



East Midlands Churches Forum

Our Final Report

*Following the winding up of the Forum at
30th June 2011 we present a report, accounts
and history of the Forum and its work
since formation in 1998*



East Midlands Churches Forum – Our Final Report

At one of my first East Midlands Churches Forum meetings the DVD of the Faith and Culture Project was launched. This was an impressive piece of work and a stimulating resource for Churches and Agencies. It presented the Church's buildings, people and activities in relation to the cultural life of the region. Another occasion had as its focus the Faith in the City follow-up report and it prompted lively exchanges between local Government officers and Church leaders to the benefit and deeper understanding of all involved. Apart from the gatherings which focussed on particular aspects of the life of the region there was behind the scenes work, such as influencing the Regional Assembly policies, building up relationships between Christians and Churches which often were ignorant of or uninterested in each other, and encouraging co-ordination of Churches activities to be more effective in making a difference to local regional and national government. This work was carried out by volunteers for the most part, but significant contributions were made by the handful of paid staff over the last thirteen years, particularly, Pauline Nicholls, Tim Clarke and Derek Markie. The Church Leaders meeting annually has been the group with general oversight and have been permission givers. The Steering Group has been the group who have carried the responsibility for vision, strategy and organisation, and have met regularly to do this. It has been good to see the development of this group over the last eight years. Recently the signs have been all too clear that regional Church structures are no longer appropriate. The need for God's work through the churches to engage with political, economic and cultural life of our communities and nations nevertheless remains. We lay down our our work, hoping that others will continue to see and make real Isaiah's vision of a society characterised by old and young living together in safety, with good housing, fruitful labour, and healthy life styles. Let there be peace and plenty with justice for all.



Terry Oakley

The EAST MIDLANDS CHURCHES FORUM – A HISTORY

Why did it happen

In 1997 the then new Labour Government established a series of Regional Assemblies in the 8 English Regions continuing a path towards devolution more widely espoused in the UK and Europe. They encouraged a more participative form of engagement, with local authorities providing the political representatives and public, private and voluntary representatives, soon to be termed "stakeholders", joining. Churches Together in England (CTE) and other Faith bodies were urged to find ways to sponsor appropriate representation and each region then worked on its constitution, structures and appointment processes. Power over planning and the wider integration of public policy was devolved and Government Offices in the Regions expanded to add further devolved thinking and response.

As we close a significant chapter in the history of our region and our churches' social engagement with its government it seemed right to try and at least write a synopsis of that chapter. This is a personal view by the Executive Officer, Derek Markie.

(continued over.)

A HISTORY - Why did it happen? (Continued from front page)

The consultation documents for this process were sent to the Diocesan Bishops in the East Midlands, and Rev Andrew Vaughan, Industrial Chaplain in Lincoln, and Rosemary Powers, Social Responsibility Officer in Derby prepared the basis of a response from the Bishops. From this work, a small pathfinder group under the chairmanship of Rev Peter Sulston worked ecumenically to develop the first East Midlands Church leaders meeting. A part of the agenda for this meeting was the proposal to establish the East Midlands Churches Forum

Bishop Bob Hardy of Lincoln acted as convenor of this first ever gathering of all Church Leaders from all main denominations and agreement was reached to establish EMCF, under the chairmanship of the Rt Rev Alan Morgan.

Who was involved?

Bishop Alan's radical heart for the declining industrial areas and political engagement set an active tone for the early years of the EMCF. The Rev Malcolm Hanson, East Midlands URC Synod Moderator, appointed as Vice-Chair, worked equally energetically to ensure that the Christian voice was representative.

Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Forum



← Bp Alan Morgan
Revd Malcolm Hanson
Revs Alison Tomlin
 Bp Frank White →
Revd Terry Oakley



Both geographic and lay input was secured in the constitution of the Forum itself. Representatives were sought from every denominational and district organisation and it was they who appointed the Steering Group to work as an executive alongside the Church Leaders appointed Chair and Vice Chair. Methodists, Anglicans, Catholics, Baptists, Salvationists and, more recently Pentecostals, have involved their leaders, officers, academics, and lay activists to play their part in the steering group.

Assembly Representatives and Alternates	Administrators and Executive Directors of the Forum
<p>Revd Keith Orford Revd Tim Royds Revd Andrew Vaughan Revd Lorna Coke Revd Tim Clarke Derek Markie</p>	<p>Pauline Nichols Revd Tim Clarke Derek Markie</p>

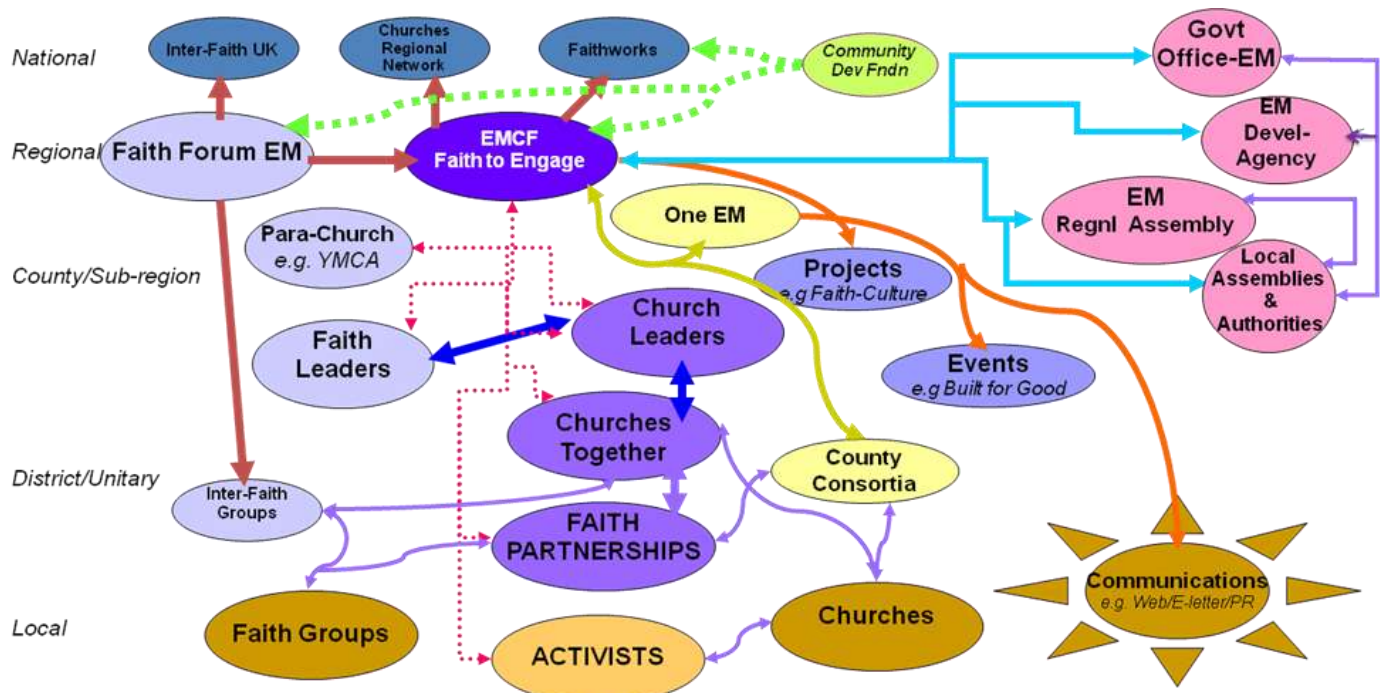
Notable influences were those whom EMCF sponsored as one of the two Faith representatives at the Regional Assembly. The early research by Rev Tim Royds and path finding work of Rev Keith Orford, a non-stipendiary priest and recent retiree from local government, ensured that our representation work in the new domain was sure-footed. Theological work by Revd Andrew Vaughan and Patricia Stoa established our basis and the underpinning alliance with concepts of subsidiarity. Broad areas of awareness from environment to culture, voluntary sector to health and housing, industry and agriculture ensured that we could address the wide policy agenda with integrity and authority alongside a suspicious or even antagonistic economic and political "ruling class".

Other members of the Steering Group have included:		and benefited from specialist contributions of:
David McCoulough	David Wiseman	Jackie Carpenter
Gill Jackson	Jill Marsh	Linda Church
Jim Jenkinson	Martin Wilson	Rachel Elliott
Maureen Hepburn	Patricia Stoa	Richard Davey
Peter Hill	Peter Yates	
Richard Jordan	Rosemary Power	
Terry Miller	Tim Woolley	

What did we do?

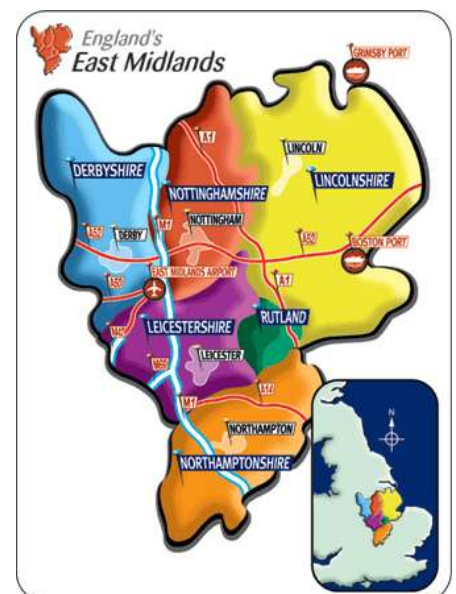
The speedy establishment of a workable constituency and communication network brought early benefit by bringing real expertise to the fore. Government including regional civil servants and local government officers were supportive and both the voluntary sector, and mutual commercials were ready to engage. Other groups including Environmentalists (focussed around planning) and Voluntary groups (focussed less exclusively but largely around health and social welfare) had followed similar paths, to be able to sponsor representatives on the assembly often with government support for their infrastructure. Other faiths too, led by Leicester and Derby Councils of Faiths, formed the loose alliance of the EM Forum of Faiths to sponsor the “other faiths” representative. This title which now seems very patronising and sectarian was unique to our region and others had just one, usually Christian, but with some input from other faiths to their sponsorship. The relationship between our representatives has, however, been invariably excellent and the EMCF has sought to assist FFEM throughout our parallel histories in seeking equal and collaborative access.

After 10 years we saw our relationships thus:



Policy Engagement

But policy does not form in a vacuum and the task of communicating the issues, the possibilities and the values espoused in various vertical and horizontal debates became the substance of our Forums. The work on the Integrated Regional Strategy was central to the first 3 years activity with significant markers being secured around spiritual health, peripheral access for the edges of our region, prosperity for all, youth justice and genuine regeneration, as we worked to give political expression to at least some aspects of a More Excellent Way. We challenged the “Winner takes All” mentality of the EM Development Agency’s strategy “Prosperity Through People” with our own “Prosperity FOR People” critique. Similar stances in the Regional Planning Board were applied to restrain corporatism and promote healthy community regeneration, right the way through the Regional Planning Examinations in Public and the subsequent proposals for the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Region. After the initial burst of activity, directly supporting the Assembly Task Groups in the first 2 years, a continuous pattern of engagement developed. Annual Forum and Church Leaders Meetings routinely involved direct debate with Assembly Leaders, Chief Executives, Heads of Government Office and Chief Execs of Unitary or County Authorities.



Our Forum events, reports and papers, often responding to government consultations (bold items were face to face meetings with ministers) tell the story and reflect the ongoing policy narrative of more recent years:

2002 – Faithful to Culture	2007 – Ministry of Justice – British Governance
2003 - Churches and The Regions	2008 – Faith Culture Hub & Resources DVD
2003 – Regional Planning Enquiry	2008 – Formal Membership of Faiths Forum EM
2004 - A Theological Basis for Engagement	2008 - Local Strategic Partnerships Review
2004 – Supporting Faith & Community Action	2008 – Sub-National Review (ending Reg Assy)
2005 - Funding our Futures	2009 – Environmental EXPO
2005 - Greening the Church	2009 – Partnership with Faith to Engage
2005 – Home Office Consultation	2009 – The Future of Local Government
2005 – MKeynes /Sth Mids Planning Enquiry	2009 – Theology of Place (RTP Launch)
2005 – Subsidiarity	2010 – Big Society, Big Response
2006 – A Decent Home	2010 – Built for Good
2006 – Delivering Well Being	2010 – Muslim Leader’s Engagement
2006 – Do Children & Young People Matter	2010 – You, Me, Together – Good Soc for all
2006 – What Makes a Good City	2011 – BigSoc & Church, Theol, Policy, Practice
2007 – Black Majority Churches engagement	2011 – Meeting God in Friend & Stranger



Friends and Opponents:

The Forum’s influence has been built on good relationships, even with our apparent enemies who identified themselves early on as opponents of regionalism, opponents of participative democracy, and opponents of faith perspectives (real or perceived). The debates have facilitated major improvements in awareness of real faith perspectives amongst politicians, government officers, business representatives and even those who we saw as more natural allies in the voluntary sector. As we now wind up the Forum it is perhaps this aspect that seems at greatest risk. The success at regional level has not “filtered down” to every local authority and indeed we failed to ensure representation on all Local Strategic Partnerships of Voluntary Sector Consortia despite specific mandates on authorities to do so. In fairness it must also be said that the inability of churches to support some of these roles and the failure of some County Ecumenical Bodies to espouse engagement account for part of this failure. As a Forum we also failed to sufficiently engage with the “person in the pew”. Throughout the period of maximum engagement the Church Leaders supported a great deal and the excitement of the early Forums and Task groups brought in many activists but the slow pace of political reform, complexity of government, and reducing funding support for volunteers all contributed to the uphill struggle. A matter of regret too is that Church Leaders were often unwilling or unable to sponsor their church members’ engagement despite significant expertise, holding the reins tightly themselves. This continues to be a common experience of both officers and members who are the means of public engagement for their churches via a variety of groupings, often ecumenical in approach. It must be said too that other organisations have been similarly restrained including large areas of the Voluntary Sector where Chief Execs were reluctant to involve others and infrastructure bodies wary of handing the lead to the best placed organisation in their networks.

The range of groups with which we did engage is nevertheless impressive and in some we established Board level positions for Christian representatives:

Regional Assembly: Policy Board Planning Board	DCMS EM Cultural Consortium Board Member
Assembly Task Groups on Housing, Regeneration, Transport, Health, Inclusion	EngageEMSubsequently One East Midlands Board Membership County and Sector consortia
EM Development Agency Stakeholder Group Sub-regional Partnerships	Regional Equality & Diversity Partnership
Government Office Lead on Faith representation	EM Rural Affairs Forum
Equalities and Human Rights Commission Joint Lead on Faith representation	EM Heritage Forum
Learning & Skills Councils	Faith Forum East Midlands – Board Observer (reciprocated)
EM Training & Education Council and its successor the Regional Training Partnership	Fraternal links with: Ecumenical Officers, Social Responsibility Officers and Chaplains Working Groups

Along the Way

Supportive national links have always been important to inform and guide our work and we maintained active memberships of:

Churches Regional Network
FaithAction
Faith To Engage (Faithworks)
Housing Justice
Urban Forum

Faith Based Regeneration Network
Inter Faith Network
Churches Together in England
National Council of Voluntary Organisations



The Forum both reviewed and changed its style, becoming at some points a project leader in key initiatives such as the Faith-Culture Hub and the integration of Black Majority Churches. To facilitate such endeavours our Administrator led Forum became an Executive led organisation modelled on the Commissions of Yorkshire and the North East. A move towards more independent agency working was however seen as a step too far and also occurred at a point where regionalism was on the wane. Focus moved towards ensuring the benefits and experience of regional participative working could be secured for more local endeavours.



