

## Aspiring Church School Leaders

Coventry Diocesan Board of Education's 'Certificate in Professional Development in Education for Church of England School Leadership' has received an outstanding level of positive feedback from both its participants and assessors, despite only being in its pilot year. Currently two-thirds of the way through, the 2010 course has required participants to take part in a 24 hour residential for each module, as well as making half day visits to 2 contrasting C of E schools as a basis for assessment in module 3. On 8th October participants will attend the Diocesan Head's Conference, with a final celebratory event taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011. Feedback from the course has so far proved encouraging: one participant described it as a 'life-changing experience', whilst another celebrated the 'invaluable' development of supportive relationships forged during the year. Two participants have since gained headships in the Coventry Diocese and there were a number of promotions for the summer term. It is also planned to trial the course in a number of other dioceses next year. Recruitment for the Coventry programme's second cohort is already under way, and those wishing to join the course should contact programme leader Alison Farnell on (024) 7652 1250 or [Alison.Farnell@CovCofE.org](mailto:Alison.Farnell@CovCofE.org)

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## Barriers to Adult Learning and Training in Rural Churches

A report on barriers to adult learning and training in rural churches, is soon to be released by the Arthur Rank Centre as part of the on-going Rural Life and Faith project. The report is based upon a literature review, examination of rural case studies and a survey of rural church practitioners.

Many barriers to adult learning in rural churches are common to non-formal or informal learning - either for adults generally, those in rural areas, or specifically within a church context. The biggest barrier overall is (poor) previous educational experience (often during compulsory education), whilst geographical isolation, population dispersion, distance or small community size can also be major factors interfering with adult learning in rural communities. In church contexts, effective adult learning can be negatively impacted by an array of issues which can include a sense of disconnection from the material, inflexibility of options or a lack of reflectivity. Rural church examples highlight further potential barriers which include theological and social conservatism, differences between urban/suburban and rural church agendas, a lack of variety in provision and a strong suspicion of participatory learning amongst both clergy and laity. The importance of delivering training where rural churchgoers can easily access it emerges as a key issue. Whilst computer-based and internet resourcing can greatly assist adult Christian learning, rural churches may also

news of  
projects  
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by st  
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experience these innovations as barriers. Adequate (or even any) internet access is very patchy in rural areas and computer literacy is not necessarily widespread, particularly among the growing numbers of elderly in church congregations. Nevertheless, various possibilities exist for rural churches to mitigate the barriers experienced by their potential adult learners – possibilities which will be explored further in the next two years of the Rural Life and Faith Project. *Simon Martin is Rural Life and Faith Project Officer for the Arthur Rank Centre and can be contacted via email at [tro@arthurrankcentre.org.uk](mailto:tro@arthurrankcentre.org.uk). Year 1 of this project is part-funded by St Peter's Saltley Trust.*

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## Creating Tutorial Resources for Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural development in Further Education

The growth of Further Education chaplaincy in recent years along with new guidance from the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) on Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC) in 16-19 education<sup>1</sup> have brought into focus the lack of accessible resources for using with students around these areas of learning. A strong case has been made for giving students the opportunity to develop holistically while at college rather than simply upgrading their vocational and academic skills. However, when someone has the brief or the vision to offer students this kind of development there are limited places to go for ideas and best practice. Revd Naomi Nixon, Chaplain at North Warwickshire and Hinckley College, has just begun a three-year Trust-funded project to develop and trial a body of new tutorial materials specifically to address that gap in resources. Topics will cover a variety of aspects of SMSC ranging from religious festivals to Fair Trade and Human Rights. Each topic will be explored through a range of activities which can be put together in a variety of ways to suit the level of the group and the tutorial context. Once trialled, the materials will appear on the Coventry Diocesan Board of Education's FE pages<sup>2</sup> and elsewhere. For more information contact: [naomi.nixon@nwhc.ac.uk](mailto:naomi.nixon@nwhc.ac.uk)

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.lsis.org.uk/Documents/Publications/SMSC%20Web.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.covdioc.org.uk/Further%20Education%20Higher%20Education.htm>

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## Space to *Breathe* in Further Education



Over the past six months Andy Haynes, *Breathe* project officer for the West Midlands, has been hard at work meeting representatives from Further Education colleges in the Birmingham, Black Country, Staffordshire and North Shropshire areas to explore with them approaches to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of students. Amongst other things, these conversations have highlighted a need for quality enrichment time resources around SMSC themes. *Breathe* is an interactive multi-media installation designed

to allow young people to explore key issues of identity and meaning, developed to address this need. Colleges can book *Breathe* as an enrichment activity (and Andy's time to curate it) by contacting Andy Haynes at: [andy@breatheresource.org.uk](mailto:andy@breatheresource.org.uk). The first *Breathe* days organised as part of this project take place at South Staffordshire College in November and December. The West Midlands *Breathe* development project is a partnership between the Dare2Engage and the West Midlands Churches' FE Council, with further funding from St Peter's Saltley Trust and Central England Quakers.

