

FAITH in Lambeth

Lambeth Faith Groups Newsletter

Issue 12, January 2009

WELCOME TO THE WINTER EDITION OF FAITH IN LAMBETH.

Lambeth Council and the Faith in Lambeth Network would like to extend special thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of Faith in Lambeth. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Highlights in this Edition

- Faiths Together in Lambeth
- Face to Face, Side by Side
- Safeguarding Children in Places of Worship
- Health Trainers Programme
- Private Fostering
- Feedback from Faith events
- Notice Board
- Dates for Your Diary
- Funding and Freebies

For any additional information on the articles featured in this newsletter or if you would like to highlight any projects you are involved with, contact **Dinah-Mary Allotey on 020 7926 2664 or email dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk**
www.lambeth.gov.uk/faithinlambeth

The next newsletter will be in March. If you would like to contribute the next edition please send your articles in by Monday 2nd March 2009.

We Wish You A Happy New Year

Welcome to 2009. Throughout 2008, the Active Communities team had the opportunity to work with various groups across the faith community. Together we started with People First Expos in January/February alongside regular forum meetings and community events right through to summer activities followed by Peace Month in September and the Christmas Bus in December. As ever, you have worked tirelessly to provide a diverse range of services to members of your organisations and local neighbourhoods. We appreciate the work you do to strengthen community relations and support some of the more vulnerable members of society. On behalf of the Active Communities team, we would like to say a well deserved thank you to all faith groups and organisations in Lambeth.

Faith in Lambeth

Be Inspired, Be Informed, Be Involved!

Be Inspired – to make a difference

Be Informed – about policy & Council plans

Be Involved – in the political process to influence decision-making that shapes your community and neighbourhood.

Through funding from Lambeth Council Sue Vahid has been appointed by an interim management committee for a further six months period to support the development of the new structure.

Please see below for Sue's brief report.



Another Step Towards An Independent Lambeth-wide Faith Network

On 7th October, a well-attended meeting of faith representatives and individuals from faith communities voted to support the formation of a Lambeth-wide, independent faith network. This was the culmination of 18 months of work by volunteers, known as the 'Task Group', who had met regularly to review faith and multi-faith involvement in civic life and the future of inter-faith work in Lambeth. They came up with a set of suggestions - a 'blue print' - which they put forward for wider consultation.

The findings of the consultation were discussed at the meeting held at the St Simon & St Jude Church Hall in Streatham Hill. An interim management committee was appointed to lay the foundations of a multi-faith organisation over the next 6 months.

It was agreed that the new organisation is to be called **Faiths Together in Lambeth (FTiL)** and its broad objectives are to:

- (a) Co-ordinate Social Action across Faith Groups.
- (b) Foster knowledge and understanding between faith communities.
- (c) Offer solidarity, ensure inclusion and promote social cohesion.
- (d) Work with the council and other public bodies for the benefit of the whole community.
- (e) Function as a resource for faith communities.

The members of the interim management committee are Canon George Ansah, Church of England (Christian tradition); David Hart, Rabbi Ginsbury, South London (United) Synagogue (Jewish tradition); Saleha Jaffer (Muslim tradition); Nicky Tilley / Alex Camm, Christian Alliance Housing Association (Christian tradition); Rev Malachie Munyaneza, United Reformed Church (Christian tradition); Rev Emile Nkumu, Solidarity & Community Action (Christian tradition); Revd Stephen Sichel, Church of England Borough Dean (Christian tradition); Roger Wright, Jamyang Centre (Buddhist tradition).

It was agreed that co-options to the interim steering group would be considered. The views of a wide range of faith communities and of the long-standing inter faith, multi faith and ecumenical groups in Lambeth are being sought, as the project develops.

The management committee has already met a couple of times and appointed Stephen Sichel (Chair), Saleha Jaffer (Secretary) and Roger Wright (Treasurer) as office bearers. Its immediate task has been defined by the looming deadlines of national and local grant-making processes. It is hoped that the new organisation will be able to attain independence by having a diverse pool of funders and that it will be able to appoint a part-time manager in the spring of 2009. Lambeth council has granted funds for a part-time worker to assist in this task.

The committee has a heavy agenda and plans for the next 6 months include:

- drawing up a constitution;
- establishing financial protocols; recruiting a manager;
- agreeing a programme of activities;
- liaising with public sector bodies to form partnerships;
- publicising the organisation and engaging a broad cross section of the faith community;
- preparing for a public launch.

