

# FAITH in Lambeth

Lambeth Faith Groups Newsletter

Issue 6, November 2006

## WELCOME TO THE NEW EDITION OF FAITH IN LAMBETH.

Lambeth Council and the Steering Group would like to extend special thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of Faith Focus. This is the last edition of the year and the team would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year. We hope you enjoy reading it.

The next edition will be in March. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter please send your articles in by Wednesday 7 February 2007.

### Highlights in this Edition

- Youth Matters
- Welcare Faith in Regeneration
- Imagine Community Project
- Lambeth Community Safety Engaging Faith Communities
- Meet Hannah Barker
- Lambeth Communities First project
- 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](mailto:dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk)  
[www.lambeth.gov.uk/faithinlambeth](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/faithinlambeth)

### A VERY BIG THANK YOU

It's that time of the year again. For most of us we are approaching the end of another year. Throughout the year, Faith Groups in Lambeth have been working tirelessly as always, providing a diverse range of services to members and local neighbourhoods. We appreciate the work you are doing to keep the community spirit alive. On behalf of the team, we would like to say a well deserved thanks to all Faith Groups in Lambeth.



Young people of faith and no faith took over the air waves of Southside 101.4 FM broadcasting six days a week from church.co.uk. A radio station created for young people by a partnership of local youth initiatives. The project was funded by the Lottery's Big Boost scheme and Lambeth Council. Continued on page 9.



  
**Lambeth**

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## Faith Steering Group

The next meeting of the Steering Group will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November.

Agenda items are:

- Presentation on Guns and Crime
- Youth and Faith
- Youth Strategy
- Draft report on the way forward for faith Groups in Lambeth

If you would like any information on any of the topics discussed or would like to attend future meetings of the Steering Group, please contact: Dinah-Mary Allotey on 0207 926 2664 or [dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk).

## Faith in Lambeth

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November Lambeth is holding what will be the first of several events on Faith in Lambeth; entitled 'The role of faith groups within the community' will be on community cohesion. Speakers on the night will include Derrick Anderson, Lambeth Chief Executive, Hyacinth Parsons, Government Office for London and Nero Ughwujabo, Director of Croydon BME Forum.

The speakers will be followed by a series of workshops showing how community groups have developed projects from idea through to delivery.

If you are unable to attend the event and would like any further information, please contact Dinah-Mary Allotey on 0207 926 2664 or [dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk).

## Muslim Leaders

On 27<sup>th</sup> September representatives of the Muslim community met with the Chief Executive and Council Officers to discuss issues relating to their community in Lambeth.

Following on from this meeting a Faith Group Co-ordinator will be appointed with specific responsibility for working with the Muslim community to reduce the isolation of Women, developing a Muslim Women's Network and undertaking a needs analysis for the Muslim community in Lambeth.

If you would like more information please contact Huma Munshi: [hmunshi@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:hmunshi@lambeth.gov.uk).

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## Youth Matters



LYC is a forum of young people aged 11- 25 years of age. It serves as a platform for young people to meet with key decision makers in the Council and the community, to influence the decisions they make that concern young people. Additionally, LYC has been running successful peer education programmes, peer inspection programmes and consulting with young people for the last three years.

The main focus of their work has been to empower young people, and to facilitate them in taking a pro-active role in their health and well-being. LYC would like to give your young people the opportunity to be trained in the development of faith based programmes within the remit of peer inspection, peer education and consultation. Young people are paid for their involvement and all training costs are provided free.

Currently the Youth Council delivers the following projects:

### Peer Education programmes (led by young for young people)

- First Aid
- Substance misuse and alcohol
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Health and Relationships
- Mental Health

### Peer Inspection programmes – led by young people inspecting services targeted at young people

- Leisure services
- Children's Fund services – targeting services at the under 11s
- Regeneration services – targeting services aimed at getting young people into education, employment or training

### Consultation programmes – young people consulting with young people

- Youth Mayor for Lambeth
- Every Child Matters (ECM)
- Housing

If you are interested in the work being done and would like LYC to work with young people in your organisation, please contact the Youth Council on

020 7926 2193. Alternatively, email Andrea at [Alegal-Miller@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:Alegal-Miller@lambeth.gov.uk).

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## **SACRE - New Lambeth Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education**

As recorded in the last issue, the new syllabus was launched by Lambeth SACRE in March, for use in Lambeth schools starting this September. Teaching guidance for the six major religions represented in this country is included right through primary and secondary school. Teachers are encouraged to take their classes out on visits to churches, temples, mosques and synagogues located in Lambeth or nearby. In an innovative, thought-provoking 'inter faith' unit, in Year Seven, secondary school pupils engage in conversations about relevant, real life situations across the faiths. They discover the diversity of faith communities in Lambeth by getting out on the streets for an inter faith 'walk'. They also invite individual members of the different faiths, and representatives from our four local 'inter faith' groups, in to speak with them.

SACRE - Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education has arranged in-service training for teachers, throughout the coming year, to help them get the very best from the new syllabus. Every borough has a SACRE which includes representatives from the teaching profession, the churches, other religions and the Council. One of their tasks is to determine the local syllabus for religious education.

**Sarah Thorley (member of Lambeth SACRE)**

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## **Faith School Linking**

For the last four years, Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, Upper Tulse Hill, has had an exchange programme going with Gatton Muslim School, a twenty-minute bus ride away in Tooting. Every term our Year Five pupils spend a morning in each other's schools. The children (and staff and often accompanying parents), socialize together. Visitors then go off in groups of four or five to different classes for an hour and participate in whatever is going on. It may be PE with Reception class, Arabic literature with Year Six or Maths or Art in Year Two.

