



Faith in Older People Update – February 2014

Annual Malcolm Goldsmith Lecture 2014

Rabbi Baroness Neuberger DBE

'Dying Well and why it matters?'

To be held on Tuesday 11th March 2014, 2-3pm (registration open from 1pm)
At The Roxburghe Hotel, 38 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4HQ
Followed by tea and coffee from 3pm in the Atrium

How to Book

Tickets for this event are selling quickly and we now have a limited number of places left. To book your place at this event, go to our website: www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk
Tickets for the lecture cost £10 and this includes tea and coffee served after the lecture. Please note payment must be made within 30 days of the booking and by Monday 24th February 2014 to reserve a place.



RABBI BARONESS (Julia) NEUBERGER DBE was educated at Newnham College, Cambridge and Leo Baeck College, London. She became a rabbi in 1977, and served the South London Liberal Synagogue for twelve years, before going to the King's Fund Institute as a Visiting Fellow.

She is the author of several books on Judaism, women, healthcare ethics and on caring for dying people. 'Not Dead Yet – a Manifesto for old age' was published by Harper Collins in May 2008 and her latest book 'Is that all there is? Thoughts on the meaning of life and leaving a legacy' was published by Rider Books in June 2011.

She was created a Life Peer in June 2004 and became Senior Rabbi of the West London Synagogue in 2011.

Faith in Older People Update

Sustaining the Contribution of Faith Communities

FiOP in collaboration with the Scottish Government Joint Improvement Team, is taking forward the results obtained from the survey which was finalised at the end of 2013. A series of workshops will be held in 2014 to develop the themes and needs identified in the responses to the survey. We will begin with a workshop with those involved in faith communities at a national level, to debate the way in which contributions to the implementation of Reshaping of Care are made, and then at a regional level to consider the practicalities. We will be working with Animate in the development of this work. The following emerged as the key recommendations from the survey:

Better and increased communication with each other, and with authorities from Reshaping Care and the Government.

Training and funding, or at the very least, training on how to access funding such as **grants**. **Training** must be **low-cost**, and **offered locally** in order to be effective.

Autonomy. It is important throughout this process to accept that faith communities **already support older people**, and have views aligned with those of Reshaping Care. They are **already an asset**, in part because of their **individuality** and freedom to create new activities and services for older people.

Idea sharing and networking will be productive for faith communities, older people, and Reshaping Care officials. Because they are an asset, **faith communities need an invitation to participate, as partners, in Reshaping Care**. They can be **integral in bringing the framework to fruition**.

FiOP would welcome your ideas on these issues and how they affect your faith community and what action you have taken. If you would like to be involved in the workshops at a more local level please do get in touch to ensure that we include you in a future invitation. Contact: Maureen O'Neill at info@fiop.org.uk

Looking to the Future

The FiOP Board of Trustees recently met to discuss the future plan and activities and confirmed the mission of 'enabling a better understanding of the spiritual care dimension to the well-being of older people'. This approach is integral to person-centred care as it has a focus on identity, meaning and purpose for each individual older person and highlights the values on which they have lived their lives.

We recognise that 'spiritual care' is not an easy topic but one which is discussed and debated a great deal at the present time. The essence of our work is around building collaborative relationships with a range of individuals and organisations to maximise the knowledge and expertise that we can offer in this field. Our strategic aims are to:

- Raise awareness and provide education and training to enable a better understanding of spiritual care.
- Influence policy and practice development in spiritual care
- Build the capacity and efficiency of the organisation.

We will be working with faith communities; public; private and voluntary organisations, particularly the care sector, to deliver on our aims.

Faith in Older People Training

New Training and Development Co-ordinator – Helen Welsh

We are delighted that Helen is joining the small FiOP team with a focus on developing new training courses and extending those courses which have long been identified as helpful. Helen brings considerable experience of working with older people; training and spiritual care needs. Please get in touch with her to discuss training potential by Email: training@fiop.org.uk and Telephone 0131 346 7981 / 07889 543143

Training/Education

The focus of the training in the past couple of months has been on death and dying; dementia; resilience and spiritual care. These are the areas in which there has been particular demand from different congregations.

We were very pleased to work with Joan Adam, who has worked for 30 years as a Macmillan Clinical Nurse Specialist in hospital Palliative Care, and Rev Marion Chatterley, who is the Chaplain to Waverley Care, on the two day course **Journeying Towards Death**. The course was well attended and the content challenging but rewarding. It is clear that this is a subject which requires more exploration to instil knowledge and confidence for those supporting older people, whether in their faith communities or in care settings. Adapting to ageing and building resilience is a key issue and is at the heart of the Scottish Government's 'Reshaping Care for Older People' agenda and faith communities play a key role. FiOP is active in encouraging ways of creating change but also in accepting change in our own lives and how we can build our capacity to adapt as individuals. This includes challenging the perceptions of ageing and the contributions made by older people which benefit the wider community.

Resources

5th International Conference on Ageing and Spirituality, July 2013

To view the papers and keynotes, or listen to the keynotes, from the above conference, please go to the conference website:

fiop-mha.events-made-easy.com



Events by other organisations

The Sixth Scottish Caring & Dementia Congress

2nd April 2014, Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh
For more information, go to www.careinfo.org

Book Review

No Act of Love is Ever Wasted - The Spirituality of Caring for Persons with Dementia.
Jane Marie Thibault and Richard L Morgan

This is an easily read book with lots of illustrating stories and much good sense. It is written by two people with much experience in working with, caring for and undertaking chaplaincy alongside people and families who are experiencing dementia. There is a logical development of chapters looking at facts about dementia, about the needs of care givers and receivers, about a mutual spiritual path and how worship, pastoral care and churches can be made more meaningful and purposeful for those with memory loss. There are suggested questions after each chapter to encourage possible discussion of further thought.

The writers are convinced that the "soul" is still present in a person who may have deteriorated significantly in physical or cognitive ways. They recognise the difficulties experienced by families and friends and ask difficult questions "How can we come to see this disease – a tsunami that ultimately wipes away all self knowledge – through the eyes of God..?" and "We may try to excuse ourselves from contact with persons in mental decline by saying these people will forget our visits ...But we must not absolve ourselves of responsibility."

They speak of what carers can receive as well as give on this "mutual path" and they tell of the importance of real listening, real presence and the ability to be in the person's reality rather than trying to bring them to our own. Such people, often seen as the least in our society, are surely the ones to whom Jesus paid special attention. Our tendency in churches and in theological seminaries has been to spend little time working and thinking in this area. The authors think it is time to revalue work done with the elderly and to develop training at congregational and other levels.

It is a timely and very positive book. The pastoral depth is greater than the theological e.g. it assumes agreement of a physical afterlife in a somewhat simple way. There is much practical wisdom however and I like the way in which the author concludes worship by telling each individual "Namaste", or "The God in me greets the God in you".
Chris Levison: December 2013.

Our mailing address is: Faith in Older People, 21A Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 5EL

Faith in Older People is very grateful for the financial commitment it receives from Trusts, Foundations and individuals. This helps us to plan our future and continue to expand the diverse range of work we do. If you would like to support our work by making a donation, please send a cheque, made payable to 'Faith in Older People', to the address above.

