



@CRYPTLEEDS



Christmas 2023



St.
George's
Crypt

Welcome

to our Christmas
newsletter

Chris Fields
Chief Executive Officer



Christmas greetings and blessings to everyone reading our latest newsletter.

This newsletter is my favourite. Why? Because its got extra pages so we can share even more of what's happening here at the Crypt and all over Leeds.

We have based this edition around "community". What does that mean? What does that look like?

Well, personally I think it has numerous meanings and no particular identity.

I live in an old stone terrace in the old mill town of Pudsey. I can't in all honesty say our neighbours are in and out of houses like the "old days" but I know all my neighbours by name, converse with them on a regular basis and KNOW that if I needed help it would be there. That's my little community at home.

I then have my work community. Lots of diverse, interesting people all squashed into a building far too small which has its issues. I know all those by name too.

Then there's family, a different kind of community, spread across the country but all in regular contact, sharing and receiving, loving and arguing.

What if you don't have any of those? I know some of our supporters reading this will be alone, far from loved ones and desperate just to have someone to chat to, I hope this newsletter offers a little company.

One new community I discovered in my first Christmas here was the recently bereaved or divorced people who wanted to volunteer on Christmas Day.

We were only too pleased to offer a few hours of Christmas Day to those finding themselves on their own for the first time. Its not just about the homeless.

Mary and Joseph had each other on the journey to Bethlehem but on arrival had no community to rely on. I often wonder "if Joseph was from Bethlehem, had he no family or friends to call on?"

Many of our clients, residents and occasional callers have family in Leeds. The sad and sobering thought is "why are they so estranged they can't ask for help?" We will never know the full story, just as with Joseph and Mary.

What we do know is that our lovely, welcoming, warm and comfortable community is ready to welcome any knock on the door.

The "created" yet very real Christmas community events we have within the Crypt are all down to you...

- The Toy Appeal, 2,000 children had toys last year because of your generosity.
- 250+ people had a Christmas lunch because of your generosity.
- 250+ people received a Christmas present because of your generosity.

Rest assured your help is never taken for granted. I feel a bit guilty sometimes, we get to see all the smiles and relief on faces. You don't.

John 20:29 Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. Slightly out of context but with the right sentiment.

Our growing Church community is a joy. Working closely with the *Lighthouse* church and Andy building up services within the projects is just inspiring. Christmas will allow us to share the good news even more.

Our Carol service is being organised and Christingle service is also.

As we hear the Christmas story (I never get tired of hearing it) and looking at the Nativity in the chapel (remember the wonky donkey with a Blu-tack ear?) maybe this year we will consider the communities that it represents.

The rich, well-educated academics in the wise men, the uneducated, rough and ready shepherds and the villagers of Bethlehem unable to help due to circumstance.

Rich in diversity and ability yet all with the same vision, coming together in their differing ways to create the most wonderful story ever told.

Remember... one person, the inn keeper offered the only help he could. Because of his generosity the stable became the most wonderful, humble Christ-centred community.

May we all wish you a wonder-filled Christmas and may the community you know surround you and hold you.

With all blessings, Chris.

A Christmas of Hope



Christmas at the Crypt is always a cherished time, as we wholeheartedly embrace the spirit of togetherness and joy. We understand the profound impact addiction and homelessness can have on families, especially during the holiday season.

Recently, we had the privilege of connecting with a remarkable family – a mother and her two sons, whose lives were marred by addiction for years before they found recovery in our rehabilitation programmes.

Gordon successfully completed the programme and now works as a Therapeutic Drug and Alcohol Support Worker at the Crypt, while Dougie, the younger son, volunteers with us and has moved on to independent living.

Helen, their mother, reflects on the importance of Christmas, saying, *"Christmas has always been about more than just presents for us. We used to attend Midnight Mass together as a family. Even though we never had much money, we still went all out to make Christmas special."*

Helen vividly remembers the heartache they endured when they discovered Gordon's drug use. It was a distressing revelation that left the family feeling lost and helpless. That Christmas, even though Gordon was absent, they set the table for three, determined to include him in their celebration, doing their best to make the day meaningful.

To add to the family's challenges, Dougie was grappling with alcohol addiction. Looking back on those difficult years, Dougie shares, *"Back then, I never truly appreciated Christmas or spending quality time with my family. I would stumble home on Christmas Day after a night of heavy drinking, rush through my meal, ask for money, and hurry back to the pub to continue drinking with my mates."*

Helen chimes in, *"I was always left in tears. I tried so hard to make the day special, to emphasise the importance of family and celebration over mere presents. But our Christmases were consistently ruined, with one son struggling with drugs and the other with alcohol. I remember one year when a friend invited me to her home, and I found joy in watching her grandchildren open their presents. It was an unfamiliar happiness, not mine, but theirs."*

Gordon, on the other hand, spent most Christmases behind bars. He recalls, *"Christmas time in prison is far from pleasant. You try not to dwell on thoughts of family and friends – all the people you miss. In prison, survival becomes the focus. I know that if I weren't incarcerated, I'd likely be out there using drugs, not concerned about spending time with my loved ones."*

However, in 2019, the family witnessed a transformative change. Gordon was clean, and Dougie was in rehab, marking the first time they celebrated Christmas together in years.

Helen fondly remembers that Christmas, but what truly stands out are the subsequent ones when Gordon invited the family to join him at Growing Rooms, our drug and alcohol residential rehabilitation project, for Christmas dinner. The following year, Helen received an invitation to enjoy her Christmas meal at Don Robins House, our supported housing project, where Dougie was learning the skills to move on to independent living.

This year, Helen is looking forward to spending Christmas Day with her two sons, leaving the cooking in their capable hands. Christmas will be a joyous occasion filled with hope, a stark contrast to the difficult Christmases they have endured in the past, proving that recovery is not only possible but can lead to a brighter, more meaningful life.



They volunteer every Christmas

Every Christmas a team of dedicated volunteers offer their time on Christmas Day to support our team to deliver the Christmas meal. Everyone who comes through the doors gets a turkey dinner, table service and Christmas presents. We try and be the family they do not have.

We talked to some of the volunteers who have worked on Christmas Day and this is what they said:

'We've been volunteering at Christmas for about five years. We both worked in criminal justice, so we've seen how people can judge people.

We wanted to give something back; every time we come up to the Crypt it's so powerful to hear from the people, to give support to the people who are in desperate need.

The first year we had a difficult family situation and a friend said "why don't you take yourself out of the situation and give something back." The first time we went we thought we would be peeling potatoes but we ended up cooking the whole Christmas dinner!

It wasn't as organised as it is now and we were being told what to do by this guy called Rupert; it turned out that he was also a volunteer and someone had put him in charge! The first year was really hard work!

However, it has changed a lot since then. They now have a full chef team so when we come in they've done all the prep so there's the practical side of it, feeding people on Christmas Day, but that resonated with us because we know how hard it can be on Christmas Day if you're not in ideal circumstances.

When you see it first hand and think 'how lucky are we, not to be in that situation?'

It's a case of sitting down, making ourselves available, if they need support, if we can signpost them to where they need to go, that's fantastic. But it's also a case of all the volunteers showing some love and support.

At the beginning, the Crypt was the only place where you could get a Christmas Dinner. They did a dinner on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

It's somewhere warm to come in to sit, come and eat. We've noticed over the years how it's impacted on more members of the community. You can sit down, have a cup of tea, have a conversation; it doesn't have to be deep to have a massive impact. Letting people know that they're no different from anyone else; it's all about people having a better life for themselves.

The first time we went we talked with a guy who hadn't lived in a house since 1987. It was fascinating hearing his story. Sometimes people can't cope, and being able to help.

The Crypt is an important resource in the community for people who are not in the position to engage themselves back into communities. It's a vital resource for Leeds.

It's about connection; we isolate people who are homeless, and it's that connection that people get from the Crypt that helps people back on the road to some kind of life if that's where they want to go. A massive kudos to everyone who works at the Crypt. Personally, we love volunteering there!'

Without the dedication of our amazing volunteers, we would not be able to offer half the services we do. This means we are able to offer all the bells and whistles for the most vulnerable in our city. Thank-you and God Bless!



A Very Different Christmas

Living with addiction can be an incredibly challenging and confusing journey, especially during the Christmas season, impacting both individuals and their families. At St. George's Crypt, our mission is to support clients who have battled addiction for many years.

Through our residential abstinence-based drug and alcohol recovery programme, *Growing Rooms*, we've witnessed remarkable transformations.

As we approach this year's Christmas, we had the privilege of sitting down with two former clients who have not only successfully completed the programme but have also embarked on a path to employment and independent living.

We asked them to talk about their expectations for this Christmas, compared to those of previous years.

Daniel fondly remembers the joyous Christmases of his childhood, spent with his father and sister – a time before addiction overshadowed his life.

He shares, *"In my younger days, I used to look forward to spending Christmas at my dad's because it meant good food, presents, money, and plenty of alcohol. However, as I grew older, I began feeling uncomfortable because I had nothing to give to others and*

realised, I needed to sort my life out."

Daniel's journey led him to rehab and eventually to *Growing Rooms*. Just weeks before entering *Growing Rooms*, Daniel found out he needed a liver transplant due to alcohol-induced liver failure.

It was at *Growing Rooms* that Daniel had a truly meaningful family Christmas after years of struggle. He recounts,

"On that Christmas Day, my family decided to create an alcohol-free environment for me. I had gifts for everyone and money for the kids. It was truly enjoyable."

This Christmas holds special significance for Daniel, now that he's employed and has secured his own accommodation. He's excited to decorate a Christmas tree with his kids and witness their joy as they unwrap presents.

Daniel continues: *"It has been quite a journey; Growing Rooms gave me a safe space and time to reflect and work on myself both physically after my liver transplant and mentally, helping me succeed in my recovery from addiction."*

Aaron, another proud graduate of the *Growing Rooms* programme, shares his thoughts.

"I caused significant pain to those close to me for over 15 years, and it was high time for me to make

amends. Reflecting on how different my life has become in the past two years, I've regained things I never thought I'd have again – restored relationships with my parents and family, formed new friendships, secured stable housing, found employment, and even built a meaningful relationship."

On Christmas, Aaron says,

"It's truly priceless to spend quality time with my family during the holiday season. This year, I'll be sharing this joy with my partner's family too, which is a wonderful bonus."

I now truly value and cherish these special moments with my family, knowing that some of my past Christmases were spent alone in recovery. Christmas is a time for celebrating one another, and I can't wait to get stuck into some fine Christmas dinner. Thanks to the Crypt, I can do this, this year."

As we come together to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child through carols, worship, prayer, and the exchange of gifts, we ask you to keep in mind the residents and guests for whom we keep our doors ever open.

Your continued support helps us to help those who need it the most. means the world to us at St. George's Crypt, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to you this Christmas.

Christmas at our Sites



For many, Christmas is an exciting time filled with festivities, gift exchanges and food to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It's often a time where many families get together and reconnect. However, for many of our clients Christmas can be a very lonely time, so here at the Crypt we try to make it as special as possible for them.

During the holidays, it is important not to forget those who are sleeping rough and those that can't be with their loved ones. Across our different sites, the support team plan different festivities for the residents.

We spoke to the staff at some of our sites, about their plans for Christmas and this is what they said:

The Crypt Care Centre – Every weekday at the Crypt, we open our doors at 12pm for anyone in need of a hot meal. This is no different on Christmas Day, anyone wanting a Christmas lunch or just after some company, are welcomed in. To make the day more special for the clients, they are sat down and served by the staff and volunteers. The dining area, the Assisi Café is decorated, and clients are given a three-course turkey Christmas meal, accompanied by mince pies or Christmas puddings. Everyone is given Christmas crackers and presents. It is so important that we create a sense of community at Christmas for those who otherwise wouldn't have it.

Kirkstall Lodge – For many clients, a sense of community is created with their fellow residents. Last year the residents sat and had multiple meals together over the Christmas period, with the residents even organising plans amongst themselves without prompting by staff.

This year we are looking to continue with multiple meals, provided and cooked by the residents. This is a great activity as the residents bond and build relationships, creating a unique sense of unity. Some residents are already looking at things they would like to do over the Christmas period, going out as a group or doing activities together in the break room.

As staff we will be encouraging these client activities and prompt the usage of the TV break room to play games, watch films and relax with each other. We are also looking at doing a litter pick along part of Morris Lane to give back to the community in our area.

Christmas at Kirkstall Lodge has always been a time where the house comes together. Each year has been a great success, allowing our residents to experience

the joys of Christmas once again. Watching the clients here open up and allow themselves to enjoy Christmas is heartwarming and is one of the perks of the job.

Regent Lodge - At Regent Lodge we have 14 studio flats for adult males who at some point in their lives have been addicted to alcohol. We try to make Christmas as special as we can because it can be a difficult time for some of our residents, many of whom have not had contact with their families for some time.

On Christmas Eve the Crypt will supply us with 14 ready-made Christmas dinners. We buy each resident a present of their own choice, as well as giving them a bag full of wrapped presents, supplied to us by the Crypt, and we hand them out on Christmas morning. On Christmas Day we gather as many residents as possible and use either the office or one of their rooms to have our Christmas dinner together.

We keep everyone together for as long as we can, so everyone can socialise and watch some Christmas TV together.

Don Robins House - At Don Robins House we have 24 flats consisting of 18 individuals and six families. They all love to celebrate Christmas with us, and we try to make it as special as we can for them.

We normally have several turkeys and all the trimmings delivered to us, by the Crypt, just before Christmas. Then on Christmas morning we use the three ovens in our new kitchen facility and cook a full Christmas dinner for the residents. We serve up our feast in the big training room we have at DRH.

Last year we had about 20 residents attend and everyone had a great time; talking, having fun and playing games for several hours. This year we are expecting even more residents to attend!

The Kirkstall Road Project – This is our newest site, established in November 2022. At this site there are nine male residents and the aim here is to provide quality accommodation and support for individuals who wish to live independently but need some assistance.

Clients have discussed with staff the plans for Christmas day, expressing that they would like to have Christmas lunch with staff either at the site or go to the Crypt for Christmas lunch and then have a small Christmas gathering afterwards on site.



Rev Chris Baldwin

A Worshipful Christmas

St. George's Crypt collaborates with local churches to practically deliver the message of Christ; emphasising love, compassion, and support. We thought it would be interesting to talk to churches seeking to shed light on our work and its significance in challenging homelessness perceptions, especially in the lead-up to Christmas.

Chris Baldwin, the vicar of the parish of Wortley and Farnley, says they have been supporting St. George's Crypt for a long time. Each Harvest, his church collects food donations and delivers them to the Crypt. He says this partnership is important because it means that they are confident that if someone turns up with multiple complex needs with homeless issues, then the church can signpost to the Crypt. He says:

"We know and trust that the Crypt will do what they say on the tin, that they will support homeless and vulnerable in Leeds. The mutual trust and collaboration between the church and the Crypt is highly valuable."

Rev. Chris stresses the significance of the incarnation, where Jesus, born homeless due to King Herod's persecution, embodied human suffering and the extent of humanity at Christmas.

He notes that while Christmas is often associated with lights and festivities, many experience it without warmth, glitter, or mince pies. Therefore, it is wonderful to know that the Crypt is there, putting flesh on the gospel promise. Christian hope can sometimes feel disembodied, detached from flesh and blood and bones and bodies. Therefore, as the Crypt embodies it, it becomes the hands and feet of Jesus in the community, especially at Christmas.

To know that the Crypt offer the hope of the gospel in words and in actions, and more importantly, in actions with hands and feet is so important.

Rev. Patrick Senior of St. Peter's Church in Gildersome maintains a strong connection with St. George's Crypt through regular charitable giving. He draws a parallel between the Holy Family's homelessness on Christmas Eve and the care provided to the homeless during the Christmas season. For the church, supporting those in need at Christmas is a core Christian response to ensure they are not isolated on the streets during this festive period.

Caroline Hewlett, vicar of Swaledale with Arkengarthdale, also has a long-standing association with St. George's Crypt. Her parish often collects clothes and food for the Crypt and brings groups to witness its operations. This exposure helps people understand the complex realities of broken families, addiction, and their impact on homelessness, which goes beyond just lacking a home.

Rev. Hewlett acknowledges that Christmas is a mixed experience for many, as it highlights family-focused joy and celebration. However, for those using the Crypt's services, it can be a painful time due to a history of family breakdowns and chaos. She emphasises that the message of Christmas is about God entering the mess to be with us, symbolised by Jesus's birth in a stable. The hope the Crypt offers at Christmas is the assurance that God is with those in need during their most challenging times.

In conclusion, the collaboration between St. George's Crypt and local churches is vital in providing practical support to homeless and vulnerable people in Leeds, especially during Christmas. These partnerships ensure that the message of hope and compassion is not only spoken but also acted upon.

It is brilliant to work with people who walk the same path as us!



Cookies at Christmas

Hilary Brooks, our Mental Health Support Worker at the Crypt, organises Christmas activities for clients. This year she plans to make Christmas wreaths and Christmas cookies with clients.

'I have been making wreaths with clients for around four years. With the mature shrubs at Ashlar House I am looking to engage clients to make holly wreaths to sell to raise funds for the Crypt. Having a background as a florist I can guide them to make something beautiful and to be proud of.'

When we last held a cooking group at Don Robins House there was interest from other residents to make Christmas cookies. I will work with Matty, one of our clients, to find a suitable recipe to make. I have a variety of cookie cutters that we may use.'

Matty, has been using the Crypt services for almost three years. He is a keen chef and still regularly gets involved; volunteering at one of our Preloved shops and running occasional cooking classes at Don Robins House.

Occasionally he runs cooking classes for other clients, with the most recent class being how to make homemade ravioli.

"I always cooked in batch because I know some residents at the Crypt wouldn't cook because they can't or because they struggled with a disability, so I used to cook more than I needed, and share the rest."

Some obviously enjoyed the food so they'd ask how it's made, and it would just introduce them to things that I'd made like bread and pasta."

Matty said that many of the other residents were amazed

that he made all these foods from scratch, so he started to break the process down and teach them how to make something out of nothing.

Matty was keen to steer people away from takeaways, saying that:

"A lot of people are struggling moneywise, so I told people making it homemade on a budget is better and you know what's going in it. I got a lot of interest in people wanting to know, so agreed on 'I'll show you', we had the big kitchen down at Don Robins so that and the help of Hilary allowed me to do it."

"Some people start off scared of the kitchen, so if you just introduce them to little bits and show them, you can do it, then it is actually easier than you think."

He enjoys teaching others to cook and watching them be proud of what they've made whilst developing their confidence in the kitchen.

Matty now lives completely independently and has a council flat tenancy.

When reflecting on his time at Don Robins and the sense of community, Matty said he enjoyed his time there and got on with a lot of people. He said with the residents it was like an open-door policy, where people would drop by, cook together and maybe watch a movie.

Matty's future goal is to continue his involvement at the Crypt; this Christmas, as said, he is planning to come back and run a Christmas dinner cooking class and we are very much looking forward to seeing how the community at Don Robins House comes together during the festive period.



Our Very Own Christmas Story

Last Christmas we were slowly moving back to our normal service; a delicious turkey meal for everyone who came to our door, Christmas Pudding, a Christmas service and prayers, presents, the full works.

During this time of community, love, and compassion, we work doubly hard to make sure all our clients feel the warm embrace that they may have missed out on throughout their lives.

Sadly, many of our clients have histories of abuse, family breakdown, mental health, isolation, and despair. In this situation, Christmas can stop looking like a time of joy, peace and good tidings and turn on its head, bringing back memories of being without, looking in from the cold, not able to enjoy what everyone else is.

Last Christmas there was a knock at the door. A family with teenage children were stood, cold, wet, hungry, and scared. They hadn't come to volunteer; they had come because they were in need. It was clear they had never been to a homeless shelter, never thought this was where they would be spending their Christmas.

Our Deputy CEO, Helen, was volunteering over Christmas, helping with the preparation of the food, serving and washing up. When she and the team saw them, they jumped into action. A table was set, crackers were found, food was served, and they were brought into our sanctuary from the cold. We hunted down suitable presents and made sure that they didn't go without.

As Helen said:

"I needed a moment – it really got to me. I had to step out. What had caused this family to come to us, why did they have nowhere to go at Christmas? We ran about looking for suitable presents for their teenage children and managed to find a few; we got them wrapped and were able to give them a bag full each.

It got me thinking later; is this going to become the norm? Are we going to see more families in need at Christmas? Are we going to see more families in need in general? Since we started Don Robins House, we've been on a massive learning curve working with families. We are here to do the best for anyone and everyone who comes to our door. We will always offer a helping hand, a warm bed, a cooked meal."

So, this Christmas we ask you to think about all those who are having to go without, who are not able to enjoy Christmas for whatever reason. Times are hard, costs are rising, and everyone is feeling the pinch.

Anything you can give to help those less fortunate than yourself is appreciated. We want to be able to help anyone and everyone who comes to our door, to show them the love they deserve, to share in the joy of Christ's birth.

Whoever and however many cross our threshold, we will be there to meet the need. As Revd. Don Robins said, we will be 'where the battle is hottest, where the work is hardest.'

Come Join In The Fun in Fundraising



1st November to 31st December

Family friendly fun. We are looking for schools, families or large groups to take part.

Find out more at our website: <https://bit.ly/3Fzhz40>

LEEDS BIG SLEEP 2023

23rd November Over 18s Only

The Leeds Big Sleep is back for a seventh year and will once again see supporters of Leeds Rhinos Foundation, St. George's Crypt and St. Gemma's Hospice team up for a night under the stars at Headingley Stadium.

Find out more at our [website](#).

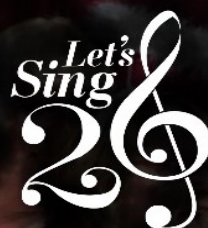
COULD YOU BE AN ANGEL?

30th November FREE

Venue: The Ambler Club, Ground Floor, St. Paul's House, 23 Park Square, Leeds LS1 2ND

The evening is open to members and guests who are interested in tackling homelessness in Leeds. Refreshments will be provided.

Contact: amanda.bennett@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk



15th December FREE

A free lunchtime Carol concert.

Doors open at 12.00 noon for a 12:30 pm start.

For more information Find out more at our website.

The event will last approx. 45 minutes.

Lifeline Leeds

Please give as much as you can this Christmas to support homeless and vulnerable people in Leeds

Therapy



Sustenance



Wellbeing



St. George's Crypt

Shelter



This year, get involved and donate over Christmas by fundraising to support all the different packages that we offer to our clients. Be it therapy, sustenance, wellbeing or shelter, help us give our clients a present this year that will really change their lives. Find out more about our [Christmas Appeal online](#).

For further information about any of our events or to find out more about fundraising please contact: fundraising@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk or 0113 245 9061, or scan the QR code in Lifeline Leeds to donate.



When I was a vicar in parish ministry, the Christmas season was busy but also full of so many blessings and delights, schoolchildren singing about baby Jesus, the pews packed at Midnight Mass, and of course the endless supply of mince pies. It was also the moment to pull out the stocking (!) my favourite Christmas Blessing...

*"May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,*

*the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas..."*

What I love about that blessing is that it brings together all the characters in the Christmas story, just as on a starry night they surrounded the Christ Child asleep in the manger. From poor shepherds to finely dressed astrologers they gazed upon the Son of God.

Here at the Crypt, we talk about the Crypt family a lot. We are a family made up of many communities; different backgrounds, different roles, different gifts. Yet we are one family united in our heart's desire to serve those who are homeless and vulnerable. We have the great privilege of gazing upon the Christ Child each and every day, when we

gaze into the faces of our sisters and brothers who seek sanctuary and hope within these walls. In their beautiful but all too often broken faces, we see Christ looking back at us.

Imagine what a Christmas full of joy this could be if, in the midst of all the busyness and celebration, we remember to look into the faces of those around us, and appreciate there the living reflection of Christ.

Have a wonderful and peace-filled festive season...

...and may the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you this Christmas and always. Amen

Gifts in Wills St. George's Crypt has been helping homeless and vulnerable people since 1930. Gifts in wills can be arranged in minutes but the impact lasts a lifetime. The only information your will writer / professional adviser needs is the charity name and registered charity number: St. George's Crypt, Registered charity number 1144474. Every gift will help transform lives.

Christmas Appeal

1a. For one-off donations, please complete this side.

Full name.....

Home address.....

City.....Postcode.....

Email.....

Telephone no.....

I enclose a cheque / postal order (made payable to 'St. George's Crypt') for £.....

Standing Order

1b. For regular donations by standing order, please complete both sides.

Bank / building society name:.....

Bank address:.....

.....Postcode:.....

Please pay St. George's Crypt (HSBC, PO Box 105, Leeds, LS1 1LD. Sort code 40-27-15, account number 54703537)

The sum of £.....

each month / quarter / year (please delete as applicable)

commencing on.....(date) and until further notice.

Name of account to be debited:.....

Account number:.....Sort code:.....

Signed:.....Date:.....

Signed:.....

Date of declaration:.....

Please let us know if your address or your tax circumstances change.
(Post your completed form to: St. George's Crypt, Great George Street, Leeds, LS1 3BR)

2. Gift Aid Declaration

Please claim Gift Aid on all donations I have made within the past four years of this date and all donations I make in the future. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and / or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after the date signed below, or in the preceding 4 years.

3. GDPR Consent:

Do we have your consent to send you our quarterly Newsletter and other interesting updates about the Crypt? Tick all contact methods that apply; we are happy to send you our newsletter by post and by email if you wish

- Yes by post
 Yes by email
 No



Cooking Up a Good Story

Don Robins House (named after our founder the Revd Don Robins), was built three years ago as a village of flats to provide long term support to vulnerable individuals and families. One of the beautiful aspects of Don Robins House is it works as a village where residents, whilst living independently, support each other and live together as a community.

The community encapsulates the African proverb, 'It takes a village to raise a child' with the sense in which those who live at Don Robins House support each other in their journey to independent living.

One aspect of the 'village' of Don Robins House is the community meals that take place, organised by the staff, but with the help of the residents, and a brilliant resident

and cook, Matty. It is a great community time which brings children and adults, residents and staff, together as one Crypt family to enjoy wonderful food!

After the last community meal, Christine (Head of Health and Wellbeing at the Crypt) and the Crypt Chaplain Andy, joined with residents and staff to run 'Crypt Craft and Cake' – a Messy Church style afternoon for the children and the adults. Aided by Bart the Bird (a friend of Andy's) everyone enjoyed crafts based on the story of Jesus feeding the multitude, before Christine and Bart told the Bible story.

The afternoon was then rounded off with everyone sharing a bread roll baked by Andy, a prayer...and then lots of cake!

St George's Crypt wishes to thank all the individuals across Leeds, Yorkshire, Great Britain and further afield, volunteers, communities, Third Sector partners, corporate partners, and public sector partners who support us throughout the year. Without your support we would not be able to deliver the work we do, help the people we do and change the lives we do. From all of us at St. George's Crypt, a massive thank you and God Bless!

If we send more than one copy of our newsletter to your address, please let us know and help us to reduce our mailing costs. If you would prefer to read it online, please provide your email address to: martyn.croft@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk

For more information, please contact
The Fundraising Team
Email: fundraising@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk
Post: Great George Street, Leeds, LS1 3BR
Tel: 0113 245 9061

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