

@Crypt Leeds

PDF Compressor Free Version



Easter Issue 2019



Leeds Big Sleep St George's Crypt, Leeds Rhinos Foundation and St Gemma's Hospice
A fantastic fundraising partnership. See page 3



Welcome

PDF Compressor Free Version

to our Easter newsletter

Chris Fields
Chief Executive Officer



Hi everyone and welcome to our spring newsletter.

It's a great time for nature (and me) as spring is my favourite season with so much promise for what is to come. It's like the day of a long anticipated birth with all the challenges and joys therein laid before you.

I often talk to groups about the Crypt reaching certain crossroads, just like the seasons and having to make decisions about which pathway to take. Left or right? Forwards or backwards? We have a saying in our family when driving (pre-satnav) "we are not lost... we are on an adventure".

That's how I try to make some of our guys feel when it seems that every path and highway has been trod to no avail. Crossroads have "dead end signs" at every turn and somehow whatever decision is made it's likely to be the wrong one.

We all choose our pathway, some Roman straight with the destination on the horizon and some more like the Yellow Brick Road with lots of characters to meet along the way. I suppose the best thing about being on the yellow brick road is that most,

in fact nearly all the people/characters Dorothy met were lovely in their own way; not so much for some of our visitors here.

Dark and intimidating are the best ways to describe the people and situations we hear about on a daily basis. Takers not givers. Abusers not lovers. Lies not truth. All the things we fear and do our best to avoid. A dark alley to most of us would be a no go, but to our friends here, that may be the safest place away from others they can find.

How do we as Christians and people with compassion and love put our feelings into action? Prayer? Action? Heads in sand?

How do we as Christians and people with compassion and love start to make the difference? We show the path with the fewest roadblocks, bumps and dead ends we possibly can.

Roads and pathways are mentioned quite a lot in the Bible, the Road to Emmaus, the Road to Damascus but the one I recall the most is the road the Samaritan was on when discovering the poor soul ignored and abandoned by so many who we would have

expected to help. I have a colleague who reminds us (when money is tight and we are looking for savings) that the Good Samaritan didn't just look after him he gave him the best lodgings, left enough money to keep him well and promised to repay anything outstanding on his way back.

We (including our readers and supporters) as good Christians, good citizens and compassionate people need to offer the best to our visitors, the finest welcome, the best food, hospitality, bedding, services and eventually housing.

I hope that some of the articles within the newsletter help to show how we strive to do just that. Back to Dorothy "there's no place like home"

With all blessings, Chris

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 23 April: **St George's Day**

Fancy doing some saint or dragon-related fundraising? Get in touch if you need some help!



Saturday 11 May: **Spring Barn Dance**

At St George's Church Centre 7pm
Featuring the Capstick Band.
Tickets £15. Buffet included.



Sunday 7 July: **Run for All Leeds 10k**

Join Team Crypt! Charity place £25 (includes free Crypt running top.)
Sponsorship target £100. Event volunteers also needed!

PDF Compressor Free Version



**LEEDS
BIG
SLEEP**

Open Mic Event

Everyone deserves to be listened to, and have their story told.

DS Emotion joined forces with St George's Crypt to help raise funds and awareness for our new Independent Living scheme.

The new purpose built development will provide hope and opportunity for those who need it most.

As part of the 'ChristmasSeen' campaign, DS Emotion organised an Open Mic event at the Crypt - we were treated to some exceptional performances from both clients and staff with a number of people performing songs, poetry

and playing musical instruments.

The talent was amazing with some clients performing original music they wrote themselves. DS Emotion wanted to help create the most important place of all: home. By partnering with us, DS Emotion is helping raise awareness and funds for Independent Living that will give those currently without a home an opportunity to rebuild their confidence, recover and regain independence, giving them a hopeful future.

A huge thank you to everyone who took the challenge to sleep out at Emerald Headingley Stadium on 29 November.

Over 100 people joined us and together we raised £32,049 for St George's Crypt, Leeds Rhinos Foundation and St Gemma's Hospice; a great example of three Leeds charities working together to support people in our wonderful city.

The event went so well, we are doing it all again this year!

