

NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



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

FAITH IN OLDER PEOPLE'S FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR AUTUMN 2023

FAITH IN OLDER PEOPLE AND INTERFAITH SCOTLAND JOINT EVENT: TACKLING LONELINESS AND ISOLATION IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Wednesday 15 November 2023 - 4.30pm - By ZOOM **This event is FREE**

This online conference is being held to highlight the issue of loneliness by discussing the Scottish Government Policy on Loneliness; the action that faith communities do and can take to tackle loneliness and to explore proposals for the future.

The Government Strategy has been updated and the link is below. We know that faith communities play a significant role in supporting people who feel lonely and isolated, so it is important we take this opportunity to consider the issues and differing roles.



Our speakers will include:

- **Maureen Sier, Interfaith Scotland**
- **Paul Okroj, Chest Heart, and Stroke Scotland**

and representatives of faith communities in conversation

[Social isolation and loneliness: Recovering our Connections 2023 to 2026](#)

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE – register [HERE](#)



Thursday 30 November 2023 - 4.30pm - By ZOOM

A donation to this event would be appreciated

THE POWER OF THE POSSIBLE:

examples of local community action by older people from faith groups

(Gift of Age research)

THE GIFT OF AGE CONFERENCE

Thursday 30 November 2023 - 4.30pm - By ZOOM

Faith in Older People undertook a major and unique survey of the contribution of older people within and from our faith communities.

The overall aim of the research was to identify and better understand the contribution made by older people in faith communities to volunteering, community well-being and citizenship, highlighting the voluntary 'ministry' which lies at the heart of Christian faith, and is also echoed in all other faiths.

To achieve this, we had the following objectives:

- Understand the extent to which older people sustain faith communities through voluntary service
- Learn about the impact from the experience of the current 'lockdown' on older people undertaking voluntary service

- 'Map' the needs, contribution, and potential of older volunteers in faith communities
- Identify examples of innovative and challenging practice, particularly ones which have developed in response to the pandemic, exploring how sustainable they are in practice

The research was supported by the TOR Christian Foundation, and we want to ensure that the research is disseminated as widely as possible, and that individuals and different faith communities have the opportunity to learn about the outcomes and to hear about a range of initiatives that are undertaken across Scotland, and we are sure that many are replicated and that there are many more activities being undertaken.

<https://www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/The-gift-of-age.pdf>

The aim of this Zoom conference is to share the research with you and to invite you to share your faith community's experience and initiatives.

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE – register [HERE](#)

RECENT EVENTS

FiOP was delighted to welcome **The Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland** as our 2023 **MALCOLM GOLDSMITH LECTURER**

The title of the Moderator's talk was "A 'with, not to' community: Valuing our older people."
Our thanks to Sally for a wonderful, thoughtful range of reflections on ageing and older people.
Comforting and inspiring.

The link to the recording is below

[PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)

"a fascinating lecture and discussion" (Attendee)



OUR LATEST BLOG

The Truacanta Project – Evaluation Report Now Available

The Truacanta Project Evaluation Report has been published. The project, which ran from 2019-23, was set up to support local communities in Scotland who were interested in taking community action to improve people's experiences of death, dying, loss and care, using a community development approach. It was run by Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care (SPPC) and funded by Macmillan.



While an interim report was published in 2022, this final evaluation reflects on activity in the local Truacanta sites of Dundee, Highland, North Berwick and Perthshire, and sets out key findings of the Truacanta Project as a whole. You can download a copy of the report [here](#).

How did it work?

The Truacanta Project model saw one community development worker employed centrally to support compassionate community activity in five local Scottish communities. The five sites were offered community development support and advice, networking opportunities, support with evaluation, and they could also access small grants for Truacanta activity.

In contrast to a traditional top-down model, the intention was that each Truacanta group would be community-led. The project aimed to put a temporary scaffolding support in place; this support was designed around communities identifying their own assets, strengths and resources and using them to lay solid foundations that they could build future activity on once the scaffolding was removed.

Local Impact of Truacanta

“People told us they have more knowledge and ability to talk with family, friends, neighbours about death, dying, grief.” Truacanta group member

Four out of five of the local projects had clear positive impact at a local level, despite the challenges of establishing a new project during the COVID-19 pandemic. The evaluation found that progress had been made in all the intended outcome areas set out at the start of the project. In addition to this, projects have left valuable legacies within their communities and much local work will be sustained beyond the life of the Truacanta Project. You can read more about the activities of the local groups here: [weblink](#)

Key Learning

As a result of the Truacanta Projects, SPPC reports increased understanding of communities and community development, and the potential ways an organisation such as SPPC can support this kind of work. They have a better understanding of the practicalities involved in working with communities. Key learning points include:

- Volunteers aren't a free resource. Their energy and capacity is finite. Often it is a small group of people doing a huge amount of work, on top of other work or responsibilities.
- Community development can be messy and intangible, but that doesn't mean outcomes can't be set and measured against.
- For many people a process that is messy and may not have clear measures or goals can feel unintuitive and uncomfortable. That's okay - it's important to sit with that discomfort.
- Every community is unique. People might see a local project and think that's what they need – but it might not be the perfect fit somewhere else. Being community-led and embracing that community's uniqueness is important.
- Money is important – but so are networks, the support of peers, the support of organisations.
- Finding ways to retain the original motivations and sense of purpose can help to invigorate small groups.

What's next?

[Truacanta: Scotland's Compassionate Communities Network](#) will build on the legacy of the Truacanta Project, providing regular networking and peer sharing opportunities for members. It's free to join – just click on the link.

[The Scottish Compassionate Communities Toolkit](#) is a free resource available to all.

The learning from Truacanta will be shared at conferences as posters and workshops, and there are plans to share papers on the project more widely.

[EASE](#) is being rolled out further, with both online and face to face courses available to anyone interested in becoming more comfortable and confident supporting family and community members with issues they face during dying, death and bereavement. Taster sessions are also available for community groups.

For more information on any of the above, or for print copies of the Truacanta Evaluation, please email caroline@palliativecarescotland.org.uk

Caroline Gibb (she/her)
Community Development Lead
Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care

Faith in Older People works closely with the Scottish Partnership on Palliative Care and is planning to facilitate an EASE course in early 2024. Several people have indicated that they would like to participate. Do let Maureen O'Neill know on Director@fiop.co.uk know if you are interestd.

ONE STEP AT A TIME - LEARNING RESOURCE TO SUPPORT PEOPLE EXPERIENCING DEMENTIA IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

The resource is practical and can be considered in groups which include those who are experiencing dementia. It is not intended to be prescriptive but to ask questions to find out what might be helpful to all those wishing to be inclusive.

We hope that you will find the resource helpful, and we would welcome your feedback. We would be pleased to discuss the resource with you.

[FIOP-One-Step-at-a-Time-MAY-2023-version-for-website-etc.pdf \(faithinolderpeople.org.uk\)](#)

"I had a look at the interactive resource and am so impressed! Congratulations on making the process to become a dementia-friendly and inclusive place of worship so user-friendly and collaborative. I wish you much success with this resource."

Mathew Dineen, Canadian Dementia Association

Faith in Older People's workbook can be downloaded free of charge from our website.

Please click [HERE](#) to download a copy.



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

The Emergency Care Summary and Key Information Summary (Scotland)

Directions 2023 with your networks.

In recent months Scottish Government have engaged key stakeholders, including the Scottish GP Committee of the BMA (SGPC), and Health Boards, who have confirmed they are content for the ECS directions to be put in place to formalise access to this data, and the widened access to the ECS dataset accelerated during the pandemic.

On 21 September the directions were published on SHOW and will come into force on 2 October 2023.

Social Care

A number of reports have been issued by the Scottish Government about the future of Social Care and the proposed National Care Service. The reports can be found using the following link [Latest - Social care - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/latest-social-care)

ANTICIPATORY CARE PLANNING AND FUTURE CARE PLANNING

The Scottish Government has issued a letter confirming that the term “**anticipatory care planning**” is being replaced with “**future care planning**”. The letter (link given below) also indicates a national programme of work in this area, which will be getting underway soon.

[https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO\(2023\)17.pdf](https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO(2023)17.pdf)

This change will require action on the part of many Third Sector organisations providing care and information to the public.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCOTTISH CARE AND CCPS

Joint statement: Scottish Government’s Winter Plan ‘offers no hope for social care’.

As the CEOs of Scotland’s two major umbrella bodies representing providers of care and support in the third and independent sectors we are dismayed to see yet another [Winter Plan](#) which purports to be a whole system response for Scottish citizens but in fact offers almost no hope for social care.

Read the whole joint statement through the link below

[Joint statement: Scottish Government’s Winter Plan ‘offers no hope for social care’ - Scottish Care](#)



Anna Chaplaincy

Offering spiritual care in later life

We would like to highlight the following blog –

[The story of Anna Chaplaincy is 'phenomenal' - Archbishop Justin Welby](#)

Read more blogs at: [Anna Chaplaincy blog](#)

Debbie Thrower and the Anna Chaplaincy team at BRF

annachaplaincy@brf.org.uk | annachaplaincy.org.uk | brf.org.uk

[James Woodward tackles the topic of spiritual pain \(annachaplaincy.org.uk\)](#)

Scottish Interfaith Week

12 - 19 November 2023

Community

www.scottishinterfaithweek.org



Striving for change on our own is an insurmountable challenge. Striving for change together is when we can have the biggest impact.

Over recent years we have stood together for our planet, the rights of women, refugees and all those affected by injustice around the world.

But big change always starts small. By tending to our friends, our neighbours, and our local communities, we can challenge loneliness, break down stereotypes and nurture resilient relationships.

This Scottish Interfaith Week we invite people across Scotland to open their doors and organise meals, workshops, coffee mornings, family fun days, concerts, gatherings and more.



Interfaith Scotland

We would like to begin this e-newsletter by first stating how heart-broken everyone at Interfaith Scotland is by the terrible conflict in Israel/Gaza. International events always have an impact on communities living here in Scotland and we are working with our Community and Scottish Government Partners to ensure that there is not a rise in hate incidents or crimes here in Scotland because of the conflict....

READ MORE ...

[Interfaith Scotland October E-Newsletter](#)



PLEASE CLICK BELOW TO READ OUR LATEST NEWS



<https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=ec82d5406e909741b02adab45&id=0ee9fad3d6>

LET'S BE HEARD

The closing date for this period of national engagement is now 20 December 2023.



Catherine Evans
Public Engagement and Participation Manager
Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry

Freepost SCOTTISH COVID-19 INQUIRY
www.covid19inquiry.scot

AGE SCOTLAND ABOUT DEMENTIA STORYTELLING RESOURCE

The new Storytelling Resource is aimed at people who run groups and organisations working with people living with dementia.

For more information on the Storytelling Resource, or to register an interest in receiving a pack and training, email aboutdementia@agescotland.org.uk



[TO READ THE LATEST NEWSLETTER, CLICK here](#)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTEGRATED CARE

The [24th International Conference on Integrated Care \(ICIC24\)](#), Taking the leap: making integrated care a reality for people and communities, will take place at the ICC Belfast and is expected attract up to 1500 delegates from across the United Kingdom, Europe and beyond. We would really appreciate your help in promoting the call for papers and would be grateful if you could share this information, by forwarding this email, across your own organisation and to your wider network?

1) Submit a paper to the conference to highlight the great work that has been happening in the movement towards integrated care across the United Kingdom for the past two decades – the call remains open until Friday, 24 November

2) Support the conference by promoting the call for papers across your network

For more information on joining us as a knowledge partner contact

miriamgalvin@integratedcarefoundation.org

**Faith in Older People's ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023
is now available on our website.
Please click [HERE](#) to read it**



**BECOME
A FRIEND
OF
FIOP**

**IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY –
we'd like to ask you to become a
FRIEND OF FIOP**

Although, currently, most of our events are held by ZOOM – and are FREE - we still have overheads to cover from our limited budget. An annual contribution of, say £25, would make an enormous difference to our small organisation. As a Friend you will receive our regular eNewsletter and invitations to our regular events.

**PLEASE CONTACT US FOR AN APPLICATION
FORM – info@fiop.org.uk**

**You can find out more about our work at
www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk**

OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY BECOME A FRIEND

**IF YOU WISH TO UNSUBSCRIBE FROM OUR NEWSLETTER,
PLEASE EMAIL info@fiop.org.uk**



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