When Holy Trinity organised a 'Learning about Islam' week, staff and pupils from Gatton School came and helped. When Gatton pupils were learning about Christianity, we had a joint visit to Southwark Cathedral to do the Christian Symbols

trail, eat a picnic lunch together and walk along the River. Last term we had our first 'friendly' football match – we won, but a return match is due soon and we hear they've been training hard! Some of our staff went to Gatton's end of term rooftop barbecue in July. As we go to press our new year fives are meeting up for a joint picnic lunch and games afternoon in Brockwell Park. None of this costs money and everybody enjoys it! Children are swapping email addresses and asking when we can meet again!

*Sarah Thorley (teacher at Holy Trinity School)*

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## **'Rough Guide to Project Making for Faith Groups'**

By Welcare Faith in Regeneration Project

The 'Rough Guide to Project Making for Faith Groups' is a basic, step by step guide to developing community projects for all faith groups and related organisations. It has been compiled by the Faith in Regeneration project development worker and is full of 'Hot Tips' on how to get a project group together, research project ideas, put together a project proposal, search for funds and set up your project.

The guide also has a Lambeth and Southwark useful contacts page, of local, regional and national organisations that can assist you in developing your project and 'Purple Handouts', which can be photocopied and used with your group. Copies are £5.00 each plus postage. Order by calling Sonya Brown on 020 7928 9053, 07966 900 912. Alternatively you can email Sonya at [faithinregeneration@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:faithinregeneration@tiscali.co.uk).

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## **South London Synagogue**

South London Synagogue recently celebrated the Jewish New Year, Yom Kippur (Fast of Atonement) and the beautiful harvest of Tabernacles, when the beauties of nature are acknowledged. A party was held to honour the two people chosen to complete the cycle of the reading of the law, and to begin anew.

Refreshments are now served following the daily morning services and are much appreciated as an incentive to the early risers who make up the congregation.

The bleak winter season is brightened by the lighting of Chanukah candles, in celebration of a miraculous deliverance some two thousand years ago. Over the next months we shall be welcoming some fine speakers to the synagogue, in conjunction with the South London Branch of the Council of Christians and Jews. Rev Roger Green, previously Church of England Chaplain to Brixton prison recently spoke on his experiences and interfaith work at the prison. Mr Elkan Levy, chairman of the Committee which has just produced the revised version of Authorised Daily Prayer Book, a vast undertaking which took several years to complete, will also be speaking.

**Rabbi Philip Ginsbury, South London Synagogue**

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### **A New Priest in Charge for Christ Church North Brixton**

The Area Bishop of Kingston, the Right Reverend Dr. Richard Cheetham licensed a new priest in charge at Christ Church North Brixton on the 18th September 2006. Reverend Tim Jeffreys took over at the helm of this unique and busy church, which serves as a centre for worship and a hub for community activities.

The large Byzantine style building, with domes and towers, houses a café and charity shop, runs a youth group and food assistance programme and the church is involved in various aspects of community development. The building is also used by four community churches and by a variety of local groups.



Christ Church, North Brixton

One of the tasks Tim will get into straight away is an interfaith prayer book project. The Project, entitled "How do *You* Pray?" aims to encourage young people to discuss their religion/faith with each other and with a facilitator. The end result will be the creation of a book of prayers, poem and art written by the young people, thus utilising their creative, literacy and ICT skills. More importantly, it will involve different local faith communities in constructive discussions and hopefully contribute to social cohesion. The project was delayed by the movement of a youth worker, but is expected to be completed by April 2007. It is hoped that the book will be shared and used in the Lambeth area by different faith communities.

Christ Church has a particular focus on youth and community engagement, and Tim is particularly looking forward to experiencing the annual Christmas Toy and Carol service. During this service toys are given out to children in the Vassall Ward area. All are invited and welcome, and there are generally more than enough toys for all the children who come.

The church already has in place some community engagement projects but Tim is keen to explore new ways in which Christ Church can continue to serve the community.

Christ Church has become a central meeting place for a variety of community groups. Lambeth Orchestra meets there regularly and local organisations such as the North Lambeth Area Forum and the Police Consultative Group have held their meetings there. Wear and tear on the roof and fabric means that a fundraising drive will have to take place on a major scale to ensure that the church remains the hub of community activities.

**Rev Dr Rosemarie Mallet, Christ Church**

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### ***Imagine Community Project***

***Imagine*** is a dream of a community transforming itself with ourselves, the church, as part of the process. The project was set up to provide the springboard for a sustained process of renewal in our Tulse Hill parish.

We are based in an inner city area of London where poverty and deprivation affect the quality of life of children, young people, families and older persons.

We have talked extensively with residents on the local estates. We want the church to be active in our local community, make stronger links with people and work with them on projects they feel are important. For example we know that Loan sharks cruise the various estates, preying on the indebted and desperate.

We began our work on St. Martin's Estate and to date our projects involve:

- working with children in two local schools providing reading support and other activities such as outings, sports days, puppet shows and helping with drama
- supporting the more isolated elderly and less able through 'buddy schemes', befriending and helping where needed. This includes activities such as shopping, chatting and some gardening
- encouraging sixth formers from the local secondary school to join us as volunteers, working both in the schools and as buddies visiting the older residents
- summer gardening schemes, with young people from St. Martin's estate and the church
- looking at debt and savings issues, and working with the Lambeth Savings and Credit Union, whose office is now open on Brixton Hill. We have brought this into the schools, with fun assemblies showing children how to save.

We have many plans and hope to expand to other local estates when we have the resources. Future plans include starting an informal coffee morning in school for new parents, particularly those for whom English is challenging. Our main aim is to live out the love of God in word and action in our local community.



We try to establish good relationships with local people to show that the church is there in the community. We want to be a symbol of hope and continuity when other service providers leave. One of the ongoing problems is that "projects" come and go, and nothing happens. *imagine* wants things to happen.

