



Priority Areas e – NEWS (89)

August 2010

Dear Friends!

Welcome to the *priority areas eNews*, which is now sent to 529 subscribers every month. The *eNews* seeks to draw together information relating to tackling poverty and faith communities in Scotland, with a current focus on the work of the Church of Scotland's *Priority Areas Committee* (www.churchofscotland.org.uk/priorityareas.htm) and also including some of the work of *Faith in Community (Scotland)* (www.faithincommunityscotland.org), an anti-poverty organisation working with and through people of faith.

If you wish to subscribe or you have news you wish to be included, please contact Kat Watts (t: 0141 248 2905; e: kwatts@cofscotland.org.uk). The next edition will be circulated on **2nd September, 2010**.



In Focus

In this section, we will point out an article/event of substantial general interest to our readers. To read the entire piece, please follow the link to our website.

Tough Financial Plans could be Storing up Social Disaster

In the latest copy of *Third Force News*, Steve Maxwell writes about his reflections on the new coalition government's budget and how cuts and benefit changes will impact the poorest in society hardest. Read it at www.churchofscotland.org.uk/priorityareas.htm.



Priority Areas News

In each edition, we are keen to carry some of the stories of what is going on in your area. Why not send in a couple of lines about events happening in your parish?

Priority Areas Events

We are organising a number of events throughout September and October for *priority areas* ministers, staff and congregations. **Forward Leaders**, an event for Church Elders looking at future-oriented leaders, will take place on Saturday, 4th September at St Columba's Parish Church, Airdrie and Mains Parish Church, Dundee. **Moods and Flavours of Twinning** will take place on Saturday, 18th September at Netherlee Parish Church in Glasgow and will be a chance for twinned congregations to share their past experiences and hopes for the future. **A Communicating Church for the 21st Century**, an event for ministers and congregation members who are interested in understanding various techniques of putting out positive stories about the church will take place at St Paul's, Provanmill on Wednesday 29th September. Finally, **Embodying Health and Healing in Priority Areas** will take place at Anderston Kelvingrove Church on Saturday, 2nd October. For more information about these events please see **forthcoming events**.



Poverty News

In each edition we will try to share just a little bit of the many news stories affecting people living in poverty in Scotland and the organisations working alongside them.

Big Issue Founder Proposing Benefit Cuts

John Bird, the founder of homeless charity *The Big Issue*, has caused anger amongst poverty campaigners by urging the government to reform Britain's benefits system. He claims that it traps the worst off in poverty and that instead people should be involved in community work before they receive any benefits. Citizen's Advice Scotland and the Poverty Alliance have responded by claiming that this is a flawed idea and that Mr Bird should instead be condemning the low wages that prevent people from working. Read about the debate at www.senscot.net/view_art.php?viewid=9793

Church of Scotland Speaks Out Against New Tax Law

A new tax law has been put in place which requires charities to employ "fit and proper" people in paid and voluntary management roles, with the possibility of a charity losing its tax exempt status if HM Revenue and Customs deems a person with financial authority not fit for the job. It is expected that it would exempt people who have been convicted of fraud, amongst other conditions. Charities, including the Church of Scotland claim that the law is unworkable. The law could affect thousands of people who are Church Elders or Trustees within the Church who would have to prove that they are fit for the roles they already undertake.

Communities and Local Government Secretary of State Supports Faith Organisations

In a recent interview Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, shared his belief that Christian values have an important role to play in society and that the church has a wealth of pastoral experience which should be utilised. Mr Pickles supports faith organisations that serve the needs of the communities and wants them to be the inspiration for the 'social action revolution' – part of the Government's planned *Big Society*.

Health Gap between Rich and Poor

Researchers from Sheffield and Bristol Universities have found that the health gap is wider now than it was in the 1930's between the richest and poorest in Britain. The research shows that for every 100 people who die before the age of 65 in a richer area, there were 212 in the poorest areas. The report shows that health and wealth are linked and that if the income gap is not tackled then we will start to see life expectancy start to fall. Read more at www.ekkleisia.co.uk/node/12729.

Help to Put a Cap on Credit Charges

Church Action on Poverty is asking people to email Vince Cable to ask him to put a cap on credit charges. Doorstep lenders, payday lenders and rent-to-own stores often charge over £80 in credit charges for every £100 they lend out. Their APRs are around 500% or even 5,000% and higher - all of which are perfectly legal. Go to the Church Action on Poverty website to join in the campaign.

