

Catch up with news from Sheffield Faiths Forum!

Events coming soon

HOW DO WE LIVE TOGETHER?

Wednesday 28 November, 7pm – 9pm, Sheffield Hallam University

(in partnership with the Education & Dialogue Charity)

An inter-faith, inter-cultural event emphasising the need for dialogue in promoting cohesion and universal human values such as respect, peace and tolerance.

Bookings now being taken – see the enclosed flyer for more details.

SANCTUARY, HOSPITALITY AND REFUGE EVENT

Monday 10 December, 6pm – 8:30pm, venue to be confirmed

(in partnership with City of Sanctuary)

Hear the story of people seeking sanctuary in our city; explore what sanctuary, hospitality and refuge mean to people of different faiths; share your own experience of sanctuary and welcome; learn how, as faith communities, we can make our city a more welcoming place for refugees and asylum seekers.

Booking details will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

Current projects

Training and Learning Opportunity for Faith Leaders and Workers

Sheffield is to be one of five cities nationwide to pilot a NIACE Training Programme for Faith Leaders and Workers.

This accredited personal development course is designed for all those involved in faith-based work involving the wider community, and is an exciting opportunity to meet and work with members of Sheffield's diverse faith communities.

The course will run from the end of November, meeting once a week, for 20 weeks. Topics include Human Rights legislation, Leadership, Faith & Diversity, Values and Governance in the Voluntary Sector, Child Protection Policies, and Organising Finance.

To find out more or to get involved in shaping this new initiative, contact:

Irshad Akbar, Irshad.sec@scedu.org.uk, or Dave Sutton-Jones, davesj@offer.org.uk, 0114 2536730.

Audit of Faith Community Activity

Sheffield Faiths Forum is working alongside community consultant Ann Hindley to undertake a survey of all the faith groups in Sheffield to help identify and demonstrate the contribution that faith groups make to their local communities and to the city. This piece of work, endorsed by faith leaders in Sheffield, will be shared with our partners in the statutory and voluntary and community sectors to help us strengthen the voice of faith communities in decision-making within the city. We would like to see the concerns and passions of Sheffield's faith communities taken seriously among decision-makers in the city so your response to our survey (which we shall issue in early November) will be vital.

Neighbourhood work

Dave Sutton-Jones has been working closely with faith groups in Darnall and Burngreave, meeting with representatives of Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh faith communities, faith-based community projects and local community organisations. We are now exploring opportunities to bring different faith communities together in these areas to work on issues such as education, housing, employment, migrant workers, asylum and immigration and youth work. A Mosque open day and inter-faith dialogue evening are being arranged in Darnall on 20 November. Please contact Dave for more details.

Other projects

Work is being undertaken to develop a dedicated web site for Sheffield Faiths Forum – www.sheffieldfaithsforum.org.uk – the site should be on-line by the end of November.

Work has also begun on a video and photography project capturing the 'Sights and Sounds' of Sheffield's faith communities. We hope this material will be available via an exhibition and on the web by March 2008.

What's happened over the past 3 months?

We have welcomed representatives from the Quaker Community, Sheffield Interfaith and Sheffield City Council on to the Faiths Forum.

The Forum has formally responded to the Council's Community Cohesion paper, and the chair of the Faiths Forum now sits on the Sheffield First Community Cohesion Strategy Working Group.

The Forum has met with officers from Sheffield City Council about faith group involvement in Emergency Planning procedures and the role of faith groups in providing support to victims of the floods.

Forum members have been working on a project about meeting the spiritual needs of those in residential care and have met with an officer from Sheffield Care Trust.

The Forum has supported a multi-faith youth cricket tournament in Sharrow and arranged a visit to the Orthodox Synagogue in Nether Edge.

Forum members recently participated in a workshop around faith and the media which will contribute to a national report and training resources.

Future events

'Faith Matters' faith awareness training, January 2008 – we will be offering a limited number of free places to members of faith groups in Sheffield.

Faith Network Event, 12 March 2008 – profiling the contribution of faith groups to the city.

Contact us:

Tim Wright, Faith Officer, tim@offer.org.uk

Dave Sutton-Jones, Neighbourhoods Worker, davesj@offer.org.uk

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Our funders:

