

## Rural and Christian? Take Part in the *Rural Life and Faith Survey*

The Arthur Rank Centre is embarking upon a new three-year project which seeks to better equip rural churches for mission and ministry. The project, which is part-funded by St Peter's Saltley Trust, aims to begin by mapping existing resources and training, identifying what is most helpful, significant gaps in provision and barriers to learning. Over the coming months an initial questionnaire is being distributed to churches, clergy and training institutions, and this will be followed up with face-to-face interviews and focus groups, including many within the West Midlands region. The results will then shape the design of new materials and ways of learning for rural churches. If you live, work or minister within a rural community you can participate in this project by completing a survey and by helping identify further churches or individuals who can give their feedback on learning and training in a rural church context. To participate, please go to: [http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/projects/rural life and faith/](http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/projects/rural%20life%20and%20faith/) and choose the survey most relevant to your circumstances. For more about the project or for paper copies of the surveys contact Simon Martin at: [simonm@rase.org.uk](mailto:simonm@rase.org.uk), telephone (024) 7685 3068.

## What Difference Does A-Level RS Make?

Amongst the key aims of A-Level RS are that students 'use an enquiring, critical and empathetic approach to the study of religion' (Edexcel) and 'reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their learning' (AQA). Yet comparatively little evidence exists on the impact of studying A-Level RS on students' beliefs, values and worldviews. Do students find their beliefs and values challenged or changed by what they study? How do students respond to the subject-matter they encounter? These questions will be addressed in a new research project directed by Professor Leslie Francis of the University of Warwick and Dr Stephen Parker of the University of Worcester and co-funded by St Peter's Saltley Trust and the St Gabriel's Trust. **The project is currently looking for schools to participate in research through questionnaires, interviews and focus groups.** If your school can help, please contact Dr Stephen Parker at [s.parker@worc.ac.uk](mailto:s.parker@worc.ac.uk) or the University of Worcester, Institute of Education, Henwick Grove, Worcester. WR2 6AJ. Participating schools will receive a brief individual report for their centre, and the results will be shared with teachers and exam boards in order to improve practice.

news of  
projects  
and  
activities  
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trust

### Also In this Issue:

- Schools Needed for Research into impact of A-Level RS
- Events for Christians working in the Criminal Justice or Finance Sectors
- Could your students help design Saltley Trust's new logo?
- Faith and Further Education events in Worcestershire and Warwickshire
- Contribute to a Faith and Work Toolkit / Research Faith and Work in Theological Education
- Staff News, Publications News and Trust-Funded Projects in Brief

## Worcester Further Education Development Project

The Diocese of Worcester's part-time Further Education Development consultant Peter Brownjohn has been hard at work making connections with FE colleges across Worcestershire and the southern half of the Black Country, to understand colleges' current provision for faith matters and spiritual development and to explore opportunities for work in this area. As a focus for this work, a networking event for colleges and interested churches/faith communities is planned for 3 November 10-12.30 at the Coombs Wood Business Centre (part of Halesowen College), including contributions from the Principal of Kidderminster College and the Churches' National Adviser in FE. If you are a member of staff of an FE college in the Dudley and Worcestershire areas with an interest in faith-related student support, or represent a local church or faith community interested to work in partnership with a local college, you can book to attend this event by emailing Debbie Pinfield at the Worcester Diocesan Board of Education on: [dpinfield@cofe-worcester.org.uk](mailto:dpinfield@cofe-worcester.org.uk). More details on the FE Development Project, which is funded by St Peter's Saltley Trust, are available from Peter Brownjohn on: [pbrownjohn8@aol.com](mailto:pbrownjohn8@aol.com).

## Helping Christians to Connect Faith and Work – Can You Help?

### ***Do you work in the Law, Criminal Justice or the Financial Sectors?***

- *Our Work in God's Workplace – a Day for Christians Working in the Criminal Justice System*  
Saturday 7 November 2009, 10.00-4.00, featuring Mike Maiden, Chief Probation Officer of the West Midlands
- *Our Work in God's Workplace – a Day for Christian Working in money, bank or financial roles*, featuring Philip Nunnerley, a senior figure in banking and finance  
Provisional Date: Saturday 23 January 2010, 10.00-4.00

Both events are organised as part of *Our Work in God's Workplace*, a Saltley Trust-funded initiative of the Churches' Industrial Group Birmingham (CIGB). Cost: £10 each, Venue: Christ Church Selly Park, Contact: [jonathangurling@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jonathangurling@yahoo.co.uk)

### ***Contribute to a Faith and Work Toolkit***

On 21 November the Bishop of Birmingham *Transforming Disciples* conference, including representatives from every parish in the diocese, features a workshop on Faith in and out of Work led by Barbara Hayes (Team Leader of the Churches' Industrial Group Birmingham) and Ian Jones (St Peter's Saltley Trust). For this, a toolkit of practical ideas is being prepared. We are particularly looking for ideas of resources and activities, which work, in two areas:

- 1) Things you can do in the workplace to relate faith and work
- 2) Things you can do within the life of the congregation to support/enable people to make connections between faith and work

In due course, the toolkit will be available free to download from the Saltley Trust and CIGB websites. To add ideas please contact: [director@saltleytrust.entadsl.com](mailto:director@saltleytrust.entadsl.com)

### ***Help Research the Place of Faith and Work in Theological Education and Training***

How do we create supportive local church cultures which give time and attention to fostering 'whole-life discipleship'? What particular part do clergy, readers and preachers play in helping Christians relate to daily life and work in the light of the Christian gospel? How could theological training be developed with this in mind? If you are interested in these questions and would be interested to help research them further, WE NEED YOU! Please contact: [director@saltleytrust.entadsl.com](mailto:director@saltleytrust.entadsl.com)

## congratulations!

... to Lin Brown, Saltley Trust's Bursar, on achieving NVQ2 Business Administration. Congratulations also to Pam Wassell, Saltley Trust's Secretary and Clerk to Trustees, who has qualified as a curative hypnotherapist with the Guild of Holistic Therapies.

## in brief

### New FE Forum for Coventry and Warwickshire

Staff with a brief for faith and spirituality working in FE colleges in Coventry and Warwickshire met at the Coventry diocesan offices in June for the inception of a new forum. The forum (which was organised by Coventry diocesan FE officer and North Warks and Hinckley College chaplain Revd Naomi Nixon, with support from Ian Jones of Saltley Trust) heard news of activities from four colleges in the area and offered space to share good practice in faith-related student support. Meetings of the forum are twice-yearly, the next being on 16 December, 10.00-12.00. If you work at a college in the region and have an interest in the place of faith and spiritual development within college life, or represent a local church interested to build links with a local college, you are welcome to take part (and there will be coffee and mince pies, just to tempt you!). Please contact Naomi Nixon ([naomi.nixon@nwhc.ac.uk](mailto:naomi.nixon@nwhc.ac.uk)) or Ian Jones ([director@saltleytrust.entadsl.com](mailto:director@saltleytrust.entadsl.com)).

### SACREs and Interfaith Bodies Working Together

Local Interfaith groups and Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education have found themselves increasingly aware that their activities overlap, particularly in fostering community cohesion and inter-religious understanding at local level. On 12 June, the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and the Interfaith Network for the UK held a joint conference in Coventry, part-funded by St Peter's Saltley Trust, to explore good practice in working together. It is intended that in due course guidelines will be developed from the conference outcomes.

## publications

Ian Jones' and Ruth Tetlow's article: '**Interpreting Faith to Visitors: Reflections on a Pioneering Faith Guiding Course**' was published in the July 2009 edition of the journal *Interreligious Insight* (details on: <http://www.interreligiousinsight.org/index.html>). The article was based on Ian's evaluation interviews with the first cohort to take the Faith Guiding Certificate. A second cohort has subsequently trained and a third faith guiding course is planned for early 2010. (See: [www.faithencounter.org.uk](http://www.faithencounter.org.uk)).

**Christianity and Culture** is an innovative project based at St John's Nottingham and the University of York, established to produce interactive DVD-Rom-based learning resources on Christianity for students and other groups, including church groups. It particularly seeks to benefit those who are studying some aspect of English history or literature for which an understanding of Christian theology, practice, language and culture are essential, but who may have no particular cultural literacy in Christianity. Patrons include former poet laureate Prof. Andrew Motion. The third resource: **The Story of the Church in England: The Parish Church: Development, People, Belief, Buildings, Art, Spirituality, Culture** is currently being produced, spanning almost 2000 years of Christian presence in England. Ian Jones is currently preparing a contribution to the sections on Christianity since 1945. For more, visit: <http://www.york.ac.uk/projects/christianityandculture/index.html>

FOR OTHER REPORTS, ARTICLES AND RESOURCES DEVELOPED BY OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH ST PETER'S SALTLEY TRUST, PLEASE VISIT: [www.saltleytrust.org.uk/publications.htm](http://www.saltleytrust.org.uk/publications.htm)

## In brief (contd)

### Warley Deanery Unity Project

The work of the Unity Project continues, with the launch of the Londonderry Youth Project at St Mark's Londonderry on 31 October. Project worker Steve Alexander has also been engaged in a variety of initiatives with other parishes, including training volunteer youth workers, undertaking detached youth work and bringing together congregations, local residents and other providers to develop youth strategies. The Unity Project is part-funded by St Peter's Saltley Trust.

### Spirited Music

The National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE)'s *Spirited Music* project continues to develop, with the January 2010 issue of *REToday* focusing on connecting music and RE. To coincide with this, activities and resources gathered and developed as part of the *Spirited Music* project will be available on the NATRE website. See: [www.retoday.org.uk](http://www.retoday.org.uk) and [www.natre.org.uk](http://www.natre.org.uk). The project is part-funded by St Peter's Saltley Trust.

### Noah's Ark Comes to Rest in Birmingham Cathedral!

An art installation by pupils from Bartley Green High School in Birmingham will be the centrepiece of a week of workshops linking environmental concern and interfaith week at St Philip's Cathedral in Birmingham. Groups of primary school children, clergy from the Diocese of Birmingham and other visitors will explore a contemporary version of the story of Noah's Ark from the perspective of the three Abrahamic faiths and make origami arks to send to the government to highlight the environmental crisis in the run-up to the Copenhagen summit. The project is part-funded by St Peter's Saltley Trust. For more details contact Jessica Foster at: ([Jessica@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:Jessica@birmingham.anglican.org)).

## Could you help design our new logo?

St Peter's Saltley Trust is looking to refresh its public face and is running a logo and letterhead design competition for schools and colleges within the West Midlands region. There are three age categories (years 7-9, 10-11 and 12+) with a £50 prize for the winner of each age category, plus a further £50 for the overall winner and £200 for their school. The competition opened on 9 October and closes on 15 February 2010. For more information and competition rules and guidelines email: [sec@saltleytrust.entadsl.com](mailto:sec@saltleytrust.entadsl.com) or visit [www.saltleytrust.org.uk](http://www.saltleytrust.org.uk) and click on 'logo competition'.

### New Trust Website Features Unveiled

You can now **bookmark** Saltley Trust web pages and **receive Trust news updates** straight to your web browser, thanks to Saltley Trust's web designer Chris Brown.

More people are using '**bookmarking**' sites (such as *Delicious*, *Reddit*, or *Digg*) which allow users to store and share links to websites they enjoy. You can bookmark Saltley Trust pages by clicking on the '**Share this**' button (found on most pages of the Trust website) and choosing your preferred bookmarking tool (you will need to subscribe but it's generally easy and free of charge). When you share your bookmarks with others, they will see the Trust's web pages listed and can follow the link directly to it.

The website also has an improved '**News**' section with news archive. Click '**Subscribe to RSS**' and a 'St Peter's Saltley Trust' button will be added to your browser window. This shows up bold when news items are added to the website.

**Update** will also become available on the 'bulletin' section of the website.