

Catch up with news from Sheffield Faiths Forum!

Our new website is up and running!

www.sheffieldfaithsforum.org.uk – contains information about the activities, structure and history of the Faiths Forum as well as an events diary, resources and news, and links to local faith groups. If you would like a link to your website or have events you would like to publicise then please contact us using the form on the website. The site will be updated regularly so please keep visiting!

Sheffield Faiths Forum's Annual Review

All members of Sheffield's faith communities are invited to Sheffield Faiths Forum's annual network meeting taking place at the Town Hall, 6:30pm – 8:30pm on Tuesday 4 March. This will be a chance to catch up with the work of the Forum over the past 12 months and to have your say about our priorities for the coming year. We shall also be launching the report from our Faith Group Community Activity Audit. There will be speakers from local faith communities and from our key partner organisations. We would love to see YOU there. Please see the enclosed flyer for further details of the event and how to book your place.

If you would like to exhibit your faith group or project at the event then please contact Tim Wright on 0114 2536730.

Your opportunity to influence decisions in Sheffield

One of the core aims of the Faiths Forum is to try and strengthen the voice of faith communities within the strategic decision-making processes in Sheffield. Vacancies have now arisen on the Sheffield First Partnership Board – the lead board of the Local Strategic Partnership where key representatives of Sheffield City Council, South Yorkshire Police, local health services and other agencies meet to agree the strategic direction for the City. Board places are also reserved for members of Sheffield's Voluntary, Community and Faith sectors and three of these seats are now available. The Faiths Forum, OFFER (Sheffield's Community Empowerment Network) and Sheffield First are keen to encourage applications from members of Sheffield's faith communities. We shall be sending out a flyer about these vacancies in the near future, but if you would like more information about Sheffield First or the recruitment process then please contact Dave Jackson at OFFER (0114 2536730) or a member of the Faiths Forum. The process is also described on the OFFER website at www.offer.org.uk

Round up of the past 3 months

Events: - we have held two successful events 'How do we Live Together?' on 28 November and 'Sanctuary, Hospitality and Refuge' on 10 December, which explored, respectively, how faith communities can contribute to community cohesion and support asylum seekers and refugees. Each event attracted 50 delegates from a range of faith groups across the City and provided excellent opportunities for inter-faith dialogue. Detailed reports on these events can be found in the 'Resources' section of www.sheffieldfaithsforum.org.uk .

Faith Leaders and Workers Training: - we are now mid-way through the pilot training programme and the Sheffield course has been very successful in terms of developing relationships between local faith groups and in providing examples of good practice for the course assessors. Due to the success of the course, Government ministers are planning to visit the pilot at the Pakistan Muslim Centre on 19 March. To find out more please contact Dave Sutton-Jones 0114 2536730.

Audit of Faith Group Community Activity: - Thank you to everyone who has responded to the Audit. We have now had around 80 returns from across the full range faith groups in the City. Our consultant, Ann Hindley, is now drafting the final report which will be launched at the Sheffield Faiths Forum Annual Review on 4 March. The findings, which we will be sharing with our partners and stakeholders, will help to identify and demonstrate the contribution that faith groups make to their local communities and to the city.

It is not too late to take part in the audit. If you have not already received a survey form it can be downloaded from the Latest News section of www.sheffieldfaithsforum.org.uk. We will retain this facility on our website in order to allow faith groups to continue to contribute feed back to the Faiths Forum.

Neighbourhood work: - During November the Faiths Forum supported a ground-breaking meeting between Christians, Muslims and local agencies in Darnall to begin to explore how they can work together in the community. They are now looking into projects around developing a local blood donor service and supporting the local primary school. We are also working in Burngreave to provide opportunities for faith communities to meet together.

Other projects: - Work is now well underway on a video and photography project capturing the 'Sights and Sounds' of Sheffield's faith communities. This material will be available in March 2008.

Other events coming up in the City

- Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations – Monday 28 January, 17:30 at the Winter Gardens
- 'Faith Matters' faith awareness Training – Tuesday 29 January, Victoria Methodist Church – all places now taken

Contact us:

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Our funders:

