

FAITH in Lambeth

Lambeth Faith Groups Newsletter

Issue 11, June 2008

WELCOME TO THIS 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. A special thanks goes to Avonne Foulkes in the Active Communities Team who produced this summer newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Highlights in this Edition

- A Word from Cllr Rachel Heywood
- Free Faith based Travel Plan
- Lambeth gets 2020 Vision
- Safeguarding Children in Places of Worship
- Peace Month
- Helping You Manage Your Money
- Activities for Young People
- School Pastors
- 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 edition will be in November. If you would like to contribute the next newsletter please send your articles in by Tuesday 20th September 2008.

A Word from Councillor Rachel Heywood

I was delighted to be asked by the Leader of the Council, Steve Reed, to take on a new role as Deputy Cabinet member for Community Cohesion and Involvement. My portfolio includes supporting better community engagement and consultation, equalities issues, and working with the third sector, as well as helping to build an ever stronger and more successful partnership between the council and you - our faith groups and communities.

I am greatly honoured to have been elected to serve the population of a borough which I love, and in which I feel very lucky to live. When I stood as a councillor I made a promise to promote inclusive, safe, tolerant and respectful communities and to champion the immense wealth that lies in both our diversity and that which we have in common.

As you know a cohesive community is one in which people from different backgrounds are able to work together to exchange ideas, to provide ambition and to create new ways of addressing challenges like resolving conflicts or finding solutions to apparently insoluble problems. (Cont'd on pg 2)

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.

Members of the Shadow Steering Group established in October 2007 have recruited a part time outreach worker to progress the next stage in



the development of the independent multifaith network. Sue Vahid was recruited to post in May.

If you would like to get involved in the development of this new structure or require more information about Faith in Lambeth please contact Dinah-Mary Allotey on 0207 926 2664, 07951 921 220 or dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk.

Free faith-based travel plans

Does your place of worship have:

- Parking problems?
- Accessibility problems associated with your site?

Or, do you want to help improve:

- The environmental image of your place of worship?
- Relations with your community?
- The fitness levels of your worshippers?

Lambeth Council would like to offer our support to all faith leaders in the borough in promoting the message of sustainable transport by assisting them in developing Faith Based Travel Plans.

A travel plan is a package of measures designed to help reduce single occupancy car use to your site and instead promote sustainable modes such as walking, cycling and public transport.

For your free personalised sustainable travel plan, please contact us on 020 7926 0677 or email travelplans@lambeth.gov.uk



Lambeth gets 2020 Vision with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

What is the Sustainable Community Strategy?

It is the strategy that will guide the work of all the partners toward a shared vision for a sustainable Lambeth by 2020.

Why is it so important?

It's the over-arching strategy; it's the plan of plans. It will influence all other strategies developed within the borough like the Housing Strategy and the Local Development Framework. It has taken the ideas and opinions of the thousands of people

from all the partner organisations (including many of you), residents and workers of the borough.

What will it say?

The strategy has a **vision**, a **central focus** and **seven sustainable outcomes** for the borough. The vision for the borough is that *Lambeth is a diverse, dynamic and enterprising borough at the heart of London in 2020.*

'Worklessness' is the central focus of the strategy because it causes numerous social & economic problems and, in turn, leads to a wider array of issues for our community. Many of the issues that Lambeth faces as a borough can only be permanently resolved by tackling the causes of worklessness as well as the effects.

Whilst tackling worklessness will be a central feature of the strategy, to create a truly sustainable community there needs to be focus on the three elements of sustainability – economic, social and environmental wellbeing. The strategy will be launched in July and you will hear much more about it then.



A Word from Councillor Rachel Heywood
cont'd from p1

The Council recognises the pivotal role that Faith Groups play in community cohesion and I greatly admire the work that has already been achieved by faith communities in Lambeth to improve our local neighbourhoods and to tackle some of our most deep rooted issues. We face some especially difficult problems in this borough of ours, and it is just as well that we have some particularly extraordinary people working with such dedication and care to overcome them.

We have an exciting year ahead, with a number of key events and activities coming up over the next few months including the publication of three short guides to faith, Peace Month in September, the Safeguarding Children's Conference in October and the launch of an independent Multi Faith Forum where I hope that I will have the opportunity to meet many of you. I'd also like to visit as many faith organisations as possible to discuss how we

can work together to promote cohesion in the borough – please contact me on 07961 100198 or at rheywood@lambeth.gov.uk if you would be happy for me to come and see you.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleague and predecessor in this role, Councillor Lorna Campbell who is now Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services. I am lucky to be benefitting from all the hard work she has done in the last two years, and I'm delighted to say that she will be continuing to contribute to this vital area of work. Like Lorna, I look forward to the support and wisdom of members of the Active Communities Team with their clear commitment to their roles.

