

Beyond Disability: Creating a more inclusive and enriched church

Breaking the barriers to welcoming people of disability into our churches

Date: Wednesday 25 November 2009
Venue: Wakefield Baptist Church, Belle Isle Avenue, Wakefield, WF1 5JY
Time: 9:45am-3:45pm (we start promptly at 10am)
Cost: £20 including lunch to be paid on the day
Booking: Contact Ruth Smith on 0113 350 8070 or rsmith@livability.org.uk

The aim of the day is to help Christian groups and churches better understand physical and learning disabilities and develop positive and appropriate responses to disabled people. The day will include facilitation by people with a range of learning and physical abilities and we will use presentations, discussions, workshops and question and answer sessions.

We will focus on:

- Establishing relationships : getting over the fears, getting to know someone, letting our barriers down
- Understanding the humanity of disabled people
- Learning from the Bible about disability
- Understanding different types of disability: Autism, mental impairment, learning disability, sensory impairment including sight and hearing and physical impairment.
- Hearing the stories of disabled people
- Adjusting church for people: building, liturgy, language
- Responding to behaviour that causes us a problem
- Signposting people to further help

Our facilitators for this day:

- Bob Brooke- Chaplain for people with learning disabilities, Diocese of Ripon and Leeds
- Claire Shanks- Disability Coordinator, University of Sheffield
- Jody Gabriel-PossAbility and Lift Up
- Mel Neale- Leader of CoActive, Wakefield
- Helen Holt- Manager of [York House](#) (Livability registered care home for 23 adults with physical disabilities)

Optional activity immediately after the event:

Starting at 4:15pm, you are welcome to stay and watch the award-winning film '[Inside I'm Dancing](#)'. Starring James McAvoy, it follows the lives of two young disabled men who meet in a care home and decide to move into a shared flat. Their desire for independence and fun makes the film inspiring, surprising and heart warming. Read a [review here](#). The film is 104 minutes so it will finish at about 6pm. We will provide refreshments and you are welcome to stay to discuss the film until 6:30pm. Please note that this film is rated 15 for swearing.

Directions to Wakefield Baptist Church, Belle Isle Avenue, Wakefield, WF1 5JY:

Limited parking is available by the side of the church. The church is opposite a bus depot and between Barnsley Road and Doncaster Road. Nearest rail station: Wakefield Westgate (1 mile walk or taxi). To print out a map, click on this [Google map link](#).

For driving: From the south M1 come off at junction 39, from other directions come off the M1 at junction 41. Then get on the A61 (Barnsley Road) then left turn on to Belle Isle Avenue.

Jill Clark Community Mission Coordinator

www.communitymission.org.uk

Livability is the new face of John Grooms and the Shaftesbury Society