

@Crypt Leeds



St. George's
Crypt

Summer Issue 2021



Welcome

to our Summer newsletter

Chris Fields
Chief Executive Officer



Hello and welcome to our Summer newsletter.

As I write this, we are looking forward to hearing of the relaxation of Covid restrictions and hopefully, a step nearer to normality. The big question is what is normal following everything the world has been through?

The one thing we have that has no change and is eternally loyal is the love of God and the forgiveness and blessings we receive daily.

This doesn't come without work I suppose, to be forgiven and loved isn't a "get out of gaol" card. We need to be honest, prepared and aware of our misgivings as well as our successes.

Summer and all we reap from it depends on the hard work put in beforehand. The gardens are glorious, the trees are fully laden with dappling leaves and the fields are working hard to feed us and the whole of nature.

We as a charity have had some really honest conversations as to where we are going as a team, as a charity and as an individual now lockdowns are hopefully a thing of the past.

Preparation and forward planning are

always tricky. We love to be reactive and help wherever we are needed. Even the fire brigade is reactive, but they do try to educate us in fire prevention and we are no different. We now need to set solid foundations and plant the seeds that will be harvested much further into the future, with as much love and passion by our successors as we do now. This is reflected in our soon to be finished Don Robins' House; a wonderful purpose-built unit of 24 one and two-bedroom flats offering safe and supported accommodation. More to follow...

To that end, we are starting a process of succession planning, strategy and growth meetings. From these we hope to identify where we need to prepare the land, what we need to plant and how we are going to tend and feed it.

New initiatives and exciting moves forward keep us fresh and alert. *Growing Rooms* is a perfect example of this and I can see it being a central hub in our wheel of planning. We always wanted some sort of residential therapy to aid the road to recovery and help prevent further homelessness and here we are!

Add to that the successes we have seen in our new build developments

and provision of truly affordable housing with support and I think we have a good platform from which to take a proverbial dive into the future.

We must constantly look to the future to ensure that the people we love and look after HAVE a future. With your continued support, the love and endless blessings of God and the partnerships we have built around the city, we should have a way out of this Covid lockdown life, fit and ready to take on the challenges ahead.

We are looking towards creating a charity fit for purpose for at least the next 10 years, secure in its values, mission and purpose. We look forward to sharing the news as it happens and sharing the stories of real people in real situations.

Please pray for the teams within the charity. They have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic, doing jobs they were not expecting to do, at personal risk and firing on all cylinders. Please pass this newsletter onto friends and family to share the news and let people know that St George's Crypt is out there and making a difference wherever it can.

With all blessings and still, please keep safe. Chris.

Moving on Up

Since we opened our doors 90 years ago we have worked with healthcare professionals to offer a range of different services to our clients. Be it nurses, doctors, podiatrists, physiotherapists, opticians or dentists, we have tried to access the best support tailored to our clients' needs.

The pandemic has made this difficult. Throughout lockdown, we have not been able to have these services come into the centre, because of Covid restrictions. However, these services are starting to come back. We have had our first post-pandemic dentistry

session. Our optician's service is back up and running. Our physiotherapist has started seeing clients. These partnerships are crucial to the work that we do. They support our clients to access services that they may feel excluded from. It builds self-confidence, improves health outcomes and starts developing basic life skills of engaging with, understanding, and improving personal health.

We look forward to offering more sessions, bringing back our more therapeutic activities like arts club and craft club, and starting to get back to a new normal!



Shop 'til you Drop

Lockdown has massively hit our charity shops. Unable to sell on the High Street, we have branched out online. This has started well, we're even calling it our fourth shop, but nothing beats having our shops open. Every penny that gets spent in our shops goes to supporting the most vulnerable in Leeds. Many of the volunteers and staff have come through a St George's Crypt support programme. Not having this pathway has meant that we have had to cut our cloth accordingly.

Now that our shops are open, and we hope that they will stay that way for the foreseeable future, we hope that you will pop down, grab a bargain and see

our work in action. If you have been thinking about volunteering but haven't been able to, then we are actively recruiting volunteers in all our shops. We are in Pudsey, Roundhay and Armley, so hopefully there is somewhere close to you to pop in. If you are tech savvy then you might think about helping us develop our online presence, meaning that we can reach more people and generate more funds to support our core work.

Please do come down, or if you want to have a look online then check us out on Facebook and find out how you can support our shops to support some of the most vulnerable people in Leeds.

Closer Together



Covid was always going to be hard on our vulnerable and homeless clients. However, the city responded well, pulled together, and worked to support and provide safe spaces where essential services were available on site. This allowed people with a history of street homelessness to engage, have a warm, safe place to sleep, access hot meals, and engage with services such as mental health support and substance misuse services.

A huge thank you to our frontline staff. They have had to deal with the same personal challenges we have all had to bear but they continued to work tirelessly to make sure not one of our clients was left behind.

Regent Lodge

Regent Lodge is St. George's Crypt's alcohol reduction programme for homeless males who are struggling with alcohol addiction. We have five full-time staff who provide round-the-clock support to 14 residents. Each client is at a different

stage of alcohol addiction.

A lot has changed for our clients because of Covid. They used to be able to go out during the day and meet friends. One of our clients regularly went bowling and also enjoyed going to the pictures. They can't do any of that now. Our staff offers support to keep spirits up and maintain good mental health. There is also a strong peer support network within the programme, with the clients offering mutual support and friendship.

In spite of the pandemic, we have had some great successes:

One of our clients came to us three years ago. He was 67 then and had a long history of living on the streets and alcohol addiction. He had a council house in the past which had been taken over by people who use and sell drugs. Due to his vulnerability, the local Council referred him to us. Although he still drinks, he has managed to reduce his intake considerably and looks after his flat well. We worked in partnership with

Leeds City Council and managed to secure him a space in an appropriate sheltered accommodation setting with staff on site 24 hours. He is looking forward to moving into his new home.

Two years ago, we took in another client who was seriously addicted to alcohol. His family was struggling to cope with his addiction and asked him to leave. He came and stayed with us and after about three months we supported him to engage with a detox programme, which he completed. He was then able to move onto our abstinence-based drug and alcohol recovery programme, *Growing Rooms*. He was there for 15 months and again completed that programme.

He has now been taken on as support staff at the Crypt. He came in for a shift one night at Regent Lodge and some of the clients remembered him. They were so impressed; one of the guys started crying because it was that emotional. This guy, who had gone from being a resident here in addiction, was now working at the Crypt!



Emergency Accommodation

At the beginning of the Covid pandemic in March 2020 we had to quickly move people from our dormitory-style overnight accommodation. We placed the residents in temporary, single-room, supported accommodation. Part of our staff team was redeployed from the Care Centre to the new site.

We worked with St. Anne's Community Services. Staff from both charities provided support, helping clients with their Personal Independence Payment (PIP), filling in housing forms and helping the clients move on into permanent tenancies.

Bevan Healthcare, Adult Social Care, Mental Health, Forward Leeds and Engage Leeds, to name but a few, were brought in as well to offer wraparound support.

Having moved clients from the Crypt to community-based accommodation, we worked with the local community to forge a positive relationship. This was done through

the distribution of information flyers about our work and our client group. We also ran a clean-up campaign, picking up litter in the area.

We have had some very positive outcomes during the pandemic, clients coming in from the streets, staying with us, stabilising and moving on to *Growing Rooms*, our abstinence-based drug and alcohol recovery programme. Others have moved to Regent Lodge, our residential project for alcohol-dependent gentlemen.

Positive Impact:

Our staff has had to adapt and be flexible to meet the needs of the clients. At one point we were working with over 130 clients. Over the course of the year, we have had 800+ clients pass through our doors.

Between March 2020 and April 2021:

- We provided 14,972 bed spaces in safe and secure dispersed accommodation, 9289 at Regent Lodge, and 708 Homeless and

Health Inclusion (HHI) bed spaces in our city centre emergency accommodation.

- 30 clients moved to private accommodation.
- 81 moved to supported accommodation.
- 23 moved to council tenancies.
- 12 moved to Temporary Housing Units.

Quite an achievement considering how many of our clients have been entrenched rough sleepers for many years.

All of the above is a great testimony to the importance and effectiveness of joint working. We look forward to strengthening these ties with other agencies, funders and commissioners for the benefit of those that need our support the most.

Thank you to the people of Leeds who have supported us through this difficult period, we couldn't have done it without you!

The Fun in Fundraising



Online Auction

1st July - 31st July

Find out more online!

Total Warrior - 10th July



A 12km, 25 obstacle course through Bramham Park in the Summer sun. You'll find yourself scaling waterfalls, crawling through mud and even jumping over fire as you and the St George's Crypt team battle your way through in this challenge that will satisfy any adrenaline junkies out there. Places are limited and cost £55.

Yorkshire 3 Peaks - 31st July



Hike through 24.5 miles of the beautiful Yorkshire Dales National Park and across the three largest peaks in the county. You'll be challenged to complete the walk in under 12 hours and will be accompanied by a trained professional guide at all times, thanks to Kuta Outdoors. Places cost £35 with fundraising target of £200.

Leeds 10K - 5th September



An annual favourite for seasoned runners and those who just want to have fun and challenge themselves. 2021 will also see the introduction of a brand new route. Places are £25 with a fundraising target of £100, entry includes a Team Crypt running top.

We Dare You...

Challenge yourself!
Crypt Big 3
CHALLENGE

Take on all three of our events this year by joining the Crypt Big 3 Challenge! Jump, walk and run through Total Warrior, 3 Peaks and Leeds 10K, all for a discounted entry of £95! Set up one fundraising page with a target of £500 to reflect this huge challenge. Search Crypt Big 3 on [Virginmoneygiving.com](https://www.virginmoneygiving.com). Dare you take on the challenge?

Volunteer at our events! We are always on the lookout for cheerful, chatty volunteers to help us. If a full challenge event isn't for you then volunteering to help run events would be perfect. Contact the fundraising team to register your interest nathan.charles@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk

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
Thank you!



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

During the worst months of the pandemic, one of our residents said to me, "What I can't cope with is not knowing what's going to happen." I asked him if he used to know.

The reality is, we have never known what even the next hour may hold.

But it is difficult to live like that; so we pretend we know, and encourage one another in our pretending.

The truth is, we need to plan; in the Crypt we plan, and try to make the best use of the resources so

generously given us, to best help all those who come to us in their greatest need.

We try to do all this with the gift of faith; we know that, having done what we can, how it turns out is always in the hand of God.

This is, above all, a cause for rejoicing. For whatever tomorrow may bring, nothing can separate us from His love.

Pray with us, that we may use well the resources of people, time, and money; generously given, thankfully received.

Pray for those who come to us in the grip of addiction; may they find strength and courage.

Pray for our new build in Armley – Don Robins House – that it may be a place of hope, of healed memories, of shared laughter.

Give thanks with us that we have been able through it all to show God's love.

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 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



Food for Thought

Since the start of the Covid pandemic we have been working at full tilt to make sure that we support as many people as possible.

One of our biggest challenges was making sure that everyone had access to a lunchtime meal. We were used to serving over 100 people a day a sit-down, three-course hot meal. When this couldn't happen because

of social distancing, we started offering a takeaway meal service. We desperately needed support in the kitchen, as we had to close our doors to volunteers.

One of our local business partners, Addleshaw Goddard, stepped up to the plate. Their catering team prepared and delivered over 4,000 meals for our clients.

A massive thanks to them, and everyone else who has supported us and continues to support us, through these very challenging times.

All this help has allowed us to keep all our services running; ensuring that those most in need in Leeds do not go without.

God Bless you all!

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