

@CryptLeeds

EASTER EDITION 2023

A DUTY OF CARE



St.
George's
Crypt

Welcome

to our Easter newsletter

Chris Fields
Chief Executive Officer



“Alleluia Alleluia, he is risen!

“He is risen indeed , Alleluia”

Hi everyone and welcome to the Easter edition of our quarterly newsletter. If I had some church bells I would be ringing them!

Easter is such a special time, both for us as Christians and for the symbolism of re-birth and growth into a bright future. Regardless of your strength of faith, belief or none, there's no denying that Spring and Easter offer something no other time of the year can.

The world is coming back to life having hidden itself in fallen leaves, frost and snow. The trees have a verdancy about them that is simply breathtaking. Flowers so delicate and pretty, force themselves up through the earth to provide a smile a minute.

We too as human beings need to have a period of re-growth both personally, corporately and spiritually. Is that a tall order? I don't think so, to grow personally following a raft of failed New Year resolutions is just a case of deciding to be a better person in the drenching love of Christ and use that to love, forgive and try harder ourselves. To grow corporately we must look at mistakes made, create policies which empower, encourage, and protect but most importantly plan. To grow spiritually is to listen to the whisper of God through the trees, to stand in awe at the night sky, to enjoy the wind blowing through your hair (I remember those days!) and to praise Heaven for all the riches we have. Most important is to invite Christ into our lives more.

How do we invite Christ into our lives when we are tied up in the daily drudge of making ends meet and turning the heating down a couple of

degrees to afford such a luxury? We cannot avoid the realities of life and the butterfly effect of world events, but what we can do is dream and dream big! Dreams cost nothing!

Spring is the time of the dreaded budgets here at the Crypt. It's hard enough putting them together but trying to see up to a year into the future at the Crypt... well we may as well consult the tealeaves! We never know what is around the corner. The one thing I do know is we will be working very hard to realise the next part of our vision.

The vision is to provide quality, well managed homes for the people we look after. We were discussing the plans and how flats work better for us than individual houses. The practicalities of a shared roof, one lift, one reception etc all make sense but the biggest thing we have found with Don Robins House is the fact that we have unintentionally created a village. People have found that having people close by in flats, landings and floors has given them a sense of belonging and new life with neighbours. When I say a village, I choose that carefully rather than the overused “community”. A village has all the rich mixes of people a shared heritage and a pride in their identity. All in proximity but with their own personal space.

To replicate this across the city is our “dream big”. We have architects plans and partners to make it happen. All we need now is the registration as a housing provider so we can access important funding to make it happen.

We will also be “sharing the love” with our new *Growing Rooms Ladies* (GRL) project which has now started and is providing the same close family

protection, support, and guidance that the original *Growing Rooms* does. By the time this newsletter lands on the doorstep we hope to have completed on, renovated and filled our first ladies house “Mary's House”. All the above will take place whilst we still provide the essential emergency accommodation, health and wellbeing and projects across the city. Please pray for our teams as they work so hard at making it all happen.

Easter this year is full of hope and promise for the future. Personally, corporately, and spiritually. We will never forget what has allowed all of this... Easter and its promise of God's love, promise and a future built on love and understanding.

Join us along this Easter journey. Check out our social media as we post the highlights of the work we do and the amazing achievements of the people who matter the most. Look at our website, put faces to names, read about the different areas, and departments that you as loyal prayer partners, funders, Angels and volunteers have made happen. We are all Easter people!

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED ALLELUIA!



The Power of Positive Transformation

Nelly is a testament of courage and hope in the face of addiction. Struggling to cope with reality, he resorted to alcohol and drugs. After being advised to go on methadone, he wanted to learn to break free from addiction - but it wasn't an easy task. "It seemed like I couldn't go anywhere without a drink. I was at a point where I needed alcohol just to make reality bearable."

Nelly attended our *Growing Rooms* drug and alcohol Rehabilitation Programme and successfully graduated last year, following 15 months of abstinence.

Nelly now enjoys volunteering with our Health and Wellbeing department and says it helped him gain social skills and to stay sober. Nelly says, "It's been a long time since I've felt this good, and it has really helped me get back on my feet. It's a new way of life, a life of freedom. I feel like it's taken me back in time to when I was young!"

"It was a challenge to start out with. I couldn't even look people in the eyes and speak to them, all I could do was stare at the wall. I knew I wanted to engage, but I found it difficult doing that. It was like

the words were stuck in my throat. So, it has been a huge challenge to break out of myself, but I'm happy to say I have succeeded'.

