

@Crypt Leeds



St. George's
Crypt

Summer Issue 2022



Ironman Andy Sharpe fundraising for St. George's Crypt

Welcome

to our Summer newsletter

Chris Fields
Chief Executive Officer



Hi everyone and a sincere welcome as always to our latest newsletter.

Its always a pleasure when I am reminded to put my piece together for the newsletter, I love being able to tell everyone about our latest happenings and how we are getting involved in new and exciting things.

We are now working towards being a Registered Provider of housing. This is especially exciting as we, as a charity, have stepped out in faith and with your support, have delivered some amazing housing for the people who need it. This means we have a responsibility to be good, if not excellent, landlords to those whom we serve. Being a Registered Provider means we must stay within strict guidelines and look after our residents and properties. This also opens new doors to funding so we can hopefully build more and help even more people. What's not to like?!

This also means we are involved with other larger agencies who have skills and experience we can learn from. We are really enjoying the journey and acquiring new skills we would never have learned otherwise.

Looking at it, being involved with something you enjoy or are passionate about allows you to grow and dream bigger dreams. We see so many of our residents grow through volunteering,

the trust and respect they get from us and the public helps them grow into confident, able and potential employees across the city.

Being involved in your local church can be so satisfying in helping the local community as well as a shared worship.

Community centres offer fantastic opportunities to meet other people, learn something new or discover a new hobby or interest, especially if you suddenly find yourself out of work or alone. We are pleased to say that Don Robins House has a great shared relationship with the local New Wortley Community Centre.

We find ourselves becoming deeply involved in the care and growth of our residents and visitors. We obviously keep it professional but the heartfelt care and love from our team towards the clientele is something that keeps my belief in the Crypt alive.

I have missed my involvement this week in Chapel, I succumbed to the dreaded Covid having spent two years on the coal face and never once felt ill. I decided to keep myself away from confined spaces (just in case) on my return which meant not attending morning chapel. Instead, I read my bible and books I have on the early Celtic saints. They were involved in converting an entire country to Christianity, they took on the mother of all tasks and

succeeded in the most challenging of times, sometimes at great personal sacrifice.

Their determination and belief in servitude has inspired me to be even more involved in pushing doors and fighting for the needs of the forgotten, dispossessed or ignored. This will come as no surprise to my colleagues as my determination to inspire Trustees and staff to build more and provide care in residence to more people is something we can all be involved in. I have mentioned it before that, without your involvement and support we wouldn't have achieved what we have already.

As our loyal supporters please continue to pray for our work, for the resolve to stand up and fight when needed and to continue in our ministry. If you support us financially, please continue in the knowledge that every penny is spent wisely. If you are strategic and a planner please consider a gift in your will (we designate all legacies to the provision of new housing), and if you volunteer please don't stop, we need you!

I promise to take you on our journey and involve you in our quest to alleviate poverty and offer homes where none existed.

Have a wonderful summer and I will see you all again at Harvest!

With all blessings, Chris.



Mark with Helen (Support Worker)

Last month we saw two residents move on positively.

We had a chat with both of them just before they left.

Mark, who first came to us back in 2020 at the onset of the Covid pandemic, had this to say:

"I came to St. George's Crypt off the streets. Leeds City Council moved people off the streets and into hotels at the beginning of the Covid lockdown. I was homeless, on crack, heroin and drink. I was smoking anything I could get my hands on. I was in a right pickle. Even though it was lockdown, I was still going out doing what I was doing. I ended up in hospital with sepsis in my leg through using drugs. On leaving hospital, I came to stay at St. George's Crypt Care Centre.

The staff have been amazing especially Helen, we clicked straight away. She had known me for two years and knew the mess I'd been in. She supported me in my journey to stay clean. Helen told me her own life story. I found out that she has lived experience, so I know she has been through similar things that I have.

This makes it easy for me to talk to her and trust her."

Mark has been with us for over six and a half months. Staff supported him with his housing application. He is now on the waiting list for Don Robins House, St. George's Crypt's newest development, built to support vulnerably housed people of Leeds. Mark will initially move into a transitional housing unit while he waits for a disability-friendly property to become available at Don Robins House.

Mark plans to get a drone licence with the hope of finding work in search and rescue operations. He has also secured funding to start learning British Sign Language.

In closing, Mark says: *"I want to come back here and do some voluntary work as a way of giving back to a place that has given me so much".*

Another resident was referred to our Regent Lodge project back in 2018. Regent Lodge is a home for alcohol-dependent gentlemen. The 24/7 staff support the residents to reduce their alcohol intake. This allows for a tailored support plan to enable the residents to move to

appropriate tenancies and become self-sufficient.

The resident was heavily addicted to alcohol, vodka in particular. He fell out with his family. This had all contributed to him being homeless.

Over the next two or three years, we worked with him and helped him to reduce his alcohol addiction.

It was not easy, he relapsed several times, but we all persevered and he finally managed to get his alcohol consumption down to a reasonable level. He also managed to get back in touch with his family.

Around June 2021, he felt that he would be able to manage a property on his own. We offered him a place at our new Don Robins House facility, and he jumped at the chance.

He spent several months there and became more and more confident about the future. He started applying for jobs as he wished to get back into employment.

In February this year, he was offered a job with a large national company and he accepted it.

He then secured a privately rented flat and positively moved on.



Lend a Hand

St George's Crypt is an organisation built on volunteering. Revd. Don Robins and his trusted team of volunteers saw the need, cleared out the Crypt and laid the foundations for the Crypt we see today.

We still rely on volunteers to support us with everything we do. From working in our kitchen, supporting our front-line team, assisting our Fundraising department and admin support, there is plenty to get on with. We regularly run events, have stalls at fairs, do supermarket collections and need people in the community to help.

We had a chat with a few people who get involved, going above and beyond the call of duty. We asked them why they do what they do, and it is all very inspiring! We talked with

one of our newest members of staff, Andy, about the Ironman race he is currently training for:

'I'm really looking forward to it! The Ironman is a 2.4-mile open water swim in the Baltic Sea in Kalmar, surrounded by sharks and jellyfish! Then a 112-mile cycle ride, concluding with a marathon through the town of Kalmar, all in one day! I've been training for around five months; I'm feeling physically and mentally very strong. I feel like an Ironman in progress!

Because I'm working at the Crypt, I'm inspired by the successes of many of the people we work with. I'm inspired by their journey, and it made me want to push myself outside my comfort zone. I've been training with a guy from our Growing Rooms project, who is now employed by the Crypt, and I

feel humbled when I hear some of the challenges he has faced and overcome.'

Raymond used to be on our Growing Rooms drug and alcohol rehabilitation programme. He finished and applied for a Housekeeping job with us, which he was successful in. He loves walking, is looking at jogging and has been getting involved in his own way:

'I've done the Yorkshire Three Peaks, volunteered as a steward on last year's Leeds Half Marathon and 10k and I've done the Big Sleep. This year I'm doing the Yorkshire Three Peaks again to fundraise for the Crypt. Finally, I'm climbing Ben Nevis, but this time just for myself!

The Crypt has helped me; they gave me recovery, they gave me a house and stability. They gave me



Change a Life

people I can talk to, they built my confidence up.

That's why I'm doing it; to give back something that was given to me.

I'm working in Housekeeping across several Crypt sites where my duties vary from day to day. It's fantastic. It makes me feel that people do care, and that they're genuinely concerned about everyone.

Getting involved with the Crypt is very rewarding. It gives the organisation the ability to help other homeless and vulnerable people. If I hadn't come to the Crypt, I'd still be homeless, still in addiction and who knows, I could be dead. The Crypt has helped me save my life.'

Our *Growing Rooms* clients volunteer across our services. Not only does this work support the service we can deliver, it also teaches invaluable life and employability skills.

The final, and arguably most valuable, link in this chain are our volunteers. Throughout Covid we had to ask that many of them did not come in. Our clients are extremely vulnerable and also, we did not want to put anyone at undue risk.

As the world opened up, we were able to ask you back and we were overwhelmed by the response.

Individuals and businesses who we already had good relationships and partnerships with, have kept in touch throughout. New volunteers who signed up during Covid are

now supporting us. It's great to see some old faces and welcome new ones. It's brilliant to be able to start re-kindling relationships, seeing old friends and bringing onboard new ones!

But we still need more! Your time is vital for many aspects of the work we do. Without you, we would not be able to offer a fraction of the services we do; be it supporting at events, bag packing, professional skills, cooking and washing up, cleaning, admin, consultancy; you can support us to develop and grow.

'It's great to be back at the Crypt. I've been volunteering here for years but had to stop over Covid, and it's good to start getting back to normal, get out of the house and be welcomed back!'

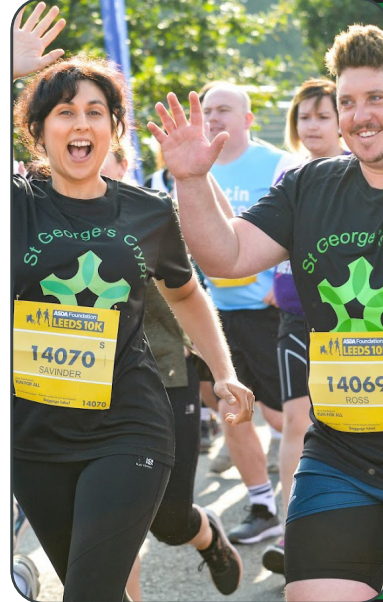
The Fun in Fundraising

TOTAL WARRIOR
ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE...



Total Warrior Saturday 25 June

Join our Crypt tribe at Bramham Park this summer with an exciting 12km, 25 obstacle challenge. Wade through water, jump over fire, crawl in mud – sounds irresistible! Entry Fee £55



Run For All Leeds 10k Sunday 3 July

An exciting brand-new route has been implemented for 2022 to celebrate the 15th anniversary of Jane Tomlinson's event.

Entry Fee £25



Yorkshire Three Peaks Saturday 30 July

Fancy a gentle summer stroll?
Ok, well maybe not gentle ...

Hike across 24.5 miles of the stunning Yorkshire Dales National Park and over the three largest peaks in the county. Entry Fee £35



Phoenix Concert Band Saturday 15 October

Performing in St George's Church, led by acclaimed Musical Director, Keiron Anderson. Playing a rich variety of music ranging from film and musical theatre to swing and popular classics.

Tickets £10 / £8 concessions, free for under-16s.

2022 LEEDS BIG SLEEP

Leeds Big Sleep Thursday 24 November

The award-winning event returns for the sixth year. Give up one night of comfort to sleep (or not) on the cold, hard, terraces at Headingley Stadium, supporting three Leeds charities: St George's Crypt, Leeds Rhinos Foundation & St Gemma's Hospice.



Do you have a bit of spare time every now and again?

Volunteers are essential to our work in the fundraising team; whether it's running a stall, stewarding an event or holding a collection bucket. We are so grateful for the time given to support the Crypt. Please get in touch if you'd like to know more.

You can sign up or buy tickets on our website www.stgeorgescrypt.org.uk

For more information or support in creating your own fundraising event, please contact

Cheryl Harrington, Andy Sharpe or Martin Barry in the Fundraising Team

Tel 0113 2459061 email: martin.barry@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk



Chaplain's Corner

with Reverend Roger

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35

Too often, our people get ignored, or worse.

Anyone sleeping rough in a shop doorway runs the risk of being attacked and abused.

How can you help? We always advise against giving money; too often it is feeding a habit.

But give someone the gift of time; stop and have a conversation; let them know that they matter.

Alternatively, get involved in helping

us to help them; by your prayers; by giving; by helping us raise the funds that enable us to pay the bills.

Or volunteer; come and join us. It can change your life: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Healing others will heal yourself.

Thank God with us for all who give prayer, time, goods or money to the Crypt: may it be a

blessing to them also.

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 those in all our houses. May they be places of hope, of healed memories, of shared laughter.

Gifts in Wills Since 1930 St. George's Crypt has helped homeless and vulnerable people. 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 11444474. Every gift will help transform lives.

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:.....

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.

Signed:.....

Date of declaration:.....

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



Catering for Leeds

Throughout lockdown our *Nurture* catering service stepped up to meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable and hard to reach people in Leeds. It's true that before lockdown, *Nurture* was running a thriving external catering business delivering amazing food at fantastic prices to some pretty high-profile clients, alongside catering for over 100 customers a day at St George's Crypt's free lunchtime service. This meant that we had capacity to deliver meals across the city, feeding destitute and needy people staying indoors, unable to access our support.

Today, our free lunchtime service is back open. We are still delivering food across the city to those in need. Our catering service has continued to go from strength to strength, offering excellent value for money and delicious food.

We are working with clients on the path to recovery and independence, supporting them on our in-house catering awards scheme to develop the transferable skills needed to return to work.

We are developing an online ordering system and a brand-new *Nurture* website.

This will bring us into the digital age, making it easier for customers, new and old, to access our tasty and socially conscious catering.

And you don't need to take our word for it!

We have had many a rave review of our service – so support the charity, support the individuals working hard to change their lives and make us your preferred caterer of choice. *'The food from Nurture is lovely, we've been ordering our buffets from them for 5 years now and have never even thought of changing.'* Hannah Smith, Eversheds Sutherland

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