

# @Crypt Leeds



St. George's  
Crypt

Easter Issue 2021



# Welcome

## to our Easter newsletter

**Hello, and welcome to our first newsletter of 2021. I really hope this finds you as fit and well as current circumstances allow and that you, like me, are looking forward to a new and bright future away from these restrictive and frightening times.**

Spring and Easter especially have a great meaning to me personally and to all of us here at the Crypt.

Spring and all its wonderful promise of nature (showing us all its glory) also means that once again, we have survived a very busy Christmas and winter season with additional beds and added workload. Hopefully we have seen the last of the weather which makes our residents, lives even more miserable and difficult to manage.

Easter comes with the promise of new life and renewal.

Although we can see “green shoots of recovery” around the Covid situation, it’s not going away just yet. Thanks be to God for all our staff having received the vaccines so important in protecting us and the ability to deliver services in relative safety, we are still in a period of change “by the hour”.

I think this year will be a special year in which we take a reflective and restorative look at the entire

charity. To gallop into new and exciting projects may be a little reckless considering the issues around funding and continuity of “life as normal”.

We will be looking (with much prayer and meditation) at the three R’s...Not the usual (followed by a test! Nightmare memories come flooding back) but a programme of Response, Renewal and Resilience.

**Respond:** by listening to the needs of those in our care, to our staff who have given their all and to the city and local areas in new needs and requirements but most of all to the Spirit who will lead us to the place we need to be.

**Renew:** by looking at the very core and reason we are here and have been for 90 years, is what we do and how we do it still relevant post- Covid? We may need to do even more!

**Resilience:** ensuring that in a world so fluid and unsure of itself that we are a rock and safe place within the city. Ensuring that our faith is central to our whole being and that we lead by example and deeds.

By the time this goes out we will most likely have been through Lent. I intend to mark Lent with a deep reflective look at everything mentioned above. Lent for me



**Chris Fields**  
Chief Executive Officer

seems to heighten the word from the Gospels into Cinemascope and Technicolour. I am a particular fan of artwork from Mary Fleeson at the Lindisfarne Scriptorium and have it strategically placed all over the place, these show the complexity of life, scripture and all interwoven with vibrant colours and hidden depths... just like here.

I will look at the journey from our front door to their new front door and try to weave the scriptures, life, and joy into the lives of those sent to us regardless of level of need.

If there's still time, please join us on Facebook and witness our Lenten journey; through our personal take on Scripture and our journey towards Easter.

Until next time, stay safe and with all blessings, Chris.



## The Son of our Founder

**We were very happy to receive an e-mail from Revd. Ian Robins, the son of our founder, Revd. Don Robins. He told us about how much he loved our new book!**

*'We have completed our first reading of "Entertaining" - it seems to echo Our Lord's ministry which was simply (!) meeting people at their point of need, listening, and doing what was possible - and leaving it to the Holy Spirit to carry on.*

*So grateful for the way you are obviously finding ways of helping -e.g. taking people to*

*appointments etc.*

*The Community of the Sisters of the Church are using the book for their daily readings, and a personal friend (former Head of Nurse Training at LGI, and a priest) has bought seven copies for friends to use as their Lent Book!*

*Blessings and much love from Ian and Gertrude.'*

If you are looking for a Lenten book that embodies the practical spirit of Christ's teachings then please search for *Entertaining Saints* online We are stocked on most online sites.

## A Lovely Surprise!

**It's always wonderful to receive feedback about the magazine, especially from someone who knew the charity in it's infancy. Thank-you to Margaret for letting us publish your kind thoughts:**

*'A friend gave me your Christmas magazine, and I thought you might be interested in my memories of the Crypt. I will be 93 years old in March, a widow for 42 years.*

*My father and mother brought me and my siblings to the Crypt when I was about six years old, and we were all given a pair of shoes. I was given a pair of black boots with buttons down the front. I will be honest I didn't like them, but my parents made me*

*wear them, and I did get used to them. I was eight of 13 children; three died in infancy.*

*The memory of the Crypt is still very clear in my mind, it's a wonderful place, and all the people involved in running it deserve a medal, although I know that's not the reason you do it.*

*God bless everyone. Keep safe and well.'*

We're glad we were able to help you and your family out all those years ago. You can trust that we are still offering clothes, shoes, shelter and warmth to those in need in Leeds, alongside many more services to support people out of homelessness. Thank-you, Margaret!