So save the date: Thursday 28 November 2019. Open to anyone over 18 years. Start getting your team of colleagues or friends together. We will announce details on how to get involved in the next few months. If you want to register your interest now please email:

Cheryl.harrington@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk



**6390
lunches served,
Oct to Dec 2018**

New Builds Update

PDF Compressor Free Version



The development is well on track for completion in August 2019. At that point, we will move residents from Regent House in Holbeck, and in the case of vacancies, will work with Leeds City Council to identify the right people to move in.

The new Regent Lodge will give us the opportunity to work in a very focused way to encourage residents to begin to address their drinking. We will support them to reduce their intake. Our aim is that they will be able to move on to more independent living within a two year period. We are very much looking forward to the completion of the scheme, which represents a real

milestone for St George's Crypt. The contractors – Strategic Team Group – are good to work with and, together with our design team, have set a tremendous standard.

The new build at Hedley Chase was due to start in January 2019 but the start date is more likely to be February. We are in the process of resolving easement issues relating to drainage on the site. In spite of this short delay we still anticipate that the building will be scheduled to complete in spring 2020.

We wouldn't be able to do any of this without the support of our Angels; individuals and groups who have backed our vision and agreed to

financially support our ambitious projects.

If you would like to find out how you too can earn your wings, contact:

cheryl.harrington@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk or telephone 0113 245 9061

2343
Bed spaces
provided
Oct to Dec 2018

Positive Outcomes

Families reunited **PDF Compressor Free Version**

A client came to us in December 2018. He was a man in his sixties and told us he had been homeless for many years. He seemed reasonably fit for his age but suffered with memory problems and had also been addicted to alcohol for many years. He used to drink vodka and strong ciders.

For the previous few months he had been living in Armley Cemetery. He was being helped by a local resident and also a support worker, who took him food and helped him to wash his clothes. However, the weather was becoming very cold and very wet and he clearly would have struggled to survive the winter. His support worker took him to the Leeds Housing Office who referred him to us for an assessment. We brought him in to Regent House and immediately registered him with a doctor for a check-up. We then put him on our programme to control his drinking. Within a couple of weeks, he was drinking normal

strength cider and limiting his drinks to a pint an hour. He really fitted well into Regent House and we all loved him.

Shortly after Christmas his brother unfortunately died and our client's surviving brother decided it was time to come and find him with success. Also, around the same time, our client's son, whom he had not seen since he was four years old, had decided to come and find his dad. His son is now about 35 years old. After a few visits from both his brother and son, he started visiting his brother's house and staying a few days. His brother also likes a drink but they only drink cider below 5%.

They both decided they would like him to move in, and at the end of January he moved in with his brother. So far, they seem very settled and happy. They both came back in to see us with his support worker and he told us all how much he loved us and thanked us for what we had done for him.



Towards stable and positive lives

St George's Crypt works with an attitude of acceptance and engagement. We work with clients who are coming from a life of addiction and chaos, supporting them towards a stable foundation and independent living. Our aim is to ensure they achieve the best possible outcomes.

In the last year we have witnessed a number of successes supporting our clients at the Crypt, and here we share some of those positive outcomes...

One client, having successfully completed the 12-step programme at Growing Rooms, now wants to give something back and help others who are in the same position that he was in 12 months ago. He has developed a real passion, understanding and desire to work with those still dealing with addiction and has now secured a paid position in Growing Rooms as a support /recovery worker. The position is funded by Path Yorkshire for six months.

Another client who also completed the recovery programme has now joined our bank staff; he has stopped claiming benefits and started a college course to do his GCSE English and Maths. He is working to finance his studies.

We also saw a client who is now over fourteen months clean get obtain paid work; he started off working two days a week and has now accepted a full-time job offer starting at the beginning of 2019 working for Leeds United at Elland Road. Reflecting on his journey he says:

"One year ago, things came to a head when I was rushed into St James' Hospital after I was assaulted. My past had caught up with me, that is when I thought to myself, 'I've got to change.' I came straight out of hospital and was lucky enough that the Crypt and Growing Rooms opened their doors for me."

Speaking to yet another one of our clients who was referred to us by Forward Leeds over a year ago, he says:

"It's a year today since I've had a drink of alcohol; something I'm very proud of. I can't see myself going back. I've gained a lot of knowledge through the 12-step programme and through everybody at the Crypt that helped me."