Nelly is thinking about applying for full-time work, though he's not sure what that will be yet. In regards to his part-time work at the Crypt, Nelly is upbeat, "It has been such a rewarding experience, one that I'm glad I was able to be part of. I really feel that I want to give something back, and help others who are in a similar place to how I was."



THE CARE TEAM



Pictured Left to Right - Terry Gilfillan - Team Leader / Jamie Wilson - Deputy Head of Client Services / Annabelle Davies - Team Leader

'To work here, you have to be a certain kind of person. You need to be a resilient person. It's not as simple as just soup and bread. It's more about talking with residents, find out what their needs are and ultimately, gain their trust. It can be something simple like getting them some new clothes or something like that, but sometimes it's not so simple. It could be something more intense where they're having difficulties with mental health or something like that.'

'It's easy to look at a homeless person and make a judgement.' It can be more complicated than that. We are much more than housing support workers, mental health workers, help with forms, benefits, the job is really varied but massively rewarding.'

In this edition we wanted to show what life is like for our frontline workers, the team that supports our clients however they come through the door.

'We have some amazing clients who have become friends over the years as we've seen them progress positively. There are also some pretty challenging days where you just want to throw your hands up and walk away from it all, but then you look around you and see all these incredible people doing their best even on those days when it feels like nobody's listening or nobody cares and then you remember why you do this job in the first place; because you believe in helping people get back on their feet! I want to get up in the morning and come to work every day. It's

very rare you find a job like that!'

We do feel that St George's Crypt is a unique place to work. Every day can bring a new cohort of clientele with new challenges and a new dynamic. It keeps the team on their toes!

'It's not simple, it never is. It takes a certain kind of person to work here, someone who can work hard and put in the hours because they love what they do and they want to help others do the same. We have staff who are willing to give up their free time on weekends to help with special projects, staff who have travelled across the country to visit one of our clients in jail, just because he wrote us a letter asking for our support. Then there are those times when we see amazing results: we had one client who came in without any shoes or socks on his feet and now he's volunteering at a local food bank.'

St George's Crypt can go above and beyond because it is a charity. We are able to offer more, because of the invaluable support we receive from Leeds, Yorkshire and beyond. Without a strong and cohesive team, we wouldn't be able to support people in the way that we do.

'Here at the Crypt, we're all about supporting each other, because at the end of the day, we're all on this journey together. We might not always see eye-to-eye or agree with each other all the time—and that's great!'



Pictured Top Left to Right - Tony Perkins - Team Leader / Lucy Fulton - Team Leader / Duty Office Team, Brian and Mickey

Working with people in the midst of their chaos is tough, and we would be wrong to suggest that there are 100% success rates, that everyone moves on, settles down and sustains their own tenancy.

'It's not easy to manage 26-35 complex people in the building. I think obviously no day's the same in these types of places. You need to be able to know that when times do get tough, when you know you've moved a resident on, you've done really well with them, and then all of a sudden they come back and it's only been a few weeks, that it's not your fault. You start to think that all the hard work you've done with that person hasn't made a difference, that they're back with you again. When you have those kinds of disheartening times, you need a supportive team to be able to say, "right, come on, pick it up."

But it is with the support and strength of our amazing team that we are able to keep offering a service above and beyond the call of duty to some of the most vulnerable people in Leeds.

'You need to be able to have a strong connection with your team and say, "I need help with this person or I feel like I can't work with this person anymore because of X, Y and Z." You need a supportive team that picks up each other's strengths and is there for each others weakness. You have staff who are 21 years old and never experienced homelessness, you

have 40-year-olds who are raising a family and you have 60-year-olds who have been in the game 20 years. You bring those different skills together—the energy from the younger ones and the patience from the older ones to actually build that team and give a client the best service which builds on the team's strengths.'

And that is what the Crypt is about; working together to make sure that no one goes without. Our care team work 24/7 365 days a year offering care and support, working to ensure that our clients' diverse needs are met.

Whether it be support with their Universal Credit application, GP appointments, working with our partners at Leeds City Council and other agencies across the city, we make sure that everyone who passes through our door gets the service they deserve.

'At St George's Crypt, we believe in being honest with each other about where we are and where we're going. We know that if we don't have trust, our team won't be able to grow together. and without growth, there's no way we'll be able to do what we need to do: help the people who need us most!'

FUNDRAISING 2023

As an integral part of the benevolent tapestry of Leeds since 1930, St George's Crypt are constantly developing in line with current need. This year some of our priorities are providing:-

- **More Emergency Accommodation**
- **Developing Health and Wellbeing and trauma informed care**
- **Doubling our Addiction Recovery Service in size, with the first residential service for women in Leeds.**

We would not be able to offer any of these innovative services which are successfully changing the face of homelessness within Leeds without you! We are incredibly lucky to have both new and long-term supporters who stand with us, combatting homelessness in Leeds. In 2023 please join our ranks, there are many opportunities available, and we are always happy to talk through any thoughts you may have. Every penny you give means we can change lives for the better.

You can join Angels of the Crypt and commit to supporting the Crypt financially for three years, during which time you will receive regular updates, invites to sharing events and learn with fellow Angels how your significant support underpins the work we do.
Amanda Bennett Email: Amanda.bennett@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk

Sign up for the challenge events via our website or contact our Events Fundraiser, Andy Sharpe Email: andy.sharpe@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk Tel: **07568 226799**.

ST. GEORGE'S CRYPT
INVITE YOU TO 'ANGELS OF THE CRYPT'

SPRINGWELL
NORTH BREWING CO
BUSLINGTHORPE LANE
LEEDS, LS7 2DF

9 MARCH
17.30 - 20.00

Join us for an evening of great beers, inspiring stories and a chance to learn more about the work of St George's Crypt.

Chris Fields (CEO) will be providing an update on the charity's work before handing over to North's founders.

Hear from North about their partnership with St George's Crypt and how it has impacted their growing team.

Take a peek behind the scenes at the brewery with free tours running all evening. And don't forget to try some of the brewery's delicious beers - the first round is on North!

R.S.V.P. by 28th February to Amanda Bennett on 0113 2459061, Ext. 310.
Or email - Amanda.Bennett@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk



Sunday 14th May 2023



RUN THE ROB BURROW MARATHON

Sunday 14th May 2023



LIMBER UP FOR THE LEEDS HALF MARATHON

Sunday 18th June 2023



POUND THE PAVEMENT AT THE LEEDS 10K

Saturday 1st July 2023



TACKLE THE 12K TOTAL WARRIOR

Saturday 29th July 2023



TAKE ON THE YORKSHIRE THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE

EVENTS 2023



Our good friend and colleague Roger has begun his well-earned retirement. We await our new Chaplain who is called to minister to all who come through our doors, friend, stranger, angry, upset, lost or joyful in finding safety.

Until then we offer this prayer for Eastertide.

Father of all creation, we have shared with you the deep, deep sadness of your only son offering his life for ours.

We pray that we recall his sacrifice as we consider our daily sacrifices.

We praise and rejoice in the glory which is the resurrection, the promise of a life renewed in your love.

Dear Father, walk with us as we travel strange paths, as we tend to the needs of others, and as we continue that journey may we be safe, strong and constantly renewed in our longing to serve.

Father, we ask that as we walk daily in the corridors and rooms of our predecessors, we continue your work in love, forgiveness, and hope for the future.

We ask all of this in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

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.

Please Donate

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 £.....

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

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)

- Yes by post
- Yes by email
- No



Pictured are Ellie Cosgrove - Therapeutic Support Worker & Maureen Bryan - Therapeutic Lead, with our Growing Rooms Ladies.

Thank you to everyone!

We were planning for a difficult Christmas. Finally we were coming out of Covid, and everyone is hit by the cost-of-living crisis. As ever, the most vulnerable are hit the hardest. Even though there is support, and we haven't stopped, our clients' main costs are food, energy, and warmth. These are the costs that are rising the fastest.

So a massive thank you to everyone who supported us over Christmas and everyone who will continue to support us throughout the year.

It's a crazy year! We're aiming to build more supported accommodation to open up the right pathways to stability for more of our clients, we're offering drug and alcohol rehabilitation to females for the first time, modeled on our existing *Growing Room's* provision, and no doubt there will be much more to report back on, alongside all the great work you support us to do.

Thank you and God Bless, Leeds, we couldn't do this without you!

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: martin.barry@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk
Post: Great George Street, Leeds, LS1 3BR
Tel: 0113 245 9061

Registered charity: 1144474, Company Number: 07780402



St. George's
Crypt



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