Moderator Supports Community Payback Orders

The Rt. Rev. John Christie, Moderator of the Church of Scotland has backed the Scottish Government's plans to reduce short term sentences with community alternatives. The Moderator encouraged MSPs to vote in favour of this move stressing that many people working in the criminal justice field believe that sentences that last for less than three months do not help to rehabilitate offenders and that community sentencing in the past has been proven to reduce the likelihood of re-offending.



Faith in Community Scotland News

Faith in Community Scotland – FiCS was established in 2005 as an organisation with partners across the faiths in Scotland and has a very specific anti-poverty remit. In this section, information will be provided about its range of projects and activities.

Scottish Living Wage Now £7.15 an Hour

Faith in Community Scotland has been supporting the Scottish Living Wage campaign alongside its other partners, the Scottish Trade Union Congress, Unison, and the Poverty Alliance. The Scottish Living Wage has now been increased from £7.00 per hour to £7.15. Like the previous rate the new level is set using the Minimum Income Standard (MIS) produced by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and is an estimate of the income required in order to have a minimum acceptable standard of living in

the UK today, For more information on the living wage campaign contact Eddie Follan on 0141 353 0440 or eddie.follan@povertyalliance.org.



Forthcoming Events

These are a list of some of the events that we are aware of that may be of interest to you. Where there are significant costs involved, either in travel or fees, we may be able to help. Please contact Kat (0141 248 2905) or Maria (0141 221 4576) for more details.

Big Information Days

(Various dates and locations throughout August and September)

The Big Lottery Fund are holding a number of information days all across Scotland which will include a presentation on BIG funding programmes followed by the opportunity for groups to speak to staff about project ideas. For more information regarding dates and locations contact BIG (t: 0300 123 7110, e: BigScotlandInfoDays@biglotteryfund.org.uk) or visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/scotland.

Living Beyond Loss - 2nd National Conference - Bereavement in a Healthcare Setting (2nd and 3rd September, Dundee)

This conference is a major opportunity for all those who work in health or social care or whose work brings them into contact with people who are facing their own death, or struggling to come to terms with the death of relative or friend. For more information, visit www.ncbhs.org.uk.

Scripture Union (SU) Quiz Night

(3rd September, Baillieston St Andrews, Glasgow)

The *Go Team* is holding a quiz to raise awareness of the GO Project which will be a great opportunity to hear about the work that SU is involved in amongst young people in Glasgow. It costs £10 for a team of 6 and drinks and snacks will be provided. For more information, contact the *Go Team* (e: Go.admin@suscotland.org.uk).

Forward Leaders

(4th September, St. Columba's Parish Church, Airdrie or Mains Parish, Dundee)

The Church is going through some very exciting times of change and we need to have among ourselves, people – especially those in our Kirk Sessions – as future-oriented leaders. Leaders who are fascinated by the future and get creative while remaining committed to the vision of Jesus. The training and reflection day is aimed at understanding and appreciating a range of challenges that face us in the coming decade; invites participants to use their imagination to create new possibilities for life and service in changing times and reflect on the role of young people in the Church of the future. The event will take place simultaneously in Airdrie and Dundee. For more information contact Kat Watts (e: kwatts@cofscotland.org.uk, t: 0141 2482905).

Inspire

(4th September, Methodist Church Central Hall, Edinburgh)

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a growing debt counselling charity having a real impact on the people behind the figures. This year alone they will help 12,000 people and at any one time the organisation is handling more than £60m of personal debt. It has partnered with eight churches in Scotland so far (and 131 across the UK) to offer a free debt counselling service in their community. CAP contacts the client's creditors, negotiates with them and helps set them a realistic household budget. This event is a chance for people to find out about the work of CAP UK including its 2010 update, some client testimonies and a look into the future of the organisation. For more information go to www.capuk.org/inspire or contact Jean Nicholson (t: 0141 332 9870).

Moods and Flavours of Twinning

(18th September, Netherlee Parish Church, Glasgow)

This day will give twinned congregations a chance to exchange stories of twinning and share new hopes for the future. There will be time to pray together and explore new avenues for growing

relationships especially in the face of some very exciting challenges that face the Church in the coming decade. For more information or to book your place at the event contact Kat Watts (e: kwatts@cofscotland.org.uk, t: 0141 2482905).

**A Communicating Church for the 21st Century
(29th September, St Paul's Church, Provanmill, Glasgow)**

How good are we at *marketing* our Church? How does the Church respond to the challenges of the communication revolution taking place around us? What do we do about some of the really good and hope-filled stories that could take hold of people's imagination in our society? The event is aimed at staff and congregation members, training them in the simple art of putting together an effective communication plan, writing simple press releases and becoming community video producers. For more information or to book your place at the event contact Kat Watts (e: kwatts@cofscotland.org.uk, t: 0141 2482905).