Together with my cabinet member, Councillor Donatus Anyanwu, I look forward to working in partnership with all of you, and with all the faith communities in Lambeth. By working together, by keeping faith, I believe we can do almost anything.



Lambeth's People First Expos - Update

Lambeth's People First Expos were innovative pilots which enabled local individuals and groups to come together in their own communities and focus on issues which directly affect them. Held in January and February 2008, they provided opportunities for community, local partners and councillor involvement, aiming to provide local information and outreach particularly to people who do not usually participate in local meetings.

Questions relating to local issues were raised by the attendees and answered by the panels at each Expo. These are now available to read online. Questions which were submitted prior to the event or questions which were unable to be answered by the panel on the day, are also online. For more information please click on the Lambeth website: www.lambeth.gov.uk/peoplefirstexpo.

The Council provides a variety of ways in which residents can raise issues and get involved in local decision making, e.g. by attending meetings, asking questions or presenting petitions. So if you have any questions about your local area you can find out more by visiting the Lambeth website www.lambeth.gov.uk/getInvolved or ring 020 7926 2170.

Safeguarding Children in Places of Worship

Lambeth Safeguarding Children's Board together with the Active Communities Team held another successful Safeguarding Children training session in June. We had a full house with excellent feedback and continue to encourage faith organisations to take advantage of this free training provided by the Council. If you have attended one of our training sessions in the past and have not yet completed the training evaluation form sent out in May please fill out the form at your earliest convenience and send back to Phoenix House (address at the back page).

Safeguarding Children's Conference will take place on Thursday 30 October, 5pm-8pm in the Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall Brixton.
PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW.

Safeguarding children is everybody's responsibility and Lambeth Council is committed to promoting the well-being of children. For more information about the conference or future training dates please call Dinah-Mary Allotey on 0207 926 2664, or 07951 921 220. Alternatively, you can email dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk.

Peace Month 2008

Last year Lambeth Council and partners celebrated a very successful Peace Month in September 2007. We will be running Peace Month again this year in September. The month will coincide with the London Week of Peace which runs from Sunday 14 to Sunday 21 September. Lambeth's theme for this year is Peace on the Streets – Communities Together, with a focus on young people.

We would like to invite organisations to contact us with information about activities planned for September that could fit into the Peace Month programme. Please contact Donna Wiggins on 0207 926 2681 or Dinah-Mary Allotey on 0207 926 2664 with your events or ideas by 21st July 2008.

Helping You Manage Your Money

Wouldn't it be nice to be free of money worries? No more worrying about the cost of new shoes for the children or wondering how you will pay that bill. Instead you can be in control of your money. Perhaps you could even have a small amount of savings to fall back on. Residents feeling the

effects of the credit crunch have a new friend to turn to for advice.

An expert from Lambeth Savings & Credit Union will be holding regular weekly surgeries offering practical support at the Brixton Customer Centre. Visitors will be offered information and advice on the various savings accounts and loans available at the Credit Union.

The Chair of the Credit Union said "We will discuss people's needs and borrowing requirements, and tell them what is affordable for them. If we can't offer a loan, we will refer them to other services, which can help, such as debt counselling or other advice centres.

This initiative is a partnership between the Lambeth Savings & Credit Union and Lambeth Council. For more information about Lambeth Savings & Credit Union please call 020 3256 0000, or email lscu@lscu.org.uk. Alternatively, you can visit the website at www.lscu.org.uk or call in at the office, 244B Brixton Hill, London, SW2 1HF. Opening hours:

**Monday – Wednesday, Friday: 10am to 4pm;
Thursday & Saturday: 10am to 1pm**

Lambeth goes Electric

Environment conscious electric car drivers will be able to recharge their vehicles at four locations in Lambeth under new plans from the council.



Electric car owners pay no congestion charge and they qualify for the cheapest residents' parking permit band of £30 in Lambeth. They do not have to pay any petrol costs and their vehicles have zero emissions.

The council has identified four sites in the borough for the free charging points and hopes to have the power points installed during the summer.

Lambeth Council is serious about combating climate change and improving London's air quality, and by taking this step we are helping people who are considering buying an electric car by installing the right infrastructure to make electric car ownership practical and viable.

Local Inter Faith Groups Share Ideas, Alan Gadd

Lambeth Multi Faith Action Group, Clapham and Stockwell Faith Forum and the emerging borough-wide Lambeth Faith Network will be among the local inter faith organisations who will receive invitations to send representatives to a meeting convened by South London Inter Faith Group in October this year. At the first such meeting hosted by the Caribbean Hindu Society in October last year, 18 out of 24 local organisations across South London were represented. Highlights of the activities of each organisation were presented and the exchange of ideas and contacts produced a buzz of interest and a general agreement that there should be another meeting this year.