If you would like to find out more about this, please get in touch with Aileen or Jacky at the project. We have an office in St. Martin's Library Centre, and you can usually find us there on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Contact us directly on 020 8671 3132 x226 or [imagine@high-trees.org](mailto:imagine@high-trees.org)

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### Lambeth Community Safety/Drug and Alcohol Teams (CS/DAAT) Engaging Faith Communities

We all recognise that crime and drugs continue to blight people's lives in the area, and that personal faith can lead to powerful transformations in people's behaviour in this regard. But what other roles can faith communities play in helping Lambeth's residents lead healthier and safer lives? CS/DAAT teams are committed to working in partnership with Lambeth's diverse faith communities.

CST/DAAT has a dedicated Community Engagement Officer, Paul Asquith, whose role is to work closely with different communities around issues of crime, drugs and alcohol, and improve their access to the services they need. He is also responsible for working with treatment services to ensure that they are as accessible and suitable as possible for all the borough's different communities, regardless of ethnicity, culture, or faith.

Different communities, including faith communities, have different experiences and understanding of drugs, and therefore have differing needs. CS/DAAT also runs regular training sessions and awareness-raising workshops for different groups.

DAAT has further commissioned a piece of action research on street dealing in Brixton Town Centre. One of the aims is to evaluate the potential role that can be played by faith group representatives like imams and street pastors, working with drug users or victims of crime. The research will be carried out by King's College London in partnership with Lambeth Crime Prevention Trust and should be completed by the end of March 2007.

If you have any queries regarding drugs, crime or treatment services, particularly in the context of faith communities, please call Paul Asquith on 020 7926 2785, or you can email him at [pasquith@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:pasquith@lambeth.gov.uk). Alternatively contact your local Community Safety Coordinator.

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## Clapham and Stockwell Faith Forum

I would like to introduce myself as Hannah Barker, the new outreach and development worker for the Clapham and Stockwell Faith Forum. I am keen to hear from anyone who has ideas and would like to become involved.



The Forum is a great way to meet people of other faiths and learn from each other; to promote the message of respect, tolerance and mutual understanding and see how we can work together for the benefit of the community. We are also building up a library of information and resources about faith groups and community issues. We hope this will be a great educational resource for anyone from schools to local authorities.

On **Thursday 30th November, 6pm – 8pm** we will be hosting a fantastic Multi-Faith Banquet to celebrate our community's diversity. The event will be held at Heathbrook Hall, Heath Road (off Wandsworth Road), SW8. It will be a fabulous fusion of speakers, entertainers, education and eating! Please contact me if you would like to get involved, get on our mailing list, or find out more. Check out our new website, [www.csff.co.uk](http://www.csff.co.uk).

**Hannah Barker, Clapham and Stockwell Faith Forum, 07958 353 652 or [info@csff.co.uk](mailto:info@csff.co.uk).**

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Healing & Empowering Lone Parents

**H.E.L.P is at hand**

**- an organisation for lone parents is launched**

Amidst the poetry, music, and dance, real lives were unveiled and celebrated at the launch of 'More Than One' in Lambeth. This groundbreaking event was organized by The H.E.L.P (Healing & Empowering Lone Parents), with backing from Lambeth Deanery and the community of churches of differing denominations serving the Lambeth area. Service providers, Church and Community at the event enjoyed touching and inspiring stories from lone parents, with Gospel music from St. Martin's Choir, contemporary dance from Victoria Chukwudum and several other young people with sensational singing talent.

'More Than One' is just one of the activities that distinguishes H.E.L.P from other lone-parent charities. It seeks out and showcases the strength and tenacity of lone parents without denying the pain and challenges only they can express.

Triumph, founding director, says "Our youths were impressive. Their personal anecdotes are evidence that young people from lone parent homes are amongst tomorrow's leaders. This is a great way to launch our work in Lambeth and plans are underway for next year's event".

Triumph Ayo-Isegun, Founding Director, 020 7012 1172, Email: [thehelp@btconnect.com](mailto:thehelp@btconnect.com)

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## Diwali

Diwali is a celebration of Light over Darkness, Knowledge over Ignorance and the Triumph of Good over Evil. Diwali or Dipawali means 'Cluster of Lights'. Diwali is celebrated on the last day of the dark half of the lunar month of Kartik in the Hindu calendar.

Diwali marks the beginning of a New Year. Business people open new accounts, placing a coin in their new account books. Diwali is a time for thanksgiving prayers, for family get togethers, for love, goodwill and generosity, for greetings, gifts and sweets. We thank God, and pray for prosperity in the New Year. Diyas, little clay lamps, decorate our homes, everywhere. Divine Mother Lakshmi is worshipped at Diwali.

**Vidur Dindayal**

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## Excerpts of a letter from John Hyman

Miriam Hyman lost her life in the 7/7 bombings. Her family who live in North London were unable

to attend faithsounds III at South London Liberal Synagogue (SLLS), as memorial prayers were taking place in their home the same evening. Her father later wrote to Rabbi James Baaden.

"Dear Everyone at SLLS

I don't know how to thank you enough. Your thoughtfulness, kindness and generosity have had a great effect on us. I did not want to write until we had seen the video of faithsounds III, and so had a proper sense of the occasion. It was all so beautifully done...

\*James (\*Rabbi James Baaden), you introduced the singers so beautifully ... And what a wonderful programme! The very idea of such a multifaith event is very touching, and it is of the greatest importance that we present and support all such occasions. This has always been so, but it is only fairly recently that this has become more widely understood. Especially since 7/7 it has become of the greatest importance that intercommunal problems in this country are dealt with openly, and as they become more openly discussed in the media, so it becomes clearer that this is a very complicated and multifaceted field. There will be no easy solutions but it may be that as common ground of any kind is established it will ease the way into more difficult matters.