The committee would like to hear from any faith organisation that would like to be involved in this preliminary phase or wishes to be kept informed. If you are interested, please contact Roger Wright, Faiths Together in Lambeth, c/o The Jamyang Buddhist Centre, The Old Court House, 42 Renfrew Road, London SE11 4NA or email ftil@hotmail.co.uk.

Face to Face, Side by Side: A framework for partnership in our multi faith society

At the end of July 2008 the government launched its first framework for multi faith/interfaith partnership work. This was followed by the accompanying Faith in Action Fund in early August (fund closed November 08). The framework outlines the direction of travel for partnership work between government, local authorities, regional bodies and faith communities. It also highlights good practice by faith networks and organisations across the country.

Three core principles underpin the framework: partnership, empowerment and choice.

Face to Face is simply defined as the concept of having face to face dialogue 'that leads to people developing a better understanding of one another, including celebrating the values held in common as well as acknowledging distinctiveness'

Side by Side is described as side by side collaborative social action which 'involves people working together to achieve real and positive change within their local community.'

Consequently, the framework aims to:

- Encourage interfaith dialogue which builds understanding and celebrates common values
- Increase the level of collaborative social action involving faith communities and wider civil society to bring about real and positive change
- Maintain and encourage the further development of good relations
- Overcome barriers which may be faced by young people and women in participating in dialogue and social action.

These main objectives are structured around four building blocks:

- ✚ Developing the confidence and skills to bridge and link
- ✚ Shared spaces for interaction
- ✚ Structures and processes which support dialogue and social action
- ✚ Opportunities for learning which build understanding.

To read the full report or download a copy of the framework please visit the DCLG website (Department of Communities and Local Government) at www.communities.gov.uk. You can also call 0207 944 4400 and request a free copy.



**A word from
Councillor Rachel
Heywood, Deputy
Cabinet Member,
Community
Cohesion**

It has been a great honour to have been given such an insight into the beliefs, the ceremonies, and the traditions of so many of Lambeth's faith communities in the few months since I took up this post. I have learnt more from the meetings, gatherings and services which I have attended recently than ever before and the privilege is a humbling one. I would like to thank all of you for your generosity in sharing these experiences with me and for welcoming me as you have. More importantly though I must offer you the thanks of

this administration for all we know you do in this wonderful, multi-faceted and complex borough of ours. In a changing world with its challenges there are many lessons to be learnt from the way in which you as communities of faith succeed in preserving important traditions, in working with one another, and in responding to contemporary issues.

I am proud of our hugely diverse and multi cultural society in which, on the whole, we live in peace, with equanimity, and with respect for one another. Our faith communities do so very much to promote and foster cohesion amongst our citizens. But whilst I would love to finish here with my heartfelt best wishes for this new year of 2009 there is more news on the radio of the heightening conflict in Gaza, of ever more bitter recriminations, of spiralling anger, and of still more innocent lives lost. For me that is a reminder that here at the beginning of the 21st century there is much work still to be done, and of how precious the fragile peace that we hold here in our complicated corner of London is, and of how important it is that we all stand alongside one another and continue to treasure and nurture it. And with that I wish you all a peaceful and joyful year, in which your faith will keep you, support you and inspire you.



Working Together to Safeguard Children in Lambeth

Lambeth Council held its first Safeguarding Children's Conference for faith organisations. There was no doubt at the end of the evening this was a worthwhile event and we hope to organise another such conference in the future. In the meantime, you can read LSCB Manager, Bernie McCormack's account below.

On the evening of 30th October 2008, Faith in Lambeth and Lambeth Safeguarding Board (LSCB) hosted a safeguarding children conference in the Lambeth Assembly Hall. The conference aimed to celebrate the contribution that faith groups make to promoting better outcomes for children in Lambeth and to raise awareness and understanding of working together to safeguard children. About 30 representatives from faith groups across Lambeth attended the conference which most found to be useful, informative and relevant. The programme covered presentations

and workshops on safeguarding issues and contributions from a range of guest speakers.

Phyllis Dunipace, Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services and LSCB Chair made time in her busy schedule to formally welcome everyone to the conference. She reminded us of the importance of working together to safeguard children and helping all Lambeth children achieve the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes.

