

DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER



We wish you a Happy Christmas and a good New Year

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.

WE DO THIS THROUGH TRAINING, EVENTS, RESEARCH, PROJECTS AND CONSULTATION.

In addition to these events we also offer the possibility of tailor-made courses.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS, PLEASE CONTACT ME AT
director@fiop.org.uk or telephone 0131 346 7981.

All our events can be booked via our website www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk

UPDATES

Cultural Diversity, Faith and Dementia

This was our major conference this year and was again in collaboration with Methodist Homes and supported by the Scottish Episcopal Church. We were delighted that the conference was well attended and attracted representatives of a wide range of denominations and faith communities. Our keynote speakers were excellent and very thought provoking which is critical in meeting the challenges before us.

The discussions both in plenary and in the roundtable discussions will feed into our Dementia Friendly Faith Communities project as we continue to develop guidance based on the consultations we have undertaken.

There is much to do and the conference reinforced the role of faith communities in supporting older people and those with dementia as well as the importance of faith in the lives of individuals.



L to R – Maureen O'Neill, Keith Albans, Naved Siddiqi, Mary Marshall, Elizabeth MacKinlay, Bruce Cameron

Music



Diana Kerr with participants at Music event

Our **MUSIC** event held on 13 December was well received by those who attended. Diana Kerr (pictured) gave her presentation on ***The Power of Music for People with Dementia and their Carers*** which gave helpful information to anyone thinking about setting up singing groups particularly for people with dementia.

Dementia Friendly Faith Communities

FiOP is continuing to develop guidance on which we plan to further consult and would like to encourage congregations and faith communities to invite us for discussions so that we can continue to enhance what we are developing. We feel that this will be a long-term project which will enable us to collect good ideas, share developments and finally produce a guide in a way which is found to be most helpful and which is illustrative of what different congregations have achieved. Please do contact: director@fiop.org.uk if you would like to arrange a discussion or hold a seminar.

FiOP and on-line education

As a small organisation we are determined to reach as many people as possible to develop a stronger understanding of spiritual care and its contribution to the well-being of care home residents and the staff. We are aware of time constraints and the need to be flexible with content to reflect people's needs so we are trying to pilot a course and delighted that two care homes have agreed to work with us. We piloted an on-line course in the last few weeks and look forward to seeing the outcome. The project is being led by Lesley Greenaway and if you have ideas or would like to contribute please contact director@fiop.org.uk

Spiritual Care in Care Homes

We are delighted to be project managing this work which is a collaborative project to better understand the extent to which spiritual care is supported in care homes and how we can better involve staff in enabling residents to express their spiritual needs. The mapping exercise is underway and the first invited workshop will be held in January. The grant for this work was made by the **Life Changes Trust**.

OTHER EVENTS

GENERATIONS WORKING TOGETHER (TGW) is delighted to invite you to book your place at our National Conference taking place on Wednesday 8 March 2017. Our programme is one of our most exciting yet with speakers and facilitators from across Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Spain. We are delighted to announce that **Professor Mariano Sanchez (University of Granada)** is back for another year to talk about his Intergenerational School project and also to help us launch a new online training course. **Tom Peterson** and colleagues are traveling up from **Oxford Academy** to report on their very successful Old School project which was televised for the BBC last year (you may remember the Hairy Bikers). From Scotland we have **Richard Leckerman** from **Alzheimer Scotland** who will highlight how intergenerational approaches benefit dementia friendly communities and **Stuart Miller** from **the Food Train** will inspire us with their Meal Makers project which brings together those who love to cook and share food, with older people.

For full details of the Conference CLICK on [Generations Working Together National Conference](#)

SAVE THE DATE - 7th International Conference on Ageing and Spirituality

“Transition and Transcendence: Transforming Aging Through Spirituality” - Hosted by Concordia University Chicago’s, Center for Gerontology. June 4-7, 2017 in River Forest, IL at Concordia University Chicago

OTHER INFORMATION

GOOD LIFE; GOOD DEATH; GOOD GRIEF - What can be done at a national level to encourage more open and supportive attitudes and behavior relating to death, dying and bereavement in Scotland? Produced by: Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief Stakeholder Group
<https://www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk/news/news/what-next-for-public-health-palliative-care-in-scotland/> Please share this document and feed back comments.

VHS Conference on Loneliness - This was a very well attended conference which addressed a key issue for society. Please find below the link to the key messages report which emerged from the conference. Other information can be found on the VHS website. [Key messages report.](#)

BREAKING BARRIERS – ENGAGING TALENTS - The Scottish Churches Disability Group was launched in 2008 with the aim of encouraging churches to be more inclusive of people with disabilities. This aim goes far beyond physical access to buildings. “Inclusive” refers to attitudes towards people with disabilities of many kinds, which may require adaptations in styles of worship for people with learning disabilities and innovative use of technology to overcome barriers of hearing and sight loss. There is also a need to find ways of including people whose disabilities or infirmities prevent them from attending churches, but who still want to be part of a church community. From the outset SCDG has been committed to engaging the talents of people with disabilities. Its members include disabled people who conduct various kinds of ministry and who

contribute in significant ways to organising local groups where people with and without disabilities can join in worship and fellowship as they come to appreciate one another's special gifts.

SCDG members come from many Christian denominations and worship traditions. They are spread throughout many regions of Scotland and so ways have to be found of communicating without frequent meetings. Members contribute news, book and website reviews, articles on good practice and adverts for forthcoming events to a quarterly newsletter. There is at least one conference per year at which speakers share their experience of inclusive churches and members can learn from one another about useful aids which add value to their participation in church life. Informal local gatherings are another way of sharing good practice and making new friends. If you would like to be added to the Scottish Churches Disability Group's mailing list, please contact the Secretary, Barbara Graham, at - barbara.graham74@btinternet.com or tel 01563-522108.

PATHHEAD PARISH CHURCH, KIRKCALDY

Maureen O'Neill, Director of Faith in Older People was invited to speak to the Kirkcaldy Presbytery and the Minister, Rev Andrew Donald gave this inspiring address:
(extract from Communion address) 2 Corinthians 4.16-5.1

Saint Pauls says, *"For this reason we never become discouraged. Even though our physical being is gradually decaying, yet our spiritual being is renewed day after day."* (verse 16)

All around us there are reminders that we are in the season of autumn.

The clocks change and we see the light levels gradually diminishing day by day.

Flocks of birds fly south in search of warmer climates.

In search of that same warmth, spiders decide that they will take up residence inside our homes!

Mushrooms that we haven't seen for months, start to suddenly appear on the dewy grass.

And of course, the leaves of the trees start to change colour, delighting our eyes, only to tumble to the ground as days grow colder.

To read more of the Communion Address, CLICK on [Pathhead Parish Church Communion Address](#)

BOOKS

REPRINTED - MALCOLM GOLDSMITH'S IN A STRANGE LAND: People with Dementia and the Local Church - a guide and encouragement for ministry (2004). REVISED PRICE £10.00 plus £1.50 p&p per copy. Available from FAITH IN OLDER PEOPLE.

The Gift of Years: *Bible Reflections for Older People* published 18 November 2016, £4.99.

Before I Go: The Quiz – Practical Questions to Ask and Answer Before You Die by Jane Duncan Rogers. Only available from website <https://janedr.leadpages.co/before-i-go-quiz-opt-in/> Buyers will receive a link to download which can either be completed via computer or printed out and filled in by hand. The quiz is a free taste of the workbook, which you can see at – giftedbygrief.com/products

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