



# Faith in Older People

**E-NEWSLETTER – MAY 2013**

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **Malcolm Goldsmith Lecture 2013**

**Speaker: Professor Susan McFadden, Wisconsin Oshkosh University, USA**

**'Maintaining the Fabric of the World: Reflections on the Spiritual Gifts of Persons with Dementia.'**

Professor Susan McFadden co-authored her most recent book, *Aging Together: Dementia, Friendship, and Flourishing Communities*, with her husband, John. It was published by John Hopkins University Press in 2011. This theme will be the basis of the lecture. The lecture will be chaired by Rt. Rev Bruce Cameron, Chairperson, Faith in Older People

**Date: Monday, 8th July 2013 at 4.30pm**

**Venue: The John McIntyre Conference Centre, Pollock Halls, University of Edinburgh**

**Registration fee: £10.**

Booking now available on-line at [www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk](http://www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk)

### **5th International Conference on Ageing and Spirituality July 2013**

The conference will appeal to both those with an academic interest, as well as those with more practical experience through involvement in the care industry or as informal carers. It will be of interest to those coming from a faith based approach and those approaching spirituality from a secular one.

**The programme includes a mixture of Master Classes, workshops, academic papers and presentations on projects:**

#### **Keynote Speakers:**

Professor Elizabeth Mackinlay (Charles Sturt University);  
Professor Susan McFadden (University of Wisconsin Oshkosh);  
Professor John Swinton (University of Aberdeen);  
Rabbi Wittenberg (New North London Synagogue);  
John Killick (freelance writer) and Claire Craig (Occupational Therapist);  
Professor Mary Marshall

#### **Papers will cover a wide range of issues, including:**

Finding meaning in later life; Dementia;  
Spiritual care planning; Reducing social isolation;  
Geotranscendence; The role of faith communities; Secular approaches;  
and findings from specific projects working with older people.

Please see conference website for further details: [www.fiop-mha.events-made-easy.com](http://www.fiop-mha.events-made-easy.com)

## PREVIOUS EVENTS

### Civic Café, held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Faith in Older People were pleased to collaborate with the Edinburgh Interfaith Association to organise three civic cafe events which provided an opportunity to discuss ageing and spiritual support for older people. We encompassed ageing, health and death and dying and the discussions around small tables were animated and fruitful. It is important for Faith in Older People to bring together people from different faiths to discuss these important issues. Those attending also had the opportunity to attend the monthly community meal arranged by EIFA which meant we could continue the discussion and networking.

### Let's Talk Conference, held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013



During the awareness week for GoodLifeGoodDeathGoodGrief, Faith in Older People held a conference in collaboration with the Church of Scotland and ACTS to discuss end of life matters. Representatives from a range of congregations attended and discussed ageing and the response of the churches; end of life; dementia; palliative care and our personal hopes and fears.

Our excellent speakers (Dr Harriet Mowat, Mark Hazelwood (GLGDGG), Jenny Henderson (Alzheimer's Scotland) and Dr Ewan Kelly (NHS Educational Spiritual Care Unit)) provided much food for thought and action and stimulated searching questions. It was clear from the level of debate that these topics are of great interest and it is important for Faith in Older People to provide more opportunities for open discussion.

Please let us have your ideas and email us on [info@fiop.org.uk](mailto:info@fiop.org.uk) if you would like Faith in Older People to provide training or a local event. We are happy to tailor training to meet your specific needs.

## THE ROLE OF THE CHURCHES IN SUPPORTING OLDER PEOPLE

Faith in Older People are now collating responses to the survey on work undertaken for older people by faith communities in Scotland.

To ensure that as many responses as possible feed into this survey, the deadline has been extended until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013. Please download it from our website: [click here to view questionnaire](#)

## UPCOMING CONFERENCE:

**Spiritual Care for Older People – One day masterclass by Professor Elizabeth MacKinlay**

**Held in Dublin on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

**Delegate price: 95 Euros**

**For further details please [click here](#)**

## BOOK REVIEW

### **Dementia. Support for family and friends. Dave Pulsford and Rachel Thompson**

Published by Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

This is a really sensible book and will be very helpful to anyone with a relative or friend who has dementia. It has a well-informed, gentle tone. It avoids being patronising whilst easy to read and understand. It is laced with quotes from carers and people with dementia and is very careful about the terms used so no offence is caused. Thus what is generally called 'challenging behaviour' is called 'behaviour others find difficult'.

Of course any book like this will leave things out. I would have liked more of a warning about people with dementia moving house since they often struggle to remember their way around a new place. It talks about the gap years after a diagnosis but here in Scotland everyone who receives a diagnosis has now to have post-diagnostic support. There is too little about a sore mouth creating eating difficulties which is common in my experience.

Two criticisms. One is that there is, I think, a rather unhelpful linking of care homes and hotels. They should be very different since one is a permanent home for someone with dementia. The second is that the book fails to say enough about the positive aspects such as people with dementia often being more open about their feelings. These are minor quibbles about an excellent book.

Reviewed by Professor Mary Marshall

**Faith in older people promotes a better understanding of the importance of spiritual care, as an integral part of person centred care**

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