

@Crypt Leeds



St. George's
Crypt

Harvest Issue 2021



Welcome

to our Harvest newsletter

Hello everyone and welcome to our Harvest newsletter.

I hope everyone has had some sort of Summer break with all the restrictions and early doubts regarding the national Covid status.

To be honest, Autumn isn't my most favourite season. It feels to me like the last vestiges of a wonderful open airtime and we are getting ready to put everything to bed in readiness for the winter ahead... cup half empty I guess!

I do actually like the colours, scents and amazing produce that Harvest time brings but the mist, drizzle and damp gets to me a little.

No one can escape the beauty beyond imagination of the trees. The colour pallet never fails to take my breath away, it's almost as if they are dressing up to the nines for the last ball of the season before putting themselves into mothballs (remember them?) for the Winter.

Talking of trees, it was a wise and gentle man who said "the one who plants a tree knowing they will never benefit from its shade, has started to understand the meaning of life."

The preparation and foresight in planting trees are a deep and

spiritual thing. At the new Don Robins House, we have planted eight sweet chestnut, six cherry and one oak in order to sustain as much wildlife as possible in an urban environment. None of us expect to see 50 feet of growth and dappled shade in our lifetime.

Planting trees is about leaving a legacy and not expecting to see results within our time here.

We have been blessed over the years by the amazing generosity of people leaving a gift in their will – a seedling – for us to plant and pray that it provides years of fruit further down the years.

Without adding gifts in wills to our provision of sustainable and safe housing, we simply wouldn't have been able to build, refurbish and provide homes for our brothers and sisters. To be honest, we wouldn't have been able to even dream of it.

The gifts in wills allowed a freedom to dream and plan for growth, whilst the regular giving and fundraising sustained our core work helping the most in need as they seek shelter day after day.

I pray that in my time here (life still in the old dog) we, that's you and all of us here will have worked together to leave a strong and lasting legacy



Chris Fields
Chief Executive Officer

in services, buildings and most of all lives changed. A legacy that our founder Don Robins would be pleased to put his name to as we have to our flagship housing project.

So to all of our regular givers a massive thank you for sustaining us through a world pandemic, and to those who have passed and left a gift in their will, may they rest in peace and rise in glory! In the knowledge that their "sapling" grows strong into the future providing shade and security.

Finally... enjoy the crumbles, the tons of vegetables and the glorious colours of our friends, the sleepy trees, knowing that they are a legacy of what went before and with God's promise, of what's yet to come!

With all blessings, Chris

Dates for your diary

2021 Jane Tomlinson's Leeds 10K
Sunday 5th September

Normally taking place in July we are now accepting signups for 2022. Places are still available for this year's race in September.

2021 Leeds Big Sleep
Thursday 25th November
Emerald Headingley Stadium
Joint fundraiser with St Gemma's
and Leeds Rhinos Foundation

2021 Beeston Festival
Saturday 18th September
Cross Flatts Park
Please visit or help at our stall

Setting Down Roots

We received this lovely photo and note from Geoffrey Floyd, who met his wife volunteering at the Crypt and subsequently married her at St George's Church:

'The food served was rather rudimentary - bread and dripping, sometimes (I think) bread and jam, soup, tea and biscuits. Anne remembers washing the feet of some of the men there. Both of us remember the short (quarter hour or so) services which were held in the Crypt chapel. The volunteers were mostly young people: the group of us included a fair number of students.'

'The furniture for sleeping on was pretty rudimentary too - I seem to recollect they were wide benches. I remember playing table

tennis with some of the men and both of us remember some interesting conversations where matters of faith would come up from time to time.'

'We would see some of the men at the Sunday evening services. They were quite often assigned a "chaperone" and from time to time they would either leave mid-service or be escorted out.'

'I associate St. George's with fearless proclamation of the Christian message, sound systematic Bible teaching, an openness to the Holy Spirit, enthusiastic worship and a true dedication to serving the poorest of the poor in many practical ways. And, of course, Anne! A truly significant place!'



Longstanding Support

Kathleen Mckay was a child when her family started supporting the Crypt. She was 11 when she first met Revd. Don Robins, coming down to the Crypt to help deliver food cooked by her mum and delivered on motorbike. She has continued to support the Crypt throughout her life, and it was great to have the opportunity to talk with her about her long history with the Crypt, and how much it has changed since she first saw it.

She said of Revd. Don Robins 'He was a close

friend – lovely and kind.'

It speaks volumes about the kind-heartedness of our supporters, many of whom have known about the work we do, not only since they were born, but generationally through the support of their families.

They have grown up and watched us develop, grow and evolve into the charity we are today; offering a range of state-of-the-art services that support our clients' move from the streets to independence, from chaos to citizenship.





Providing Stepping Stones to Independence

Work is now complete on our latest building project. The building, Don Robins House, named after our founder, will accommodate vulnerably housed people in Leeds.

At the Crypt, we not only support homeless and vulnerable clients but also listen to their needs and learn from them. This project is not only the fruit of 90 years of listening and learning but also a new seed for the next 90 years.

Located at Hedley Chase, New Wortley, the project, developed in partnership with Leeds City Council, consists of 24 one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments. Six of the apartments are adapted for disabled residents, and two homes will be allocated to people under the age of 25.

The development will support residents to build on foundational skills that they have developed working with us and other agencies in the city. Residents will benefit from the 24/7 onsite support and

guidance, helping them to develop the confidence and ability to live independently and return to full citizenship.

Simon, a former client who has gone on to work for the Crypt for approx. three years, said:

'I came to the Crypt from being homeless on the streets for three months; begging and stuff. I spent about three to six months there. Still using drugs; I overdosed. I went to hospital, came back to the Crypt and asked the staff for help. I got pointed in the direction of Growing Rooms, which is for substance misuse, which I went into in 2017.

After I finished 18 months, I did six months volunteering at Growing Rooms. The Crypt secured funding from Path Yorkshire which enabled me to have paid work at Growing Rooms for six months.

After six months, St George's Crypt took me on as a full time member of staff. I worked at Growing Rooms for two years, helping clients in recovery.

Supporting people who had similar histories meant the world to me; just being able to help other people. Before I wouldn't have given them the time of day. Just being there for people, listening to people, helping people, and then that feeling when people have completed it and knowing that you've been part of turning that person's life around and getting it back on track. I'm still good friends with a lot of them; we save each other's lives. You know what, you can't put into words. You really can't put into words. It's special, really special.

Now I've moved to Don Robins House as a Support Worker. I absolutely love it. I love it; making a difference to people's lives. That's what I love doing. Seeing the residents, when you show them around and you can see them crying, they don't know what to say because it's such a beautiful place. They're overwhelmed!

Another of the new residents, a single mother and son, said:

'It was more than I was expecting,



I wasn't expecting it to be so nice. I didn't expect it to be so fresh – it's so fresh and new. I didn't think it would be fully furnished!

I get scared when I'm on my own so it's always good to know the staff are always there to talk to and security there on a night.

It's really good that there's a gym area – hopefully it motivates me to use the equipment. My son's been using it even though he's only seven!

Tony, Team Leader at Don Robins House, said:

'I'm the Team Leader. I also run Regent Lodge. What I'm doing is helping set all this up, ready for the future. What we've been doing for the last few weeks is we've been assessing new tenants and we've invited several tenants in. We bring them in, go through the rules and regulations, sign a licence agreement and get them into the new flats, ready and raring to go.

The people at Regent Lodge are addicted to alcohol. The people here are people who have struggled to maintain their own property; they still have issues and they need support. This is supported accommodation,

it's not for people addicted to alcohol. The people coming in here might have learning difficulties, they might struggle to budget, they can't pay the rent and they get evicted. We can help them with budgeting plans. We can help with setting up bills and just help with living.

This is an absolutely massive step forward for the charity. We've been inundated with referrals from different agencies from all over the city. It's even surprised me. I've worked with homeless people for quite a long time but didn't think there were so many people looking for a place with staff onsite so they can be supported. My fear is that when we are full, where will everyone else go? We'll need another place soon!'

One of the new residents, who also has volunteered with us for a couple of years, developing new skills and supporting our Fundraising team, said:

'I came to the Crypt because I needed something to do. I've never had a job because of my difficulties. I've volunteered with other charities but they've always seemed to fizzle out. With the Crypt, I applied for the role

and have never looked back.

When the opportunity came to apply to move into Don Robins House, I went for it. I was living with my parents; I've never lived on my own. It was a little scary and totally new but the staff are really friendly and helpful. They supported me to get all my paperwork done, set up all my bills and that; I would struggle with all that.

It's an amazing building, brand new and everything's pristine. There's an outside gym; Sunday morning I went and used the equipment. There was no-one else there. I really enjoy working out so having something like that literally on your doorstep is brilliant. The whole thing is amazing; I can't rave about it enough!'

It is amazing to think that since our inception 90 years ago, we've gone from offering food and shelter to those in need in the Crypt beneath St George's Church in Leeds, to providing purpose-built new homes to people.

A big thank you to all our partners, funders and the people of Leeds. We would not be able to do this without your support.

The fun in Fundraising

Upcoming events

What's been happening in fundraising? – We've had a busy few months in the Fundraising team, apart from organising more events for later this year, we've been climbing Peaks and jumping over burning trees! Our Yorkshire three Peaks and Total Warrior events were a great success. Total Warrior was a brand-new event in the Crypt calendar. The team of 12 battled their way through 12km of mud, fire, barbed wire and icy water with everyone crossing the finish line in under 2.5 hours and with a tired but big smile on their face! The Yorkshire three Peaks was extremely challenging in its own way. Tasked with completing the walk in under 12 hours, the team set off at 7am with near enough everyone arriving back around 7pm. We were greeted with low cloud and the odd splash of rain but the team pulled together, encouraging each other along the entire route. Completing the three peaks is no easy task and huge credit must be given to all the participants. Many thanks to our partners at Kuta Outdoors, their guidance and medical support on route was priceless.