The programme and its ethos were so consistent with the values of \*Mim's (\*Miriam Hyman's) life that it adds poignancy to our appreciation and gratitude. I had intended to start this letter with an explanation of the part played by SLLS and Ner Tamid (\*the synagogue's youth club many years ago) in my life, and how I have continued to enjoy in retrospect a relationship that lasted for so many years. However, this is a deeply emotional matter, \*Prentis Road (location of the synagogue) and Streatham being the biggest influence on my life outside of my family, and I just didn't know where to start. When I told my wife she replied: just thank them! And so the emotional knot was cut through.

\*Mavis and \*Esther (\*Miriam's mother and sister) join me in thanking you. My love to you all,

John Hyman"

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## Lambeth Communities First Project

Lambeth Council has published a consultation report entitled '*Communities First*' which sets out a proposed framework to deliver against the Council's priorities of tackling inequality, social

exclusion and engage more closely with citizens so that people's needs are listened to and acted upon. Communities First proposes a significant change in the way the council works with local communities and neighbourhoods, places strong emphasis upon communities having a greater stake in the design and delivery of local services through local partnerships.

For more information, a copy of the report, or if your group would like to participate in the consultation please contact Dinah-Mary Allotey on 07951 921220 or [dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk).

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## Child Protection in Places of Worship

Lambeth Safeguarding Children's Board held its first child protection training for faith groups in Lambeth. The event was a success with very good attendance. About 90% of the delegates rated the training as either very good or excellent.

Trainer, Gracelyn Fielding commented that delegates constituted a diverse range of children's services or experiences, and demonstrated a good understanding of child protection issues. This was particularly evident during the case studies and possible scenarios session. A second session is being planned for early next year in February. Dates will be confirmed later. We already have people on the waiting list so book your place early in order not to be disappointed.

Lambeth Council is committed to promoting the well-being of children. Safeguarding children is everybody's responsibility. Only two faiths were represented at the training, majority being of Christian faith. We would like to encourage children and youth workers from all faiths to attend this free training course.

For more information please call Dinah-Mary Allotey on 0207 926 2664, 07951 921 220 or email me at [dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk).

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**Feedback from Faith Events**

## faithsounds III

A large and diverse audience of nearly 150 attended this year's "faithsounds III", an evening of sacred sound from different faith traditions which is becoming a fixture in the annual "Streatham Festival".

"Faithsounds III" took place at the synagogue on Thursday 6 July 2006, the eve of the first anniversary of "7/7". The date was on people's minds not just because of the anniversary but due to the fact that a young woman from a family with a longstanding connection to the synagogue, Miriam Hyman, had died in one of the bomb explosions. Accordingly, this year's event was dedicated to her memory - and it featured an Indian theme, as Miriam herself came from an Indian-Jewish background on her mother's side.

The evening began with a choir performance which was an interesting local and interfaith happening. The Streatham Choral Society sang the "Chichester Psalms" composed by Leonard Bernstein (in the original Hebrew, as set by Bernstein).



This was followed by Rivers of Babylon, an ensemble of singers and instrumentalists who specialise in the Jewish musical traditions of India.



Ruach Choir with one of our own. Can you spot the familiar face?

The evening continued with songs of praise and rejoicing, sung by a polished group of young musicians from Ruach Ministries, Brixton Hill.

Explaining how their religious faith is the foundation of all their music, they soon had everyone in the synagogue singing, praising and rejoicing with them. The evening concluded with a beautiful Qur'an recitation by the distinguished Muslim scholar Professor Dawud Noibi OBE.

## South London Liberal Synagogue

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### Church.co.uk Youth Project

Waterloo tuned into a new sound this summer with the second year of Southside 101.4 FM, a radio station created for young people by a partnership of local youth initiatives. Broadcasting six days a week throughout August from church.co.uk, Southside 101.4 FM once again ignited the airwaves with its eclectic mix of music, talk shows and comedy. Kate Hoey, MP for Lambeth, stars from the recent film *Kidulthood*, and Rev Steve Chalke were among the guests interviewed on air. Young people were also a part of workshops learning how to interview people, how to put together a show, how to be a news reporter and how to use the studio. With over 400 young people, between the age of 11 and 21 all from different faith backgrounds participating; there is no doubt that the project was a huge success.



Every summer holidays the complaint from local young people is the same: "We don't have any money and there's nothing to do!". This year, Pete Brierley, youth and community pastor at church.co.uk decided to give the young people of Lambeth and Southwark the chance to commit to something worth remembering. Southside fm hopes to become a longer term project broadcasting across the world through the internet.

**Church.co.uk**

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## Soul Week 2006

With a huge amount of energy, and an overflow of passion, London Churches planned and organized activities as SOULINTHECITY London hit the streets for the third consecutive year.

Under the banner 'Louder than Words' churches ran an amazing variety of events and projects from 29<sup>th</sup> July – 5<sup>th</sup> August. Thousands of Christian young people got out of their churches to radically affect their communities. Playgrounds were painted, older people had their gardens tidied, girls took part in dance classes and *Make Me a Model* days, and whole communities got involved in cafés, festivals and BBQs.

The aim of each project was to demonstrate the love and relevance of the Christian message to London communities.



There was close collaboration between churches, local government and the Metropolitan Police as activities focused on youth engagement, crime diversion and improved living conditions.



The week came to a close on 5<sup>th</sup> August at Carling Academy Brixton with London's top urban artists performing to thousands of young people.

It was the perfect opportunity for young people to come together, Christian or non-Christian, for a night of quality music and inspiration.



The event opened with grassroot acts which displayed the amazing and innovative talent to be found in the capital's young, urban teens. Jahaziel, The 29<sup>th</sup> Chapter, Lou Fellingham were among the acts who raised the roof with their heavy beats and powerful lyrics.

SOULINTHECITY merged with the Peckham based youth organization XLP at the beginning of September. XLP works in secondary schools across South London and was an inaugural winner of the Queen's Jubilee Award for Community Service in 2003.

