, we are featuring projects that are experiencing new beginnings, have undergone a transformation and are sharing some of the next steps on their respective journeys. We hope that, by reading about what's going on in communities not far from your own, you will be inspired to look for signs of new life where you live. And if the PDF team can assist you in making your dreams come true, we would be only too glad to help.

With best wishes,  
Rolf Billes  
(PDF Convener)



## BEFRIENDING SERVICE MOVES TO NEXT STAGE

Around the time the Parish Development Fund was coming into existence, a new service in Mount Florida in Glasgow was born. The Church in the Mount Befriending Service emerged from participation by Mount Florida Parish Church in an 18-month "Church, Community and Change" programme run by TEARFUND. Listening to those living and working in the local community highlighted a clear need to try and respond to the isolation and loneliness experienced by many. And so, a Befriending Service was born.

→ Over the past seven years many volunteer befrienders have been recruited and trained, providing an extremely valuable service to isolated, lonely or housebound people in the local community. The project has around 30 befrienders from a wide age span who are each matched up with a 'befriender' and, over the years, the relationships which have developed have often been of immense benefit to both parties. On one occasion a 91-year-old lady was successfully matched with a 22-year-old young woman. As a result the older lady was supported during the time of a hospital admission and the befriender gained confidence to return to work full-time and to resume her studies.

→ The service has proved to be very successful,

generally finding that demand outstrips the supply of volunteers. In response to this, a telephone befriending service was set up so that people on the waiting list could still have contact and support. In addition, monthly coffee mornings began in the local drop-in centre, thus ensuring that those on the waiting list have somewhere to go to meet people and get some support whilst waiting to be allocated a befriender.

→ The Parish Development Fund supported the project between 2004 and 2009. With a small staff team and a modest budget, the project now provides an invaluable service to the local community bringing positive benefits to all involved. Local Councillor Charlie Gordon's comments at the 2009 AGM perhaps say it best, "This is a great wee project which I have always supported because it punches above its weight." Having established itself so successfully, the challenge for the Befriending Service, as with so many small voluntary organisations, is to find the funding to keep it going. Theresa McGuire, Co-ordinator, acknowledges the current financial climate is challenging but is confident that the project will keep stepping forward, even if the steps are smaller than originally planned!

## GRASSMARKET COMMUNITY PROJECT MOVES TOWARDS SELF-FUNDING



Woodworking trainees craft an altar table at the GCP workshop.

About four years ago, the Greyfriars Kirk and the Grassmarket Mission began a conversation about how to develop their homelessness projects to address today's needs in Edinburgh, and not those of the late 1800's or early 1900's when their work began. Up until 16 months ago the services offered consisted of a soup kitchen four times a week and a very small pilot woodworking project based in a porta-cabin in Greyfriars Kirkyard. The conversation took many forms and what emerged, or is officially emerging 1 July, is the Grassmarket Community Project (GCP).

→ GCP has been developing over the past year and a half and has completely redesigned itself, its services, and its aim. Although traditionally working with those labelled 'homeless' it has opened its arms to anyone facing 'deep social

exclusion' (e.g. homelessness, addictions, mental health issues, isolation, depression, etc...), and works with them on many levels to provide sanctuary, give support and develop skills. From July there will be a drop-in open four full days a week and workshops around woodwork, herb gardening, cookery, textiles, music, agriculture, IT, and more.

→ Many people would claim that trying to achieve this in the current funding climate is impossible. GCP has been working on a plan and developing a model that combines enterprise and charity with a plan to be internally funded within four years. We openly recognise that quite a few of our services will never be able to be self-funding (e.g. the free cafe), but by offering a diverse and holistic programme those services are able to exist alongside social enterprises like our woodwork shop. Thus, we have built a plan that places us on track to needing no grant funding.

→ Social/community enterprises are difficult animals to manage, as there is an inherent tension between social aims and business aims and many times difficult decisions have to be made in either direction. What we want to create is a project where there are diverse enough services to prevent us from having to suffer from these tensions.

→ I would invite you to join this conversation and share your lessons and questions with us as we share ours. For more information give us a ring on 0131 2253626 or an email to [Josiah@grassmarketmission.org](mailto:Josiah@grassmarketmission.org).

## WHO GOT WHAT:

### NEW AWARDS

**A.S.P.I.R.E – Ardeer Parish Church, Stevenston** £8000 PDF and £15,000 PASF for one year initially to support a Community Development Worker. A.S.P.I.R.E is a joint churches initiative based community development project responding to issues of concern in Stevenston.

**Dion, Skye** £36,000 from PDF over three years  
A partnership between four Church of Scotland and four Free Church congregations to provide support for those with alcohol addictions and their families.

**East Ayrshire Churches Homeless Action (EACH) – Community Friends** £15,000 over three years A service in the Kilmarnock area to provide befriending and practical support to homeless people allocated a first time tenancy.

**Club H2O, Oban** £10,000 from PDF over two years A new intergenerational project offering services to older people which has evolved from a successful and well-established youth project of Hope2Oban, previously funded by PDF.

**Greater Maryhill Outreach Project – Ruchill and Maryhill Parish Churches, Glasgow** £20,000 PDF over three years; £90,000 PASF over three years Awarded to a parish grouping of three Priority Area congregations. The grant will fund staff for a community project with a tea-room as its hub, which provides a range of activities for children and adults in response to local needs.

**Parish Nursing Project, the Steeple Church, Dundee** £26,000 over three years Based in The Steeple Church providing health and wellbeing support to those in the city centre – workers, homeless people and the congregation.

**Street Pastors, Perth** £20,000 over three years To enable the service, which has operated for 2 years in Perth, to employ a local co-ordinator to work with the volunteers and to develop the service. Volunteers come from a range of local churches and denominations.

**Insight Counselling – Dream Catchers, Arbroath** £30,000 over three years Working with churches in Angus to provide a counselling service for children in the county. Working through the education service and GP referrals.

### CONTINUATION FUNDING

**Cranhill Community Centre** £16,000 over two years Community centre based in Cranhill Parish Church providing wide range of activities, including community café, to meet the needs of people in disadvantaged community. The project won the Glasgow Evening Times Community Champions Award in 2009 out of over 140 nominations.

**Elgin Youth Development/ Delta Force** £16,000 over two years Delta Force is a volunteer task force made up of young people, that helps others in the Elgin area – gardening, fundraising, etc. The grant will enable the provide an enhanced service by making the Co-ordinator full time.

**Levenmouth Youth Initiative, Leven Parish Church, Leven** £10,000 over two years Youth work project working in Leven community in Fife – both indoors and out on the street, in an area which is not a priority area (though including one parish which is) but shares many of the issues.

**The Sidewalk Project, Perth North Parish Church, Perth** £16,000 from PDF over two years Street work on Friday and Saturday evenings for under 18s; keeping them safe and working with them. This grant will go towards employing a student from the International Christian College to develop increased intensive support for individuals with whom the project engages.

**Open Space – Ruchazie Parish Church** £16,000 PDF and £20,000 over two years A Community & Healing project using redeveloped church to provide wide range of services and activities to children, young people and adults.

## DEBT COUNSELLING HELPS FORGE A NEW PATH



Angela Miller, a client of CAP's Debt Counselling service, who is reclaiming her life.

Debt Counselling Helps Forge a New Path Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is an award-winning debt counselling charity based in Bradford. Churches throughout the UK liaise between CAP and those in debt in their areas, and provide support for CAP clients as they work their way to becoming debt free. The Edinburgh Wester Hailes CAP Centre, based in Holy Trinity Church of Scotland, opened to clients in mid-November. Since then we have

advised 26 clients, and 16 are using CAP services to pay off their debts.

→ As Centre Manager, I get to meet every client who will be helped through our centre. Many are at their wits' end, unable to see a way out. Because of debt, many relationships are in crisis and thoughts of suicide are not unusual. It is amazing to see how quickly the pressure can be lifted so that people can start to get their lives back on track. One client, Angela Mitchell, has been working with CAP since early December 2009 and said: "CAP has really helped me as before I went to CAP I was really low and upset because of the debt I was in and because of the debt letters I was getting. I was feeling like ending my life. But then I decided to call CAP and they came on board. And it has really helped as I don't feel like ending my life now and am happier and settled as I don't get many debt letters now or people coming chapping at my door. I am glad I picked up the phone and phoned CAP. It has been my best decision yet."