This year's meeting has been fixed for **Sunday 19 October at 3pm and the Kagyu Samye Dzong London Tibetan Buddhist Centre** has kindly offered to be the host community this time. Centre address: Carlisle Lane, London SE1 7LG.

The Director of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, Dr Harriet Crabtree, will give a perspective on the evolving structure of inter faith activity as the Network sees it. This will help SLIFG feel its way towards enhanced collaboration across South London. The meeting will be open to all who have an interest. Please contact Alan Gadd at secretary@southlondoninterfaith.org.uk for further information.

Karibu Education Centre

The Karibu Education Centre is a social enterprise which funds charitable activities around education and development by hiring community space for the people of Lambeth. The centre has long acted as a hub for several of Lambeth's faith communities, bringing people together.



A few regular faith group users include Iqra Primary School, the Islamic school next door, the Rastafari community, some evangelical churches over the weekend and the wider Muslim community. Member of the Board of Trustees, Elaine Holness notes, "we are passionate about embracing diversity, we also want to expand a sense of unity in our community". Over 10,000 people use the centre each year.

Founded over 30 years by a vicar, Karibu was recently awarded Lambeth Business Award for Learning and Development. Its two spacious halls are available for hire at extremely reasonable rates. It is available for business meetings, birthday parties, weddings, funerals and other important life events and tasty Caribbean cuisine is provided on request.

The Karibu Education Centre is located at 7 Gresham Road, Brixton. If you are interested in finding out how you can help the centre or hiring the centre, please contact Elaine on 0207 733 9423.

Commissioned by Lambeth Council, The Prodigals film and accompanying training pack has been developed as an educational resource for schools, colleges and youth clubs. Its potential has been acknowledged by the government who have awarded the council with a grant to roll the project out London-wide.

Filed on location in Lambeth, the film explores the links between family conflict and youth homelessness and centres on three main characters, Ryan, Kelly and Leon. The film highlights the realities and struggles young people have to face after leaving home at a young age, especially before they are ready.

The DVD film and training resource have been sent to all secondary schools and colleges in Lambeth, and is being used by the Council as a more effective way of highlighting the need for early interventions, before the onset of crisis. The film explores a range of other issues including managing relationships, sexual health, teenage pregnancy and substance misuse.

Plans are underway to screen the film for faith organisations in Lambeth. Details will be made available nearer the time. In the meantime if you work with young people in an educational setting and would like a copy of the DVD please contact the project manager and producer Winston Brown on 0207 926 5135.

For general information about The Prodigals film visit the website at www.theprodigals.co.uk. The Family Support Service provides help to resolve parent or carer and teen conflict. For more details please visit www.lambeth.gov.uk/letstalk, email familysupport@lambeth.gov.uk or call 020 7926 5135.



A Creative Approach for Preventing Youth Homelessness

A gritty urban film highlighting the dangers of youth homelessness is being held up as a benchmark project for local authorities across London.



School Pastors is an initiative from the Christian-based Trust, Ascension Trust, to assist schools with pupils who are experiencing difficulties with their school life. Ascension Trust already runs a successful initiative on the streets nationally, called Street Pastors, which serves the local community streets between 10pm and 4am.

School Pastors will work to build and develop relationships between the pupil, the home and the school to encourage the pupil to positively relate to peers, teachers and the wider community. You do not need to already be involved in school to be involved as full training is provided. Training includes the following:

Being a School Pastor will involve:

- Individual mentoring
Through listening to the pupil and establishing a rapport, the School Pastor will explore the issues that are affecting the pupil's behavioural development by devising strategies and activities which will enhance their social and personal skills and enable confident mainstream participation.
- Bus/School Route Patrol
Pupils who have been the victims of crime such as mobile phone theft on buses. School Pastors will journey on the bus routes from the school to the town centre to provide safety to pupils to ensuring that they are not the victims or perpetrators of such crimes.
- Home visits
The home life of pupils is equally, if not more important than school life in the behavioural pattern of a pupil. School Pastors will meet specific pupils within their home to develop and maintain the relationship between the parents or guardian, the pupil and the school.

Person Specification for School Pastors:

- Candidates should be Church members with a concern for society, particularly young people
- Should be available between 2pm to 6pm, at least one afternoon a week.
- Are required to complete the training programme and be CRB checked.

There will be two days of training which will take place on Tuesday 1st July and Thursday 3rd July 2008. The cost for the training is £140.