Patsy Cummings from the Beacon Youth Project highlighted the importance of working together to ensure Lambeth children are safeguarded and overcoming any challenges this may present for the sake of the children. Ann Shaw from Emmanuel Church also shared her experiences of successfully implementing safeguarding policy and procedures in her Church.

Assistant Director, Cathy Blair, led a Safeguarding Quiz which asked a range of questions and certainly got the participants thinking about a range of issues. Whilst Gracelyn Fielding, Community Workforce Strategy Manager led the Spirit Possession Workshop. The workshop raised many relevant and interesting discussions about managing spirit possession in a manner that is safe for the child.

If you would like more information on safeguarding children in faith organisations, please contact Dinah-Mary Allotey on the details below or contact the LSCB on lscb@lambeth.gov.uk.

Future Training date:
Thursday 26 March, 12.30pm - 4.30pm
Venue: 332 Brixton Road, SW9 7AA

Safeguarding children is everybody's responsibility and Lambeth Council is committed to promoting the well-being of children. For more information about how to book a place on training courses for faith organisations please contact the Faith Communities Engagement officer, Dinah-Mary Allotey by email at dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk or call 0207 926 2664 / 07951 921 220.

Private Fostering

Are you in contact with children who are living away from their parents?

Did you know that a child or young person who has been living away from their parents or close relatives for a period of more than 28 days, is part of a private fostering arrangement?

Anyone involved in making the arrangements for a child under the age of 16 (18 if disabled) to be accommodated with someone who is not a parent or close relative for 28 days or more **must** notify their local authority. A close relative is a sibling, aunt, uncle, grandparent or step parent but **not** a cousin, great aunt/uncle, great grandparent or a family friend.

Lambeth's Private Fostering Service is here to help families. We are legally bound to ensure that privately fostered children are kept healthy and safe and we can provide information, advice and support to all those involved in the arrangement.

All professionals, agencies and community services must support and promote the need for notification of private fostering arrangements. The intention is not to get in the way of private family arrangements, but rather to ensure that the needs of privately fostered children and young people are safeguarded and promoted.

Even though these arrangements are usually made privately between the parent or person who has parental responsibility for the child and the person with whom the child is to be placed, it is a legal requirement that the council is informed.

There are many reasons for private fostering arrangements to be in place. These can include, but are not restricted to:

- Children or young people who are sent to this country for education or health care by their birth parents from overseas;
- Children or young people who are living with a friend's family or non-close relative as a result of parental separation, death of a parent, or family conflict;
- Children or young people from abroad who attend language schools in the UK and live with a host family;
- Unaccompanied minors, asylum seekers or trafficked children or young people who are looked after by non-close relatives or family friends while their parents remain abroad.

We want to work together to raise awareness of private fostering regulations amongst the parents and carers of the children in contact with your organisations.

If you work in Lambeth and think any children or young people you are in contact with may be in any of the above or similar situations, then please notify our Private Fostering Service. To speak to us

or for more information please contact 020 7926 7081 or visit www.lambeth.gov.uk

We urge all members of our faith communities to be alert to the legal requirement to notify the council of these arrangements so that we can meet legal obligations and ensure Lambeth children are safe.

Community Safety

The Community Safety department at Lambeth Council has created a new position, Community Analyst, to identify community concerns. The role aims to gather information from across the borough to highlight any issues concerning community groups as well as general community issues. The information is then shared among Community Safety partners and recommendations are made to assist in improving and resolving your issues with you.

It is also hoped that increased information sharing within the Lambeth community will assist in identifying potential problems. The department would like to ensure that faith communities in the borough are aware of this latest addition to the community safety team and encourage you to notify the officer with your concerns. Should you wish to raise any issues please contact Lauren Ward, Community Analyst on 0207 926 2787 or lward3@lambeth.gov.uk.

Together and Different: Christians Engaging with people of other faiths, Edited by Malcolm Terry & Sarah Thorley

This book depicts the lives of nine people living and working in south London as they tell their stories. They share their experiences as Christians engaging with people of other faiths at grassroots level, building trust and friendships. The book brings to light these 'good news' stories of religion, to counteract the often negative media reporting of inter religious relationships. Increasingly we all live and work beside people with a wide spectrum of religious belief, and of no belief at all, and the need for extended friendship and understanding has never been so urgent.

