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[Faith Centre Website](#)

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A belated Happy New Year to all readers . . . we head off again on another voyage into the unknown and the year ahead. A year of further progression and development for us all, we pray, against a backdrop of challenging external factors. A time to serve our local schools & communities, providing meaningful activity and opportunities for education and growth. Yet for all the planning we must always expect the unexpected too. Have a good 2011.

-  **Farewell and Best Wishes** – the year starts with a ‘goodbye’ to Angela Rawson, Principal Adviser to the BSF Programme at Lancashire County Council and my line manager at the Faith Centre since it opened in August 2006. Having been involved ‘from the very start’ in the thinking and vision for the changes we now see i.e. new schools and improved opportunities for our young people, Angela has decided to take early retirement, effective today. She will be greatly missed. We send her our sincere thanks and wish her every joy and success, as her voyage takes off on a new path. We also welcome Lynn Mappin, who takes over Angela’s line management responsibilities at the Centre, based at County Hall, Preston. Secondly, and also today, we say farewell to Deborah Renwick, Leadership PA at Thomas Whitham Sixth Form. Deborah has been extremely supportive since August 2006, regularly circulating our material throughout the Campus and beyond. We send her our thanks and best wishes and look forward to working with her replacement, Sarah Clegg.
-  **World Religion Day (WRD)** – officially takes place this Sunday. Our WRD celebrations this year will be on **Tuesday 25 January at 7pm**, when speakers from five different faiths will be sharing their perspectives to the question “**What is the purpose of prayer and meditation in the modern world . . . Why pray?**” Everyone is welcome. Should be a really interesting evening. See poster attached for more info.
-  **GCSE RE Medical Ethics** - this Monday (17th), we will be welcoming 30+ Year 11 students from Hameldon Community College to the Centre for a conference focussing on such topics as euthanasia, fertility treatment & animal rights. Promises to be a busy day for them all, involving discussions with a series of faith partners from the local area, including representatives from our two nearby hospices. We hope the study assists the students in their forthcoming exams, as it has for other colleges following similar conferences here. We look forward to the outcome.
-  **Building Bridges for the Future** – everyone is welcome to a community consultation taking place this Saturday (15th) at St Andrew’s Church Hall. The event has been organised by Building Bridges in Burnley (BBB) and is an opportunity for people to join in discussions about the town, its community relations, where and how BBB contributes to this and so on. The consultation runs from 1000hrs till 1230hrs, with a good lunch to finish. Do support this important initiative – everyone has a say! Finally, sincere thanks to Fr Michael Waters of BBB for organising such a splendid Community Feast at St John’s RC Church last Sunday. An enjoyable and busy event!!

-  **Christian Social Action** – this Tuesday (17th) there is an opportunity for practitioners and other activists involved in faith-based social action to come together for a networking session to discuss the current plight of the poor and underprivileged in East Lancashire. If you would like to know more and possibly attend, please email the Rev Ed Saville from Blackburn Diocese on ed.saville@blackburn.anglican.org.uk ASAP. The gathering, which is being funded by the Church Urban Fund, begins at 1100hrs, and will finish at around 1400hrs. Lunch will be provided. The event will take place at St Andrew's Church Hall and not the Faith Centre as originally planned.
-  **Untold Stories from the Holocaust** – come and listen to the witness of Jack, a child survivor of the Holocaust. Wednesday 26th January at St Gabriel's RC High School Bridge Road, Bury BL9 0TZ. For more info, contact Sharon Beech on 0161 761 0536
-  **Justice and Peace Commission** – Annual Memorial Lecture at LACE, Sefton Park Liverpool L17 1AA. Speaker – Brian O'Toole. Title "Option for the Poor, Option for the Earth". Brian has spent 19 years in ministry in Ethiopia. Sunday 16th January 1400hrs – 1600hrs. Everyone welcome. More info, ring Steve on 0151 522 1080/1
-  **And finally . . .** January invariably kicks off with talk of new year resolutions and how one is going to try and bring about some change or improvement within oneself. If we're thinking about inner transformation, we could do a lot worse than to heed the words of Jalaluddin Rumi, one of the foremost poets in Islamic culture and history. He has left us with many gems over the years. This one is particularly good

"Your task is not to seek love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it"

Rumi – (1207 – 1273)