For more information about School Pastors or to receive an application pack please contact Ascension Trust on 020 7771 9770 or you can email lambeth@streetpastors.org.uk.

**Street Pastors Training Courses
2008-9**

BLOCK ONE:
6th Sept. 2008
13th Sept. 2008
20th Sept. 2008
27th Sept. 2008

12 people
to give

BLOCK TWO:
1st Nov. 2008
8th Nov. 2008
15th Nov. 2008
22nd Nov. 2008

12 days and
12 nights over

BLOCK THREE:
10th Jan. 2009
17th Jan. 2009
24th Jan. 2009
31st Jan. 2009

a period of
12 months

cost £300.00

For more details please email Ascension Trust at info@streetpastors.org.uk or call on 0207 771 9770.

**A Muslim Perspective on Mental Health,
Adeela Shabazz.**

In Western psychiatric medicine there seems to be no place for addressing and dealing with spirituality as a part of mental health well-being. As a result, diagnoses are made mostly on somatic assumptions using diagnostic categories devised and developed by European psychiatrists during the last century.

Presently, psychiatry is heavily influenced and informed by those studies which were in some cases biased. There are others however, who treat mental health differently, taking a more holistic view by looking at the causes and trying to reduce or remove those factors which may cause mental ill health and offer effective care.

To some, Muslims may seem among other things esoteric, enigmatic, and unconventional. Despite the assumptions, physiologically, mentally and spiritually, Muslims are no different from any other humans and are therefore exposed to and suffer from any shocks that affect the human psyche.

There is much advice from the holy Quran and the traditions of the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) on how we may avoid falling into the abyss of depression, which can in some cases lead to altered state of consciousness. Words such as hope, trust, patience, peace, steadfastness and perseverance are impressed on believers along

with societal responsibility both personally and communally which serve to keep communities well balanced.

There are also some personal responsibilities for the individual to undertake some of which are: do not consume any thing that would cause harm to the body or alter the state of the mind; eat healthily but not excessively; live within your means; follow the *path* lest you end up like little red riding hood's grandmother; seek succour and sustenance from Allah (God the Creator); be thankful; be charitable even if it is only a kind word or a smile; do not be envious; abstain from what is prohibited.

In cases where extreme mental illness does occur, it is not seen as a curse from God, it may be a test for the person, family and community and could indeed be a case of spiritual awakening or enlightenment (Allah knows best). The latter though, has nothing to do with charlatans and magicians who mesmerise, trap and exploit the hapless punter.

Activities for Young People

The Holidays Activities Programme (HAP) brochure will be packed with ideas for things to do, places to go, special events and lots of information about what's happening in the parks, libraries and leisure centres over the summer holidays. The brochure will be available from Schools, Youth Clubs, Community Centres, Adventure Playgrounds, Libraries, Town Centre Offices, Sports Centres and Children's Centres.



[Lambeth Summer University](#) (LSU) is a new four week HAP programme that provides accredited and non-accredited educational short courses and activities for 11 -19 years olds from 28 July – 24 August. Enrolments for the courses and activities will take place in the first week of July. **For further**

information please call the Families' Information Service on 0845 601 5317.

Feedback From Faith Events

Teenagers Grill Boris Johnson, *Peter Brierley*

Early this year South London teenagers grilled Mayoral candidate Boris Johnson on their very own radio station – Southside Radio.

The then mayoral candidate keen to broaden his knowledge of the London's diversity and the gritty situations people experience across the capital – visited a number of projects run by community church Church.co.uk, including the successful radio station.

Southside Radio is produced exclusively by young people in the South London area and is keen to promote a positive image of young people against a backdrop of suspicion.



During his visit, the MP was interviewed by young people, giving them a rare chance to quiz a high profile politician on the issues that matter to them.

Speaking about the visit, Southside Radio project leader and local youth activist, Pete Brierley said, "Southside is about young people doing something positive, something that gives voice to their passion, their curiosity and their vision for our country. It was great to have Boris come down and take these young people so seriously."

Church.co.uk is testament to the fact that faith communities can make significant impact on their communities. Five years ago the church opposite Lambeth North tube was facing closure, but now its congregation and, more importantly, its community

is flourishing. As well as Southside the church also runs a local football team Hub athletic, kids clubs, a media suite, aerobics and a successful coffee shop.

Two hundred years ago the church was part of the anti slavery movement with significant influence politically, locally, nationally and internationally. Pete Brierley and senior minister Dave Steel hope that the church will once again fly the flag of justice, political engagement, social cohesion and will once again become a church of national and international significance. If you would like to hear the rest of the interview with Boris Johnson please visit www.southsideradio.co.uk.