Soul in the City workers are in contact with more than 15,000 young people, leading 600 lunch clubs every month, and teaching 120 RE and PHSE lessons every year. It also has a pioneering arts programme and a mission links across the world, with a staff of nearly 40 people.

XLP/SOULINTHECITY London has four clear aims that feed into a cycle of sustainable development in the South-London communities:

1. To serve communities by meeting social and educational needs of young people.
2. To educate young people to make wise lifestyle choices.
3. To empower young people to reach their potential.
4. To mobilise young people to go into their communities, to serve, educate and empower.

To see more photos and hear the stories from SOUL WEEK check out [www.soulinthecity.co.uk](http://www.soulinthecity.co.uk) and get in touch with us if you would like to get involved upcoming projects!

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## Wellbeing in Lambeth: a Spiritual, Emotional, and Physical Affair.

In early July members of various Lambeth faith communities met under the auspices of the Lambeth partners: Lambeth PCT, South London and Maudsley NHS Trust, and Lambeth First in the Assembly Room at Lambeth Town Hall. The focus of this Open Space event was to take a look at the contribution spiritual communities make to the overall state of wellbeing, mental and physical of the people of Lambeth. The emphasis was on how mental, physical, social and spiritual health all contributes to a sense of wellbeing.

The facilitator used the Open Space method to let individuals flag up concerns and for a group of other interested persons to gather around to discuss and arrive at proposals for taking the areas of concern forward.

Many of these areas concerned the faith communities themselves and their relationship with those with mental health issues. Everyone recognised the close link between mental and spiritual health and the fact that faith groups can be both a help and a hindrance in this. Faith communities ideally provide environments of security and care where people are accepted and nourished and helped. But there are also alarming cases where people have felt stigmatised because of their particular problems, or where simplistic solutions have been proposed.

This is a challenging area to faith communities who have to look at their own practices and how these do or do not contribute to the wellbeing of their members. At the event there was a good representation of faith communities and concerned individuals, however representatives from Lambeth's Mosques and Black-led Churches was not as high as organisers had hoped.

What has emerged from the event and its follow-up event has been the formation of the Lambeth Spiritual and Wellbeing Alliance. The Alliance has had its first meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September. The Alliance is a self organising networking group of individuals with various links into the faith communities and voluntary organisations in Lambeth. It sees itself as sitting within the umbrella of the South London Multifaith Forum and connected to statutory organisations through the Lambeth Partners Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Lambeth. Current ideas include the application for funding to support training initiatives both within the Alliance as a

group and out into the faith communities in particular. It is hoped that faith communities will be invited to undertake a wellbeing impact assessment in order to help them to better focus attention and action in support of the wellbeing of members.

One particular concern is to the engagement of faith communities in conversations about how spirituality and theological understandings of human wellbeing forms the heart of a comprehensive approach to human wellbeing. For instance, most people are profoundly ignorant of what it means to have mental health needs. So, perhaps one of the first things will be some sort of mental and spiritual wellbeing audit. The issue is now firmly on the Lambeth faith community agenda and we will let you know of developments.

**Richard Truss, Vicar, of St John's Waterloo**  
**Mark Sutherland, Presiding Chaplain, South London and Maudsley NHS Trust**

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## Lambeth's Commemoration of Victims of Violence

As part of the Peace Week activities, the evening of Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September saw Lambeth's commemoration of victims of violent crime at St. Andrew's Church, Landor Road. This non-denominational, multi-faith event was a wonderful opportunity for the friends and families of victims to come together and voice a shared commitment to peace and reconciliation, and to remember those lost. Representatives of eight different faith communities stood together and spoke words of peace and unity from their respective traditions and holy books.



Rose petals in a bowl of water

Superintendent Paul Wilson represented the Met police, and we were also joined by Twilight Bey. Twilight spoke of his experiences, of the

regeneration of his gang and drug-afflicted home town of South Central Los Angeles, and his hope for a similarly positive future for our communities. All these contributions, and others, were consolidated by the act of commemoration at the end of the evening. All those who had lost a loved one to violence were invited to place a rose petal in a bowl of water as an act of remembrance. The evening's shared experiences demonstrated the strength of commitment, by people of all faith communities, to working together for a safe, peaceful and united Lambeth.

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### Relaxation, refreshment and shared experience – Stockwell Festival

A warm and comfortable yurt tent, with its circular spaces, carpets and cushions, is a welcoming place to relax on a busy afternoon. The Stockwell Festival in Slade Gardens on 23<sup>rd</sup> September attracted the crowds and many people took the opportunity to visit the Peace Tent, which is organised each year by Clapham and Stockwell Faith Forum. Mint tea, chai and an ordinary cuppa provided refreshment and local people of all ages enjoyed playing Giant Jenga, House of Cards and having a look at the wide range of books on display.

The Forum promotes activities which bring people together rather than drive them apart, and this year we made Peace Mala bracelets (the different colours represent the various faith traditions), discussed bullying (particularly faith and race bullying) and heard about three of the religious events taking place that weekend.



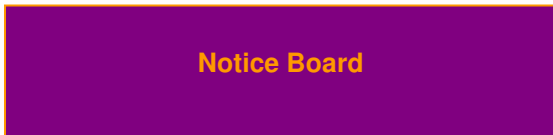
Sister Lucia CSP, Toaha Qureshi and a fellow member of Stockwell Green Mosque, DS Jonathan Tottman and Vidur Dindayal at the Peace Tent,

The tent was packed out as Toaha Qureshi led a discussion on Muslim observance of Ramadan, the month of fasting, which had just started with

the sighting of the new moon. Vidur Dindayal explained the significance of the Hindu feast of Navaratri which also started that day; and we heard about Rosh Ha Shanah, the Jewish New Year, which had started the evening before and which begins the season of High and Holy Days. We shared slices of apple dipped in honey, a Jewish custom which symbolises the hope of a sweet new year.