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## People News

### Introducing Saltley Trust's New Intern

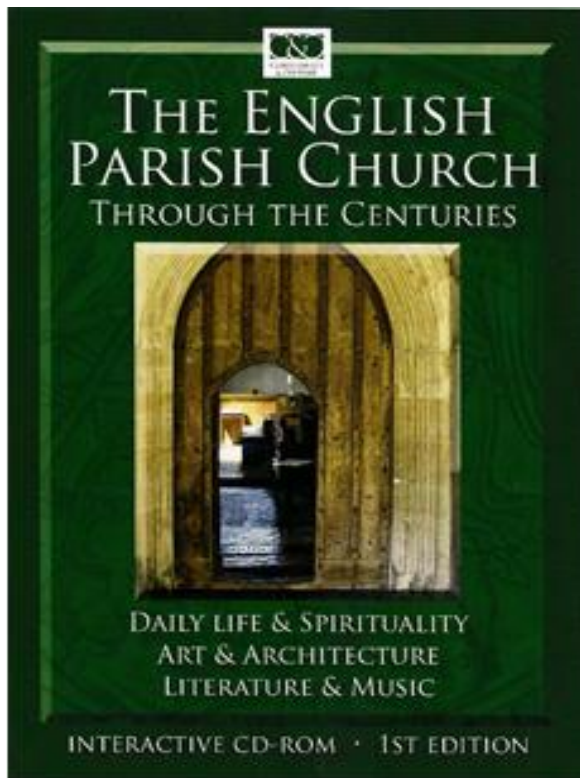
#### Hannah Matthews

I'm Hannah Matthews and I completed my BA at The University of Birmingham in History of Art and Theology and more recently, undertook an MA in Religion and Culture where I developed existing research interests by examining the relationship between material culture and Christianity. For the past year I have worked as a Project Assistant at Cardinal Newman College in Lancashire, providing administrative support for numerous departments. I was also involved in a number of sustainability initiatives during my time at the College and have gone on to develop a strong interest in this area. I now look forward to working with the Saltley Trust, bringing together many of my existing interests through a variety of exciting projects. The projects which I will be involved in this year are predominantly Faith and Work in



Theological Education and Training, and Through-Life Discipleship. Faith and Work will consider ways in which the selection, formation and training of clergy, readers and preachers can be developed to enable those in authorised ministry to support their congregations better in connecting faith and work and encourage more effective discipleship in daily life. I am hoping to identify and organise groups for qualitative research soon and it will be very interesting to look at the results and determine the types of resources which would prove highly beneficial. I will also be assisting in the collection of information for the Through-Life Discipleship project, identifying and helping to develop resources through focusing upon major life-stages and life transitions in order to help churches, church schools and college chaplaincies more effectively support individuals in their journeys of faith. In my spare time, I'm a very keen artist and like to draw and do craft. I also love music, going to see live bands whenever I can as well as playing the keyboard and learning the drums (quite badly!). **Hannah can be contacted via email at [hannah.matthews@saltleytrust.org.uk](mailto:hannah.matthews@saltleytrust.org.uk)**

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## Publication News

### The English parish Church through the Centuries: Daily Life and Spirituality

Just Published: The English Parish Church through the Centuries: Daily Life and Spirituality, Art and Architecture, Literature and Music (Christianity and Culture Project, York, 2010), available from: <http://www.york.ac.uk/projects/christianityandculture/pubs.html>. The disc is an extensive resource on the parish church in English history for students and church groups, containing contributions from 225 writers, nearly 2000 images, nearly two hours of filmed video introductions, several dozen audio files and even a 3D 'virtual church' to explore.

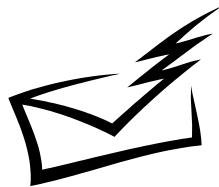
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### Trust Projects

To read more about current and recent Trust projects, order publications and subscribe to our RSS news feed, visit: [www.saltleytrust.org.uk](http://www.saltleytrust.org.uk)

### Updates

Want to receive **Update** by email? Just email [bursar@saltleytrust.entadsl.com](mailto:bursar@saltleytrust.entadsl.com) with 'subscribe to Update' in the subject box



### Trustee Changes

Following the June AGM of St Peter's Saltley Trust we say thanks and farewell to four retiring trustees: Lady Fiona Mynors, Revd. Andy Jolley, Dr Rex Pogson and Mr Tony Leach. Our new Chair of Trustees is the Ven. Hayward Osborne, Archdeacon of Birmingham, with Gordon Thornhill stepping up as Vice-Chair.

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## Need a place to meet in Birmingham?

St Peter's Saltley Trust now offers its boardroom for hire during the working week at low-cost rates for church, charity and educational groups. Seats 14 (boardroom style), 16 (horseshoe style) or 27 (theatre style) and includes use of a whiteboard and flip-charts. Adjoining the boardroom are a small kitchen and toilet. For further information and to book, please contact Lin Brown at: [bursar@saltleytrust.entadsl.com](mailto:bursar@saltleytrust.entadsl.com) or phone (0121) 427 6800.