### Contact information:

Christians Against Poverty, Jubilee Mill, North Street, Bradford, BD1 4EW t: 01274 769720 e: [info@capuk.org](mailto:info@capuk.org) website: [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org) For debt counselling: 0800 328 0006.

## PARISH NURSING PROJECT EXPANDS TO WORKERS, HOMELESS IN DUNDEE

At the start of the project, in October 2008, I had a very limited idea of how it would grow, what I would actually be doing and how it would develop. But while leading up to the project, and while in Warwickshire on the PN Course, I felt God was making me aware of the role of our church in mission in Dundee city centre. It seemed logical to use my existing knowledge and skills in His service here. The Parish Development Fund supported us with a Pilot Grant, which enabled me to set up the necessary equipment and attend learning and networking events.

→ The early stages of the project involved getting to know the parish area, the needs and opportunities there, and networking with NHS professionals. I also became aware of the health and care needs of Big Issue sellers and a number of homeless people around the city centre. This was not an area of work that I had envisaged becoming involved in, but it was a seed that God planted very firmly in my mind in January 2009. At first I was scared, going out on the streets to get to know homeless people and those with complex problems. I had to depend on God for his grace and love to be poured out through me to them. Last November, we set up a drop-in clinic session with NHS Tayside's Health and Homeless Outreach Team in our church café area, where volunteers from The Steeple and other churches provide a nutritious lunch. Our visitors can see the NHS nurses and myself for dressings, advice about skin conditions, drug

rehabilitation facilities, etc., as well as seeing a community dental nurse. We are also able to give housing advice and expedite all sorts of appointments for them. Some of those who attend have asked outright why we do this, and that gives us the opportunity to talk a bit about God's love for them.

→ Through the good relationships that The Steeple has with the Overgate shopping mall and City Council, we also offer health checks to city centre workers. Although the check-up is similar to those offered by NHS initiatives (though none operate in this area), there is opportunity to explore spiritual well-being. Many people recognise that there is not 'a pill for every ill', and look at lifestyle, responsibility for health, motivation, barriers to change, and life values. For the summer I have been given several days' use of a stand in the shopping mall to promote health and well-being. I do not preach at people, but I believe that by showing that God and the church care about the details of people's lives, seeds of the Gospel are being sown.

→ The Minister, Kirk Session and Congregation of The Steeple have constantly and prayerfully encouraged the project's development. Now that PDF is providing Main Grant support, the project is assured of continued growth and development, and it feels that God is blessing the work. Family, friends and colleagues have also given much support, so I'd like to thank all these people for their part in the project.

## WELCOMING NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The PDF is delighted to welcome three new Committee members since the General Assembly:

**David Geddes** June 2010 Glasgow David Geddes has worked variously with para church groups, local churches and Hamilton Presbytery for the past 27 years. His work has been hands on with children, youth and adults, advisory with Kirk Sessions and Local youth ventures. He currently works as Community Development Officer with a Glasgow Baptist church exploring ways of connecting faith to the community.

**Liz Henderson** June 2010 Edinburgh Liz Henderson has been minister of two churches in Edinburgh. Her first charge was Granton where she was involved with the grant-making side of Urban Aid. For the last 13 years she has worked at Richmond Craigmillar Church and been involved in the Richmond Café Project and Richmond's Hope (a child bereavement project). She is also a trustee of a Trust which makes small grants.

**Iain McFadzean** June 2010 Perth Iain served 16 years in Forces Chaplaincy before being called to Bankfoot to oversee the development of the Bankfoot Church Centre. The tag line "Church & Community Building Together" not only describes the project, but also his commitment to making the gospel relevant and understandable to everyone, everyday. He took up the post of National Director of Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland in April 2010.

We look forward to their contributions.

## GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR STAFF

Glasgow and the West:  
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