

Community
mission

eNewsletter

Funding sources to support, training events to equip and stories to inspire

Dear friend,

"Advent should admonish us to discover, in each brother or sister who we greet, in each friend whose hand we shake, in each beggar who asks for bread, in each worker who wants to use the right to join a union, in each peasant who looks for work in the coffee groves, the face of Christ.

Then it would not be possible to rob them, to cheat them, to deny them their rights. They are Christ, and whatever is done to them Christ will take as done to Him.

This is what Advent is: Christ living among us."

Oscar Romero.

We want to help you more effectively! Please take a minute to contribute to the [online web survey](#) and help us ensure the [community mission](#) website is scratching where you and others are itching - don't forget to leave your details and enter the draw for a Rob Bell [Nooma Dvd](#).

We do wish you a peaceful and Christ-filled Christmas,

God bless,

Maggie Harding
Community Mission

tearfund livability

Funding

Training & Events

Stories & Resources

FUNDING




[Funding Central](#) offers detailed contracting advice and information. Ever thought of contracting one of your services but don't know what is involved and where to start? Read [an introduction to contracts](#) to understand whether a contract could be appropriate for you. For general funding help read [Top 10 tips for successful applications](#).

[Faiths in Action](#) is a £4 million grant programme from the [Community Development Foundation](#) and round 2 is now open. Grants are offered to faith, inter-faith, voluntary and community sector organisations at all levels in England. Applications must have a clear focus on faith or inter-faith issues and show how projects relate to one or more of the fund's four priorities. There is no formal deadline for applications which will be accepted until the fund has been exhausted. Grants will be distributed from April 2010 and will fund activities that take place between April 2010 and March 2011. Any additional funding that may be required must be secured at the time of the application. The maximum size of a grant is £6,000. Download the [round 2 guidance notes](#), [an application form](#) or call the Faiths in Action helpline on 01223 406533.


[European Social Fund](#) Community Grants. Small grants are currently being offered for those in the Yorkshire and Humber region of up to £12,000 for voluntary and community organisations to help them reach disadvantaged people who are not in employment. Applications are welcomed from small organisations (which in this context means 9 employees or less and an annual turnover of not more than £300,000) working with excluded groups. Read the information for [those in the Yorkshire and Humber Region](#). These grants may be available from other regions but are not currently available in the London area.


TRAINING AND EVENTS



 ['We don't do God' – how to keep faith with your community project.](#) Livability is offering an event looking at how churches and projects can maintain their Christian identity, despite the pressures from funding bodies. The day will include practical ideas to help you think theologically about your community work; examples of projects that have not lost an active Christian faith and seeing success through Christ's eyes, rather than funders' monitoring forms. To be held at St George's Centre, Great


George Street in Leeds on Wednesday 3rd February from 9.45am – 3.30pm the cost is £20 per person including lunch. Booking essential - email [Ruth Smith](#) or phone 0113 350 8070.


 Transforming Communities. Interested in exploring some of the different ways your church could serve your community? A half-day (9.30-1.00pm including lunch) event in Huddersfield on Saturday 6th February, with key speaker Rev Canon Paul Hackwood (Chair of Church Urban Fund) also offers range of workshops led by Christians Against Poverty, Trussell Trust (Foodbanks), Livability (retaining Christian Distinctiveness) and CUF (funding your project). The event is sponsored by the [Bishops Development Fund](#) and [Church Urban Fund](#). There is no charge, but places must be booked for catering purchases. Download information about [the workshops and venue details](#), email [Susan Parker](#) or phone 01924 371802.


 Poverty and Homelessness Action Week, organised by Housing Justice, Church Action on Poverty and Scottish Churches Housing Action, takes place from 30th January to 7th February under the theme 'Enough for all'. Leaflets and other materials are available free from the [Action Week website](#), email [Guy Cruls](#) or phone 020 7920 6600

STORIES AND RESOURCES



 Christmas starts with Christ! [Join this year's advertising campaign](#) and download the poster featuring the nativity scene in a bus stop from [ChurchAds](#) or sponsor a bus shelter. It's also not too late to [Simplify](#) at Christmas and join others who have been reviewing how they live to enable them to benefit others. [Tearfund](#) can help you with ideas for alternative gifts and creative and ethical present ideas and also offer [top ten tips for an ethical Christmas](#) and the Evangelical Alliance have brought together a range of [Christmas resources from other organisations](#) for churches.

 Resistance and Renewal. Jesus was born into a world of violence, injustice and corrupted power. His teaching calls us to resist the values of this world and follow the narrow path of love, redemption and grace. Livability's Jon Kuhrt has written some [advent prayers and reflections](#) around the themes of Resistance and Renewal which look at the destructive values of the world that we need to resist in favour of God's life-giving Kingdom values.

 Advent hope. [Churches Together in Britain and Ireland](#) have also produced some reflections and sermon materials around the theme of [Advent hope in an economic crisis](#) looking at the crisis in relation to the roots of our Christian beliefs and values, aiming to turn anger and disappointment into a positive force for change.

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