

# **Faith Focus**

**The Voice of the Faith Groups in Lambeth  
October 2004**

## **Faith Groups Co-ordinator appointed**

**Inside this copy of Faith Focus:**

- **Key issues: The Lambeth First and the Community Strategy, Peace Week and More**
- **Regular Features: Funding, Training Courses , Events and Premises for hire**
- **Latest News: The Appointment of a Faith Groups Co –ordinator By Lambeth Council**

## **Breaking News - The Appointment of the Lambeth Faith Groups Co – ordinator Councillor Clare Whelan reflects on what it means to her**

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One of the great joys to me in recent years has been the closer relationship between Lambeth's faith communities and Lambeth Council. We are not there yet but significant progress has been made and, most importantly, there is a widespread willingness and desire for closer ties still.

To bring faith communities and Lambeth closer has been a dream of mine for many years. When I was Mayor (2000-2001) I made it one of my private challenges. We called a meeting in the Mayor's Parlour of some Lambeth faith leaders. At that time there wasn't really any list of faith communities in the Town Hall so we simply contacted some of the faith leaders we knew, invited them for a cup of coffee, put on the kettle and waited. For me it was one of the most moving and inspiring occasions of my life. The Parlour was packed. One of the rabbi's happily shared a chair with someone from a local mosque, and as we went round the room each faith representative gave an individual view of how they welcomed the dialogue. There was a great sense of the beginnings of something positive and strong that could only be

good for Lambeth. Overwhelming they welcomed the start of this dialogue.

We have, since then, got a bit better at working with faith communities, but, as I said before, there is still much to be done. We have recently taken a significant step. We have just appointed Lambeth's first ever faith groups' co-ordinator. Kau Belleh joined us at the beginning of September. Her role will be to work with faith groups in the Borough, supporting them in a number of ways. She will be working to encourage community cohesion among the faith communities and building the capacity of organisations to deliver their services better. Her energy and enthusiasm for her new role is encouraging and indeed this newsletter is a result of her work.

So why is important for Lambeth and faith communities to have strong links? There are so many reasons but they all add up to a greater sense of community. There is no doubt in my mind that the sum of the parts is greater than the whole. When we work together we can achieve more. Many faith groups provide services to the community, as does the Council : education, housing, care of the elderly, opportunities for our young people. Often they do it better, reaching parts of the community in a way the Council could never hope to. Isn't it better that we all work together and for the Council to offer support where it can? For example Council officers often have expertise in identifying funding. Expertise that can be shared with faith communities. However, perhaps to me the most important reason is that of community cohesion. Lambeth is blessed with a population of many different faiths.

We must work together to make sure that there is a tolerance, understanding and mutual respect. This was brought home to me strongly at the outbreak of the Iraq crisis. As soon as war was imminent we met with a number of local faith leaders and the police. We agreed immediately that collectively we wanted to send a strong signal that whatever people's views on the war, whatever was happening elsewhere in the world, there was room for all faiths here in Lambeth and to demonstrate this we launched the successful Lambeth appeal for children in Iraq through Unicef. We were able to do that because of the relationships that we had begun to build up. I hope those relationships will grow stronger.

My sincere thanks to those, of all faiths and of all political parties, who have inspired and encouraged, and who have been part of the journey thus far. **Councillor Clare Whelan**

I look forward to receiving you emails and phone calls as well as suggestions for making this newsletter an effective one.

## The Editor's Column

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[Kbelleh@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:Kbelleh@lambeth.gov.uk)

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Dear Colleagues,  
I hope you enjoy reading this first issue of Faith Focus, the newsletter dedicated to faith groups across the borough of Lambeth. The aim of the newsletter is inform, equip and harness you in your work.

I am hoping that this resource will be used by you to share information on what you are doing in your area and give you the opportunity to take ownership of material that appears in the newsletter. My role will solely be that of collating and presenting the information, but all the information will come from you the Faith Groups. This is your platform to have your say!!

For the time being, the newsletter will come out bimonthly, depending on the amount of information I receive and the demand for this resource. The next issue, coming out in January will have a town centre focus. A series of articles will give you a snapshot of faith initiatives taking place around the borough. If there are any particular initiatives you think people should hear about, then contact me.

Otherwise, do contact me if there are faith related issues you would like to discuss or if you would like me to attend an event.

## Strategic Matters – LSP

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As many of you may already know, Lambeth First, the Lambeth Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) is part of a national Programme initiated by the government, which brings together the Police, the Primary Care Trust, Lambeth Voluntary Action Council (LVAC) and the Community Empowerment Network, the community including older and disabled people, children, refugees and asylum seekers, black and ethnic minority communities, the voluntary sector, Lambeth College, local businesses, Jobcentre Plus, faith organisations, tenants, leaseholders and resident organisations, housing associations, resident representatives of the five Town Centres in the borough, and the Council.