Turning the Page.....beyond the East Midlands Churches Forum

The Forum was born in 1998 and evolved throughout the period of Regional Government in England until 2010 when it became clear that this pattern of government would be wound down rapidly. A six-month period of review confirmed that the Voluntary, Community, Faith and other civil infrastructures that had also developed would either disappear or be recast as specific institutions, merge into national bodies or seek to continue in more local forms. The Localism Bill and Big Society initiatives have given some succour to the idea that all infrastructure can be either local or national so despite evidence to the contrary the regional field is already largely deserted.

The question for Church Leaders was therefore two-fold. Is there work to be done at regional level and if so what?

How do we best apply resources to support more local civic engagement?

The emerging set of answers looks something like:

- **There is work to be done regionally:**
 - **amongst leaders and officers** including the ecumenically ordered Regional Training Programme and
 - **by active Christians** in what regional organisations and national structure groupings remain including Christian Aid, and several voluntary organisations linked through One East Midlands

BUT

- There is virtually no government related work to do at that level where our unified action justifies the need, or provides a platform for an ecumenical agency such as EMCF
- **There is much more to be done at county and local levels** where we must reapply our resources in rather austere times to:
 - **Support the needy** around our churches
 - **Offer support to organisations** that share our concerns but have seen funds dry up
 - **Promote the emerging** and more unified voices of MISSION

Inevitably however such restructuring leaves gaps and we have sort to both identify and address those with limited success.

The Ecumenical Action gap: With the lower level of infrastructure and trans-local oversight the work is more likely to be done by individual denominations than together. Churches Together groups are still, in many areas, underdeveloped in terms of drawing on the whole body of the church or in encompassing it's whole life, especially social action. Some local groups are still simply talkers and occasional event organisers supported by a few liberal leaning Christians. FEASTS provide a new, but still underdeveloped model which fits more with the aspirations of ecumenism to do apart only those things which we cannot do together. The secular voluntary sector often also provides a locus for Christian action but in which the Body of Christ is often not "discerned" and more rarely "manifest"

The Civic Engagement gap: Links between churches and local government have always been patchy. It was only in the Assembly model of participative democracy that a clear place was defined for Christians acting together and it achieved the recognition and respect of the entire regional body politic. At city or community level the players may be restricted to one or two church leaders or activists, often without any supportive framework. It is left to work in a more ad hoc manner with individual departments on education, emergency planning or community issues. Worse still some are side-lined to the faith strand of the equalities department which allows the authority to partner with none for fear of cries of foul from other equalities strands. Local Enterprise Partnerships currently have no duty to engage with voluntary or faith groupings.

The Interfaith gap: At the point where we are winding up EMCF, the Faith Forum also closed its doors as funding ended. Our own attempts to open doors to other faith Communities which had started relatively late under Faithful to Culture and the Faith to Engage projects is still unsustainable.

God is present and active: We would encourage all the organisations who have been part of the EMCF story to mark it, promise not to forget it, and to look for God active in the gaps. That will mean different things to different elements (individuals, congregations, churches and organisations). We must also:



- **Communicate:** inspired by that One God of triune relationship, to share what is going on at a particular point of contact with government, faith group, voluntary sector player or initiative
- **Challenge:** our own structures to engage and link with other Christian organisations and do more together
- **Encourage:** Christians in places of influence in the public realm, civil or voluntary structures to:
 - Acknowledge their fellow Christians and see their working lives as mission and
 - Make themselves known along with the values and purposes which they and the churches espouse.