**Tackling Child Poverty in Scotland
(29th September, Edinburgh)**

Holyrood Magazine are holding a one day conference examining the cause and effect of poverty, facilitating the sharing of good practice, as well as providing an opportunity for delegates to directly feed into current Government activity. For more information, go to <http://childpoverty.holyrood.com/>.

**Embodying Health and Healing in Priority Areas
(2nd October, Anderston Kelvingrove Church, Glasgow)**

This programme will essentially look at 3 themes: Physical Health and Chronic Medical Conditions; Emotional Well-being; and Healing Attitudes in our Local Culture. The event is aimed at deepening our understanding of the practical aspects of embedding a culture of healing and wholeness into the lives of congregations that also addresses the particular needs of the local area. The training is also aimed at providing practical tools for staff and congregation members fitting into their circumstances. For more information or to book your place at the event contact Kat Watts (e: kwatts@cofscotland.org.uk, t: 0141 2482905).

**Faith Based Regeneration Network National Conference
(19th October, Camden Centre, London)**

What does Big Society mean? Can it help address the needs of communities? Are faith based groups a part of the Big Society? What can they offer? What help do they need to participate more fully? All of these questions will be explored at this conference. For more information, visit www.fbrn.org.uk



Funding News

The need to look for alternative sources of funding has become an integral part of life for many churches serving priority area parishes. In each edition of the eNews, we try to highlight a few possible sources as well as trying to keep people up to date with some of the big changes which are happening in the funding world.

BBC Children in Need Small Grants

Not for profit organizations who work with disadvantaged children and young people can apply for grants of up to £10,000 through this scheme. For more information visit the *Children in Need* website at www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/grants.

British Council Active Citizen Programme

This programme gives grants of up to £7,500 to people who are running a voluntary or community sector organization and would like to be a UK local delivery partner for the Council. For more information about this, go to www.britishcouncil.org/activecitizens.

CashBack for Communities Scheme

Youth projects throughout Scotland can apply for funding from a £2.5 million pot of cash created from the proceeds of crime. The money is to be invested directly back into local communities to provide

free diversionary activities for young people. The scheme will be administered by YouthLink Scotland and more information is available at www.youthlinkscotland.org/Index.asp?MainID=11388.

The Archer Trust

A UK Christian charitable grant-making trust that aims to support small UK charities that help people with physical or mental disabilities or people facing disadvantage. Preference will be given to those organisations working in areas of high unemployment and deprivation. The grants available range from £250 - £3,000. Applications can be made at any time. Visit www.archertrust.org.uk.

The Co-operative Group - Community Fund

Charitable organisations and community groups can apply for grants of between £100 and £2,000 to help them find co-operative solutions to community challenges. The Co-operative Group is particularly interested in supporting locally led and run groups that can demonstrate co-operative values and principles, such as self-help, equality, democracy and concern for the community. The Fund welcomes applications from faith groups for projects that are designed to benefit the wider community. For more information and to apply visit www.co-operative.coop/membership/local-communities/community-fund.

Environmental Key Fund (EKF)

The EKF is seeking applications for grants of up to £150,000 for projects which promote transformational change. Any not for profit organization in North Lanarkshire is eligible to apply and the deadline for applications is 3rd September. For more information contact 01698 302121, email externalfunding@northlan.gov.uk or visit www.environmentalkeyfund.com.

Hilden Charitable Fund

This Fund makes grants of around £5,000 to projects that address disadvantages, in particular projects that address homelessness, asylum seekers and refugees, community based initiatives for disadvantaged young people and Penal Affairs. The next deadline for applications is the 10th September, 2010. Find out more at www.hildencharitablefund.org.uk.

Holiday Trust Funds

For information about funds which give financial assistance for holidays and respite breaks for young people and families go to www.opfs.org.uk/files/pubs/fs_holiday-trust-funds_200906.pdf.

Inter Faith Youth Trust

The Inter Faith Youth Trust (Alma Royalton-Kisch Trust) is launching a small grants programme for organisations running events in and around Inter Faith Week 2010 (21st – 27th November, 2010). For more information, visit <http://ifyouthtrust.co.uk/apply>.

Investing in Ideas – Big Lottery Fund in Scotland

This programme awards grants of £500 to £1,000 to test and develop ideas that may lead to fully fledged projects or improved services. For more information and to apply for a grant, visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_investing_ideas.htm?regioncode=-sco.