Lambeth First has produced The Community Strategy which is the long-term plan that sets out the goals and actions for the next ten years within the borough and the shared commitment for these improvements among the partners. Change will not happen over night. The Community Strategy is the road map that describes how partners will promote economic, social and environmental well being, give long-term direction for the borough, and how the partners can work together to improve Lambeth in the years to come. An Action Plan outlines how delivery will take place. There are six themes to the Strategy: Creating a Cleaner and Greener Environment, Making Safer Communities, Investing in Children and Young People, Better Homes and Sustainable Communities, Encouraging Enterprise, Employment, Skills and Culture, Supporting Healthy Communities

### Faith Groups & Lambeth First

Faith groups play an important role in society. Religion, is central to many people's cultures and daily lives. As a result, the inputs from the faith groups are critical to creating representative policy and being inclusive in the resulting actions, projects and goals. Faith organisations have contacts with, and represent, many communities that are often thought of as "socially excluded". In addition many faith organisations run programmes in areas such as education, social care and children and youth work.

Lambeth First is currently undergoing a restructuring process. The new structure will consist of the Assembly (arena to share and explore ideas), the Executive (decision making body) and the Theme Partnerships (deliver the objectives of the Community Strategy). In recognition of the importance that

faith groups play in the community, and the contribution that we know you can make in helping shape the goals and actions that the partnership takes, there will be a space reserved on both the Executive and the Assembly specifically for faith groups representation. This is a vast improvement over the current format for which there is one only one spot on the board. You will now have the ability to have some real input and decision-making power regarding what happens within Lambeth and across the partnership.

Additionally, we want you to know that The Community Strategy is your strategy and Lambeth First wants to keep you informed and values your suggestions. Even if you are not a member of the Executive or Assembly you can still make your concerns and suggestions heard! You can contact Ian Jackson on [ijackson@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:ijackson@lambeth.gov.uk) or 0207 926 2462 with queries, ideas, or for contact information for any of our partner organisations. Information

about how progress is being made will appear on our website - [www.lambethfirst.org.uk](http://www.lambethfirst.org.uk).

We look forward to working together to make Lambeth a better place to live, and a place of understanding for all.



Ian Jackson, Lambeth First Manager

## **The Peace Week Agenda**

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Many of you will be aware of Chief Superintendent Richard Quinn's desire, in partnership with the local authority, faith and community groups to hold a Peace Week in Lambeth. The purpose of the event is to promote good citizenship and peace in Lambeth with the aim of reducing crime and the fear of crime. Due to the tight timescales it has been agreed that Peace Week will be held over the week commencing 15th November.

A steering group has already met and agreed to incorporate many of the events taking place in the borough around this time under the umbrella of 'Peace Week'. Such events include Black History Month, Celebrating Age, Firework Display and Enterprise Week in Schools.

The planned culmination of the week is for three processions from different parts of the borough to meet in Coldharbour Lane before marching together in a 'carnival' atmosphere to the Town Hall where a series of events and activities will take place in the Assembly Rooms. We are looking to you and your congregations to participate in the processions and to stage events and/or entertainment in the Assembly Rooms as part of the celebration and culmination of Peace Week.

Please discuss these plans with your respective groups and let me know how you would like to participate and assist. If you are interested in being a part of the procession this year, please contact the faith groups co-ordinator. Do also contact Kau if you would be interested in being involved in this event next year. No date has been set yet, but it is likely to be around the months of September or October.

The idea of Peace week was initiated by the Peace Alliance, an independent voluntary organisation, that works to reduce crime and the fear of crime and to promote peace in the community. The first Week of Peace in September 2001 was aimed at celebrating the diversity of culture in Haringey. Over 2,000 local residents participated and crime was actually reduced during the Week.

**Graham Sutherland, Community Engagement Inspector**

## **Funding News**

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**The City Parochial Foundation** exists to benefit the poor of London. The includes people who, for whatever reason, are socially, culturally, spiritually, environmentally and financially disadvantaged. They particularly encourage applications for organisations that work with, or are aiming to work with, the following:

- Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities
- disabled people
- established communities, in areas of long – term poverty
- lesbians and gay men
- refugees and asylum seekers and refugees
- young people aged 10 – 25

For more information, please visit the website [www.cityparochial.org.uk](http://www.cityparochial.org.uk)

**The BBC Children in Need APPEAL** raises money for children and young people and gives grants to organisations ( including voluntary ) working with disadvantaged children and young people living in the United Kingdom. Disadvantage will include :

- illness, distress, abuse or neglect
- any kind of disability
- behavioural or psychological problems
- living in poverty or situations of deprivation

For more information, please contact [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.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. They are especially keen to receive applications from Black, Asian and ethnic minority organisations. For further information, phone 0207 606 6145 or write to [info@trustforlondon@cityparochial.org.uk](mailto:info@trustforlondon@cityparochial.org.uk) .

**The Carnegie UK Trust** gives grants to projects that use creativity to benefit communities. Preference is given to new projects. For further information, please contact Comely Park House, Dunfermline, Fife KY12 7EJ or telephone 01383 721445 or [www.carnegietrust.org.uk](http://www.carnegietrust.org.uk).