In these pages you will find a Christian and a Muslim school linking up; you will meet multi faith chaplaincy teams in a hospital, a prison and in industry. You will experience a multi faith funeral, a three-faiths women's group, a local faith forum responding to world events, and Christians and Buddhists sharing sacred space together. You will

journey with a diverse religious group to stay with Sikh families in India. Each story is followed by a reflection by one or more of the people of other faiths significantly involved in the story.

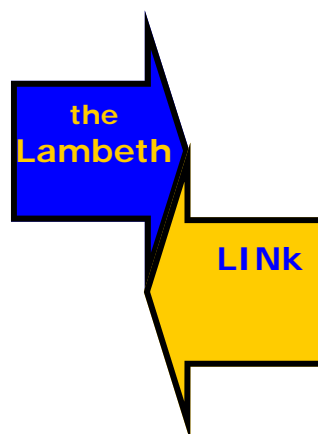
Together and Different also provides practical guidelines on matters such as dress code and food, and a wide-ranging glossary, useful for all who work or engage with people of different faiths, professionally or socially.

Whether you are a work colleague of people of other faiths, a parent meeting other parents of different faiths at the school gate or simply someone with unanswered questions about religion in society, *Together and Different* will encourage you take the risk, tread new ground, push out your boundaries – and even find your own spiritual journey surprisingly enriched as a result.

'This important book brings together stories of practical, creative and open-hearted engagement of Christians with people of other faiths...together with invaluable reflections and comments from the colleagues of different faiths with whom they have shared these experiences... There is great treasure to be found in these pages.'

Brian Pearce, former Director, the UK Inter Faith Network

The book is available in most bookshops. (Canterbury Press ISBN: 978-1-85311-881-4 £15.99)



Giving YOU a voice in how health and social care services are delivered in Lambeth

The Lambeth Local Involvement Network (LINK)

Make your organisation's views on health and social care provision in Lambeth heard; and

register your organisation as a member. Network (the Lambeth LINK).

The Local Involvement Network (LINK) is a central government initiative giving power to citizens all over England to influence health and social care services in their local areas. Every local authority area in England with social care responsibilities has a local LINK. Your local LINK is the Lambeth LINK. Through Lambeth LINK, members of your organisation will have the opportunity to actively influence the planning, commissioning, delivery and scrutiny of local health and social care services in Lambeth. You will be able to say what you need from these services. The LINK will make your members' views known to those responsible for providing, commissioning, managing and scrutinising those services. It is intended that the views provided by your members will be used to bring about real improvements in the delivery of health and social care services in Lambeth

If you would like to register as a member of LINK, please contact a member of the team at Lambeth Link, 3rd Floor 336 Brixton Road, SW9 7AA.
Tel: 0207 272 8522.

Sally Chandler, Lambeth LINK Engagement Officer: s.chandler@aclambeth.org.uk
Kwasi Kamasa, Lambeth LINK Engagement Manager: k.kamasa@aclambeth.org.uk

Lambeth Health Trainer Programme, Shashi Hussain

The idea of health trainers was first introduced in Choosing Health (Dept of Health White Paper). This is an innovative scheme tackling health inequalities by providing personalised support.

Health trainers are a new type of health worker recruited from local communities. The health trainers offer one-to-one support to help people make positive changes to their health. Based on a coaching model, health trainers encourage and motivate people who are ready to make lifestyle changes. Health trainers offer support to the most disadvantaged and those who have difficulty accessing services

All trainers in Lambeth receive 19 weeks of accredited training. They have a good knowledge of the local community and health resources across the borough. Health trainers are part of the Lambeth Public Health Directorate and are based in various settings such as children's, health and community centres, schools, libraries and leisure services. They will also do outreach work and health promotion events. The purpose of this

programme is to reduce health inequalities by supporting individuals to make healthy lifestyle choices and improving access to high quality information and services.

If you would like to get involved in the health training programme please contact the health training manager Shashi Hussain at the details below.