2021 Leeds Big Sleep – Thursday 25th November.

2021 Jane Tomlinson's Leeds 10K – Sunday 5th September.



Leeds 10K – Join Team Crypt in the Leeds 10K. The 10K is a favourite with runners of all levels and has become one of the highlights in Leeds' sporting calendar. Normally taking place in July we are taking signups for 2022, but if you really want a challenge, places are still available for this year's race in September. No matter if you want to beat your personal best or just want to have a fun challenge amongst friends and colleagues, you can join Team Crypt! Places are £25 with a fundraising target of £100, entry includes a Team Crypt running t-shirt.

2021 LEEDS BIG SLEEP

We need you!

Community Fundraising Volunteers

We have lots of upcoming events and need help with them

For more information please contact us on:
0113 245 9061

or fundraising1@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk

For the 5th year running St George's Crypt, St Gemma's Hospice and Leeds Rhinos Foundation join together to give up one night of comfort, sleeping under the stars at Emerald Headingley Stadium. So why not grab your friends, colleagues and a sleeping bag, sign up to brave the cold whilst raising money to help others? Entry is free with a fundraising target of £100. Participants must be 18 years or older on or before the event.

Search for St. George's Crypt on Virgin Money Giving. Click on homepage, click on Events, click on 2021 Leeds Big Sleep to register.

More details on www.stgeorgescrypt.org.uk



What's been happening in fundraising?

2021 Yorkshire Three Peaks



2021 Total Warrior



Contact us

To sign up, join in, buy tickets or volunteer for any of our fundraising events and activities, please contact the Fundraising Department at St. George's Crypt:

Tel: **0113 245 9061** or email martin.barry@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk

Chaplain's Corner

"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness." Corinthians 9:10



Our new facility, Don Robins House, is the culmination of years of vision, of work and of hope. Its opening was a truly joyful occasion, much needed as we, at last, move out of the long months of lockdown and hope for a brighter future.

The moment I shall remember best was one of our guests telling me how much they had just enjoyed their guided tour.

It was not the building itself which impressed them – though certainly it did.

It was not the high standard of furniture, generously donated – though that too delighted them.

What struck them most was the story of their guide, himself a former client of the Crypt, a recovering addict who knew what rock bottom looked like because he'd been there.

Now he was giving something back, and his story of hope, of rehabilitation, of a new life filled with new meaning and purpose, spoke to them most powerfully of all.

That is as it should be. Whatever material facilities we are, by grace, enabled to provide, it is always in the end about people. In that, we follow

the example of Jesus, who comes to give us "Life in all its fullness".

All we are asked to do is to pass it on; to give as freely as we have received, in body, mind and spirit.

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 starting a new life in Don Robins House. May it be a place of hope, of healed memories, of shared laughter.

Gifts in Wills For 90 years 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 1144474. 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:.....

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)

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



A Journey of Recovery

"Six months ago, I had a massive mental health breakdown. I was getting ready to get married and start a family but mental health issues took over. I took an overdose; I just didn't want to be here. It just went downhill very quickly; I didn't see it coming"

When Adrian came out of the hospital, he was referred to St. George's Crypt's emergency accommodation.

He has since moved to our long-stay accommodation at Regent Lodge. This service offers fully furnished, one-bed studio flats with tailored support for homeless people dealing with alcohol dependency in an independent setting.

Adrian was still unwell and he was still going out drinking at times. He attempted suicide a couple of times. The

staff team diligently continued to support him. They worked in partnership with the Crisis team, mental health services, and the police to provide him with the best possible support.

"They kept me going," says Adrian, "Knowing that whenever I was feeling bad, I could go to the office and have a chat, that helped me through at a time when I didn't care about myself"

With suitable accommodation and all the joint support, Adrian's journey started taking a more positive turn.

"It was a battle, and I've had to pull myself through it but having everyone around me helped me a lot. Things started changing in my head, I started doing some positive things, started setting myself challenges, keeping busy"

Adrian says he feels that he has turned

a corner. The staff are pleased to see how far he has progressed in a short space of time.

"I was at death's door when I moved in here, I just wanted to die, I wanted to end things. But now I am more positive and looking forwards to the future."

Adrian's flat is tastefully decorated, with furniture that he makes himself, from restoring old pieces. He is looking forward to getting a place of his own.

He is happy to stay at Regent Lodge in the meantime, until he can secure suitable accommodation.

All our housing pathways are fully supported to ensure that our clients lay the strongest possible foundation. With your support we've helped transform the lives of thousands of people in Leeds over the last 90 years.

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

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Registered charity: 1144474, Company Number: 07780402



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