The yurt and all expenses were kindly covered by the Stockwell Partnership. The Forum is open to people of all faiths and of none, is free to join and is now based at the Clapham and Stockwell Town Centre office. To join and to find out about our winter events, please contact Hannah Barker on 07958 353 652.

### Catriona Robertson, Chairperson



South London Inter Faith Group, celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, made a successful application to the Community Development Foundation for funds from the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund. SLIFG was awarded £18,100, to be spent during the 12 months from 1 April 2006.

SLIFG has taken significant steps in putting this grant to good use. We have recruited two people, each to work one day a week. Sarah Thorley's task is *An improved understanding of South London's multi-faith situation*. Sarah came to this project with very good credentials as one already held in great respect by faith leaders in Lambeth and beyond.

Siriol Davies, another person with an excellent track record in building good interfaith relations, is working on *Evaluation of different models of interfaith activity*, visiting a sample of interfaith organizations outside South London, all around the country. Both workers are very active at present, and the signs are good that when their results are pooled there will be a sound basis to make any necessary changes to increase SLIFG's effectiveness as it goes into its second quarter century.

From the grant, SLIFG has also commissioned Bhupinder Singh to design and implement a SLIFG website. The website when completed will be at [www.southlondoninterfaith.org.uk](http://www.southlondoninterfaith.org.uk).

For more information contact Alan Gadd on 020 8678 8977 or alternatively email Alan at [holmewood24@surefish.co.uk](mailto:holmewood24@surefish.co.uk).

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## Love Lane Saturday School Opens in Mitcham

Love Lane Saturday School opened on Saturday 23rd September 2006 in the Elim Pentecostal Church Hall, Love Lane Mitcham, CR4 3AU. The Saturday School is the first of a number of planned community projects that Elim Pentecostal Church intend to implement in the near future.

Love Lane Saturday school offers supplementary education in English and Mathematics to children aged 5-16 years.

The Aims of the school are:

- To have a diverse group of children from all ethnic backgrounds.
- To allow children to work at their own pace in a supervised and friendly environment.
- To encourage, motivate and give the required skills to children to complement the National Curriculum in English and Mathematics.
- To aid early development of lifelong learning skills.

Rev. Hilla Bossoh officially opened the Love Lane Saturday school as the Pastor of Elim Pentecostal Church (Mitcham Branch). Reverend, Dr Sam Larbie (Senior Pastor of Elim Pentecostal Church Camberwell and Branches) made a warmly received surprise visit, with his wife Sophie Larbie to show their support for this new project. During the service he took the opportunity to thank the project manager Mrs Margaret Thompson and all the volunteer helpers for all the hard work.

### Reverend Hilla Bossoh, Elim Pentecostal Church Mitcham Branch

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## Lambeth Joint Service Centres – an update

Since we last updated you, the 2005/06 Customer Satisfaction Survey results have demonstrated just how well this pilot JSC has been received by Lambeth's residents:

- 98% of those surveyed rated the overall service they received as good or excellent
- 92% of queries were successfully resolved, with the remainder delegated to specialist departments for completion

## The future

With the help of potential users of future JSCs, through a series of workshops and surveys, the council has also heard how residents from a variety of ethnic, faith and social backgrounds want the council to improve access for all excluded groups. Disability, religious belief, language, literacy and age were all seen as potential barriers for people wanting to access services.

Learning from this, the council has gone to great lengths to ensure barriers are addressed and broken down in future JSCs. The result will be a service that will meet both the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and the rightful expectations of any resident who relies on Lambeth for support and specific services. Both council and residents alike can look forward to an exciting 2007.

For more information about council services call on 020 7926 1000 or visit Lambeth Contact at 85-87 Streatham High Road.

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## The Faith Communities involvement in Civil Emergency Planning in Lambeth

The importance of being prepared for dealing with a wide range of major emergencies in London has been highlighted by recent events. As you would expect plans are in place across a number of emergency responding agencies to manage this essential response.

Lambeth Council, as do all London boroughs, have these plans and procedures for responding to major incidents and emergencies that could affect our community. Lambeth's plans dovetail into the wide range of other responding agencies

London's wide faith communities have a part to play in a major incident and to ensure that they provide a co-ordinated, effective and efficient response across London "The London Churches Major Incident Multi-Faith Plan" has been in existence for a number of years. This plan has recently been revised and re-launched.

In order to ensure that Lambeth's faith community are fully briefed and prepared The Archdeacon of

Lambeth, The Venerable Chris Skilton and Lambeth Contingencies Planning Service will be holding briefing meetings for all faith groups at Lambeth Town Hall in the middle of January. This session focus on responding to the scene of a major incident and will look at the command and control structures; how to prepare yourself and what to expect. The sessions will last approximately one and a half hours.

Invitation to the event will be sent out shortly. If in the meantime you wish to find out more details please contact Paul Randall, Emergency Response Planning Manager, on 020 7926 6148 or email: [prandall@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:prandall@lambeth.gov.uk).

### Dates for your Diary

#### South London Liberal Synagogue Celebrating 350 years of Jewish life in Britain 1656 - 2006

*The story of the Jews of South London  
The first Jews south of the Thames, Synagogue  
histories, Schools, Homes,  
Rabbis British/English/Jewish*

#### The 2006 John Rich Memorial Event 2.30 – 6 pm, Sunday 26 November 2006

Free admission All welcome Refreshments

For more information call 0208 769 4787, email [rabbi@southlondon.org](mailto:rabbi@southlondon.org), [www.southlondon.org](http://www.southlondon.org).  
1 Prentis Road, Streatham, London SW16 1QB

### It's Winter and the Christmas lights will soon be on

#### North Lambeth Town Centre

The Clapham Road Christmas lights near the Oval are scheduled to be switched on **23<sup>rd</sup> November**. This year North Lambeth is celebrating the return of the Young Vic theatre to The Cut, Waterloo. The Christmas show The Enchanted Pig will feature in the Christmas lights switch on celebrations scheduled for **7<sup>th</sup> December** on Emma Cons Gardens, at junction of Waterloo Road, Baylis Road. There will also be a Christmas market and shops will be open late for Christmas shopping.