Lambeth Health Trainers, 1 Lower Marsh, Waterloo, SE1 7NT. Tel: 0203 049 4141
Email: shashi.hussain@lambethpct.nhs.uk
health.trainers@lambethpct.nhs.uk

Jewish Festivals, Rabbi Menahem Lester

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. It is a very sombre time devoid of festivities as it commemorates the creation of man and the day he is judged. That judgement determines what happens to us all for the year to come. To ensure that one is in a contemplative mood and fearful of what will come about, the shofar or ram's horn is sounded a minimum of 10 times but usually 100 times. People traditionally eat honey with their meals in lieu of salt to herald a sweet New Year. Rosh Hashanah is celebrated on the first two days of a ten-day period known as the "10 Days of Repentance" which culminate in the Day of Atonement.

Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the Jewish calendar and yet it is not a sad day; rather it signs-off the period of introspection and repentance. In some respects, it is really quite jolly as it's the opportunity to cleanse ourselves by making atonement for our sins enabling us to continue the New Year with a clean slate. It is a complete fast of 25 hours and its laws are otherwise identical to the regular Sabbath (Saturday).

Sukkot falls 4 days after Yom Kippur, in the Jewish calendar (approximately corresponding to October). It is a thoroughly joyous occasion celebrating the successful passage through the Day of Judgement. The Torah describes it in joyous terms and there are various avenues for that joyous expression. Firstly, Jews dwell in Tabernacles (booths) during the period although in climates such as Britain's this tends to be restricted to just eating meals in the Tabernacle. Secondly, the "Four species" are taken and waved (as described in Leviticus 23:40). Thirdly, as it's a Festival, it is marked with good food and new clothes.

Simhat Torah is a non-Torah-derived festival originating some 800 years ago. Along with **Shemini Atzeret** which is a Torah-designated festival (celebrated on the same day in Israel but on consecutive days elsewhere). It is a joyous occasion which terminates the festival of Sukkot. Unlike Sukkot, however, it has no external symbols; rather it is distinguished as the time when the cycle of Torah reading is renewed. Throughout the year, one passage or "sidra" is read from the Torah each week, starting at Genesis 1:1. At the end of the year, on Simhat Torah, the very last passage of Deuteronomy is read and, as is customary in Judaism, one restarts the reading immediately. It is also customary to have one or two good malt whiskies on Simhat Torah which helps fuel the dancing and celebrations which accompany parading the Torah in the synagogue.

Hanucah is a non-Torah-derived festival which commemorates the victory of the Hasmoneans over the Greeks some 2250 years ago. More particularly, it celebrates the ascendancy of Jewish culture over the all-pervasive Hellenist culture. At that time, the Hasmoneans drove the Greeks out of the Land of Israel, they cleaned and rededicated the Temple which had been defiled by the Greeks and they lit the Menorah, which was regularly lit by the High Priest. Except, on this occasion there was only enough sanctified oil to burn for one night; a miracle occurred and the oil lasted for eight nights. For this reason, we celebrate Hanucah for eight days, lighting a new candle each night, starting with one candle and building up to eight candles on the last night.

Rabbi Menahem Lester, South London Synagogue

It Started in Lambeth, Alan Gadd

It started in Lambeth – at St Matthew's Church in Brixton – in the year 2000. In November that year, South London Inter Faith Group (SLIFG) organised a Vigil of Prayer for Peace, with special emphasis on Jerusalem and the Middle East. The following year, just after 9/11, the event took place on Remembrance Sunday and since then the theme has been 'Inter Faith Prayers for Peace on Remembrance Sunday'. Sarah Thorley provided a visual focus – the peace candle – which has been used each year up to the present.

As may be seen, the candle and the surrounding incense sticks stand at the centre of a disc bearing the words Salaam, Shalom, Shanti and Peace, along with symbols of six faith traditions. Over the years the word 'peace' in a variety of languages

has been added, as have symbols of other faith traditions.



After 5 years at St Matthew's, Brixton, the event moved to Southwark Cathedral at London Bridge in 2005, and again in 2006, as South London Inter Faith Group marked its 25th anniversary year. An important development came in 2007 when Kingston Mosque hosted the event which up to then had only taken place in Christian venues. And in 2008 another innovation when South London Inter Faith Group linked with Greenwich Multi Faith Forum in a Multi Faith Act of Remembrance at Firepower, the Royal Artillery Museum at Woolwich. The date was specially significant. Not only was it Remembrance Sunday, 90 years on from 1918, but also 9 November, 70 years on from Kristalnacht. As the peace candle was lit by a young Muslim boy, a Zoroastrian prayer was prayed:

Be thou our light, O Lord of light. We grope in the dark; scatter the darkness. Shed thy guiding light on our darkened path, and lead us onward on our way to thy abode of eternal light. Let thy radiance fall upon us that we may live in thy light.

