

Priority Areas e– NEWS (84)

March 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 Noel Mathias (t: 0141 248 2905; e: nmathias@cofscotland.org.uk). The next edition will be circulated on **8th April 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.

Submerge: Living Deep in a Shallow World

John Hayes has written about his experiences of 'incarnational ministry' both in inner city Los Angeles as well as abroad in *Submerge: Living Deep in a Shallow World*. A free download of chapter five is available at www.churchofscotland.org.uk/priorityareas.htm. In it, he discusses ways to model Jesus' lifestyle while realistically considering our passions and skills. *Submerge* costs £10 and is available by contacting Jill Clark (e: jclark@livability.org.uk; t: 020 7452 2018).

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?

Bartimeus – Reflections by Barbara Glasson

Barbara was one of our keynote speakers at the last *priority areas* consultation in November 2009. Barbara, a Methodist Minister, has been leading a community that is emerging around the baking and sharing of bread that is the subject of the books, *'I am Somewhere Else'* and *'Mixed up Blessing'*. Her reflections on the blind Bartimeus is now available for wider use at www.churchofscotland.org.uk/priorityareas.htm.

Bereavement Listening Course

We'd like to sponsor a third training course in *Bereavement Listening* and are looking for a host church. If you are interested in hosting the training, please contact Gayle Irvin (e: gayle@faithincommunityscotland.org; t: 0141 248 2905). The four-session course was held earlier in Castlemilk and a write-up is available at www.churchofscotland.org.uk/priorityareas.htm.

Building for the Future – Are you Interested?

In December a small group of people from *priority areas*, the *General Trustees* and the *Ministries Council* got together at *Carberry Tower* to look at what could be done to enable congregations in *priority areas* who have a real desire to make a massive difference in their community – and are interested in redeveloping their buildings as a part of that. The event was facilitated by *One Church 100 Uses* (www.onechurch100uses.org.uk). One of the results is a plan – very much at an early stage in development – to work with up to eight *priority areas congregations* over the next five years to support them to turn their dreams into reality. Hopefully there will be more information about these

plans over the next few months. In the meantime, if you would like to hear some more, please be in touch with Martin Johnstone (e: mjohnstone@cofscotland.org.uk; t: 0141 248 2905)).

Community Arts

Are you involved, in some way, in community arts in your local neighbourhood? Are you working in the Glasgow area? If so, the *Priority Areas Office* would like to hear from you. Over the last period of time we have been engaged in some conversation with *Culture & Sport Glasgow* about the place of religious art in the city's life and we are hoping to bring together a group of people who would be interested in taking this forward. We are very much planning to do this in partnership with *Culture & Sport Glasgow* and there may be some exciting possibilities to do so. This is not about massively impressive works of art – although who knows what is possible – but is rather about those people who know that helping people to express themselves creatively also helps people to express what they believe and what they value. If you would like to find out more, please contact Lynn MacLellan (e: lmaclellan@cofscotland.org.uk; t: 0141 248 2905)).

Poverty Truth Commission Update

Almost a year on from Scotland's first Poverty Truth Commission on 21st March 2009, the Commissioners continue to meet every two months. At the last meeting in February, the Commission reported back on the progress on the issues of Positive Alternatives to Violence, Kinship Care and the Representation of Poverty in the Media including links being made between young people of Ruchazie and Cranhill with the police, and deciding what the next steps should be in each area. The Commission also heard from Councillor Archie Graham on the legacy of the Commonwealth Games. The Commissioners shared their concerns of the possible effects of the Games for the poorest in Glasgow. To tune in to the Commission, its concerns and progress, please visit <http://www.povertytruthcommission.org/>.

Priority Areas Summer Placements

Are you a Church of Scotland congregation serving a *priority area parish*? Would you be interested in having a student currently in full-time training for ministry in the Church of Scotland working alongside you over the summer months? If the answer to *both* of these questions is yes then please get in touch with Lynn MacLellan (e: lmaclellan@cofscotland.org.uk; t: 0141 248 2905) as soon as possible. For a second year we hope to be running a *Summer School for Ministries Candidates* helping them to reflect on the nature of ministry within a *priority area*. This will involve a full-time (well almost) placement in a *priority area parish* plus a day a week with all the candidates working and reflecting together about their experiences within *priority areas*. Final dates have yet to be set but it is envisaged that the placements would take place from June to August.

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.

The Community Sector Gets Older

As if the community development sector didn't have enough issues on its plate, now the problem of ageing workers comes as yet another significant barrier to cross in the coming years. A survey by the Community Development Foundation (CDF) has found that 60 percent of community development workers are aged 45 or over. The survey has also revealed that 64 percent of staff in the sector are women. In addition, 39 percent of the workers were based in voluntary or community organisations, and a further 5 percent in faith based bodies. There is a fear that an ageing workforce coupled with the problem of short-term funding could deter younger people from opting for careers in community development. A full report is expected to be published later this month.

£2.2 Million for Scotland's Third Sector

The Scottish Government has announced the organisations to benefit from a £2.2 million fund set up to support Scotland's third sector through the recession. Originally set at £1.7 million, Ministers increased the Third Sector Resilience Fund by 30 per cent in response to the level of need demonstrated. The fund will provide one-off grants of up to 100,000 pounds to 64 organisations across Scotland to mitigate the impact of recession on front line services. The beneficiaries include organisations supporting parents, children, older people, and victims of crime as well as people experiencing financial difficulties, illness or disability. You can read more at www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/02/15105819.

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.

Faith in Community Dundee: The launch of *Faith in Community Dundee* took place on Thursday, 25th February in the Mark Henderson Centre in the Hilltown area of the city. Speakers included Alison Urie of Hot Chocolate, Faisal Hussien of the Yusuf Youth Initiative, Ewan Gurr of the Discovery Food Programme, Naina Penman of Tayside Hindu Cultural and Community Centre, Fraser Patrick – a Community Learning Consultant and Martin Johnstone. The launch was attended by faith groups in the city as well as many local councillors and the Lord Provost. Plans are now underway to recruit a small team of workers who will support the ongoing development of faith-based anti-poverty work in the city which has the second highest levels of poverty in Scotland. For further information please contact either Iain Johnston (e: iain@faithincommunityscotland.org.uk; t: 0141 221 4576) or George Gammack in Dundee (e: ag.gammack@tiscali.co.uk).

Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund: The next round of grants will be considered in June 2010 and applications should be received by the end of April. For further information on how to apply please visit www.fiscaf.org.

Faith in Community Scotland: *Faith in Community Scotland* and the *Priority Areas* Team are organising a session looking at charitable status and some of the different constitutions which may be worth considering if churches are setting up 'projects' which would be better served by a separate constitution. Stephen Phillips, one of Scotland's top lawyers in this kind of work will be leading the session on 5th May 2010. We will start at 10.00am and finish after a light lunch at 1.30pm. The venue is to be confirmed but will be in Glasgow city Centre. If you are interested please contact Kat from the PA Team (e: kwatts@cofscotland.org.uk; t: 0141 248 2905) and register your interest please.

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 Lynn (0141 248 2905) or Maria (0141 221 4576) for more details.

Career Connections...Using My Career Skills in Mission? (Glasgow: 18th March)

Are you interested in connecting with what God has for you to do in His world? How can your skills and gifts be used to make a difference? Speak with Mission Advisers and Vocational Speakers. Job opportunities are available from many sectors world-wide. An informal and informative evening will be held at KOG Café, 85 Parnie Street, Glasgow. Drop in anytime from 7.00 – 9.00pm. First 50 people get a £2 food voucher to be used at the café! For further information, contact Becky Frank (e: castingthenetmve@yahoo.com; t: 07745732622).

ChangeMakers: Training Leaders for Action (Manchester: 17th March OR 20th – 21st March)

A unique opportunity from *Church Action on Poverty (CAP)* to learn from Mary Gonzales of the Gamaliel Foundation – the organisation that trained Barack Obama as a community organiser. The training is for those wanting to play a more active role in their organisation, community group, school, congregation, or trade union and keen to develop their leadership skills and those of others. Training costs £50 per person. This includes a £25 non-refundable deposit. The cost of meals and refreshments are also included. To register your interest, contact Lorraine Shaw (e: lorraines@church-poverty.org.uk; t: 0161 236 9321 / 07913091206).

The Labyrinth at Drumchapel (22nd March: Behind Essenside Avenue, URC, Drumchapel)

Labyrinths have always been associated with ancient pilgrimage routes and rituals of self-discovery. The Labyrinth appears throughout history dating back some 4,500 years and appears cross-culturally over the face of our world throughout time. Used for ritual walking and spiritual contemplation, they are often called "city of turns" and equated with Holy cities such as Jerusalem. Our Labyrinth will be used by the community as a place to be, to contemplate, or grow closer to God. If you have a spade and gloves, bring them, otherwise just show up. From 11.00am to 2.00pm. Contact Sheila Ramsay for more information (e: sheilaramsay@btconnect.com; t: 0141 944 3758).