# Growing Rooms:



Rob



**St George's Crypt has been running a drug and alcohol rehabilitation programme, *Growing Rooms*, in its current form since 2017. Working with recovering addicts, the programme supports them to become fully abstinent and independent. They live together in houses, coming together every day to work through their recovery in a class-based setting and practically, by volunteering within the city. This combination of learning and practice gives a unique foundation of work and study that has proven to support recovery.**

Three housemates who took part in the programme are coming to the end of their time with us. They are moving on into a shared house, deciding that the bonds formed through recovery are strong and a positive foundation for their continued development. They

are applying for work, volunteering and doing really well. We wish them all the success they deserve after all they have achieved.

We caught up with the guys to chat about their success stories and this is what they had to say.

#### **James:**

"I'd just done three months in rehab. And I still needed help and support, I wasn't ready to go back to living on my own. I was fearful around shared accommodation, what the next chapter was going to bring. It turned out to be the best decision I've ever made. It's helping me get the support that I need to get back to where I want to be in life.

The shared accommodation helped me come out of my shell and I'm a lot more confident. I'm able to express my feelings, my emotions, I can get up and have a routine in my life. You know, I've built good relationships while being

in *Growing Rooms*, and get on really well with my housemates"

Asked about volunteering as part of his recovery programme he said:

"It's got me used to interacting with people again, speaking to a lot of interesting people and customers, it's helping me get up, get out of the house. I've structured my day. And I've also been working at the Crypt on weekends, which is also helped me massively. I'm at a point where I can help people that are in the same situation I was, and being able to give that love and support back like I've had it given to me is really nice, because, you know, if it hadn't been for that love and support, I don't know where I'd be today."

#### **Dave:**

"I'm coming to end of *Growing Rooms* and moving on to the next stage of my life. I'm grateful to St. George's Crypt and *Growing*

# A Change for the Better



Rooms for letting me have the opportunity to work part time while I'm still on grown rooms. This has helped me to restore my life and understand my addiction."

Dave goes on to talk about what he has gained from being at Growing Rooms:

"I've come from a chaotic life, so the biggest change for me has been Peace; peace with myself, peace with my surroundings and peace with whatever situation I am in. It's never as bad as it seems, even though in the past, it always seemed catastrophic not so now, it's all calm."

For those starting on the programme, Dave had this to say:

"Just grab it with both hands, don't mess it up, stick at it and the benefits will come, stick it out and make something worthwhile of your time on the programme and you'll be rewarded for your time on it."

## Rob:

I didn't really have a life before *Growing Rooms*. It wasn't even an existence because of the addiction. I didn't have anyone in my life, no family, no friends it was a dark and lonely time. I couldn't manage myself or my life. I went into rehab and from there I knew I had to change my life. I had heard of Growing Rooms and knew of people who been through the programme and I'd seen them doing well. I wanted what they had, it made me hungry for recovery so I joined Growing Rooms.

Rob is finishing the programme in a couple of months, we asked him about his plans for the future.

I am looking to hopefully get a job in Support Services working with people that suffer with addiction. I would like to help them get their lives back. I want to give back to them what has been given to me. *Growing Rooms* not only changed my life, it saved my life.

Staff helped me find myself again."

*Growing Rooms* is an important model of drug and alcohol recovery for the city.

The programme lends its success from the fact that we offer a wraparound service which makes it unique, where everything is dealt with under one roof. We offer treatment for substance misuse in the Recovery Room, but we're also giving a routine and structure via volunteering. In addition to all this, we provide a stable and safe place to be accommodated for that period of time.

It is great to see our guys successfully complete the programme. With addiction comes lots of other things such as homelessness and breakdown of relationships. The work we do at *Growing Rooms* links in with what we do at the Crypt, which is supporting people, changing lives, and giving a future. Moving from Chaos to Citizenship.

# The Fun in Fundraising

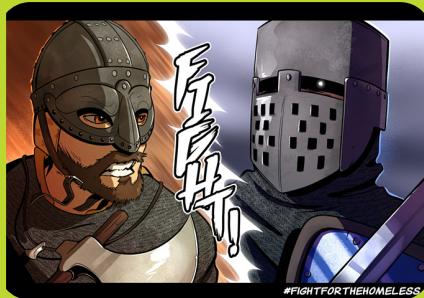
If you have been doing your own fundraising events, we love to see your photos. You can tag us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram or send them to us by email.

## Leeds Big Sleep In...

Thank you to everyone who took part and supported the Leeds Big Sleep in our fourth year. After the initial postponement from November, it was evident we couldn't run the event in the normal way but nothing was going to stop us ensuring it still went ahead a different way. More than 70 people took part sleeping everywhere from their back gardens, on top of drum kits, to in a skip!



## Fight for the Homeless



In this Medieval clash of the titans only one man can reign supreme!

Anvil of St George's Crypt and Goatworn of Path Devon are set to battle and settle this rivalry once and for all.

Both highly skilled in medieval combat, this is one event not to miss.

Tickets are £5 and all monies raised will be split between the two charities.

The battle will be streamed online and all tickets can be bought on Eventbrite, just search 'Fight for The Homeless'.

## Upcoming Events - Fingers crossed

Most of our events rely on mass participation. We are hopeful, that once the virus is under control, we can get back to what we all enjoy, taking on the challenges, pushing ourselves, achieving our goals. All registered participants from 2020 have automatically been moved to 2021.

**Total Warrior**  
10 July

**Leeds 10k**  
4 July

**Yorkshire Three Peaks**  
July/August TBC



To sign up, join in, buy tickets or volunteer...

for any of our fundraising events and activities, please contact the Fundraising Team at St George's Crypt.

Tel: 0113 245 9061 or email: [martin.barry@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk](mailto:martin.barry@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk)



# Chaplain's Corner

with Reverend Roger

*"For the foolishness of God is wiser than Man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than Man's strength." 1 Corinthians 1:25*

**As I write this, the snowdrops are breaking through snowy ground; as you read it, the daffodils will be visible signs of new life renewed.**

Spring flowers come to us as a sign of hope after grief; of longer days after darker nights. Yet it was in all that cold and darkness that they grew, and prepared to break through, to mature, and finally to flower; and then to die.

We have come through a long hard winter of sickness; a renewed awareness of the frailty

of the precious gift of life. Easter is the sign of new life after this life ends. All of creation can speak to us of that, if we have ears to hear. And every act of kindness, of courage and of love, is a sign too of that new creation already begun and stirring in our souls.

So we encourage one another here in the Crypt; once a place of darkness and death, now the home of light and hope. May your Easter be happy; above all may it be hopeful.

Please pray for those who are in

despair: that they may find reason to be hopeful.

Please pray for our work: that we may respond to their need, and give hope to everyone who come to us.

Please pray that we have the resilience to go on in difficult times.

Thank God with us for all the blessings of this life.

## Donation form

### 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 interesting updates about the Crypt?

☐  
☐  
☐

Yes by post

Yes by email

No

# Thank-you for Feeding Us

Though-out the pandemic we have worked tirelessly to ensure that no-one goes without. Come rain or shine, even snow, the team has been out providing food to those most in need in Leeds.

We have been working with the Council to provide food to people staying in safe and suitable accommodation across the city. We are working with our partners across the city donating food for our emergency takeaway service in our main centre. We must also thank our generous donors, like Sudexo and The Albert Gubay Foundation, and every single one of you, for supporting us financially to deliver these services. We also thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers throughout these difficult times.

It looks like there is light at the end of the Covid tunnel, but that does not mean that life will go back to normal quickly. It will likely be slowest to go back to normal for our clients. We will continue to make sure that they have nutritious, hot food, access to clothes and personal hygiene; the basics that we all take for granted.

When we do finally return to some state of normality we will know as a city that we have supported those most in need, the most vulnerable in our community, together.

Thank-you and God bless.



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### St. George's Crypt Fundraising Team

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Tel: 0113 245 9061 option 1

Registered charity: 1144474, Company Number: 07780402



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