#### Brixton Town Centre

##### Christmas Lights

The event takes place in the Tate Library Gardens (outside Brixton Library) on **Friday December 1<sup>st</sup>, 4.00 – 6.00 p.m.**, with the lights being switched on at 5.00 p.m. There will be entertainment of all kinds to celebrate the annual switch on. It's free so come along and join us on the day. If you would like more information please contact the Brixton Town Centre Office on 0207 926 1077 or email [Brixton@Lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:Brixton@Lambeth.gov.uk) Organised and funded by Brixton Society, Friends of Tate Gardens, Lambeth Libraries, Brixton Town Centre, Brixton Area Committee, Brixton Area Forum and Morleys.

##### Peace and Light Celebration

The Peace & Light Celebrations on **21<sup>st</sup> December** intend to join the Lambeth community in thoughts of Peace, for those who have lost loved ones in acts of war or as the result of violence closer to home.

The lanterns will be used to represent our community's bright future and songs of Peace will encourage others to think about the way we live and why there is such violence in our times. Everyone within the community is encouraged to take part.

**Lantern making** workshops will be held at Lambeth Tate Library on **3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December from 12pm until 4pm**. These workshops are free and suitable for accompanied children aged 6yrs and over. Senior citizens workshops will be held at the Vida Walsh Centre, Saltoun Road, although dates and times have yet to be confirmed.

If you are interested in making lanterns, singing songs for Peace or being part of the entertainments, then please contact Sarah Slater on 0207 652 3000. The event is being organised by community leader Sarah Slater and The Brixton Society, who are also helping to arrange this year's Christmas Lights celebrations on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December**.

#### Clapham & Stockwell Town Centre

This switching on of the Clapham Christmas Lights is on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December**. Please congregate at 6pm by the railed green space directly next to Clapham Common tube station. Expect surprises! The event is organised by the Council's Clapham and Stockwell Town Centre office and Lambeth Parks department. Local artists from Studio Voltaire are working with young

people from the nearby Notre Dame estate to make fabulous costumes and lanterns. For more information please contact Tim Boxall on 020 7926 0765 or email [tboxall@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:tboxall@lambeth.gov.uk).

### Norwood Town Centre

The Norwood Christmas Lights switch on event will be taking place on the **30<sup>th</sup> November 4pm. to 6.30 pm** at St Luke's Church we will also be using the newly refurbished memorial grounds. The event will be hosted by the Norwood Town Centre Office and the Norwood Youth and Play Consortium. Payout will be providing activities for the under 4's, and will also be providing workshops for the older children and parents at the event, with Accapella. Maxi Jazz of Faithless will be the celebrity guest switching on the lights. Other attractions will be face painting, carol singing, story telling etc. Light refreshments in the way of mulled wine, mince pie, soft drinks and a small token of the festive season, perhaps chocolate coins will be given the children. For more information contact Norwood Town Centre office on 0207 9268295.

### Streatham Town Centre

The 'Big Switch On' of the Streatham Christmas Lights will take place outside Streatham Odeon **5.00pm Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November** *Come and join the party!* Mince Pies, Mulled Wine, Christmas Carols with Ensemble of Streatham Choirs, Mystery Celebrity. For further information contact Streatham Town Centre Office 020 7926 5905.

### Christmas at St John's Waterloo Road & St Andrew's Short Street, SE1

As always we would be delighted to welcome you at all or any of our Christmas services. At our main Carol Service we will again have Chorus Mundi & the Luganda Choir singing and will also be welcoming London's Pearly Kings and Queens.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December** 10.30am Christingle Service 5pm Carol Service

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** 1pm-2pm Lunchtime Carol Service

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve** 5pm Crib Service (for children)

11.45pm Midnight Communion Service

#### Christmas Day

10.30am Christmas Family Communion

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>** 7pm Watch Night Service for the New Year

**Holocaust Memorial Day** will be held on Thursday **25 January 2007** in the Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall. The theme for 2007 is ***The Dignity of Difference***. The evening will feature She'koyokh Klezmer Ensemble, specialists in Yiddish music and Ruach Choir, from Ruach Ministries in Brixton. For more information call Dinah-Mary on 0207 926 2664 or 07951 921 220.

### Holy Days and Festivals (Nov 2006 – Feb 2007)

#### November 2006

|           |           |  |
|-----------|-----------|--|
| Wednesday | <b>1</b>  | All Saints Day Christian                         |
| Sunday    | <b>5</b>  | Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib ( <b>Sikh</b> ) |
| Sunday    | <b>12</b> | Birth of Baha'ullah ( <b>Bahai</b> )             |
| Monday    | <b>13</b> | Remembrance Sunday ( <b>Multi-faith</b> )        |
| Friday    | <b>24</b> | Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahdur ( <b>Sikh</b> )    |
| Sunday    | <b>26</b> | Day of the Covenant ( <b>Bahai</b> )             |
| Monday    | <b>27</b> |  |
| Tuesday   | <b>28</b> | Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha ( <b>Bahai</b> )        |