In 2009 South London Inter Faith Group will be back at Southwark Cathedral on Sunday 8 November for a programme arranged jointly with the World Congress of Faiths, and during several weeks before and after that date the exhibition 'World religions – Universal peace – Global ethic' will be on display in the Cathedral. A date for your new diary?

For more information about SLIFG, please email secretary@southlondoninterfaith.org.uk.

Feedback From Faith Events

Sarah Thorley Reports

Nightingale House

On Sept 10th members of the local CCJ (Council of Christians and Jews) met at Nightingale House, the Jewish Care Home for elderly members of the Jewish community, in Nightingale Lane. We were joined by a number of the residents and we heard a most interesting talk by the chief executive, Leon Smith, about the history and management of the Home, where residents enjoy a lovely garden, excellent resources, a great variety of activities and their own synagogue. We then watched a short video, mostly presented by the elderly residents themselves, which gave us a very good feeling of the caring ethos of the place and also of course some of the heartache as an increasing number of them suffer from dementia and Alzheimer's disease. If you are interested in volunteering, there are all sorts of ways in which you could help. Contact www.nightingalehouse.org.uk.

Peace Month Iftari

I enjoyed my visit to SWAN (Stockwell Women's Achievement Network) for Iftari on Monday 15th October. I, and a couple of other visitors, were made very welcome and I met some interesting women, including the dynamic Radhia who works with great dedication for the organisation.



We were given an informative talk by one of the women, about the practice and meaning of Ramadan. I was pleased to be asked to join them for the prayers, before breaking the fast with the traditional dates. We were then treated to a delicious meal. I was glad of the opportunity to go

along (and resolved that if such an opportunity occurs next year, I would fast for the day myself!)

Canon Bill Musk Relocates to North Africa

Bill Musk, who has been vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Tulse Hill for 11 years moved with his wife Hilary to Tunis in November. He has been appointed Area Bishop for North Africa in the Diocese of Egypt, with responsibilities for Algeria, Libya and Mauritania as well as Tunisia. Bill has written several books about Islam and has been very supportive of Lambeth Multi Faith Action Group and indeed of many aspects of religious life in Lambeth.



Hilary Musk playing the violin on the right

On Sept 21st there was a harvest festival celebration at Holy Trinity Church combined with a celebration of Bill and Hilary's ministry. It was followed by a special lunch at which people paid tributes to all that they had contributed over the years. They will be much missed by the congregation and also by Holy Trinity School where Hilary taught music with great dedication.



Clapham & Stockwell Faith Forum Peace Tent"

Memories from 2008



Lambeth Peace Service



Holocaust Memorial Day 2008



Faith in the Community event

Notice Board

Welcome to Faith Action magazine.

To make an effective difference your Church/Organisation needs to function in a

way that looks at the needs of its local community and develop ways of meeting need.

Faith Action magazine provides you with practical information that will help you meet the needs of the increasing large number of people who are facing marginalisation and assist you in developing effective leaders for the future generations.

A few reasons why you should subscribe

1. Solutions, entrepreneurial ideas to help you reach your community.
2. Experts share insights into how to become successful.
3. Partnership opportunities with local government, statutory agencies and Christian organisations.
4. Government policy jargon busters so that you are kept up to date on the decisions they make on your behalf.
5. All for the price of your **donation** for as many copies as you need for you and your organisation.

If you would like printed copies please contact Yemisi Onigbinde at the address below. The theme in the next issue will focus on "How to reach & support today's young people". If your church runs a youth project, please get in touch.

Contact details: Yemisi Onigbinde, Chief Executive, Faith Action, 69 Winnington Road, Enfield, EN3 5RL. 020 8804 5580, 07930 757 341 info@faithaction.org, www.faithaction.org

Volunteering

If you have not already, now is a good time to join the LVAC Volunteer Centre Project. It's free to join and through the project you will have access to a variety of services including; a tailored matching service to help you find the perfect volunteering opportunity, face-to-face interviews, networking and taster events, training and more. LVAC already operates a brokerage system which aims to match you with volunteering opportunities in the borough which suit your interests, experience and availability, but this year will see big changes. The project has received funding to set up a Volunteer Centre for the whole of Lambeth, with its own premises and a range of services for volunteers and the organisations which use them.

