

AUGUST 2017 NEWSLETTER



2017

Celebrating 10 years

FAITH IN OLDER PEOPLE is a small voluntary organisation which aims to enhance the quality of life and well-being of older people by working with those providing practical, pastoral or spiritual care.

WE DO THIS THROUGH TRAINING, EVENTS, RESEARCH, PROJECTS AND CONSULTATION.

In addition to these events, we also offer the possibility of tailor-made courses. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS, PLEASE CONTACT ME (Maureen O'Neill) at director@fiop.org.uk or telephone 0131 346 7981.

All our events can be booked via our website www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A WORKSHOP FOR CLERGY AND PEOPLE IN AUTHORISED MINISTRIES - **‘WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT DYING’**

Date: Thursday 21 September 2017

Venue: The Grosvenor Hilton Hotel, Edinburgh

Registration 9.30am; Finish 4.00pm

Cost: £40.00

This day workshop will offer support and tools to enhance confidence in having pastoral conversations about death and dying. Using a model from the field of bereavement to explore emotional, psychological and spiritual responses and building on the experiences of the participants, the day will resource those who attend to go deeper in their pastoral encounters with people who are actively addressing their own mortality.

IDENTITY AND BELONGING

A collaborative one-day conference

Tuesday 17th October 2017

Registration 10.00am -Finish 4.00pm

Venue – Linlithgow Burgh Halls

£40.00

This conference will be held in collaboration with

- Interfaith Scotland
 - Marie Curie
 - Stonewall
 - Edinburgh University School of Health and Social Science
 - Edinburgh University Chaplaincy



The day will be facilitated by Rev Canon Dr Marion Chatterley. Marion has extensive experience of working with younger people who are facing their own mortality and has a particular interest in bereavement theory.

The programme assumes a degree of personal sharing and therefore participation is restricted to clergy and others in authorised ministries within the churches.

**PLACES ARE LIMITED; PLEASE APPLY BY EMAIL TO
INFO@FIOP.ORG.UK or tel 0131 346 7981
PLEASE PROVIDE NAME, ADDRESS, CHURCH, PHONE
AND EMAIL CONTACT DETAILS.
A FULL PROGRAMME WILL BE CIRCULATED ON
APPLICATION.**



Where does our sense of identity and belonging come from? How does religion, culture, sexual orientation, class and family influence our sense of being human and our attitudes to our society? Our conference aims to debate these issues and to consider what practical action different communities could take to engender a stronger sense of ourselves as members of difference communities and as citizens.

To book, click [HERE](#)

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY MALCOLM GOLDSMITH LECTURE 2017

8th November 2017 at 10.00am

**Methodist Halls, 25 Nicolson Square,
Edinburgh EH8 9BX**
£10.00 including refreshments

We are delighted that **Angela Constance MSP Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities** has agreed to give this year's lecture. The focus of her lecture will be

on '*The role of the faith communities in supporting the well-being of older people and those with dementia*'.

Angela has been an MSP for Livingston since 2007 and has held several senior posts in the Scottish Government.

Further information will be provided but if you would like to indicate your interest please contact info@fiop.org.uk

Click [HERE](#) to book your place.



FAITH IN OLDER PEOPLE ACTIVITIES

Dementia and Faith Communities – Grow with Us

FiOP has been working over the past 18 months to develop guidance for faith communities on supporting people with dementia in their congregations. The work builds on a significant body of evidence from a range of organisations and highlights many helpful resources and has been led by Professor Mary Marshall and Jenny Henderson. We want to make this work a dynamic and living resource to which people can contribute over time and to this end we would like to develop an 'Affiliate' programme which congregations can join. We hope in due course to offer on-line support.

To date we have made presentations, held workshops and addressed several different faith communities. The feed-back has been good and we would like to offer the following either separately or as individual groups request:

- A short introductory talk on the guide
- A capacity building session which would build on the questions raised in the guide and pertinent to a congregation
- This structured session could be for one congregation or a group of congregations or on a multi-faith basis. This would be the decision of the group.

As a small voluntary organisation, it will be necessary to charge a fee so that we can continue to develop the programme.

For further information or to arrange a talk or structured session please contact: Maureen O'Neill, Director, Faith in Older People at director@fiop.org.uk

Spiritual Care in Care Homes



This project is supported by the Life Changes Trust and is progressing well. The survey of all care homes in Scotland to ascertain the understanding of spiritual care and what education is undertaken has been completed and the outcomes will be disseminated in the autumn of this year. In parallel a series of workshops have been held for identified care homes to develop an approach to support the spiritual lives of people with dementia – the Purple Bicycle. Our project leads are Simon Jaquet and Harriet Mowat.

Enhancing Spiritual Care

Faith in Older People in collaboration with NHS Lothian Spiritual Care Unit held a conference to consider the importance and awareness of spiritual care issues in a healthcare setting, the different practices in health board areas and the availability of education. The focus of the conference was around the results of a study undertaken by Faith in Older People. The conference report on 'Enhancing Spiritual Care' and is available from the Faith in Older People website. The report makes several recommendations for action and will be widely disseminated.

Just Festival – A Conversation

Faith in Older People was pleased to hold a conversation attended by 40 people as part of the JUST Festival in August. Chaired by the Rt Rev Bruce Cameron, the topic was 'Faith and Ageing' and our panellists were Rabbi David Rose, Asif Sheikh and Rev John Bell each representing a perspective of ageing from their faith.



There was a strong focus on the contribution made by older people to our society and the importance of respecting age and the wisdom and experience it can bring. We have to acknowledge that growing old does not necessarily make us benign or full of wisdom! There was a common theme of older people holding the stories of our communities and the ethics underpinning our society. It is important to get away from the negative connotations of ageing but to focus more strongly on the reciprocal support that can be offered through the ages.

Faith in Older People and Church of Scotland Guild

A Consultation on the role of the churches in combatting loneliness and isolation

This consultation was arranged to take forward a project supported by ACTS to look at the place of older people in the work of the churches and is intended to build on the work of Faith in Older People, the Church of Scotland Guild and others to consider how churches might develop their work with older people in terms of worship, prayer and action.

A current key issue for both Government, statutory and voluntary organisations is that of loneliness and isolation which is a matter of concern to churches.

The conference report is available on the Faith in Older People website.

A second conference to share current work, to consider ideas and to make connections with other community initiatives is being held on 4 October 2017 at 121 George Street, Edinburgh – PLEASE BOOK A PLACE BY CLICKING [HERE](#).

Helpful resources

Voluntary Health Scotland (VHS) brought together a briefing paper:

<https://www.vhscotland.org.uk/?s=VHS+Conference+briefing+on+loneliness>

<https://www.vhscotland.org.uk/?s=VHS+briefing+on+loneliness>

The Scottish Government is currently developing a strategy on the issue so it is important that faith communities make their activities known and highlight issues that need to be addressed. Please contact Maureen O'Neill – email Director@fiop.org.uk

SPIRITUAL CARE MATTERS is for all staff and volunteers working in care homes, health and social care. It is an on-line learning course designed to promote, recognise, respect and support the spiritual well-being of older people. The course is an introduction to spiritual care, how it is defined, what it means in practice and why it is important.



The course uses the SSSC Open Badge to recognise learning for ongoing staff development and the link is :<https://www.badges.sssc.uk.com/badges/spiritual-care-matters/>



Faith in Older People Website

Our new website will be launched on 7 September 2017 as part of our 10th anniversary celebrations. We are grateful to The Graphics Co-op for all their work.

OTHER INFORMATION

CREATING CONVERSATIONS are helping break the barriers to communication and meaningful activities with an easy to use highly effective activity kit which supports both caregiver and participants. By simply using the materials provided and following the conversation starter guides the kits encourage discussion and strengthen connections whilst allowing people living with dementia to reminisce and share their own personal stories about magical moments spent outdoors centred round an engaging, familiar theme.

Designed by professionals with extensive experience in care settings, the materials can be easily adapted for a range of physical and social needs whilst saving valuable time and money spent on planning and preparing activities. **For further information**, call Sharon Burkey on 01786 845701 or email: sharon@creating-conversations.org, or visit www.creating-conversations.org



Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief is working to make Scotland a place where there is more openness about death, dying and bereavement so that:

- People are aware of ways to live with death, dying and bereavement
- People feel better equipped to support each other through the difficult times that can come with death, dying and bereavement

Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief brings together individuals and organisations that share this vision. We are interested to hear from any person or organisation who wants to work with us to make Scotland a place where people can be open about death, dying and bereavement.

There is a small grant scheme to support organisations wishing to participate in this year's To Absent Friends festival.

Further information on the work and forthcoming events go to

<https://www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk/>

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HOST AN EXHIBITION OF GLGDGG PHOTOS which are very thought provoking, please contact Robert Peacock on 0131 272 2735 or email robert@palliativecarescotland.org

SCOTTISH CHURCHES DISABILITY GROUP: BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS

Saturday 30th September 2017 – Registration 10.30am: Dalziel St Andrew's Church, Motherwell

The annual conference of the Scottish Churches Disability Group will focus on positive ways of breaking through barriers which sometimes prevent people with disabilities from full participation in worship and community life in churches. The format of the event will be a series of conversations with people with personal experience of learning disabilities, hearing and sight loss and other disabilities.

Mr Jeremy Balfour, MSP, who leads the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Disability, will give an opening address. The conference will conclude with the AGM of the Scottish Churches Disability Group, to which all are invited.

For further information about the programme and a booking form, contact SCDG Secretary, Barbara Graham, at Barbara.graham74@btinternet.com or tel. 01563 522108. Further information on transport will be given to people who book places.



SILVER SUNDAY on Sunday 1st October is fast approaching Our [new website](#) is up and running and you can add your events [here](#).

Whatever you can do, or are thinking about, it will be most welcome. Belly dancing, cheer-leading, knitting & art classes, tea mornings, hot chocolate evenings – the more we put on, the more we can help older people suffering from loneliness and isolation.

We ask that you continue to do all that you can to keep the momentum going this Silver Sunday and encourage others to do the same. We appreciate that not everyone can organise an event so even if you find that you can't, maybe you know someone who can, so please share our message. We really look forward to hearing from you and seeing your ideas on the website.



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