

Name: Max Down

Job title: Community & Faiths Researcher

Organisation: PIE
(Promoting Inclusion & Enterprise) Team

After joining the PIE Team in 2002 as the “Rural Community Enterprise Officer” my current role is still community based with the Faiths Sector. Over the past year I have helped to successfully initiate the Warwick District Faiths Forum (Wdff) and seen it grow from tentative ideas to a robust all encompassing organisation. Wdff is fully inclusive of all faiths in Warwick District as well as having strong support and involvement from the statutory sector.



Recently, I have been developing a South Warwickshire Directory of Faiths Resources, through a website called FAIR (visit www.cvswd.org.uk/fair). This not only includes the obvious multi-faiths contacts, but also includes the tremendous community outreach work carried out by groups and clubs run by a host of willing volunteers. Hopefully, both churches, and community groups using their meeting rooms and halls, will continue to add new groups and update this information as one of the many sustainable legacies of the PIE project.

Why do you do this work?

I enjoy meeting people and helping to turn words into actions.

If there was one thing you could change for the Sector, what would it be?

Direct, sustainable funding. So much seems to be soaked up by tiers of unnecessary bureaucracy.

What has been your proudest moment?

Personally – our children’s weddings, holding my first grandson, and family get togethers; at work - seeing plans through to fruition.

What was your greatest disappointment?

When you get to my age you tend to focus more on the positive things in life.

What was the most useful mistake you’ve ever made and how was it useful?

Every mistake helps you learn and build up experience, I guess we’ve all forgotten to turn the tap off !

What would your motto be?

As a member of the LIONS clubs our motto is “We Serve” which seems to be appropriate for the whole of the community and voluntary sector.

What is your favourite colour?

Blue...skies, seas, bells, birds and butterflies

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