Whether you are looking for work experience, develop further skills, improve your CV, meet people and have new experiences or just to do something rewarding, Volunteering is the best way

forward, so join today and get more involved in your community. For further information or to join contact LVAC's Volunteer Centre Project on 020 7737 9471 or volunteering@lambethvac.org.uk.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 24 January, 2.00 – 4.00pm

Open Afternoon - Free entrance

Visit Jamyang and find out who they are and learn a little bit about Buddhism. If you are new to Jamyang and Buddhism this is the perfect introduction.

After a tour of this fascinating old building, you will get an opportunity to experience meditation and then hear a short talk on Buddhism. There's plenty of chance to ask questions and get a feel for the Centre.

Monday 23 of February 7.30pm- 9.00pm

Learn to Meditate - Free entrance

Are you curious about meditation? Come along to this free evening to learn one of the most effective methods to calm your mind and relax your body. No previous experience is required, just bring along some comfortable clothes because you will be sitting on cushions.

Meditation can help you:

*relax*gain concentration*develop positive feelings like compassion, love and wisdom. You don't have to be of a particular faith to practice meditation, everyone is welcome

Weekend 14 - 15 March, 2.00pm – 6.00pm Suggested Donation: £30 for both days.

What are the Main Teachings of the Buddha? An Introduction to Buddhism

Come along this introductory weekend to explore the main teachings of the Buddhist tradition. Whether you are just curious about Buddhism, or are thinking about making a more serious commitment and want to find out more about it, this course with Geshe Tashi will allow plenty of time for questions.

The techniques that Buddhist practitioners have developed to train their minds in equanimity, compassion and wisdom can be practiced by people of any faith or none.

For more information please contact Esther Garibay at Jamyang Buddhist Centre 43 Renfrew Road, London, SE11 4NA. Tel: 0207 820 8787 Email: spc@jamyang.co.uk

Holy Days and Festivals (January 2009 – March 2009)

January 2009

Saturday	3	Vasant Panchami Hindu
Monday	5	Guru Gobindh Singh birthday Sikh
Tuesday	6	Epiphany Christian
Sunday	18	World Religion Day Baha'i
Tuesday	27	Holocaust Memorial Day (Interfaith)

February

Saturday	9	Tu B'shvat Jewish
Sunday	15	Nirvana Day Buddhism
Tuesday	24	Shrove Tuesday Christian
Wednesday	25	Ash Wednesday Christian Lent begins

March

Monday	9	Mawlid an Nabi Islam
Tuesday	10	Purim Jewish
Tuesday	17	St Patrick's Day Christian Naw Ruz (New Year) Baha'i
Friday	27	New Year Hindu
Sunday	29	Passion Sunday Christian

Funding and Freebies

Capacitybuilders Capital Grants

The capital grants programme will be administered in three phases and run until March 2011. This capital investment programme is designed to support initiatives which encourage collaboration and enable resource centres make the best use of their assets.

Phase1 Maximum: £30, 000

Grants of will be awarded to existing resource centres in England to support small scale improvements such as the availability, accessibility or quality of accommodation- or shared facilities such as additional meeting rooms or storage space, better IT. **The deadline for applications is 31 January 2009.**

Phase 2 Minimum £50,000 – Maximum £200,000

Grants will be awarded for significant refurbishment and development of premises. Expressions of interest are invited from existing or developing resource centres. **Deadline: 31 January 2009.** Grants are expected to be awarded in August 2009.

Phase 3 Minimum £200,000 – Maximum £500,000

The final phase will invest in about five flagship projects that will develop or significantly expand local third sector resource centres. **The deadline for expressions of interest under phase three is 31 March 2009.**

Mercers Trust currently supports charitable work in the following fields:

- Care for the elderly
- Education
- Welfare (social, medical, community and young people)
- Church and faith
- Heritage and arts

Most of the Company's grant making falls within the three categories of education, care for the elderly and general welfare. The strong geographical preference for organisations working in the London area continues. For full details about programmes, guidelines and how to apply, please visit the website at www.mercers.co.uk, call 0207 726 4991 or email mail@mercers.co.uk.