The Percy Bilton Charity

Grants are available to UK registered charities whose primary objectives are to assist one or more of the following groups: Disadvantaged / underprivileged young people aged under 25; People with disabilities, including physical or learning disabilities or mental health problems; or People over the age of 60. For more information, go to www.percybiltoncharity.org.uk

The Philip Lawrence Awards

The award gives £1,000 to projects that involve young people between the ages of 11-20 in taking a lead in tackling social issues like bullying, antisocial behaviour and improving their communities. The next deadline for nominations is 15th September. For more information, go to www.dunkdigital.com/clients/planet/nominate/index.php.

Scottish Power Green Energy Trust

Local community groups, not for profit organisations and charities within the UK can apply for grants of around £10,000 for the installation of renewable technologies including small scale hydro, wind

power, landfill gas, solar energy and ground source heat pumps. To be successful projects need to have a really strong community benefit and wider educational element. For more information, go to www.scottishpowergreentrust.co.uk.

Social Entrepreneurs Fund

Money and support are available for individuals with enterprising ideas that will benefit communities. Awards of up to £5,000 are given to develop or test out a new idea and awards of up to £20,000 are given to develop ideas further. For more information, visit www.socialentrepreneursfund.org.

Sus It Out Plus

Regional and local constituted not-for-profit groups and charities in Scotland that want to improve what they do can apply for support through the *Sus it Out Plus* Programme which aims to help communities come together, reduce local environmental impacts and increase the community's likelihood of attracting additional funding. Successful applicants receive an individual session with a *Sus it Out Plus* facilitator to create a Sustainable Communities Action Plan leading to funding of £1,500 to support training and other capacity building supports. For more information, visit www.susitout.org.uk.

UnLtd Sport Relief

This fund gives grants between £1,000 and £10,000 to young people aged between 11 and 21 to help them to try out or develop their ideas for sports and arts projects that could overcome issues in their community and bring people together. For more information, visit www.UnLtdSportRelief.com.

Voluntary Action Fund Community Chest

A small grant programme providing grants of up to £1,000, and free training to help small community groups in Scotland sustain and develop their activities. The next deadline is 30th September. More information is available at www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/5.40/grants/community_chest/ or by calling 01383 620780.

The Wakeham Trust

This trust exists to support small community projects run by unpaid people who would like to make their areas better. It offers between £75 and £750 to projects addressing a wide range of social issues, from community gardens to inter-generational music groups and many others, and prefers new initiatives. To find out more go to their website www.wakehamtrust.org/.

Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship

This trust provides travelling fellowships which provide individuals with the opportunity to spend time overseas pursuing an interest, which falls within one of the specified categories. For more information, go to www.wcmt.org.uk.



Resources & Publications

This section highlights just a few resources which you might find useful in your work. While many of them are available to download, if you are having difficulty, please contact the priority areas office.

CAP Money

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) trains churches to offer a free household budgeting course in their community called CAP Money, giving congregations a way to help people in the communities they serve take control of their finances. For more information about the course, visit www.capmoney.org.

Common Wheel Project

This project, with bases in Maryhill and Bridgeton, provides meaningful activity for people with mental illness by recycling and repairing old bicycles. It is running a build-your-bike-and-buy-it scheme over

the summer. For more information contact Fiona (e: fionacommonwheel.org@googlemail.com t: 0141 946 0777).

COSCA Certificate in Counselling Skills

The Tom Allan Centre in Glasgow are running this course on Wednesdays, starting 3rd November, 2010 between 9.30am and 4.30pm. The course provides a COSCA certificate training programme in counselling skills delivered through 4 modules. It provides an excellent starting point for those who wish to train as a counsellor or psychotherapist. The course costs £250 per module. For more information contact the Tom Allan Centre (t: 0141 221 1535, e: tomallan@crossreach.org.uk)



Jobs

In each edition we are happy to advertise (free of charge) information about any jobs in priority areas or which relate directly to our work. Your advert must be no more than 100 words and should include Job Title, Salary and Contact Details.

Families Outside Regional Support Worker

Families Outside, a national charity in Scotland working solely to support the families of people involved in the criminal justice system, is looking for a Regional Support Worker. Based primarily at Perth Prison Visitors' Centre the successful applicant will provide direct information and support to families affected by imprisonment and liaise with regional organisations to promote awareness of service for these families. The post will be for one year with the potential to extend this dependent on funding. The closing date for applications will be Friday 27th August, 2010. For more information, go to www.familiesoutside.org.uk/whats-happening/show.php?id=97-job-vacancy---regional-support-coordinator.



Priority Areas eNews - Contact Details

The priority areas eNews is a collaboration between the Church of Scotland's Priority Areas Committee and Faith in Community (Scotland). For further information, contact any member of staff below.

Priority Areas

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