

**SUMMER
2007**

faithworks
northampton

New Members

A warm welcome to **New Pastures Church** and **Crime to Christ Ministry** following their recent registration as members.

In this newsletter we feature news from existing members Northamptonshire YMCA and NAYC; and help from Abington Avenue URC to host our special guest Malcolm Duncan, leader of Faithworks.

Steps of Faith

We have decided to step out in faith and enlist support for a part-time Development Worker and have also begun to plan for a Faith Community Audit.

The Development Worker will provide the energy needed to achieve our vision [see back page].

The Faith Community Audit will demonstrate the beneficial impact that the Faith Communities, with the Church being the largest contributor, have on the social well-being of the community.

We believe the results of this audit will surprise and encourage the Church and provide impetus for greater partnership with the community and the Local Authorities.

HOPE 2008

in our villages, towns & cities

- a year of united mission for every denomination, stream and ministry, across the whole of the UK.

www.hope08.com

Well done Mt Pleasant Baptist Church who have invited Roy Crowne, National Director of Youth for Christ and a core leader of Hope 08. Roy will share the vision and potential of Hope 08 at 7.30pm, Sept 14th at Mt Pleasant.

Contact 01604 516809 for details.

Good news for Youth

When severe County Council cutbacks for the funding of youth work were announced a year or two back, local Christian youth leaders met to talk and pray. Their concerns were supported by Faithworks Northampton and Churches Together who subsequently took the opportunity to share them with the Council.

Two of our members, the Northamptonshire YMCA and Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs [NAYC] have now won funding from the Council to provide infrastructure support to every youth group in the county and the training of youth leaders respectively.

The YMCA is contracted to provide a range of activities including specialist support for developing quality standards of youth work, accreditation and recognition of young people. Information for new youth groups, training events, active youth involvement, an annual youth conference and giving a voice to the sector form part of their remit. This work will be ongoing for the next three years and anyone interested in knowing more is asked to contact Michael Freeman at The YMCA on 01604 642104 or by email michael.freeman@northampton.ymca.org.uk

Against competition from 30 other groups, NAYC was contracted to train youth leaders around the county. NAYC has recently experienced an increase in the number of affiliated youth clubs and is now offering **FREE** 3 hour evening training courses specifically for new youth leaders and volunteer youth workers.

NAYC is talking to the Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs (WAYC) about their extensive training package in order to offer it to NAYC affiliated groups alongside this other training. These training courses range from 10 – 60 hour and NAYC are in discussions with the University of Northampton about getting both courses accredited. You can provisionally book a place by registering online www.nayc.org or contact Jacqui Johnson, Training Co-ordinator: Tel 01604 499699 Email ydnayc.org

Unity = Diversity + Common Purpose

Malcolm Duncan

Note the date! - we are thrilled to have Malcolm, who is the leader of Faithworks and a premier national speaker, with us on Friday 12th October.
Malcolm is not here to promote Faithworks.

He comes to encourage and challenge us as the local Body of Christ to exercise fresh faith and commitment in working together to present and example the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the community.

Leaders lunch at Kings Park and an open meeting at 7.30pm, Abington Avenue URC.

What makes One Northampton?

**Holy Sepuchure Parish Centre, Campbell Sq
7.30pm October 24th**

What role can people of faith play as part of the community in encouraging a working together for the good of the whole town?

The Commission on Integration and Cohesion published its report earlier this year. It has its roots in the events of 7/7 but has seen its task not as responding to a particular crisis, but rather developing a view of how different groups can relate and how new and existing residents adapt to one another. It is not just concerned with diversity of ethnicity and faith but also how settled communities adapt to new residents, rural communities adapt to growth, established communities adapt to new housing.

Christians, along with all people of faith, draw on strong traditions of hospitality and the valuing of all in the sight of God. We want to contribute to how our town unites people for the common good.

The evening, initiated by Faithworks Northampton, follows the successful evening in 2006 entitled, "What makes a good Northampton?", which was jointly organised with Churches Together Northampton and supported by Northampton Faiths Forum.

Leonnie McCarthy from The Integration and Cohesion Commission will be our special guest as we consider their "Our shared future" report alongside local issues in the town so that we can identify a clear vision for the future of **one** Northampton.

Network Meetings

In May we met to consider how Christian Churches and Organisations can best support those with **Mental Health** issues. Whilst attendance was lower than previous network meetings, those who did attend had genuine interest and expertise in this area. Hopefully the lower numbers did not mean that people viewed this area as the domain of the professionals or perhaps an issue that many or most feel uncomfortable about dealing with.

There were two main speakers Dr. David Smart, a local GP with special interest in this area and Gwyn Pritchard representing the Manna House Counselling Service.

The meeting was reminded that mental health issues are common and many will experience an episode in their lifetime e.g. stress, depression etc. it was a very informative meeting with the talks and discussion highlighting the need for a holistic approach to healthy living and emotions; both of which can be informed by the Christian lifestyle.

Consideration is being given as to how this topic may be followed up.

ADVANCE NOTICE: our next network meeting will look at how we reach out to and build bridges with those coming into our town from other nations. Details to follow.

Join the Faithworks Northampton Network

Twenty five Christian Churches and Organisations have already formally joined Faithworks Northampton.

The minimum annual membership fee is £35. Of this amount £15 goes to the local network and £20 for your national membership of Faithworks. . Any gift over the £35 membership fee will go directly to developing Faithworks Northampton.

For more information on Faithworks Northampton contact:

David Wiseman, The Diocese of Peterborough,
Bouverie Court, The Lakes, Bedford Road,
Northampton, NN4 7YD

Vision

Faithworks Northampton seeks to facilitate and bring fresh impetus to Christian churches and organisations working together as they develop their role in serving the community through, and because of, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Faithworks Northampton recognises that a significant opportunity and challenge exists to facilitate the building of bridges between the wider Christian community and other faith groups, community groups and local authorities.

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A network of Churches and Christian organisations exploring better ways of working with local communities and agencies to build God's kingdom. Churches involved include Anglican, Baptist, Evangelical, Methodist, New Churches, Pentecostal, Roman Catholic, United Reformed Church; organisations include Northampton YMCA, The Manna House.