

Dear friends,

We hope this email finds you all well.

It's been a while since our last SEARCH newsletter, and in that time we have had some exciting developments, with Chris Hembury and Fiona Parker both joining the team. We thought we'd use this email to introduce them both, as well as to update you on some upcoming events and courses:



Chris: Hello, I'm Chris! Born in Jersey, I moved to Hull in 1997 to take up the role of Team Leader with Hull YFC, doing youth and community work on Boulevard. Married to Anna, we have two children, Elijah (24) and Kavita (23). We own an old BSA motorcycle, which we love to journey on to happy places, to drink good coffee and eat good food.

I'm a CMS mission partner and recently finished a part-time job with a builder, which freed me up to take up this role with SEARCH - to discover what is going on in different churches across the city, to be a bit of a sounding board, and to offer relevant resources to help churches in their mission and engagement with their local communities.

I'm looking forward to connecting with more of you over the coming months, so do get in touch via the SEARCH email!

Fiona: Hi, I'm Fiona and have lived in Hull, on and off, since 2000. Over the years I've been involved with various creative community projects and prayer initiatives in and around the city. I'm married to Gav and together we've embraced a life on wheels, in caravans and vans. Sometimes static in Hull, sometimes mobile in surrounding East Yorkshire, staying close for work. And sometimes going further afield for adventures in the UK and Ireland when time and money allow.

As to my role with SEARCH, I'm currently working on an online interactive mapping tool that will map local churches, organisations and projects to help make connections and facilitate networking and possible collaborations.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. A 'Space To Think' about "Rewilding The Church" (Wed 11th Dec, 11am-1pm, at Oasis Hub):

These are challenging times for the church, and clearly lots needs to change. But what and how?

Steve Aisthorpe has written 'Rewilding the Church' addressing these questions. We feel that "rewilding" is a powerful metaphor for what God may be calling us all to, and we are interested to explore whether there is anything to this idea, what its implications might be, and whether there are any resources in Steve Aisthorpe's book that might help us all as we seek God's Kin-dom of justice, peace and joy moving forwards.

We will host a 'space to think' about "rewilding the church" on **Wed 11th Dec, 11am-1pm at Oasis Hub**, so if you are interested do come along, bring something to munch on, and join us as we take time to pray and share together. You don't need to have read the book to come - all are welcome!

2. Christian Mystics: 365 Readings & Meditations (starting in 2025).

A group are now coming to the end of reading a year of daily reflections from Richard Rohr's devotional readings ('A Spring Within Us'), and we plan to do the same thing in 2025 with Matthew Fox's collection of 365 readings, drawing on the insights of Christian mystics throughout the ages:

[Christian Mystics: 365 Readings & Meditations — Welcome from Matthew Fox](#)

In 2025 we plan to gather together in person once a month, over tea and cake, to share how the daily readings have been speaking to us. If you want to join in, get hold of a copy and start reading in Jan 25. (More details to follow about the in-person gatherings...)

3. Bring Your Question To God Course:

Earlier this year, Nicola Bown (St Mary's, Cottingham) and Sam hosted a 5-week prayer course called 'Bring Your Question To God', which centered on using "sacred reading" (lectio divina) as a way of helping us listen more deeply to what God was speaking to questions that had been laid on our hearts, and all found it a powerful and transformative experience!

We are looking to run the course again, so if your church or project would be interested in having SEARCH come along to lead the course in 2025, do get in contact.

4. Growing Good Course:

The Church Urban Fund (CUF) has developed a course called Growing Good, a free six-session course helping churches explore the connection between social action, discipleship and growth in our local communities.

[Growing Good Trailer](#)

If your church or project would be interested in having SEARCH lead a Growing Good course in 2025, do get in contact.

5. Weekly Christian Prayer and Meditation (every Wed 1.30-2.30pm, at Hull Minster):

Join our little community of meditators, gathering each Wed at 1.30pm at Hull Minster, to practice [Christian Meditation](#) and Lectio Divina, as a way into stillness, simplicity and silence.

DON'T MISS:

Household Support Fund – Short Term Grant Funding for Affordable Warmth (Applications now open!)

Funding from the Department of Work and Pensions (Household Support Fund) is being made available via Hull City Council and has kindly been supplemented by local company Ideal Heating. This is being administered on their behalf by Forum CIO (an organisation that facilitates the voluntary and community sector in Yorkshire and the Humber). This will be a small short-term grant funding.

The purpose of the grants is to enable VCSE organisations to provide support to Hull residents to manage their household expenditure on energy, and cope with the cost of living. VCSE organisations are encouraged to provide Warm Spaces and activities that promote affordable warmth.

Grants of between £1,000 - £7,500 are offered to voluntary and community organisations supporting local communities in the city of Hull: The maximum grant you can apply for depends on the type of project you will run.

Please find the grant guidance and application form attached and at <https://northbankforum.org.uk/funding/the-affordable-warmth-small-grants/>

For enquiries, please contact Linda Conway linda@forumcio.org.uk

Applications start date Monday 11th November 2024

Closing date No later than 9am Monday 9th December 2024

Much peace,

Sam

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