Trust for London supports new and emerging small voluntary organisations that benefit people and communities in London. The funding may be used to cover general cost of running an organisation, but the Trust does not cover full time staff salaries in full or part time.

TFL funds areas of work which have one (or more) of the following aims:

- To challenge discrimination faced by disabled people;
- To promote the inclusion and integration of recently established communities;
- To help strengthen mother-tongue and supplementary schools;
- To provide creative educational opportunities;
- To address new and emerging needs.

Who can apply?

You will need to demonstrate that all the criteria below apply to your organisation. You must:

- benefit local people and communities in London;
- be run by volunteers or have paid staff that between them work no more than 35 hours per week. This may include full-time or part-time staff but does not include tutors who work sessional hours e.g. teachers at a supplementary school;
- have a high level of user involvement, including on your management committee;
- be undertaking charitable work, though you do not have to be a registered charity;
- have a constitution or a set of rules which governs your activities.

New funding guidelines for 2007-2011 are now available to download. If you cannot download the guidelines, printed copies are available from our offices (6 Middle Street, London EC1A 7PH). Please ring 020 7606 6145 for a copy or email info@cityparochial.org.uk.

Awards for All: Minimum £300 – Maximum £10,000. Awards for All fund projects that bring people together to take part in and enjoy a wide range of community activities. If your project helps to improve people's lives, encourages more people to get involved in their local community or boosts skills and creativity then it is the sort of thing they want to fund.

Awards for All is an open scheme aimed at not-for-profit organisations like charities, voluntary and community groups, sports clubs and arts organisations. The scheme will fund projects under broad headings like environment, education, heritage and community. The fund's aims include:

- **support community activity**
- **extend access and participation**
- **increase skill and creativity**
- **improve quality of life**

Applications are welcome from all communities.

Deadline: Applications can be made at anytime. Once a completed application is received you should be notified within 8 to 12 weeks. Applicants also need to send their constitution, latest set of annual accounts and original bank statements with the short form. To obtain an application pack, call 0845 600 20 40, or for more information about Awards for All visit www.awardsforall.org.uk.

If you cannot download the guidelines, printed copies are available from the offices (6 Middle Street, London EC1A 7PH). Please ring 020 7606 6145 for a copy or email info@cityparochial.org.uk.

If you would like a summary of this information in community languages, or in other formats such as large print, Braille, or on disk, please contact Lambeth Adults and Community Services on 020 7926 5555.

Spanish

Si desea esta información en otro idioma, rogamos nos llame al 0207 926 5555

Portuguese

Se desejar esta informação noutro idioma é favor telefonar para 0207 926 5555

French

Si vous souhaitez ces informations dans une autre langue veuillez nous contacter au

0207 926 5555

Bengali

এই তথ্য অন্য কোনো ভাষায় আপনার প্রয়োজন

হলে অনুগ্রহ করে ফোন করুন

Twi

Se wope saa nkaeboy yi wo kasa foforo mu a fre 0207 926 5555

Yoruba

Tí ẹ ba ẹ imoràn yí, ní èdè Òmiràn, ẹjẹ. ẹ kàn wà l'ágogo 0207 926 5555



Holocaust Memorial Day 2009

Assembly Hall

Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill SW2 1RW

Sunday 25 January, 3pm – 4.30pm

On Sunday 25 January 2009, Lambeth Council will be holding its annual Holocaust Memorial event. The theme for 2009 is **'Stand Up to Hatred'**.

HMD09 challenges all of us to make a choice and Stand up to Hatred. We are challenged to choose to resist, to respect and to protect.

Plans for the day include showing a short film, poetry, music by Lambeth Orchestra, an encore by the excellent Corpus Christi Primary School Choir, reading of eye witness accounts from the holocaust and more recent genocides like Rwanda. There will also be a special collection of postcards which guests can take away *in remembrance /as a token of remembrance/ in commemoration*. Come with all the family to commemorate this important historic event.

Kosher food will be served.

For more information please contact the event organiser Dinah-Mary Allotey, Lambeth Faith Communities Engagement Officer on 0207 926 2664, 07951 921 220 or email dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk.

CONTACT US

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London SW8 2LL
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Webpage: www.lambeth.gov.uk/faithinlambeth

Alternatively, email Dinah-Mary at dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk.