



August 2010

Dear Friends

The Future of LSN

At the latest meeting of the Living Spirituality Network (LSN) Project Group, we spent considerable time looking at the future of LSN, and we felt that it would be appropriate to share the outcome of the discussion with you – the members and supporters of LSN.

As many of you know, LSN was originally set up as the Ecumenical Spirituality Project by Gwen Cashmore and Joan Puls and integrated into the work of the British Council of Churches, the forerunner of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) in 1989. LSN was formed in 2000 when the Ecumenical Spirituality Project and The Fellowship of Prayer for Unity came together.

In recent years, the income of LSN has been less than the amount needed for its outgoings. A decision was taken in 2006 to continue LSN's work, using the reserve funds, until such a time that this was no longer feasible. It now seems that LSN will be able to continue its current level of activities for another two years – until mid 2012. After that it is probable that LSN will cease, or continue some of its work in a voluntary capacity.

It has not proved possible to raise the necessary money through grants or legacies. In addition, the value of our investments, and the income they have generated, has been greatly reduced because of the economic situation. While we remain extremely grateful to those who have supported us by grants or donations, it seems unlikely the situation will change, and so we need to look to the future. If you know of any possible source of funding, we would, of course, be pleased to hear from you. We are currently working with CTBI to look at the implications of winding up LSN, and we will continue to explore if some of the specific work of LSN can be continued beyond 2012.

Meanwhile, as you will see from elsewhere in this Newsletter, the work of LSN continues, and is widely appreciated. We are proud of the work done by LSN's Director, Eley McAinsh, and grateful to her and Win Kennedy, in the LSN office, for their hard work, inspiration and commitment. We hope the **Day Conference with the Centre for Radical Christianity in Sheffield on 6th November** will be well-supported, and look forward to meeting some of you there.

We will keep you in touch with any developments and, as always, we value your feedback, your thoughts and your prayers.

Judith Lampard
(Chair)

Director: **Eley McAinsh** Administrator: **Win Kennedy**

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