Fathers for Life

Pastor Les Isaac of the Ascension Trust (Brixton) and founder of Street Pastors and Evangelist Andrew Dwyer of Light and Life Full Gospel Fellowship (Stockwell) along with Baroness Verma of Leicester and David Lammy MP were a few of the many guests who spoke in support of the Fathers for Life campaign held at the Houses of Parliament on Thursday 8th May 2008.

Pastor Les Isaac and Evangelist Andrew Dwyer whose ministries are both based in Lambeth were part of the Mighty Men of Valour (MMV) campaign to confront the negative stereotypes of black fathers as failing to take up their responsibilities for their children and challenged fathers to fully embrace their responsibilities and be 'Fathers for Life'.



Rev Les Isaac of Ascension Trust and Evangelist Andrew Dwyer Gospel

"We, at the Light and Life Full Gospel fellowship recognise that between 70% to 90% of our churches are filled with women and these ladies bring their children.

We, as the church need to find the good in these young people. It is easy for us to point a finger when communication breaks down, and say there

goes another black male. But we need to look closer and support these young people". Evangelist Andrew Dwyer speaking at the Fathers for Life event.

If you would like more information about the Fathers for the Life campaign please contact founder of Mighty Men of Valour (MMV), Frederick Clarke on 0800 073 1325 or 07958 770 779. You can also visit the website www.mightymen.co.uk.

Inter Faith Understanding through Art with Jyoti Sahi

Clapham & Stockwell Faith Forum welcomed people of all faiths and none to explore the place of art, story and silence in creating inter faith understanding and self-discovery with Jyoti Sahi.

Jyoti is an artist of Christian/Hindu origin who travels throughout the world sharing his inspired insights into the place of art, nature, mysticism and meditation in different faith traditions. Participants shared stories and created art over two days of workshops at St Peter's Centre for Meditation and Peace in Vauxhall.



Artist Jyoti Sahi with Jheni Arboine during a break at the workshop

Lambeth FC Heading for League Glory

Lambeth FC, the multi-faith youth football club supported by Clapham & Stockwell Faith Forum, ended the season in excellent form on 24th May. The Club now has 45 members aged 13-15, all of whom live in Clapham and Stockwell. Lambeth's Youth Opportunities Fund and the government's Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund provided coaching, kit and equipment.



Lambeth FC makes a presentation at London conference "A Sense of Respect: Inter Faith Activities for Groups of Young People"

The Club is open to young people from all communities and after some impressive wins in friendly matches, they want to join an 11 a side league next season.



Lambeth First's Community Chest has provided healthy snacks and refreshments at matches. If you are interested in joining the Club next season, contact Rebecca on 07958 353 652 or info@csff.co.uk

Young People Combat Faith Related Bullying

BeatBullying and Lambeth Academy students have been finding ways to combat faith-related bullying. Clapham & Stockwell Faith Forum has been working in partnership with BeatBullying and was delighted to attend a presentation by Lambeth Academy students on 19th May. BeatBullying is rolling out this programme throughout London. If you would like to know about this scheme please contact CSFF or BeatBullying for more details email – info@csff.co.uk or www.beatbullying.org

Generation in Love – Army of Peace

The *Generation in Love* is a Christian project organised by Assembly of God. *Generation in Love* is about working in collaboration with the community to tackle the problems in our society.

Partnership working is the key focus for how we tackle issues like violence, drugs, crime, alcohol, and other issues plaguing young people. As Christians, the project brings a message of peace, love, friendship and hope through Jesus Christ – *Together we are Stronger*.

The project usually does outreach work on Saturdays from 12.00 to 14.30, at Brixton, Stockwell or Vauxhall Park. Activities include the worship group singing in English and Portuguese, theatre and 'Dance for Christ' groups. The theatre and role plays are always very popular attractions.



In 2008, the project has taken on a new look, it is called *Generation in Love – The Army of Peace* with a particular focus on education. The idea is to start visiting schools in the borough and organise youth workshops to discuss how we can live in harmony.



This is based on John 15.12, where Jesus said: "My commandment is this, Love each other, love your neighbour as I have loved you".



For more information please contact Elaine Nunes at Assembly of God on 07736 072 978.

Notice Board

New Faith Network in Lambeth & Welcome to Sue Vahid!



Sue Vahid has been appointed to carry out initial outreach and consultation work with faith communities and some of the statutory authorities in Lambeth. She will be working over the next two months and will present her findings and recommendations to Lambeth faith groups and the public sector in September.

For more details please contact the Task Group Convener, Aileen Garden, at aileeng@tiscali.co.uk.

Bishop John Anthony Francis Celebrates 25 Years in Ministry.

Bishop John Francis is the founder and Senior Pastor of Ruach Ministries in Brixton, a 5,000-strong church located in the heart of South London. In 2006 Bishop Francis made history as the first black-majority church leader in the UK to

host then Prime Minister, Tony Blair at the 'Power of One' Conference. The event was a groundbreaking initiative designed to encourage black voters to register on the Electoral Roll.

Congratulations Bishop John Francis on your 25th year in Ministry!

Inter Faith Walk

Please note that the SLIFG's twelfth annual Inter Faith Walk is to take place this year on **July 12th** in nearby Balham and Tooting, in collaboration with BATCA (Balham and Tooting Community Association). We shall be visiting Christian, Sikh, Hindu and Muslim places of worship. Anybody is welcome to join us so put the date in your diary. For more detailed information please contact Alan Gadd on 020 8678 8977.

Faith in Lambeth Newsletter Evaluation

We are always seeking to improve our ways of communicating and we would welcome your ideas or suggestions on how we can improve the Faith in Lambeth newsletter. If you have not yet received a newsletter feedback form please contact Dinah-Mary Allotey at the details below. Alternatively you can download a form at the Faith in Lambeth website. We look forward to receiving your feedback on how the faith newsletter can be improved for you.

Tel: 020 7926 2664 or 07951 921 220

Email: dmallotey@lambeth.gov.uk

Website: www.lambeth.gov.uk/faithinlambeth

(You can download a form from the website).

Faith Communities and Private Fostering

A private fostering arrangement is an arrangement which is made between a parent with parental responsibility and a carer without the involvement of the Local Authority, to care for a child aged 16 (or under 18 if the child is disabled), for a period of longer than **28** days by an adult other than a close relative. The following are examples of what a Private Fostering arrangement can be;

A cousin, great aunt or uncle, a god parent, a family friend or someone who is unknown to the child but willing to look after them.

How to make a referral?

If you are a professional or a member of the community and you are aware that a child is being

privately fostered in the Borough of Lambeth, you need to notify the private Fostering Service within the children & young people's service of Lambeth council so that we can register the arrangement and offer the necessary support.

Please contact Team Admin on 0207 926 7081. Alternatively you can call Sharon Lockhart 0207 926 7083 or Angela Kanu 0207 926 4755.

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.

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. We already operate 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. We have received funding to allow us 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.

Muslim Community Forum

On 4th June 2008, the Muslim Community Forum was launched. This establishment of the Forum was the result of months of hard work involving meetings, action planning, negotiations and consultation within Muslim communities in Lambeth.

Over the past eighteen months Lambeth Active Communities Team has worked with members of the Muslim community who voluntarily their time to bring this process to fruition. The launch was marked by elections to various positions and

nominations for membership of the Forum. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 23 July, time and venue details to be confirmed later.

If you would like to know more about the Muslim Community Forum please contact Donna Wiggins on 0207 926 2681 or the elected chair of the Muslim Forum, Mr Toaha Qureshi on 0207 738 7436.

Key Communities, Key Resources: Engaging the capacity and capabilities of Faith Communities in Civil Resilience, June 2008

In times of crisis, faith communities have a role to play in terms of victim support. Fatalities raise specific issues for faith communities. Strong leadership from faith communities has a key role to play when incidents trigger concerns about social cohesion.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) recently released a paper about the role of faith communities in building civil resilience (17th June). This paper acknowledges the importance of the leadership provided by faith communities in times of difficulty, with a particular focus on the role of faith organisations in emergency planning and the prevention of unrest and disorder in the aftermath of a major incident.

To read the full document or download a free copy please visit www.communities.gov.uk.

Dates for your Diary

Multi Faith Women's Art Groups

A Journey through the Democracy of Art with Artist, Photographer and Poet Jheni Arboine

A series of summer workshops for women of all faiths and none to explore how art can create understanding between different religious and cultural traditions. The series will culminate in a HITEA day out for all the women who have participated in the workshop, as well as an exhibition.

The workshops will take place at the Lambeth Women's Project, 142 Stockwell Road London

SW9 9TQ. A crèche and delicious halal, kosher and vegetarian meals will be provided.

Tuesday 8 July 12pm – 3pm:

Creating a mixed-media collage – a fusion of art and poetry

Tuesday 22 July 12pm – 5pm:

HITEA outing to the Tate Britain, starting with lunch at St Peter's Centre for Meditation and Peace, 308 Kennington Lane. Creche facilities will be provided at the Centre.

**Multifaith Cricket Tournament
Sunday 13 July 12pm – 6pm**

(cricket pitch between bandstand & Cedars Road, Clapham Common)

This will be the culmination of a series of cricket coaching sessions for young people at venues throughout Lambeth. Activities include league-style tournament for six-a-side youth teams (all abilities welcome), adults interfaith matches, prizes for participants and delicious summer tea including halal and kosher food.

Register your youth or adult team (multi-faith teams particularly welcome) now and find out about coaching from Rebecca on 07958 353 652 or info@csff.co.uk.

Faith in Youth

Summer Event Sunday 20 July, 2.30pm

South London Liberal Synagogue, Prentis Road, Streatham SW16.

A look at the opportunities and problems facing the young and the role of the faith communities in helping or not.

Speakers from different faith backgrounds will address the subject, followed by questions, and ending with refreshments. Please bring some younger friends! For more information please email lambethfaith@yahoo.co.uk.

**Visit to Neasden Temple
Saturday 26 July**

CSFF Management Committee member Smarajit Roy has offered to arrange this trip and guided tour of this important heritage sight in North West London.

A minibus will leave the car park of Clapham Methodist Church, 121 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UH at 1pm.

Neasden Temple is a special meeting point for Hindus living in and around London and a place of pilgrimage for many more. It is the world's largest temple outside of India and was constructed by Indian artisans and then shipped piece by piece to London where it has a majestic presence amidst the small estate of houses that surround it. A sight to be seen and a taste of India without leaving the ground! Please contact Rebecca at the Forum Office (email info@csff.co.uk or call 07958 353 652) if you would like to book a space. **Maximum number is 15 for the minibus so book early to avoid disappointment!**

**Holy Days and Festivals
(July 2008 – October 2008)**

July 2008

Wednesday	9	Martyrdom of The Bab Baha'i
Friday	18	Dharma Day Buddhism
Wednesday	23	Birthday of Emperor Haile Selassie I Rastafari

August 2008

Friday	1	Shobe-e-Berat Islam
Friday	15	The Blessed Virgin Mary Christianity
Saturday	16	Raksha Bandhan Hinduism
Sunday	24	Janmashtami Hinduism

September

Tuesday	2	Ramadan Islam
Thursday	11	Ethiopian New Year's Rastafari
Sunday	21	International Day of Peace Inter Faith
Tuesday	30	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) Judaism

October

Wednesday	1	Eid-al-Fitr Islam
Monday	6	Durga Pooja/Navaratri/Dassehra Hinduism
Thursday	9	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) Judaism
Tuesday	14	Sukkot (The Feast of the Tabernacle) Judaism
Monday	20	Birthday of The Bab Baha'i Installation of Adi Granth

Tuesday	21	Sahib Sikhism Simchat Torah (Rejoicing in the Law) Judaism
Tuesday	28	Bandi Chhor Divas Sikhism Diwali and New Year Hinduism, Sikhism
Thursday	30	Ascension of Guru Granth Sahib Sikhism

- increase people's access to quality local spaces for interaction, play and recreation
- increase the number of people actively involved in developing and running a practical environmental project that is visible in their community;
- improve partnership work between communities, support organisations and local authorities.

Funding and Freebies

Big Lottery Reaching Communities Programme Minimum £10,000 - Maximum £500,000. This a wide ranging programme with the general aim of improving local communities, particularly in deprived areas. General outcome is around improving urban environments, that includes improving and increasing access to local play space.

- people having better chances in life, including being able to get better access to training and development to improve their life skills
- strong communities, with more active citizens, working together to tackle their problems
- improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy
- healthier and more active people and communities.

Grants are available for both capital and revenue projects, and projects can run for up to 5 years. Submission can be made at any time. **There are no current deadlines till around the end of 2008.** For further details please check the website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk or call the advice line on 0845 10 20 30.

Applications can be made on a local or national basis if you are:

- a registered charity
- a voluntary or community group
- a statutory body, (including schools)
- a charitable or not-for-profit company
- a social enterprise – a business that is chiefly run for social objectives, whose profits are reinvested in the business rather than going to shareholders and owners.

Groundwork Community Spaces – This £50 million lottery-funded Community Spaces programme was launched April 2008. The programme aims to:

- create better local environments

Not-for-profit community groups based in England, including church-based and faith groups, residents and tenants associations and registered charities, can apply for the following types of grants: Small grants £10,000 to £25,000; Medium grants £25,001 to £49,999; Large grants £50,000 to £100,000 and Flagship grants from £100,001 to £450,000.

Projects must be within two miles of a residential area and open to the public. The types of project which are likely to be supported include:

- community gardens and parks;
- informal sports areas and multi-use games areas;
- nature reserves;
- squares and village greens;
- churchyards;
- ponds and projects which improve the local community's access to green space.

Applications for Small and Medium Grants can be made at any time. There will be a single application round for Large and Flagship grants which is expected to open in the summer. Please visit the website for further information about the large grants <http://www.community-spaces.org.uk>.

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 the grant making 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. Awards for All funds projects that fall under broad headings. These are: environment, education, health, heritage, sports, arts and community.

The aims of Awards for All are to:

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

Applications are welcome from all sectors of the community and all over the UK.

Deadline: You can apply to Awards for All at any time. Once they receive a completed application they aim to notify you of their decision within eight to twelve weeks. As well as the application form, which is very short, applicants must send them their constitution, latest set of annual accounts and original bank statements.

To obtain an application pack, call 0845 600 20 40, or for more information about Awards for All visit our website www.awardsforall.org.uk.

Big Lottery Family Learning Fund: Minimum £10,000, Maximum £500,000. The programme helps parents to understand more about how their children learn and encourages adults and children to learn as a family.

By "family" we mean at least one parent or adult carer and at least one child under the age of 16. Big lottery will only fund projects that involve adults and children learning together and deliver all three of the following changes:

- **family members participate in and enjoy educational activity more**
- **family members have more skills and knowledge (these may include confidence and effective communication);**
- **parents and carers are better able to interact positively with their children and support them in learning.**

The fund wants to support families who face barriers to learning or who are not confident helping their children to learn. They are particularly interested in hearing from projects where learning is not based on getting a qualification and those that will help families who have not been involved in learning together before.

They are looking for imaginative projects that meet local needs and remove the practical barriers to learning, for example, by providing travel costs,

additional support for disabled participants, or childcare.

You can apply for grants of over £10,000 and up to £500,000, though we would expect the average grant to be between £100,000 - £150,000. Projects will be funded for up to five years. Applications to the Family Learning fund can be made on a local or national basis if you are:

- **a registered charity**
- **a voluntary or community group**
- **a charitable or not-for-profit company**
- **a social enterprise**
- **a private sector organisation.**

Deadline: 29 August 2008. If you have any questions about this programme, or you want an application pack and guidance, please call the Big Lottery Fund Advice Line on 08454 10 20 30.

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 or email sue.halstead@gol.gsi.gov.uk, or visit the website at www.go-london.gov.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.

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Vcashpoint: Maximum £2,500 funding for 16-25 year olds to set up volunteering projects. Vcashpoint is giving away £1 million to 16-25 year olds in England who want to set up their own volunteering project in their community.

If you've got a great idea, Vcashpoint's got the money. Read the Vcash notes and apply online (or on paper) for up to £2500 to help you turn your ideas into reality. It's easy!

How can I spend the cash? Vcashpoint funds new projects that are led by young people and really make a difference to the community. Your project should create at least three new opportunities for young people to volunteer – so there's every opportunity to get your mates on board.

Vcashpoint will fund new projects or ideas which aim to expand or develop projects which have been carried out once in the past, involving new young volunteers. All projects must create at least three NEW volunteering opportunities for 16-25 year olds, be youth-led, take place in England and benefit a chosen community. Vcashpoint must be the only source of funding for the project.

www.vinspired.com/vbuzz/campaigns/175/

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, ẹjẹ, ẹ kàn wà l'ágogo

0207 926 5555

CONTACT US

Dinah-Mary Allotey

London Borough of Lambeth
Active Communities
3rd Floor, Phoenix House
10 Wandsworth Road
London SW8 2LL
Tel: 020 7926 2664

Webpage: www.lambeth.gov.uk/faithinlambeth

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

For more information see www.bitethebullet.info

ASCENSION Baptist Union of Great Britain www.baptist.org.uk

BITE THE BULLET

GRAPPLING WITH VIOLENT CRIME

DATE: 12 JULY 08 VENUE: BRIXTON BAPTIST CHURCH TIME: 1030 - 2100 ADMISSION: FREE (including a Caribbean meal)

FEATURING:
AT 1130 - KWAME KWEI-ARMAH (STAR OF BBC CASUALTY)
EVENING CONCERT: HIDDEN MAN, ABC, JAKE ISAAC, TRANSFORMERS, WATCHMAN

The Conference is being organised by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in partnership with Ascension Trust on Saturday 12 July. The morning and afternoon activities will consist of stories from the Metropolitan Police, Street Pastors, former gangsters, churches and agencies addressing the issues on the ground. For more information on how to register please contact Christine Bongo at Ascension Trust on 0207 771 9770 or call the Baptist Union on 01235 517 700. Alternatively, you can book a place directly by emailing bitethebullet@baptist.org.uk.

Venue: Brixton Baptist Church, Solon Road, Brixton SW9 5UY (nearest Tube station is Brixton).