



The Gatekeeper

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www.divine-inspiration.org.uk

The Big Society – are you confused?

You should be! There is so much talk about Big Society and we, as a faith community, need to understand what part we have to play in all of this. John Sentamu made a brilliant comment in October this year, “Big Society? The church has been doing it for more than 2000 years!” and he had a point. We have a presence on every high street and community, an army of committed, selfless volunteers to draw on and we have capacity in terms of space and buildings to share unconditionally. So what’s new?

Eric Pickles, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has said that the new government sees “religion as part of the solution and not a problem” and he has praised faith groups who “work tirelessly for charities but who, for too long, have been held at arms length, undervalued and even viewed with suspicion.” In order to respond to what it all means we have to understand it. You can start at the Cabinet Office to access the Office for Civil Society strategy document “[Building a Stronger Civil Society](#)”

Here is the most recent General Synod response, including a copy of the proposed Near Neighbours report: <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/gensynod/agendas/nov2010/gs1804.pdf> Or you can ask us here in the office for a summary, put together by a member of the National Capacity Building Network which is a very comprehensive comment on the proposals.

The Young Foundation have put together a toolkit to help us to find out what people want from the Big Society: what makes people want to get involved in local action; what stops them from taking part; how to devolve power and money to communities; how communities can work effectively with local authorities and public agencies and what makes people feel like they belong in a place. http://www.youngfoundation.org/community-action-tool-kit?dm_i=5DF,BIMO.26CQTQ,WFO2,1



Setting up shop in church

A five-way partnership has published guidance for churches interested in hosting community shops on their premises - *The Guidelines and Best Practice for the Provision of Community Shops in Churches and Chapels*.



For full details see below or go to: <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/news/pr11010.html>

South Warwickshire Fundraisers Forum

The next South Warwickshire Fundraisers' Forum on 19 January 2011 takes place at the SYDNI Centre, Sydenham, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 1PT.

The theme is ‘Reducing costs and Planning ahead’. Wayne Gibbons, Environmental Action Project Officer at WCAVA, will be presenting information on reducing your organisation’s energy costs, how you can access funding, and how to develop community energy schemes. This will be followed by a workshop on ‘Business Planning’ by Alison Orr, Training and Quality Development Manager at WCAVA.

There will be an opportunity to network and share information with other Third Sector organisations. If you would like to attend, or require any further information, please contact Jane Holdsworth or Karen Higgins on 01926 477518 or email groupsupportwd@wcava.org.uk

New LEADER funding



Central Warwickshire LEADER will be opening its doors to new applications in February, so if your New Years resolution this year is to make your project idea a reality, they would love to hear from you! <http://www.warwickshireleader.net>

[net/sites/warwickshireleader.net/files/LEADERnewsletterxmas10-3.pdf](http://www.warwickshireleader.net/sites/warwickshireleader.net/files/LEADERnewsletterxmas10-3.pdf)

CLAIRE'S COLUMN

Another year, another Claire's Column! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas – I can safely say that I have eaten far too much turkey, and many mince pies, but they were worth it and the diet starts tomorrow! We have a few little notices for you from the DAC office that you may find useful, but I'll be back next month with a full Claire's Column as normal!

NEW GUIDANCE FROM THE CBC

Over the summer, the Church Buildings Council have updated the templates for Statements of Significance and Need for parishes. These now include Shrinking the Footprint prompts, in light of the 20% carbon reduction commitment by 2050. Guidance notes can be found at <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/legal.php?GF>

THEFT OF CHURCH PLATE

We have been contacted by the City of London Police who have recovered a piece of church plate. The cup is hallmarked and dates from the 1650s. I have a photo. If you think it might be from your church, contact me on claire.strachan@covlec.org

COPYRIGHT LICENSING

Recently Churches Legal Advisory Service have been involved in negotiations over the ending of the charity exemption under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 – with limited success. The Government has now announced the new licensing system for mechanical copyright. Under the new regime public venues, including those used by a charity or not-for-profits, which play music from records, CDs, radio or television will require a licence both from PPL and from the Performing Rights Society. The changes in the law come into effect on **1 January 2011** but PPL will exempt charities from paying for licence for the first year of the new scheme.

As this is a very complex issue, I have put some guidance outlining details of the new system on our website <http://www.coventry.anglican.org/admin/dac/advisory/> (the document is called *Church Licensing*). If you have any queries about this get in touch - if we can't answer them we will find someone who can!

NEXT DAC MEETING

The next DAC meeting is on the 9th February 2011, and the cut off date for submitting information is the 12th January. The website for the Coventry DAC is <http://www.coventry.anglican.org/admin/dac/>

Ready-to-go projects

If you're interested in setting up a community project at your church, this will be a good starting point.



The Church Urban Fund have compiled details of organisations who have a passion for helping churches be more effective in their community, and ready-to-go projects that have been tried and tested elsewhere. These national organisations can give you the tools you need, as well as advice and support throughout the whole process of setting up a project in your local area. This kind of signposting can help you to do brilliant things by learning from the good practice of others.

Projects as diverse as setting up a Foodbank, running a Youth Service, working with the Homeless through Night Shelters or developing a Parish Nursing Ministry are all included. You can download the document here: http://cuf.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Ready-to-Go_Projects_Directory.pdf

Website of the month

Funding opportunities for those developing projects in places of worship can be found here on the Funds for Historic Buildings website. http://www.ffhb.org.uk/results.php?Body=B_RE&Region=R_WM&Type=T_RU&action=refined&Submit=Search+now

Bear in mind that some fund repair projects and others are for community development or re-ordering schemes, so you'll need to investigate each



carefully. If you are needing to write a funding strategy do get in touch. We can help you with this for FREE! The following are known to be particularly receptive to church based development work so do give look at these especially:

Allen Lane Foundation
The Garfield Weston Foundation

**'The Gatekeeper' is edited by Helen McGowan & Amanda Ross. You can contact Divine Inspiration at Cathedral and Diocesan Offices, 1 Hill Top, Coventry CV1 5AB
Tel: 024 76521346 Email: helen.mcgowan@divine-inspiration.org.uk**