There is also a risk of loss of expertise in the processes of engagement, and structural mechanisms to “pass the equality test” in relation to inter-faith. Derek and Patricia will continue to connect with you under the Faith to Engage project and would hope to assist with these aspects and with the **Communications** necessary to support the **Challenge** and **Encouragement** described.

The next page..

.....remains unclear: Government would have us believe it is titled Big Society, but as churches assess their degree of support from Big Response to Big Lie the churches will clearly remain independent of it. We do support community attempts to act harmoniously for the assistance of the weakest and to resist those who would exploit or abuse them. UK Citizens and local groups include many Christians and other faith leaders, often in their vanguards. Cities of Sanctuary, Fair Trade Cities, extended chaplaincy, healthy living, and many environmental and cultural movements are all in tune with our core values. FEASTS have already been mentioned as a unifying force for Christians with a broad and active view of Mission. The individual churches that are finding diverse ways to become one of, if not the, community hub at local level are almost invariably growing, linking to public authorities and spreading light. Our region’s faith research centres (Derby Multi-faith Centre, Nottingham University Department of Theology and Religious Studies, and St Philip’s Centre in Leicester) are established, respected and influential. So some of the characters of the next chapter of ACTS are emerging but the story is yet to be revealed.....

EMCF began by defining its Theological Basis: born of political opportunity and invitation, it has resigned under the same instigation. Our prayer would be that the actors in the next chapter also espouse an awareness of their situation and temporal opportunity, while basing all they do in God, seeking the Spirit’s leading and truth in a fickle world.

EMCF ACCOUNTS - 2010

EAST MIDLANDS CHURCHES FORUM ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

I confirm that the attached accounts indicating income for the year of £26,870.00 and expenditure of £18,782.14 are in accordance with the books and records of East Midlands Churches Forum.

Lemans Chartered Accountants
29 Arboretum Street
Nottingham NG1 4JA

01 April 2011

<u>RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT</u>				
<u>YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010</u>	<u>2010</u>		<u>2009</u>	
	£	£	£	£
BANK BALANCE AS AT 1 JANUARY	57,280.78		43,959.47	
RECEIPTS				
SUBSCRIPTION INCOME	16,570.00		20,449.00	
FAITH & CULTURE PROJECT	0.00		15.00	
GRANT RECEIVED - FAITH TO ENGAGE	8,500.00		12,574.75	
CONSULTANCY CHARGES	1,520.00		0.00	
BUILT FOR GOOD	280.00		0.00	
EXPENSES				
DM CONSULTANCY FEES		14,346.25		13,053.09
CONSULTANT EXPENSES		0.00		2,209.58
STEERING GROUP MEETING COSTS		767.00		30.00
FORUM & CHURCH LEADERS MEETINGS COSTS		110.57		452.55
OFFICE RENTAL		750.00		562.50
TELEPHONE & INTERNET		622.97		771.91
TRAINING		0.00		21.50
IT & WEB SUPPORT		0.00		141.56
LEGAL FEES		0.00		2,300.00
MISCELLANEOUS		158.58		174.75
CONFERENCE COSTS		2,026.77		0.00
BANK BALANCE AS AT 31 DECEMBER		65,368.64		57,280.78
	84,150.78	84,150.78	76,998.22	76,998.22
BANK RECONCILIATION				
BALANCE PER STATEMENT AT 31 DECEMBER 2010				64,666.16
LESS U/P CHEQUES 210, 211 & 212				(159.77)
PLUS DME FEES REPAID				862.25
				65,368.64

EMCF – A FINAL ACCOUNT – to June 30th 2011

EAST MIDLANDS CHURCHES FORUM

ACCOUNTS

PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 30 JUNE 2011

I confirm that the attached accounts indicating income for the year of £4,356.63 and expenditure of £69,725.27 are in accordance with the books and records of East Midlands Churches Forum.

Lemans Chartered Accountants 21 July 2011
 29 Arboretum Street
 Nottingham NG1 4JA

<u>RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT</u>				
<u>PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 30 JUNE 2011</u>	<u>2011</u>		<u>2010</u>	
	£	£	£	£
BANK BALANCE AS AT 1 JANUARY	65,368.64		57,280.78	
RECEIPTS				
SUBSCRIPTION INCOME			16,570.00	
FAITH & CULTURE PROJECT			0.00	
GRANT RECEIVED - FAITH TO ENGAGE	3,370.00		8,500.00	
CONSULTANCY CHARGES			1,520.00	
BUILT FOR GOOD			280.00	
FAITHS FORUM	986.63			
EXPENSES				
DM CONSULTANCY FEES (incl FaithToEngage continuation)		13,929.27		14,346.25
STEERING GROUP MEETING COSTS		52.00		767.00
FORUM & CHURCH LEADERS MEETINGS COSTS		166.67		110.57
OFFICE RENTAL		562.50		750.00
TELEPHONE & INTERNET		362.69		622.97
MISCELLANEOUS		0.00		158.58
CONFERENCE COSTS		0.00		2,026.77
ACCOUNTANCY		639.00		0.00
DISPERSAL OF REMAINING CHURCH FUNDS TO SUBSCRIBERS		54,013.14		0.00
BANK BALANCE AS AT END OF PERIOD		0.00		65,368.64
	69,725.27	69,725.27	84,150.78	84,150.78
BANK RECONCILIATION				
BALANCE PER STATEMENT AT 30 JUNE 2011				0.00

What is Faith to Engage

Faith to Engage is a project which works to strengthen the voice of churches and faith groups in policy-making across the nine English regions. Funded by the National Lottery's Big Lottery Fund, it is delivered nationally by leading Christian social action movement Faithworks in collaboration with nine regional partners. Faith to Engage aims to support a strong, effective and inclusive faith sector in the nine regions of England.



East Midlands Event

As part of the project, events are held in each of the nine English regions at least once a year. This year East of England had an event in February in Ipswich on the issues of Mental Health and it was held in partnership with NHS. Examples of events over the Summer and Autumn around the country include:

- Planning for Low Carbon Living
- Upside Down Kingdom - Shane Claiborne
- Corporate Governance & The Equality Act
- Honest - Join the Conversation
- Third Sector's Impact Measurements & Analysis

What will happen in my region?

Faith to Engage is delivered by our regional partner, Derek Markie, who has strong relationships with existing faith networks in the area and is based there. Faith to Engage will look different in each region, because every region has its own character and history. However Faith to Engage will give you the opportunity to take part in:

- Networking with other faith groups and regional agencies
- Policy consultations and discussions
- Training and support events
- Practical work with others to serve your region

What will Faith to Engage achieve?

Faith to Engage will support all faith groups to work together and with others, to make purposeful partnerships, to share information, and to use their knowledge and practical experience of serving their networks in their area and already has knowledge and practical experience of serving their communities to influence regional decision making. Faith to Engage will aim to achieve the following:

1. Increased participation by the faith sector in regional policy making.
2. More effective and inclusive consultation and representation mechanism for the faith sector in each region.
3. More service delivery partnerships.
4. More cross-sector and interfaith networking and partnerships.
5. More faith-based organisations accessing support from non faith-based infrastructure agencies.
6. Increased understanding by regional voluntary sector

Partnership The key to the success of Faith to Engage is working with individuals and organisations already active in the regions. We aim to enhance and support the existing work undertaken in the regions by Faith Forums and networks. Our hope is that Faith to Engage will help to develop their reach and effectiveness by drawing new people into partnership together in social action. As leading providers of voluntary and statutory services, faith groups have a vital role to play in policy making.

The Faithworks Charter sets out principles for Faith Groups, Churches and local agencies committed to excellence in community work and service provision in the UK

Motivated by our (Christian or other) faith we _____
commit ourselves to the following high standards as we serve others in our community work and seek to model trust.

We will provide an inclusive service to our community by:

1. Serving and respecting all people regardless of their gender, marital status, race, ethnic origin, religion, age, sexual orientation or physical and mental capability.
2. Acknowledging the freedom of people of all faiths or none both to hold and to express their beliefs and convictions respectfully and freely, within the limits of the UK law.
3. Never imposing our particular faith or belief on others.
4. Developing partnerships with other churches, voluntary groups, statutory agencies and local government wherever appropriate in order to create an effective, integrated service for our clients avoiding unnecessary duplication of resources.
5. Providing and publicising regular consultation and reporting forums to client groups and the wider community regarding the effective development and delivery of our work and our responsiveness to their actual needs.

We will value all individuals in a way that is consistent with the distinctive ethos of our faith by:

1. Creating an environment where clients, volunteers and employees are encouraged and enabled to realise their potential.
2. Assisting our clients, volunteers and employees to take responsibility for their own learning and development, both through formal and informal training opportunities and ongoing assessment.
3. Developing an organisational culture in which individuals learn from any mistakes made and where excellence and innovation are encouraged and rewarded.
4. Promoting the value of a balanced, holistic lifestyle as part of each individual's overall personal development.
5. Abiding by the requirements of employment law in the UK and implementing best employment practices and procedures designed to maintain our distinctive ethos and values.

We will develop a professional approach to management, practice and funding by:

1. Implementing a management structure, which fosters and encourages participation by staff at all levels in order to facilitate the fulfilment of the project's goals and visions.
2. Setting and reviewing measurable and timed outcomes annually, and regularly to evaluate and monitor our management structure and output, recognising the need for ongoing organisational flexibility, development and good stewardship of resources.
3. Doing all we can to ensure that we are not over-dependent on any one source of funding.
4. Implementing best practice procedures in terms of Health and Safety and Child Protection in order to protect our staff, volunteers and clients.
5. Handling our funding in a transparent and accountable way and to give relevant people from outside our organisation/project reasonable access to our accounts.



Websites and contacts

As the EM Partner for Faith to Engage Derek continues to be contactable on emcfadmin@btconnect.com and in the event that it fails info@emcf.org.uk and the main web-site www.emcf.org.uk will be maintained at least as a repository for our work.

The EM Faith Forum website is similarly maintained www.ffem.org.uk

The Regional Training Partnership is contactable via Mike Harrison Mike.Harrison@LecCofE.org or David McCoulough davidmcc@southwell.anglican.org

National websites include:

- Churches Together in England at www.cte.org.uk
- Faithworks at www.faithworks.info
- Inter-Faith Network at www.interfaith.org.uk
- Faith Based Regeneration Network at www.fbrn.org.uk
- Fresh Expressions and FEASTS at www.freshexpressions.org.uk/feasts

For the fastest response: Call Derek's mobile - 0777 877 2176 (do leave a message there. I will call back)

Why should I get involved?

(If you are part of the EMCF mailing list you will continue to receive e-mails or post as requested)

The faith sector represents a large segment of our communities and is already a leading provider of voluntary and statutory services. Therefore it is vital that we are involved in policy-making, consultation and service delivery partnerships. Moreover, faith groups have the ability to reach those 'hard-to-reach' pockets of society and communities which government often can't. Society as a whole benefits. Traditionally there has been misunderstanding and suspicion on the parts of both government and faith groups, but this is changing for the better and we hope this project will contribute to further significant improvement in this area.

Faith to Engage in other regions



(North East)



(South West)



(Yorks & Humber)



(London)



(West Midlands)



(East & South East)



(North West)