One Big Day (Glasgow: 24th April)

Youth for Christ (YFC) have been leading gap year programmes across the UK. *One Big Day* is set to be a great opportunity for young adults who may be considering taking a gap year in the near future to come along and find out more about the exciting opportunities available. For more information on the day, contact Alan Gray (e: alan.gray@yfc.co.uk; t: 0141 552 5111).

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.

Awards for All Scotland

Awards for All gives grants of between £500 and £10,000 for people to take part in art, sport and community activities, and projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community. The outcomes for the awards are: people have better chances in life; communities are safer, stronger and more able to work together to tackle inequalities; people have better and more sustainable services and environments; and, people and communities are healthier. To find out more and to download an application form, visit www.awardsforall.org.uk/scotland/apply.html.

BBC Children in Need Grants

BBC Children in Need grants (up to £10,000 if you are applying for the Small Grants per year over 3 years and over £10,000 if Main Grants) are open to organisations working with disadvantaged children and young people who are 18 years old and under. Follow this link www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/grants/main.shtml for information on the application process. There are four general grant deadlines each year and the next one coming up is 15th April.

Greenspace is Good – So Prove it!

Greenspace Scotland's two year research programme *Greenspace is good - so prove it!*, funded by the Big Lottery Fund, is now seeking applications from community greenspace groups wishing to take part. This groundbreaking project will work with 12 urban community greenspace groups to enable them to understand, calculate and demonstrate the impact of their projects using the Social Return on Investment (SROI) model. SROI is an approach which measures the multiple social, economic and environmental outcomes and calculates a monetary value to represent these impacts. For more information and an application form, go to www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/default.asp?page=531.

Hilden Charitable Fund

The Fund has announced that the next deadline for submitting applications is the 26th March 2010. It funds projects that address homelessness; asylum seekers and refugees; community based initiatives for disadvantaged young people; and, penal affairs. Preference is given to supporting small community organisations with an income of less than £200,000 per year. During 2009 the average grant given was £5,000. For more information, visit www.hildencharitablefund.org.uk/.

National Churches Trust

The National Churches Trust is offering two kinds of grants: a) Repair Grants: Grants of £10,000 and above for structural repair projects that will cost more than £50,000. A structural repair means essential work to safeguard the fabric of the building; b) Community Grants: Grants from £2,500 to £25,000 for providing facilities that will benefit your place of worship and local community, e.g. accessible toilets, kitchens and meeting rooms. Grants will not exceed 50% of the project cost. Application packs and guidance notes can be downloaded from www.nationalchurchestrust.org/howgrant.html.

One Planet Living Grant Scheme

The B&Q One Planet Living (OPL) Grant offers between £50 and £250 of B&Q materials to schools, community groups and charitable organisations for long-term sustainable projects including those that save energy, conserve nature, grow produce and involve local community and support local culture and heritage. Projects can apply for funding between 1 February 2010 and 30 September 2010. For more information on how to apply, go to www.diy.com/diy/jsp/corporate/content/environment_ethics/ethics/community/grants.jsp.

Refugee Week Scotland Community Celebration Grants

Refugee Week (14th – 20th June) is an opportunity for cultural and arts projects to raise awareness of refugee issues and celebrate diversity in Scotland. The *Scottish Refugee Council* would like to encourage community groups to organise events for Refugee Week in Scotland. All kinds of cultural events for Refugee Week: music and dance nights, street carnivals, film screenings, traditional food and craft events, etc. are welcome. The theme for the festival this year is 'Journeys'. Community groups and organisations can apply for small grants of up to £400 from the *Scottish Refugee Council* for running the events. Deadline for applications is 19th March 2010. For more information, contact Belinda McElhinney (e: belinda.mcelhinney@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk; t: 0141 2237939).

Santander Foundation

Grants of up to £10,000 (£30,000 in Greater Glasgow) are available to groups and organisations that help disadvantaged people through one or both of these priorities – education and training or financial capability. Education and training does not only include formal training but also training in independent living skills, anger management or improving self-esteem, training in art and craft sessions as well as IT classes. The second priority covers activities which help disadvantaged people understand how to manage their money. For more information, visit www.santanderfoundation.org.uk/whatwefund.aspx.

Sport Relief Community Cash

Community groups from across Glasgow are being offered a share in a £62,500 cash bonanza. The Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile is arriving in the city with the chance to make your community a winner. In the run up to the big day, a £62,500 Community Cash fund raised through Sport Relief is being made available to small groups in the city who help people living tough lives. Grants of between £500 and £1,000 are available to groups working in a disadvantaged or deprived area in Glasgow which have an income of less than £50,000 (in the last year). The deadline for applications is 5th March 2010. Grants will be announced in the week commencing 12th April 2010. For more information on the application process, go to www.scottishcf.org/resources/funds/view/87/sport-relief-community-cash/?from=S/1.

Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards Scheme

The Scheme provides one-off donations of between £500 - £4,000 to local community projects that things like equipment, resources, holiday schemes and befriending programmes. There are two application deadlines each year. The next deadline for work with older people and people with disabilities is 31st March. Applications for work with children can be made between 1st May and 30th. For more information on how to access the grants and application forms, visit www.tescopl.com/plc/corporate_responsibility_09/community/making_difference/charitablegiving/tesco_charity_trust/.

The Family Fund

The Family Fund helps low income families with severely disabled children to have choices and the opportunity to enjoy ordinary life. Grants are given for things that make life easier and more enjoyable for the disabled child and their family, such as washing machines, driving lessons, hospital visiting costs, computers and holidays. For more information on the Fund and to apply, go to www.familyfund.org.uk/page.asp?section=000100010001§ionTitle=Can+we+help+you+and+your+family%3F.

The Hedley Foundation

The Foundation gives grants of up to £5,000 to support mainly young people with their education, creation, support, training, health and welfare. The Foundation also supports disabled people and the terminally ill with provision of specialist equipment and support for carers. For more information, go to www.hedleyfoundation.org.uk/?section=applications.

The Nationwide Foundation

The Foundation offers grants of £5,000 to registered charities with incomes under £500,000. Their funding priorities are community projects that support survivors of domestic abuse and older people, in order to decrease financial exclusion, solve housing issues and support families. The grant covers core costs and any project is welcome to apply provided that it has been at least a year since their last application, whether successful or not. Visit www.nationwidefoundation.org.uk/grants.asp# for more information.

The Rozelle Trust

The Trust supports smaller charities, especially those working at grass roots and local community level where the funds will be able to make a significant difference. Ideally, the Trustees will be looking to form long term relationships with organisations funded, to allow the Trustees to fully understand and support the activities of the organisation. The main funding priorities are: children and young people; people living in poverty (particularly self-sustaining work); and, people with disabilities. For more information, visit www.rozelletrust.org/HowToApply.asp?ShowPage=282.

Tree Futures

The Tree Council's *Tree Futures* offers help for tree planting through two grants programmes: the 'Trees for Schools' and 'Community Trees' funds. Any school or community group within the UK that is planning a project that actively involves children under 16 is encouraged to draw on the fund to plant trees and make a greener future. Projects will receive grants of between £100 and £700 and successful applicants will receive up to 75% towards their planting costs. If you are interested in applying for this year, the 2010 application forms are now available to download (www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=grants) with a closing date of 31st March 2010.

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.

Cycles of Poverty and Unemployment

Families can move in and out of poverty, with some of them becoming trapped in a cycle. What causes this and how does it relate to unemployment and low pay? Cycles of Poverty and Unemployment summaries four projects focusing on the low-pay/no-pay cycle; examines relevant current UK policy and practice; and, suggests ways to create longer-lasting routes out of poverty particularly in relation to job security and wage levels. The four reports summarised in this *Round-up* are: Employers' role in low pay/no-pay cycle; Work, poverty and benefit cycle; How can parents escape from recurrent poverty; and, the impact of family and labour market changes on recurrent poverty. A summary of the reports can be downloaded from www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/poverty-employment-lowpay-summary.pdf.

Holy City 2009-10

Climate change, the credit crunch, the still-unfulfilled demands of justice & peace... our generation faces a multitude of challenges. The history of faith and culture speak of each generation facing similar critical times, when prophets and visionaries have re-framed and re-formed the way we think about our world. It's said that 'without a vision, the people perish'. Holy City's 2009-10 programme addresses this urgent need in all its facets, and seeks to explore the re-imagining and re-visioning of faith, our lives and our times. A host of workshops coming up this month: http://web.me.com/gmaule/HOLY_CITY/Home.html.

iCAN

The iCAN (inter-cultural Arts Network) is about sharing good practice, offering guidance and coming together to support asylum seekers, refugees and new communities in Glasgow to take part in the arts. The newly launched website includes forthcoming events, an archive of project descriptions, best practice guidance and case studies as well as contacts. For further information, log on to www.icanetwork.org.uk.

The Spirit Level

The Equality Trust provides the evidence on each of eleven different health and social problems: physical health, mental health, drug abuse, education, imprisonment, obesity, social mobility, trust and community life, violence, teenage births, and child well-being. For all eleven of these health and social problems, outcomes are very substantially worse in more unequal societies including the UK. A unique flavour of this is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsEZr3s1aBA. For more detailed reading visit www.equalitytrust.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.

There are no vacancies available at present.

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

Faith in Community (Scotland)

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