

E Newsletter from Faiths4Change



Enabling faith based and local communities to engage in environmental and social action that sustainably transforms their neighbourhoods

Issue 17 - April 2011

The CEO writes

Hello again and welcome to a sunny, spring version of our e news! Faiths4Change is refocusing its efforts following an end to core funding and an increase in new contracts and opportunities. We are beginning a new phase of activity that will see us operating across the North West from 2 bases; Liverpool and Burnley. Our Team - Associate Project Managers Calvin & Samia, Community Food Worker Janet, Administrator Marj, Community Engagement Volunteer Robert and I will continue to deliver our range of services and support to faith communities and the wider communities that they serve. We are most grateful to Karen & Chris for their commitment, excellent work & great Team spirit, whilst we are very sad to say goodbye, we are pleased that they are moving on to focus on their specific interests.



Contact Annie

Welcome to our latest e newsletter. You can unsubscribe from here. We are keen to keep in touch with people but are aware that not everyone has access to the internet. Please feel free to pass on any information from our newsletter to others who may be interested.

Upcoming events

Friday 15th April 5.30 - 8.30pm. Preston Faith Forum's annual spring event. Guru Nanak Gurdwara, 2 – 10 Tunbridge Street, Preston, PR1 5YP. This event will share with the Sikh community as part of their Vaisakhi (New Year) celebrations. Vaisakhi commemorates the creation of the Khalsa in 1699 by the 10th Guru – Guru Gobind Singh. This was also when he demonstrated the initiation of the Sikhs. Vaisakhi runs from 14th – 17th April and faith forum members and guests are welcome to visit on Friday 15th.

Sunday 15th May 2pm Hulme Community Garden Centre are having a **Discussion and Design** day. Come along and put your opinion forward as to what you'd like the newly acquired car park next door to be used as – allotments, renewable energy site, orchard, learning area?

St John's Church, Ayres Road, Old Trafford. The **Inter Faith photographic exhibition** is on display. Pop into the Centre next door for access to the church or go along any Sunday.

Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th May 2011 – Liverpool Cathedral - "Blitz 70th Anniversary Event – this will an interactive event for schools to learn more about the Blitz - Faiths4Change will be having a display and presenting a small workshop. Contact Sarah O'Donoghue, Education Officer, Liverpool Cathedral, for more information or (0151) 702 7210

Other events we have been invited to take part in include:

21st April 2011 St Gabriel's School and Apple Centre, Huyton "Fit for Fun" Event and on **25th June** their **Gala Day**.

8th May 2011 St Paul's CE Church, Blackbrook – Faiths4Change have been invited to present to the Church Youth Group

17th May 2011 In partnership with Knowsley Housing Trust – Faiths4Change have been invited to present a Workshop as part of KHT's Eco Team Programme.

5th June 2011 Court Hey Park Faiths4Change will be attending Knowsley Council's Green Fayre.

2nd July 2011 St Bartholomew's CE Church, Roby, Summer Fair.

.....more details plus other events on our [website](#)

Out and about with our Project Managers

Burnley A very successful event was held at Deeplish Community Centre on 24th March 2011. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness of environmental issues in the local community. More than 100 people attended. Information stalls and displays were held by Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council Environmental Services, Rochdale Borough Wide Housing Environment Team, Rochdale Healthy Living Initiative, North West Environmental Agency, Faiths4change and Rochdale Community Transport. Members of the public were able to speak to the stall holders on issues effecting their neighbourhoods and on ways to improve the environment around them.



Cllr Farooq Ahmed, RMBC Portfolio holder for Finance opened the event and highlighted the importance of these issues and how they affect the Borough. Andy Shaw from RMBC Environmental Services, Sabira Saddique from Healthy Living Initiative and Colin Liptrot from North West Environment Agency also spoke with residents on issues affecting our Environment.

Faiths4change sponsored the event and also distributed growing seeds, water saving devices and energy saving bulbs on behalf of United Utilities. Faiths4Change will continue to work with local community organisations on promoting a better, cleaner neighbourhood environment, and how maintain it.

Sohail Ahmed Community Cohesion Project Manager from Deeplish Community Centre is very keen to promote partnership with other organisations in order to help residents to create cleaner and greener areas in the Milkstone / Deeplish neighbourhood.

[Contact Samia](#)

Manchester



Sadly this will be the last e news contribution from Manchester (for the time being). We are re-structuring and I will be taking some time away working in the developing world. It s all very exciting and scary at the same time! I wish you all well during these difficult times we are facing, and hope the faith, voluntary & community sector is able to provide support for the marginalised and needy in our communities.

Preston As you'll now be aware, Faiths4Change is undergoing some restructuring, so this week is my last week – I've been here just 5 days short of a year and have developed the sustainability audit programme into an analytical service having worked with several faith communities, who all have different uses of their buildings, and have individual issue areas which have been identified. Many things can be done at no cost, or at relatively low cost. You need to know your starting point to enable you to measure progress in reducing your environmental impacts. Some communities have aspirations for big projects, but the smaller ones will be more important to do first. I always say, if you can't measure it, you can't manage it. The audit doesn't instantly resolve the issues, but it can become your starting point and the basis for moving forward.



Merseyside

Food Officer, Merseyside



What is delighting me as a Food Worker with F4C is the interesting people and groups I have been able to meet.

The Eco-parents project with Calvin enabled me to work with students from Hope University and established Volunteers from Asylum Link with groups across Merseyside.

Each group has its own personality and the great fun as a F4C worker is being able to respond on an

individual basis.

For example-Demonstration of Packed lunch food for toddlers with a group in Linacre. 101 Ways with homemade tomato sauce in Eastham.

To support the Christian Aid Lent weight loss scheme in Huyton - Dahl from India .Ameria's Eritrean vegetable soup and a UK 2nd world war' no kneed bread'. Different faces with new stories and experiences to share.

Wirral Multicultural centre provided new experiences –Many ways of shaping Samoas' - some were crimped as my Gran used to make pasties every Saturday. A real swap chat and a stated desire for ALM people to find out about Chinese Cooking.

I am working with Activate8 and young unaccompanied asylum seekers. Some Wigan 'lasses' have joined the group with great exploring of backgrounds questions and comments like 'What you never drank Coke'. Stir Fry -Muffins –Porridge, and the discussions around the Eat Well Plate.

TOP TIP: For Pizza. Make and $\frac{3}{4}$ cook your home made pizza then add the grated cheese 10 mins. before it has finished cooking and continue cooking until golden.– Cheese is then not so tough or stringy- thanks for the tip Ameria !

Contact Janet

Community Engagement Volunteer - Robert Ritter



I had the privilege to go to the 'Poverty and Human Rights Road Show' in Manchester together with three Asylum Seekers from Liverpool. I've learned that day that Asylum Seekers have no human rights, unless they are 'generously' granted to them. But as soon, as they claim their birth given right in one of the many cases of abuse, they will face deportation or destitution.

This problem also affected us during the planning for the Circle of Silence. The Circle is a non-violent protest against an inhuman Asylum System that chooses first to disbelieve people and only to help in the second place. We will gather on the 9th of April in Liverpool City Centre in a circle for one hour of silent vigil to claim human rights for everybody. We had an enthusiastic group of Student Action for Refugees members, Asylum Seekers, my French house mate (who told us about the Circle of Silence movement in France) and I. I was very upset that in the end we agreed it would be too dangerous for Asylum Seekers to join us for the protest itself. Many have still a living memory that two years ago a group of Asylum Seekers went to the Home Office for protest and found their Asylum claim refused the week after. How about freedom of expression (Art. 10 of the Human Rights Act)?

We had a wonderful 'Bread around the World' event to celebrate the 'graduation' of 8 Asylum Seekers in our training programme together with the bread church 'Somewhere Else'. It was a lovely opportunity to invite new people to make bread from their country and many people came to taste it in the afternoon.

Contact Robert

Project Manager



School Food Growing Programme/Faith Gardens. I continue to work with Schools through the Liverpool Diocese and am shortly hoping to confirm further project planning and workshop support for schools during the spring and summer 2011

I presented to the Archdiocese School Representatives at LACE, Sefton Park in March. It was a great event which generated some interest from delegates in working with Faiths4Change during the spring and summer 2011. Many thanks to Denise, Des and their Team for organising the event and their hospitality, most appreciated.

Any further details on the services Faiths4Change provides, please contact Calvin Stockton (Project Manager, Merseyside) for our new leaflet

Simply Living – Eco Parents Network. Through a successful funding bid from Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority and Veolia Environmental Services, Faiths4Change have now completed 15 workshops across Merseyside with existing or new parents/toddler groups. We have worked with the group leaders, parents/guardians and children to identify current behaviour and encourage learning, sharing, working

together and support for each other to make sustainable lifestyle changes. The programme has been very successful and it is hoped that we can roll-out further support to existing groups and work with new groups during 2011.

Faiths4Change was invited to present an "Eco Congregation Award" to St Mary's CE Church, Eastham earlier in the month for their sterling work promoting environmental sustainability in the parish, this award was well-deserved, congratulations to Sarah, Helena and the team. We hope to continue to work with the team as part of the Eco Parents Support Network and Transition Eastham and Bromborough.

I attended the Wirral Council "Enviro Champs" Event and jointly judged the Climate Challenge event in March. We will be supporting the council in promoting their Cred programme through 2011.

Wirral Multi Cultural Organisation and Linacre Methodist Mission have expressed an interest for Faiths4Change to continue working with existing groups to promote the Eco Parents Programme.

Many thanks to the five groups for making the Pilot Programme a success:-

1. Eastham Parish – Churches Together – Helena and Sarah
2. Wirral Multi Cultural Organisation "Little World Nursery" – Sally, Gemma and Team
3. Linacre Methodist Mission "Tiny Steps" Nursery – Val, Brenda, Ann and team
4. St Gabriel's CE Church and Apple Trust Nursery – Jane, Malcolm and team
5. St Paul's CE Church Blackbrook – Janet and Team

Special Thanks to:

Barbara, Chris and Tony from MWDA for the funding and materials support

Lesley Barnabas and Kirsty Martin from Knowsley Council for all of their support

Anthony Jarvis from Knowsley Housing Trust

Jim Smith and Bryan Lipscombe for Wirral Council for supporting the programme

Grace Tatlock and Towera Mpore from St Helens Council for their support

Andrea Bullivant and Teacher Training Students for Liverpool Hope University for support in preparing for and conducting workshops.

Green Infrastructure to Combat Climate Change and Action Planning

I am currently working with the Mersey Forest to promote Green Infrastructure and the Decade of Health and Well-Being within faith communities as part of their Framework for Action Programme

Contact Calvin

Contact details

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In partnership with Environment Agency, and MWDA

