

# SpiritLevel

12th September 2008 – Issue 13

## CRC Events\_

**Church Friendly Funding, Wednesday October 15th** 9.30-4.00, £7-50, Skipton, sponsored by CRC, WYEC, Diocese of Bradford and St Andrew's Church Skipton - following on from the over-subscribed funding advice day CRC ran in York in April . To see the programme of speakers and workshops and the booking form see the CRC website [here](#) and to book contact Uell Kennedy at the Diocese of Bradford - [Uell@kadugli.org.uk](mailto:Uell@kadugli.org.uk) 01535 650531

## CRC News\_

'**Believing in Local Action**', a report commissioned by the Department for Communities and Local Government, shows through seven case studies what can be achieved through faith organisations and local infrastructure organisations - LIO's - (such as councils for voluntary service) working together. It also gives seven actions to help develop more successful partnership working. Published by Church Urban Fund with LIO umbrella body NAVCA – see news item at <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/believing.htm> or download full report or summary from <http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/believing/>. It features CRC partner SEARCH, and their work with churches and others in Hull and East Riding.

The **CRC annual review 2008** is now available . See it on the CRC website [here](#) or ask CRC to post you a copy.

## Partners' Events\_

**Looking beyond the veil:** The North Kirklees Inter Faith Council report, *Looking Beyond the Veil – A Research Project into people's perceptions of the Muslim Veil in Kirklees*, can be downloaded (4.5MB pdf) [here](#).

**How to avoid losing faith in your community project:** Liveability Community Mission Training Day 'We don't do God' on Thursday 2nd October, at St Matthias Church, Burley, Leeds LS4 2DZ , facilitated by the Community Mission Team who work with churches and Christian projects wrestling with these issues . Why do some Christian organisations lose their edge? Does receiving secular funding dilute spiritual purposes? Are there churches who have kept the flame burning? £10, includes lunch. booking essential. Contact David Arscott, Community Mission Advisor - North, Livability Community Mission Team 0113 350 8070; 07786 397275 ; [darscott@livability.org.uk](mailto:darscott@livability.org.uk)

**Transformation:** York, 11th October; A Christian Aid event at York St John University; to equip you and your church for action on climate change and global poverty; speakers, workshops; full programme for all ages. [www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved)

**Guns and Gangs:** Churches Together in England has just launched an important report entitled 'Who is My Neighbour?' - a church response to social disorder linked to gangs, drugs, guns and knives. Further details of the report may be found on the Churches Together in England website at [www.churches-together.org.uk](http://www.churches-together.org.uk) where the full report may be downloaded as a pdf file. Hard copies of the report are available to purchase from the website at £5.00 per copy plus £1.50 postage and packing or by telephoning 020 7529 8132. There is going to be a Churches Together in England event at Oxford Place Methodist Church, **Leeds**, at 7pm on **Tuesday 18th November** , and in **Bradford** at Little Lane Church, Bradford 9 on **Wednesday 19th October** at 7pm, both with Joe Aldred of CTE . More details: Clive Barrett [office@wyec.co.uk](mailto:office@wyec.co.uk)

## Other news and links\_

**Face to Face:** The Government have now launched a long-awaited framework for working alongside the many faith based organisations already making a real difference to their communities. The Framework for Partnership outlines new support and £7.5m worth of investment to encourage and enable greater local activity bringing people from different religions and beliefs together. It also reaffirms government support for the valuable work faith groups contribute to delivering services, responding to some of the toughest challenges that society faces. The Department will invest over £7.5 million over three years to support communities directly. This will ensure that:

- There is an independent Regional Faith Forum in every English region.
- Community groups have access to funding under the Faiths in Action Fund.
- Provide supportive guidance to local authorities on the practical steps they can take such as supporting shared community spaces
- Work in partnership with the Inter Faith Network for the UK to organise an Inter faith Week - encouraging faith communities across the country at all levels to raise awareness and celebrate inter faith work.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/facetofaceframework>

The **Faith In Action funding** associated with this document is now open for applications. Grants of up to £12,000 can be spent over two years. The deadline for applications is 5pm on 1st November 2008. [Read the guidance on the Faith in Action fund.](#)

**Empowerment white paper:** The Government have issued an important document on local people having more of a say in governance - Communities in Control: real people, real power. The document says that the Government plans to give citizens and communities more rights and more power through: more information and greater influence over the local decisions that affect them; new means of holding politicians and councils to account; and, where they choose, more opportunity to get directly involved in managing and shaping how local services are delivered. This means: new rights for the public to demand action from their council, increasing accountability, getting redress when things go wrong, giving local people a direct say on how budgets are spent, £70m Communitybuilders fund, local people running local assets, making it easier for people to get a directly elected mayor, promoting democracy, empowering young people. It also says it will remove barriers so that faith groups can be commissioned to provide public services. You can view a full copy of the White Paper at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/communitiesincontrol> The Yorkshire and Humber Regional Forum have issued a useful paper summarising the empowerment white paper. To see the summary [click here](#).

**What is a Good Asylum system? : Leeds Asylum Seeker's Support Network** are running a national workshop in Leeds on 18th October 2008, 10.00 – 5.00. This one-day workshop will explore the asylum system in the UK from political, practical and academic view-points to see how the existing UK system could become fair and just. See [www.leedsmet.ac.uk/goodasylum](http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/goodasylum) for details

**Grassroots grants:** Organisations to distribute the government's £130 million Grassroots Grants programme across England have now been selected. There are two streams, small grants (up to £5,000) to small third sector organisations (income under £20,000 per annum) and money to help the chosen local funders build endowment funds to provide a continuous source of small grant funding. read more [here](#). To see a list of the local funders you can apply to, go to [Community Development Foundation](#)

**BBC Children in Need** want to help local groups to access their funding; they are holding September workshops in Leeds (Sept. 23rd), Sheffield (24th), York(25th), and Hull (26th), 10a,-1pm. To book a place or for further info contact [David.carnaffan@bbc.co.uk](mailto:David.carnaffan@bbc.co.uk), 0191 244 1401.

**What are Local Area Agreements?** is an information leaflet written by Robert Beard (until recently policy officer for CRC). It explains how local area agreements (LAAs) work and why and how third sector organisations should engage with them. It is now in an updated second edition which includes information on multi-area agreements (MAAs) and on how LAAs work in two-tier authorities. You can order up to 500 copies to give to your members for free! There is also a companion leaflet, "[Local area agreement - what's it got to do with me?](#)" which is aimed at citizens who are engaged in community action. It provides a simple introduction to LAAs, making the links between community activity and how people can influence decision making in their local area with support from LIOs. You can go to the NAVCA website to read them [here](#).

**Churches will now need to register as separate charities** if they have above a certain turnover. The Charity Commission is preparing for the next commencement order of the Charities Act 2006 (the fifth) with a timetable for registering the four to five thousand "excepted charities", which previously didn't have to register with them. Most are connected with churches, chapels or the armed forces. They will start to register excepted charities with an annual income of more than £100,000 from 1st October 2008, and most are

expected to be able to use an online service. The timetable and different kinds of churches they are looking at can be found on their website - See <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/registration/regreq.asp>.

**City of Sanctuary Bradford** will be launched at St Mary's Church Hall (Barkerend Road) 6pm-8pm, Wed. 1st October. City of Sanctuary began in Sheffield in 2007, to create a culture of welcome for migrants and those seeking sanctuary. For details contact Will Sutcliffe - 01274 635854.

## Contact us\_

Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and the Humber

20 New Market Street

LEEDS

LS1 6DG

telephone: 0113 244 3413

fax: 0113 243 2038

email: [info@crc-online.org.uk](mailto:info@crc-online.org.uk)

website: [www.crc-online.org.uk](http://www.crc-online.org.uk)