**Esmée Fairbairn Foundation** is one of the largest independent grantmaking foundations in the UK. We make grants in four programme areas: [Arts & Heritage](#), [Education](#), [Environment](#) and [Social Development](#). The foundation invests in organisations that change people's lives. They will support community-based projects and are particularly interested in increasing independence in the following ways:

- new opportunities for individuals to become more economically independent, e.g. job coaching, work-related mentoring
- interventions at times of transition or crisis which improve people's chances of long term independence e.g. moving from prison, seeking asylum, leaving care
- imaginative proposals to enable people to become more involved in their communities, e.g. by running their own organisations or playing a more direct part in decision making.

Applications will only be considered from voluntary organisations with an annual income of less than £250,000. Applicants will need to enclose a copy of their organisation's most recent accounts to demonstrate that they meet this criterion. Before you apply for a Small Grant you may find it useful to review the grants awarded over the last few years by the Small Grants Panel. Please contact 0207 307 2495 or email [Z.Khan@kingsfund.org.uk](mailto:Z.Khan@kingsfund.org.uk) .

**Lloyds TSB Foundation** supports underfunded charities so people, especially disadvantaged or disabled people, can play a fuller role in the community. They support a wide range of activities which fall within the broad areas of Social and Community Needs, and Education and Training. To discuss your project ideas visit the website for further details [www.lloydstsbfoundation.org.uk](http://www.lloydstsbfoundation.org.uk) .

**Alma – Royalton Kisch Trust** promotes education for children and young people about the religions of the world. The Trustees prioritise support work which is inter faith, has

an informal education or learning content, involves young people and improves collaboration and understanding. Visit the website on [www.kisch.org.uk](http://www.kisch.org.uk).

**Awards for All** is a lottery grant scheme aimed at local communities. Awards are given from £500 - £5,000 in a simple and straightforward way for projects that enable people to take part in art, sport, heritage and community activities. Prospective projects should benefit people that:

- Experience economic hardship
- Benefit black and minority ethnic groups ( including refugees and asylum seekers )

- Benefit disabled people and / or their carers
- Help communities explore and share their heritage and London's diverse traditions and cultures.

For further information, please visit the Awards for all website or write to Awards for all London, 9 th Floor, Camelford House, 89 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7UF or email [london@awardsforall.org.uk](mailto:london@awardsforall.org.uk) or telephone 020 7587 6659.

**Bridge House Estates** gives grants for work that increases access for disabled people, London's environment, children and young people, older people in the community, strengthening the voluntary and community sectors. Small grants are targeted at small voluntary organisations with income of less than £50,000. The maximum grant is £5,000. For further details visit the website on [www.bridgehousegrants.org.uk](http://www.bridgehousegrants.org.uk)



Training	
Risk Man October 2	<b>Diversity Training October 28 pm</b>
Strategic ( LVAC ) November	<b>Islam - Myths and misconceptions</b>
Charity R November	A half –day seminar to examine the myths and misconceptions about Islam, to provide basic, but crucial information and the barriers to work, education and society.
Project Ac November	Aimed at people with a limited knowledge of Muslims and Islam.
Setting up ( LVAC ) November	
Working v October 2	
<b>To book contact: LVSC</b>	

South Bank Christian Studies Centre
<b>Understanding Islam</b>
Tuesdays in St. John's Crypt, Waterloo Road, SE1 with:
<b>Maulana Seyyid Rizvi</b> (Imam of Tooting Mosque) <b>Amedee Turner QC</b> (Honorary Member of the European Parliament & Member of the Advisory Council of the Anglican Observer to the United Nations) <b>Dr David Marshall</b> (Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury) & <b>Michael Igrave</b> (Archbishop of Southwark)
Starting Tuesdays 28 <sup>th</sup> September & finishing on Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November from 6.30 – 8.pm
Tickets £3.00 per lecture & £15.00 per series ( 6 lectures ) For programme details contact Mrs. Eileen Hamilton on 0207 450 4601 or email <a href="mailto:ehamilton95@hotmail.com">ehamilton95@hotmail.com</a>

**LAMBETH  
MULTI-FAITH  
ACTION GROUP**

**One World Week event 2004**

*THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER  
7.30 pm*

*at*  
Railton Road Methodist Church,  
Railton Road,  
Brixton SE24

***"People on the move":  
FAITH IN  
THE NEW EUROPE***

**Speakers  
Discussion  
Refreshments**

As the Mayor of Lambeth I want to raise the profile of Remembrance Day at Lambeth Town Hall - especially as this year is the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings - to commemorate all those who have given their lives for their country.

I am hoping that representatives from all the faith groups will join together at St Matthew's Church at 9am on November 14<sup>th</sup> 2004, followed by a procession to the Town Hall at 9.15am lead by the Bishop of Kingston. A short service will be held at the Town Hall and this will be followed by tea and coffee.

On this occasion we will be joined by a delegation of French students from Vincennes - the French Town with whom we are twinned.

Groups will then be free to attend their own ceremonies as in previous years.

I do hope that you will be able to join us.

Councillor Irene Kimm  
MAYOR OF LAMBETH

**Please send details of events  
that are taking place in  
your communities for the  
next edition going out in**