



## SACREs and Community Cohesion in Wales

The Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE) has recently published the results of a survey exploring the relationship between SACREs in Wales and their local communities. Dr Tania ap Siôn, Executive Director of the St Mary's Centre and Vice Chair of WASACRE, has worked closely with the Executive Committee of WASACRE in the design of the survey and the writing of the survey report.

The survey, which was sent out to all 22 SACREs in Wales (and had a 95% response rate), focused on gathering information about four main areas:

- the groups represented on SACRE Committee A (relating to Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations);
- the co-opted membership of SACREs;
- SACRE relations with Christian denominations and other religions in terms of contacts and activities;
- SACRE involvement with local interfaith organisations and other local interfaith initiatives.

The findings of the survey reflect the wide range of SACRE contacts and activities that contribute to relevant aspects of community cohesion, involving both Christian denominations and other religions present in the local community. Over three quarters of SACREs reported that they had been involved in projects that included both Christian denominations and other religions. For many SACREs, this was viewed as a significant contribution to their work with local schools in relation to RE and collective worship.

SACREs in Wales have been invited to share the report with their members, and to use the report findings as tool for reflection on their own practice in this area.

The *SACREs and the Local Community: report on the WASACRE survey of SACREs in Wales* was launched at the summer meeting of the Association on 26 June 2012 at Conwy Business Centre. The report is available on the WASACRE website: [www.wasacre.org.uk](http://www.wasacre.org.uk)