We are proud of the work we do and with your continued support we will be able to hold to our core aim; to support homeless and vulnerable people in Leeds to achieve stable and positive lives.

The Fun in Fundraising

PDF Compressor Free Version



Spring Barn Dance

Saturday 11 May
St George's Centre, LS1 3DL
Tickets £15 including light refreshments.
Book now to avoid disappointment

Three Peaks Challenge

We have two opportunities to get involved this year in the 26 mile walk across the Yorkshire Three Peaks starting & finishing at Horton in Ribblesdale taking the beauty of Pen-y-ghent, Whernside and Ingleborough

Saturday 8 June / Saturday 3 August
or both!

In partnership with CDS
and St Patricks Mission
Contact us direct if you're interested

ASDA FOUNDATION Jane Tomlinson's
LEEDS 10K

Join Team Crypt
Sunday 7th July 2019

St George's Crypt charity place
£25 (sponsorship target £100)
Free Team Crypt running top

The Leeds 10K is open to anyone of any running ability over the age of 15

Event volunteers also needed!

Summer Gala's Volunteers Needed!

to run stalls and games at
community events
throughout June and July
Contact Arja or Verity,
our community fundraisers

Leeds Big Sleep

28 November 2019
More details to follow

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

1140 hours
of engagement
provided
Oct to Dec 2018



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

PDF Compressor Free Version

When we ask our guests in the Crypt how they are, we often get the same reply: "Getting there." Given the difficulty of their lives, it takes a lot of courage just to keep going. And it says something about Faith, about believing that tomorrow will be better. Many of our people have a faith borne of affliction and deep sorrow, yet still manage to look ahead hopefully.

Some Christians focus on the suffering of Good Friday. Others jump straight to the joy of Easter. The truth is, we need both if we are to be true to life. So St Paul: "...our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

Or to put it another way: "Getting there."

Sunday:

Give thanks for all who support our work, that their Easter may also be blessed.

Monday:

Please pray for the work of the Crypt Care Centre, that God's love may welcome, heal and nurture

Tuesday:

Please pray for all those involved in our Growing Rooms initiative, and for all struggling to overcome addiction to drink or drugs.

Wednesday:

Please pray for staff and residents at Regent House, and for the ongoing building of our

new residential project.

Thursday:

Please pray for our shops in Pudsey, Armley and Roundhay. May they be places of blessing to all who use them.

Friday:

Please pray for our cafés: for the Nurture initiative providing good food and training for our people moving on from homelessness.

Saturday:

Please pray for all our volunteers, that they may be blessed in giving generously of their time and resources.

Donation form

For one-off donations, please complete this side only.
For regular donations by standing order, please complete both sides.

Title and full name.....

Home address.....

City.....Postcode.....

Email.....

Telephone No.....

I enclose a cheque / postal order
(made payable to "St George's Crypt") for £.....

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.

Please send me information on supporting St George's Crypt with a gift in my will.

(Post your completed form to: St George's Crypt, Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3BR)

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.



PDF Compressor Free Version

Thank-you to Our City

This Christmas we have seen, as with years gone past, a steady increase in the number of people using our service. We moved some of our back office team out of our central city building to free up space and this has already been taken up temporarily with 11 extra beds.

Against this backdrop the city has been amazingly supportive of the work that we do. We have had more donations of coats, jumpers, hats and scarves than ever before, keeping our guys warm over the winter period. Lots of different organisations and individuals have supported our kitchen team by providing full Christmas dinners for our clients. We have had a full complement of volunteers to serve food, keep the building clean, wrapping presents, sorting donations, making beds and keeping on top of the steady stream of laundry from up to 60 residents.

So a massive thank-you to everyone in the city who helps; without your support we wouldn't be able to provide a safety net to those most in need.

Alan Malloy, General Manager at the Marriot and organiser of one of the Christmas meals said, *'we have been delighted to support such a worthwhile charity who's values are aligned with our own, and witness for ourselves the immediate impact they have in the wider community, providing meals and shelter for those who would go without otherwise.'*



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 receive by email please provide your email address to: martyn.croft@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk

For more information, please contact
The Fundraising Department
Email: martin.barry@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk
Post: Great George Street, Leeds, LS1 3BR
Tel: 0113 245 9061

Registered charity: 1144474, **Company Number:** 07780402

