



Newsletter: October 2014

Faith in Older People Training

Understanding Loss & Grief

A course for pastoral visitors. Loss and grief are painful but routine aspects of the lives of our faith communities. This course aims to help pastoral visitors to understand and support people more effectively

Edinburgh: 19th November 2014, 10.00am - 4.00pm
Arthur Conan Doyle Centre, 25 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh EH12 5AP

Glasgow: 11th February 2015, 10.00am - 4.00pm
Ignation Spirituality Centre, 35 Scott Street, Glasgow G3 6PE

The cost for this workshop is £65

Creative Communication

Learn how to explore the existing creative talents of individuals to enhance communication and contribute to the spiritual well-being of people with dementia

Edinburgh: 18th March 2015, 9.30am - 1.00pm
Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1SR

Glasgow: 19th March 2015, 9.30am - 1.00pm
Ignation Spirituality Centre, 35 Scott Street, Glasgow G3 6PE

The cost for this workshop is £65

For more information on our courses, visit our website: faithinolderpeople.org.uk

Faith in Older People Update

Faith in Older People's Annual Report 2013-2014 is now available on our website

www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk

Response to the National Care Standards now on website

www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk

Risk and Resilience Conference



Faith in Older People held a joint conference with Edinburgh University recently on Risk and Resilience, looking at how good practice can enhance residents' sense of peace and contentment. Visit our blog on [faithinolderpeople.org.uk](http://www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk) for more information.

The Contribution of Faith Communities to the Support of Older People

Helen and Maureen facilitated a lively and stimulating conversation in Inverness about the work that a variety of congregations were undertaking in support of older people. There were representatives from a wide geographical area.

It was clear that support was provided when required in people's homes as well as in the development of a wide range of activities within church premises. The latter activities were open to people who did not attend church. There was a strong emphasis on a 'church without walls' and its importance in tackling loneliness and isolation.

The establishment of a Community Outreach Worker in Dornoch was of particular note as it had brought congregations together to employ someone who could focus on the development of services; networking and raising funds.

It was also helpful to have a representative of the Third Sector Partnership present, who had responsibility in the Reshaping Care for Older People agenda for supporting and informing local groups about the policy, but also the potential for services/activities for which small amounts of funding had been made available. A primary focus was making community connections.

The challenges which the various congregations faced were:

- Being able to support people with dementia and their carers; training would be helpful
- The geography of the area which made it harder for people to come together
- The value of IT but also recognising that it is not the whole solution to communication and prevention of isolation
- The pressures on ministers to meet the range of needs. Therefore involvement from the wider community was vital
- The importance of having access to transport which was affordable
- Red tape does get in the way
- The impact on local communities if the churches withdrew their services
- Managing the loss of social connections when family members moved away
- Recognising boundaries in terms of what church members could realistically deal with

However, the overall view was that 'churches just get on and do it'.

Further conversations with faith groups will be arranged to further develop an understanding of the role of churches in supporting older people in the community.

For further information contact Maureen: Email info@fiop.org.uk

'End of Life Care Matters' Conference

The Woolf Institute, founded in 1998 and based in Cambridge organised this conference on 'End of Life Care Matters' in London. The Institute is a leader in the academic study of relations between Jews, Christians and Muslims and aims to connect the multidisciplinary study of relations with practical and theoretical questions which includes improving end of life care in local hospices. The conference explored what is happening now after the review of the Liverpool Pathway of Care; how are we creating awareness of the needs of a diverse community in relation to end of life care at home, in hospital or a hospice and how can local communities get more involved in providing support.

Maureen O'Neill was invited to be the chairperson for one of the panel discussions.

The panellists throughout the day addressed issues pertaining to children, older people and those with specific illnesses and the discussion was very rich. The following key issues emerged for me:

- The importance of collaboration between agencies
- Increasing awareness of the needs of an increasingly diverse community and adapting systems accordingly
- Listening
- The use of narrative
- The importance of ritual
- Asking questions
- Making more of the spiritual dimension in an individual's life.

See 'The Missing Piece- meeting people's needs at the end of life'. Available from the National Council for Palliative Care www.ncpc.org.uk

More details about the conference can be found at www.woolf.cam.ac.uk

Other events and information

To absent friends

1-7 November 2014: A people's festival of storytelling and remembrance

Because dead ordinary people live on in the memories and stories we share

This is a week-long series of events organized by Good Life; Good Death; Good Grief. For more details see: www.toabsentfriends.org.uk
Or Email: info@povertytruthcommission.org / Tel: 0141 248 2911

Annual Albertus Institute/ New College Conference:

15th November 2014

The registration fee of £10 (free to students) includes lunch and coffee. See www.div.ed.ac.uk for information on the programme and how to book tickets.

Health, Wellbeing and Your Brain Symposium – join the debate

27th November 2014, 12:15 pm - 3:45 pm

A healthy, connected brain is key to people's wellbeing, not least in later life. What influences the brain's development from the moment we are conceived? What role do our genes, environments and life chances play in determining how resilient our brains are as we grow old? What are the consequences of an ageing brain for both individual and collective health as a society? Should policy makers and public services focused on older people's health and wellbeing pay more attention to children's early years? Join the debate as we explore the questions at this year's Symposium:

- **Keynote presentation: Healthy Cognitive Ageing | Professor Ian Deary FBA** | Director of the Centre for Cognitive Ageing and Cognitive Epidemiology at the University of Edinburgh and co-Director of the Alzheimer Scotland Dementia Research Centre.
- **A view from the children's sector** | Jackie Brock, Chief Executive of Children in Scotland
- **A view from the older people's sector** | Maureen O'Neill, Director of Faith in Older People and Member of the European Economic and Social Committee
- **Discussion and debate led by Symposium Chair| Shulah Allan** | Non-executive Board Member of NHS Lothian, Vice Chair of Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, Convenor of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations

This event is open to VHS members and all third sector, community, statutory and academic bodies with an interest in health and social policy, research or service provision. Book tickets via their website at: www.vhscotland.org.uk/

Alzheimer Scotland Christmas Lecture

15th December at 3.30pm in the Hub, Edinburgh

This lecture will be delivered by Baroness Susan Greenfield on 'Dementia: current and future prospects'

Tickets are £12.00 and available from Alzheimer Scotland Tel: 0141 410 1072 or email externalevents@alzscot.org

The Golden Age Project Pack

Breaking Down Walls: transforming lives by thought and deeds

This pack is now available from the Church of Scotland Guild. Price: £20

Engage and Inspire

The latest newsletter from Alliance Scotland is now available on their website:

www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/

Introduction to the Psychology of Ageing for Non-Specialists

By Ian Stuart-Hamilton

Available from Jessica Kingsley Publishers

Price: £16.99 ISBN: 9781849053631

An accessible introduction to the psychology of ageing, using every day terminology and a balanced evidence based approach.

Faith in Older People is very grateful for the financial commitment it receives from Trusts, Foundations and individuals. This helps us to plan our future and continue to expand the diverse range of work we do.

If you would like to support our work by making a donation, please send a cheque, made payable to 'Faith in Older People', to the address below.



Our mailing address is:

Faith in Older People, 21A Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 5EL

Email: info@fiop.org.uk

Website: www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk

