



FAITH BASED  
**FbRN**  
REGENERATION  
NETWORK u k

building skills and capacity | developing and sharing good practice | connecting communities and policy makers

ANNUAL REPORT

2009-2010



## Chair's Introduction

I'm proud to have been part of FbRN's development since the outset back in 2002. Since then, I've seen the network flourish and grow; I've watched FbRN become ever more effective in fulfilling its mandate of bringing together community development and social action practitioners from the UK's diverse faiths to share good practice and to link with those who make and implement public policy.

FbRN and those organisations and individuals linked by FbRN are excellent examples of the role that religion can and does play in the public realm for the good of all.

Religion's role in the public square is not uncontested. Some consider that religion is a private matter and that people of faith should attempt neither to influence public policy nor to deliver public services. Others, like those of us who are part of FbRN and of other multi

faith and inter faith organisations and initiatives, see religion's role in wider society as crucial for the spiritual, moral, social and economic health of society.

All the great faiths have strong traditions of public and humanitarian service. These traditions of service are central to what makes religions and people of faith such great contributors to the good of humankind. FbRN supports those who make efforts in the name of their faiths to build and strengthen community cohesion. FbRN encourages and accompanies the dedicated workers in all faiths for human solidarity and well-being as they tread their path of service. And FbRN is keen to foster social action projects in which people of different faiths work together.

The past year has been a time when voluntary organisations have had to be nimble. The economic downturn threatens public funding streams that we have

come – perhaps too much – to rely upon. The change of government has brought a change in political philosophy. I want to pay tribute to the success with which Doreen Finneron and the FbRN team are navigating us through these challenging times. I've no doubt that in a year's time we shall still be a key actor in the faith based part of the voluntary sector.



*Hon Barney Leith, FbRN chair*

The Faith Based Regeneration Network UK (FbRN) is the leading national multi faith network for community development, regeneration and social action. It was set up in 2002 by practitioners from the nine major faiths in the UK, who had found meeting together valuable for sharing ideas and communicating with government.

In 2009-10 FbRN had a direct membership of 1,300 individuals and organisations operating in communities, and through them reached a further 9,000. It was also a key partner for government, and voluntary and community organisations at national policy level.



## Aims

FbRN aims to:

- assist the development of good practice in faith based community development, regeneration and social action, by linking practitioners to share good practice and for mutual encouragement
- act as a means of communication and contact between practitioners in communities, and those who make and implement public policy, in order to improve the context in which faith based community development, regeneration and social action takes place.



## Vision

**FbRN's vision is of all faith communities participating fully in civic life. It believes that this is necessary for civic life and civil society to prosper.**

## The FbRN faith organisations becoming **VISIBLE** programme

‘To function in contemporary society, religious organisations need to become legal entities. In doing so they become accountable for their actions and activities within society’s wider social and legal frameworks.’ (Paul Weller Head of Research and Commercial Development, Senior Research Fellow and Professor of Inter-Religious Relations at the University of Derby, p75 in *Faith in the Public Realm* ed Dinham, Policy Press 2009)

We have long known that faith based social action projects can easily miss out on creative partnerships with other local organisations simply because they are not understood, or treated with suspicion because of their faith base. We also know that the faith values of these projects means that the work delivered is often of the highest standard, and the care of staff and volunteers is really good. This does not mean faith based organisations have nothing to learn, and it is increasingly important that they demonstrate high standards of practice

in a way that is recognised by other service providers, funders and the communities they serve if they are to sustain the essential service they contribute to community cohesion and social justice.

### ‘**VISIBLE** is a way forward’

VISIBLE is a quality assurance standard designed for and by small community organisations. It is owned by the highly respected Community Matters and endorsed by the Office for Civil Society (formerly the Office of the Third Sector) and the Charity Commission. It is a robust and comprehensive tool for assessing the best practice of small community organisations based on these seven key practices >



**V**oice through which the community can express its concerns and be heard

**I**ndependent showing clear governance, policies, controls and working practices

**S**ervice demonstrating a range of activities to suit the needs and aspirations of the community

**I**nitiator able to adapt to take opportunities, to spot gaps in provision and fill them

**B**uilder an organisation that can create sustainable partnerships with a range of bodies

**L**ocal has a clear local focus as part of its unique selling point

**E**nable an organisation focusing on the development of clients and volunteers

## 'We share common values'

Our eighteen month VISIBLE programme is piloting the standard with six faith based organisations across the country:

- Gujarat Hindu Society, Preston
- Building Bridges, Pendle
- Sabha Singh Gurdwara, Derby
- Faith in Queen's Park, Bedford
- Trinity-at-Bowes, London
- The Centre (Trinity Church), Newlyn
- Southwark Muslim Women's Association.

Each pilot is supported by an FbRN special advisor with skills and experience in managing faith based organisations. The pilot is overseen by a programme manager and we have a researcher as well.

'We recognise that we need to be ahead of the game and VISIBLE will help'

Using the evidence from the pilot projects and research from a variety of sources the programme will identify:

- why faith based organisations resist quality standards, and why they are necessary

- what funders and partners require from a quality mark
- a range of quality marks and which of them allow faith values to be integrated as prime evidence
- how best to encourage faith based organisations to work towards a quality standard.

## 'We will not compromise our faith values'

We recognise that faith based community organisations often work with very tight budgets, an insecure funding future and are dependent on staff and volunteers who are motivated by faith. They work in communities more used to receiving charity than empowered to bring about the changes they desire. Faith based organisations are often the only organisations who commit long

term to being a part of these communities. Using community development principles, their precious resources are maximised to support life enhancing change driven by local people.

## 'I surely did learn quite a bit'

The learning will be shared through a range of conferences, presentations and reports during the summer and autumn 2011.

It will be useful for faith based projects, organisations working alongside them, local authorities, government departments and to academics researching the field of faith and social policy.

Our partners in this research are Church Urban Fund, Community Matters and the Faiths and Civil Society Unit, Goldsmiths, University of London.



## The Trinity-at-Bowes (TaB) story

“Hello Doreen I’ve heard about the new Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund and wondered if you could help us to apply?”

What do you do with a large building in need of repair and a dwindling congregation? You take your courage in your hands, step out in faith and set off on a journey of discovery to release the skills, gifts and aspirations of your members and people in the community.

Trinity-at-Bowes began that journey some five years ago. The lead worker called FbRN and we were able to offer advice and encouragement. The application was successful and Trinity celebrated their first grant and they are now growing and rapidly moving forward.



If you were to visit Trinity today you would find it buzzing with people, with activities and with builders:

- the Sanctuary is a warm, welcoming, worship space; at the centre of the community
- all sorts of activities take place at TaB for all sorts of people; for dance, fitness, music, healthy living
- there is a nursery and activities to support the under fives and their families
- there are art activities, support for young people not in education, drop-ins for older people and job seekers
- Café TaB is a good place to relax.

### The initial support from FbRN empowered Trinity to exceed their vision.

In among the scaffolding you’ll find a fantastic crew of builders creating a basketball hall with climbing wall, dance studio, changing facilities and soundproof music rooms. Young people are to be found on the planning meetings; involved with choosing fittings and furnishings, and monitoring progress with regular site visits.

Along with all these facilities, and plenty more planned for all generations, the church has developed secure partnerships with neighbours, the local councils, public and private agencies and services provided by the voluntary community sector. FbRN is pleased to be a partner too, with Trinity as one of the VISIBLE pilot projects.

It is a tremendous achievement and it all started from a building in need of repair and a reducing congregation unsure about what to do but discovering a vision to provide for the physical, emotional, relational and spiritual well being of the community.

This holistic approach makes the project distinctive. The values are clear – to bring life in all its fullness, and the evidence shows that a whole multitude of people want to be part of it. “Changing earth and touching heaven.”

**So, what brought the transformation?**

**The local council answer:** “We need leaders, inspired by their faith to make a difference.”

The building contractors say: “Mark (the minister) has drawn us in; working at Trinity is great, it brings together our building skills, the local environment, the community; we love it.”

The youth worker says: “Everyone provides activities for young people, but we are about offering *quality* activities and facilities for children and young people.”

A volunteer says: “We are all volunteers, it is friendly, rewarding, hard work but worth it.”

The minister says: “The current climate of cuts and uncertainty is difficult but the church has always been here at the centre of the community and we are here to stay, we have a vision and a job to do, and working together we shall achieve it.”

You can find out more and be inspired by the Trinity story from their website: <http://www.trinityatbowes.co.uk/>

## Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara Derby: Passion among people

(Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara is taking part in FbRN’s **VISIBLE** programme.)

Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara is in its fourth location in Derby having moved to Princes Street in 2004. The moves reflect the growth in the Sikh community and in the activities of the Gurdwara as worshippers respond to wider community need. Sikhs value the diversity people share through their lives. One of the principles of the Sikh faith is for members to perform ‘seva’ which is loving service to the community from the heart.

The Gurdwara offers a programme of prayer, teaching and community events throughout the week, as well as open invitations to special festivals. The teaching provides classes in Punjabi, as well as giving English as a second language support for children and young people. The Gurdwara has an excellent relationship with local schools with tours and visits all year, and offering special food to local schools at festival

times. Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara provides a range of martial art activities which demonstrate the importance of physical control, strength and dexterity. The work of the Gurdwara ensures that young people grow up sharing a range of social activities offered in a spirit of understanding and appreciation of different cultures.

Plans for the Gurdwara, which also houses the first national Sikh Museum and library, continue to grow, along with partnerships developing with the local community. The partnership with the army is very positive, as is the relationship shared with local councillors and Derby County Football Club.

FbRN supports the Gurdwara through the **VISIBLE** programme. The Gurdwara wished to undertake **VISIBLE** not only for their own interests but also to promote it to other Sikh social action projects.

You can find out more about Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara by visiting their website: <http://www.sgssderby.co.uk/> or by going along to Princes Street. You will be made very welcome.

## Informing and connecting action in communities

The FbRN's well visited website [www.fbrn.org.uk](http://www.fbrn.org.uk) was relaunched in Spring 2010. It offers good practice advice and worksheets based on the experience of FbRN members and FbRN's own Programmes. Stories and examples of faith based community development, across a wide range of faiths, help to illustrate the good practice in action and inspire others.

News and policy information keeps practitioners up to date and helps give them the knowledge they need to enhance their contribution locally. Information, on courses,



job opportunities and signposts to other reliable resources, keeps us all in touch and minimises the risk of reinventing the wheel.

## Newsletter

In 2009 FbRN decided to focus on its email newsletter as its primary means of communication. This reaches over 10,000 individuals and groups with valuable up-to-date information on good practice, public policy, new resources and funding streams, job opportunities and forthcoming events. We also communicate regularly with a number of members who do not use email. You can register for the email newsletter by visiting the FbRN website or by emailing [admin@fbrn.org.uk](mailto:admin@fbrn.org.uk)

In June 2010, FbRN moved to new offices and took the opportunity to inform all its members by post and to request updated contact information from them. This produced a very good response, including from many members taking the opportunity to thank us for the information and resources we provide, even if they were at the same address.



"Thank you very much for keeping me in the loop" Liz, Sheffield

"Thanks Val: as always FBRN News is useful and of practical interest." Edmund, London

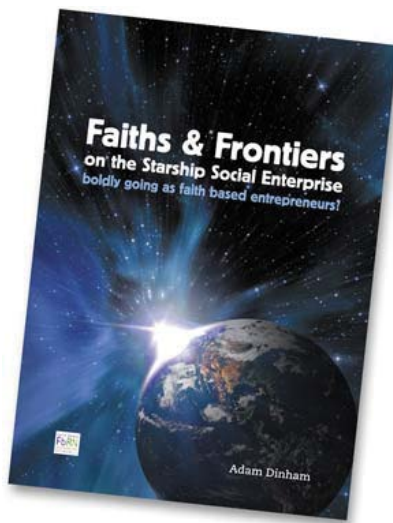
"This is really useful information. Thank you for sending it." Catherine

## FbRN Publications

The popular publication *Tools for Regeneration: Practical Advice for Faith Communities (second edition)* was adapted to a series of worksheets on the FbRN website. This meant that the 'Tools' were more widely available, as printed copies were running out, and enabled us to update existing material and add new modules. The worksheets cover topics such as 'how to be clear about your aims and objectives', 'the main features of a constitution', 'working in partnership', 'recruiting staff', 'evaluation', 'fundraising'.

*Faiths and Frontiers on the Starship Social Enterprise: boldly going as faith based entrepreneurs*, based on the FbRN seminar series 'Faith and Social Enterprise', was also in high demand, and it was made available as a pdf on the website.

We developed a generic leaflet for faith based social action, the first time this had been done, and took advantage of 2009 Inter Faith Week to ensure a wide distribution.



## Sharing ideas about faith based social action

In order to share ideas about faith based social action and to stimulate interest, FbRN regularly accepts invitations to speak at events organised by other groups, for example the 2009 Annual Convention of the Muslim Council of Britain and the Havering Inter Faith Network Annual General Meeting.



Inter Faith Week (IFW) in November 2009 gave FbRN the opportunity to showcase the social action undertaken by all faith communities. The excellent response from the Network produced material for an eye-catching and well visited display at the national launch of IFW and a powerpoint presentation. Our innovative leaflet gave an easily understandable explanation of faith based social action and short examples from the major faiths in the UK.

FbRN partnered the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe in organising an inter faith conference on 18th November 2009 to explore the roots and expressions of philanthropy and social action in all the main faiths in the UK.

On 16th November 2009, with the Barnet Multi Faith Forum, FbRN organised a well attended inter faith evening with the Deputy Mayor, discussing the relationship between faith and the local authority as well as the ways in which all faiths work together in the Borough.

*The Role of Faith In Community Development and Cohesion* was the title of a seminar organised by the British Humanist Association to mark Inter Faith Week. FbRN Executive Director Dr Doreen Finneron was a member of a panel with Professor Anthony Grayling and the CLG's Deputy Director of Community Empowerment, Henry Tam. Dr Finneron's talk can be downloaded from the FbRN website: [www.fbarn.org.uk/speeches-and-articles](http://www.fbarn.org.uk/speeches-and-articles)





## Working with Government

FbRN assisted the Department for Communities and Local Government in its March 2010 conference on Faith and Social Action. Our networks provided a wide range of presentations and participants to engage with senior policy makers, including the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

For faith based social action to flourish and be effective at local level, public policy that affects it should be designed with an understanding of how faith based organisations work. FbRN carries the voice of grass roots faith based organisations engaged in social action to policy arenas

such as the Government's Faith Communities Consultative Council.

Improving faith literacy, in public agencies, has been identified as an important element in increasing the ability of faith based organisations to make positive contributions to civil society. FbRN was a member of a multi faith group working on this issue and drew together a report of the group's findings and recommendations for submission to Communities and Local Government. This report can form the basis for further work in this challenging area.

FbRN is working in partnership with the Local Government Association, Communities and Local Government, the Office for Civil

Society (formerly the Office of the Third Sector) and the Inter Faith Network for the UK, to refresh the 2002 guidelines for building good relationships between local government and faith communities, '*Faith and Community*'.

## Working with others in the Voluntary and Community Sector

In addition to the 'Faith Organisations Becoming Visible' Programme, we are working with the Governance Forum to develop codes of good governance for the VCS. As members of the Community Sector Coalition, with other national Community Sector Organisations, FbRN presents the case for a strong and robust Community Sector to national and local government

So many faith based organisations work with children and young people that it has been particularly important to work with the Children's Workforce Development Council and ChildrenEngland to help build a competent and skilled workforce for children. In March 2010 FbRN assisted the national conference which focused on diversity in the children's workforce.



## Trustees

The Trustees of FbRN are drawn from the nine faith traditions identified as the main traditions in the UK, Bahá'í, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian. The nine Trustees have an involvement or an interest in faith based regeneration and community development.

Hon Barney Leith (Chair)



Mr Aurangzeb Khan



Mr Ramesh Pattni



Mr Dorab Mistry (Treasurer)



Mrs Leonie Lewis



Dr Natubhai Shah



Ms Fran Becket OBE



Ms Jan McHarry



Mr Harmander Singh



## Staff

**Dr Doreen Finneron MBE**

Executive Director

Doreen was awarded the MBE for services to inter faith relations in the New Year's Honours List, 2010

**Malcolm M Deboo**

Finance Officer

**Val Rushton**

Network and Administration Officer

**Steve Summers**

VISIBLE Project Researcher

**Jane Winter**

VISIBLE Project Manager

This summary financial information may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of FbRN. For further information please consult the Directors' Report and Financial Statement for the year ended March 31st 2010. These have been filed with the Registrar of Companies and the Charity Commission. A full copy of the accounts can be obtained from FbRN.

### Independent Examiner's Report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

Felton Associates  
Chartered Accountants  
112 Wembley Park Drive  
Wembley  
Middlesex HA9 8HS

## Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) For the Year ended 31st March 2010

|   | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>2010<br>£000s | Restricted<br>Funds<br>2010<br>£000s | Total<br>Funds<br>2010<br>£000s | Total<br>Funds<br>2009<br>£000s |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Incoming Resources</i>                   |  |                                      |                                 |                                 |
| Grants & Donations                          | £128                                   | –                                    | £128                            | £132                            |
| VISIBLE Project*                            | –                                      | £73                                  | £73                             | -                               |
| Conference & Consultancy                    | £7                                     | –                                    | £7                              | £25                             |
| Sundry Income                               | £0                                     | –                                    | £0                              | £2                              |
| <b>Total Income</b>                         | <b>£135</b>                            | <b>£73</b>                           | <b>£208</b>                     | <b>£159</b>                     |
| <i>Resources Expended</i>                   |  |                                      |                                 |                                 |
| Charitable Activities                       | £90                                    | –                                    | £90                             | £113                            |
| Charitable Activities –<br>VISIBLE Project* | –                                      | £4                                   | £4                              | –                               |
| Operation Costs                             | £45                                    | –                                    | £45                             | £47                             |
| <b>Total Resources Expended</b>             | <b>£135</b>                            | <b>£4</b>                            | <b>£139</b>                     | <b>£160</b>                     |
| <b>Net movement of funds in year</b>        | <b>£0</b>                              | <b>£69</b>                           | <b>£69</b>                      | <b>(£2)</b>                     |
| <b>Total funds brought forward</b>          | <b>£34</b>                             | <b>£0</b>                            | <b>£34</b>                      | <b>£36</b>                      |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b>          | <b>£34</b>                             | <b>£69</b>                           | <b>£103</b>                     | <b>£34</b>                      |

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2010

|                           | 2010<br>£000s | 2009<br>£000s |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Incoming Resources</i> |               |               |
| Fixed Assets              | £1            | £1            |
| Current Assets            | £108          | £41           |
| Current Liabilities       | (£5)          | (£8)          |
| <b>Net Assets</b>         | <b>£104</b>   | <b>£34</b>    |

|                                    |             |            |
|------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| <i>The Funds of the Charity</i>    |             |            |
| Unrestricted Funds                 | £34         | £34        |
| Other Unrestricted Funds           | £0          | £1         |
| Restricted Fund – VISIBLE Project* | £69         | –          |
| <b>Total Funds of the Charity</b>  | <b>£103</b> | <b>£34</b> |

\* VISIBLE Project is running throughout 2011, therefore its funding is carried forward.

Faith Based Regeneration Network UK Ltd

Registered Charity no. 1107076 Company Limited by Guarantee no. 5028047

## FbRN is grateful

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Local Government

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The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

The Church Urban Fund

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Goldsmiths, University of London

CCLA Investments

Triodos Bank

Charity Bank

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