



# Faith Links E-Newsletter

April 2010 Volume 1

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Contact Us

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## Welcome to our new look Newsletter

**We have a new look Newsletter for your this month. Please let us know what you think of it, with suggestions or comments for improvements. If you would like to include an article in a future issue please let us know.**

**Feel free to pass this newsletter on to others that may be interested and let us know if there is someone else we should add to our list.**

## News from Faith Links and other communities

**News of recent Interfaith Dialogue from Stephen Batty:** For well over the year now members of St. Aldhelm's Church have been in dialogue with members of Bournemouth's Islamic Centre and I am personally grateful to Mark Phillips who acted as a bridge between the two communities and brought us together. We have been alternating our meetings between the *masjid* in St. Stephen's Road and our church building and the quality of our conversation has deepened as we have got to know one another better. At the end of each session we choose the theme for the next - in May we shall be exploring prophecy as it is enacted in Islam and Christianity.

At our last gathering we spoke of the afterlife as it is understood from the perspective of our faiths: it was illuminating to gain a sense of how those who follow the way of Islam take seriously the intentions of the heart in daily life. we also heard of their acute understanding of God's mercy: if we haste to repent, God is quick to forgive - this resonates with I've sensed a deepening confidence in the way we can speak boldly of our positions in faith. Bishop Graham Kings' encouragement to read the Anglican document *Generous Love: the truth of the Gospel and the call to dialogue* has been good and I can thoroughly recommend this Anglican theology of inter faith relations to anyone interested in this field.

A very accessible and beautifully written primary text on Islamic spirituality is Rusmir Mahmutcehajic's *The Mosque* (Fordham University Press, 2006); late last year I was privileged to attend a conference in the Serbian capital Belgrade where Mahmutcehajic was a speaker. Face to face encounters with followers of the way of Islam has opened depths in my understanding of my own religious tradition; more than this, I believe dialogues of this kind are a task the Holy Spirit urges us towards. As *Generous Love* affirms: *'It is not for us to set limits to the work of God, for the energy of the Holy Spirit cannot be confined. "The tree is known by its fruits" (Matthew 12: 33) and "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22f). When we meet these qualities in our encounter with people of other faiths, we must engage joyfully with the Spirit's work in their lives and in their communities.'*

**Clinks** is the national umbrella body for VCS organisations working with offenders and their families. Our South West Development Project is currently working with Dorset Probation Trust, Bournemouth and Poole CVSs and Dorset Community Action to develop local partnership work.

If you would have an interest in any of the following please contact Laura Thompson, Clinks South West Development Officer by emailing [laura.thompson@clinks.org](mailto:laura.thompson@clinks.org):

- Being part of a Dorset-wide e-network of VCS organisations working

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- with offenders and their families;
  - Receiving an invitation to the launch events for Dorset Probation Trust's new Local Delivery Units (Dorset event on 14<sup>th</sup> April; Bournemouth & Poole event on 26<sup>th</sup> April);
  - Receiving details of an Open Space event in the summer for all partners working in the Criminal Justice System across Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole.

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## Events/Training

**INTER-FAITH CRICKET MATCH** - Date for your diary. Following last year's successful match we are hoping to get a team together again to play St Lukes at Poole Park on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 6 pm. Please contact Mark Phillips on 07980 002676 for more information.

**WOMEN AND CHILDREN ONLY SWIMMING SESSIONS** – At LA Fitness, Tower Park. No boys above the age of 8 years old. All faiths welcome. Saturday and Sunday 6.15-7.45 pm. £1.50 each. To book your places, email [36xcat@live.co.uk](mailto:36xcat@live.co.uk).

**New Writing Festival 16-18 April 2010, Lighthouse, Poole**

A 3 day festival celebrating new writing for the theatre with a weekend of inspirational master classes and workshops, plus screenings of work by some of the country's leading playwrights and industry professionals including: Nell Leyshon; Phil Porter; Joe Penhall; John Foster, Jez Butterworth; David Lane and Jack Bradley. Go to [www.lighthousepoole.co.uk](http://www.lighthousepoole.co.uk) or [www.theatreorb.co.uk](http://www.theatreorb.co.uk) for more information.

**Celebrating Muslim Communities** : An event in partnership with Dorset Race Equality council and Bournemouth Islamic Centre and Central Mosque. Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2010 from 1 pm – 5 pm at Kinson Community Centre, Millhams Road, BH10 7LH. For more information contact Sister Tama at BICCM [aulya.bouguerrache@yahoo.com](mailto:aulya.bouguerrache@yahoo.com) on 07727467993 or 01202 557072 or Mevan Kattan from Dorset REC on [mevan.kattan@dorsetrec.org.uk](mailto:mevan.kattan@dorsetrec.org.uk). 01202 553003.

**Dr Helen Spurling of the Parkes Institute** is running some courses at Southampton University. One relates to relations between Jews Christians and Muslims throughout history and the other deals with Jewish Christian relations over interpretation of the Bible. Both courses comprise weekly classes at the university. For more information contact Helen at [H.Spurling@soton.ac.uk](mailto:H.Spurling@soton.ac.uk).

**BCHA have a new personal growth programme called Ignite**, looking at developing self confidence, promoting independence around self esteem and interpersonal skills. The Ignite team will work with individuals one to one, and in groups to identify career choices, undertake AQA awards, assist with voluntary options and improve chances of finding training, further education opportunities and/or employment.

If you know someone over 18 and unemployed or at risk of becoming unemployed, living in the Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch areas they could benefit from Ignite. For further information please contact the Ignite team on [ignite@bcha.org.uk](mailto:ignite@bcha.org.uk) or 01202 802040, or call in and see us at Learning 744, 744 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth Dorset BH7 6BZ.

Do you run a private, voluntary or independent setting working with children, young people and families? Do you have Volunteers looking to train or enhance their skills? Do you have staff training needs? If so, please sign up to this FREE on - line **Workforce Development Website**.

If your organisation delivers any training opportunities, has a training venue for hire or any specific training requests, please let me have these details. Please forward these details onto any colleagues who would be interested in

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this information. Thank you for your support!

Sign up is free, quick and easy! Please share with your colleagues and volunteers. Click on the link below and it will take you straight there!  
<http://cvs.pooleworkforcedevelopment.co.uk/cpd/>

**Poole Children's Trust has a new website.** Please go to  
<http://www.poolechildrenstrust.org.uk/contact.html> for more information.

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This newsletter is brought to you in partnership with Chaplaincy Poole. For more information visit [www.chaplaincypolee.info](http://www.chaplaincypolee.info) or contact Mark Phillips on 07980 002676.