#### December 2006

|           |           |  |
|-----------|-----------|--|
| Sunday    | <b>3</b>  | Advent Sunday ( <b>Christian</b> )                         |
| Friday    | <b>8</b>  | Immaculate Conception ( <b>Catholic</b> )                  |
|           |           | Bodhi Day ( <b>Buddhist</b> )                              |
| Saturday  | <b>16</b> | Chanukah (16 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 24 Dec) ( <b>Jewish</b> ) |
| Wednesday | <b>20</b> | Hajj starts ( <b>Muslim</b> )                              |
| Sunday    | <b>24</b> | Christmas Eve ( <b>Christian</b> )                         |
| Monday    | <b>25</b> | Christmas Day ( <b>Christian</b> )                         |
| Saturday  | <b>30</b> | Waqf al Arafa (Day of Hajj) ( <b>Islam</b> )               |
| Sunday    | <b>31</b> | Eid-ul-Adha end of Hajj ( <b>Islam</b> )                   |

#### January 2007

|           |           |  |
|-----------|-----------|--|
| Wednesday | <b>3</b>  | Mahayana New Year ( <b>Buddhist</b> )                      |
| Friday    | <b>5</b>  | Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh ( <b>Sikh</b> )              |
| Saturday  | <b>6</b>  | Christmas Day ( <b>Rastafari</b> )<br>Eid ( <b>Islam</b> ) |
| Sunday    | <b>14</b> | Makar Sankrat ( <b>Hindu</b> )                             |
| Thursday  | <b>18</b> | Week of Prayer begins ( <b>Christian</b> )                 |
| Saturday  | <b>20</b> | Al-Hijira ( <b>Islamic New Year</b> )                      |
| Sunday    | <b>21</b> | World Religion Day ( <b>Bahai</b> )                        |
| Tuesday   | <b>23</b> | Vasant Panchami ( <b>Hindu</b> )                           |
| Saturday  | <b>27</b> | Holocaust Memorial Day ( <b>Jewish</b> )                   |

#### February 2007

|           |          |   |
|-----------|----------|---|
| Wednesday | <b>6</b> | Ash Wednesday ( <b>Christian</b> )                  |
| Friday    | <b>8</b> | Losar ( <b>Buddhist</b> )                           |
|           |          | Nirvana Day ( <b>Buddhist</b> )                     |
| Friday    |          | Nirvana Day ( <b>Buddhist</b> )<br>alternative date |

## Funding and Freebies

**Big Lottery Community Buildings Fund: Minimum £50,00, Maximum £250,000** The programme will give communities the chance to improve their quality of life by funding buildings that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. The programme will pay for creating and improving facilities that offer a wide range of services and activities to a broad range of local people.

The programme wants to fund buildings that will promote community interaction and self-help. It is hoped that these buildings will continue to serve communities in years to come while minimising their negative effects on the environment. Community Buildings is mainly a capital-funding programme to cover the cost of building your project, not running it once constructed. A separate category for church-based faith organisations has been created but all faith organisations are eligible to apply.

There will be a two-stage application process. At stage one consideration will be given to the need and outcomes for your project and how you will run your building. Deadline for stage one applications is **5 pm on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007**. Only successful projects will proceed to stage two.

**Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund:** This programme provides funding to help improve local communities and the lives of people most in need. Communities are at the heart of Reaching Communities. The aim is to fund projects that respond to needs identified by communities, and actively involve them. This programme seeks to fund projects that help those most in need including those people or groups who are hard to reach. They will give support to those projects they think best meet their communities' needs. The three-year programme will make up to £100 million available in 2006-07, with future budgets being set annually. There will be a two-stage application process. At stage one the fund will consider the need and outcomes for your project and how you will run your building. The final

deadline for stage one applications is **5 pm on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007**. Only projects successful at stage one will be invited to apply to stage two. For more details call 08454 10 20 30 or visit [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk).

**The Local Network Fund for Children and Young People** provides small grants and capacity building support for small voluntary organisations working with children and young people. Most grants will range between minimum **£250** and maximum **£7,000**, for one year's funding only. Two-year funding may be awarded to projects in exceptional circumstances. The maximum two-year grant is £6,000 each year for two years. The objective of the Fund is to enable communities to develop projects and activities for children and young people with limited opportunities or access to services that many young people take for granted.

Administrators ensure that outreach and support are available to support applicants. Decisions on allocating funding are made by assessment panels comprising people with knowledge of issues faced by children in the communities served by the funds.

Applications are invited under the themes outlined in *Every Child Matters*:

- **Being healthy**
- **Enjoying and achieving**
- **Making a positive**
- **Achieving economic well-being**

**The closing date for the next round is 12/01/2007.** For more information contact the Local Network Fund National Call Centre on 0845 113 0161.

**Community Champion Funds** supports the work of local people who can encourage others to get more involved in renewing their neighbourhoods. The fund is designed to increase the skills levels of individuals to enable them to act as inspirational figures, community entrepreneurs, and community mentors/leaders, in order to increase community involvement in regeneration and learning activity. The Fund also encourages older (50+) volunteers to get involved in helping their communities. The main type of funded activity is very small-scale but it is activity that makes a real difference.

Contact: Sue Halstead on 020 7217 3711, [sue.halstead@gol.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sue.halstead@gol.gsi.gov.uk) or visit website [www.go-london.gov.uk](http://www.go-london.gov.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 Regeneration and Housing 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 fẹ imoràn yí, ní èdè Òmiràn, ẹjọ. ẹ kàn wà l'ágogo

0207 926 5555

Rivers of Babylon singers during Faithsounds III, a multi faith event held in commemoration of Miriam Hyman, a victim of 7/7. More on page 7



## CONTACT US

### Dinah-Mary Allotey

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Tel: 020 7926 2664

Webpage: [www.lambeth.gov.uk/faithinlambeth](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/faithinlambeth)

Alternatively, email Dinah-Mary at [dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk).

### Relaxation, refreshment and shared experience in the Peace Tent

A warm and comfortable yurt tent, with its circular spaces, carpets and cushions, is a welcoming place to relax on a busy afternoon. The Stockwell Festival in Slade Gardens on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2006. Continued on page 11