

# Three Churches Project Annual Report 2010



Three Churches Project

St. Matthew's, Chapel Allerton  
Stainbeck United Reformed  
Holy Trinity, Mearwood



A member of  
Leeds Christian Community Trust



LCCT

releasing dreams and visions

## **Partnership working and joined-up activities**

Much of the work undertaken this year was done either in partnership with other organisations or as part of an event organised by another group. This allowed us to take part in lots of activities, share resources and input our contributions, without always needing to “run the show”. Here is some of what we were involved with:

### **Community Events and one-off activities**



- We had a stall at the Meanwood Valley Partnership event in the summer. Despite an unfortunate clash with the football, people came, and it was good to have a presence there.
- Beckhill and Potternewton fun days were run by local partners Zest, an NHS funded group. We played our part by running games and eating free, healthy food!
- We had a drumming presence at St. Matthew’s Green Fair, Meanwood Children’s Centre Carnival, and Churches Together Party in the Park events in the summer.
- Thanks in part to some bequest money we were given, we were able to host 12 people from our three partner churches to take part in a first aid course. Those who attended all work with children or vulnerable people in the area, so it was a really valuable resource to be able to offer.
- Carr Manor High hosted a ballroom dance event for everyone in the area who had taken part in Essentially Dance lessons over the year, teaching waltz, ballroom jive, cha cha and quickstep.



We were the only ones in the area who ran classes outside school, teaching parents as well as children, so it was particularly good to take part in the celebration event. There were certificates for all children, refreshments, performances and lots of opportunity to show off dancing skills!

### Ongoing Partnership Working

- We continue to be involved in the Faith NETWORKS partnership, which has seen a number of positive developments this year. We managed to get funding to pay two workers, who have helped organise our Big Lunch and Community Fair, two very successful community events. Dom, the new coordinator, is also working to help develop the group further.



- Youth Partnership. Our work with Leeds Youth Service has continued and developed this year. As part of this, and also working with our Police Community Support Officers and our drama club leader, we have helped local young people raise several hundred

pounds for Potternewton Adult Learning Centre (supporting people with learning disabilities) and Leeds Blind and Deaf Society. Money was raised through a community fair and through singing Christmas songs, as well as other activities that we were not involved with earlier in the year.

Also with the Youth Service, we have re-launched our Monday night youth, joining older and younger age groups together. This format has so far proved to be a real success and we have been pleased to welcome a good mix of ages, with older youth (normally!)



being genuinely good role models for the younger ones. The partnership has also given us access to good resources: we now have full size pool table, table tennis, badminton, PS3, Wii, projector and much more at our disposal. The format is good for volunteers too – it gives more opportunity to work with children in a way that suits individual personalities. We have even had a volunteer teach touch-typing this year – surprisingly very popular!

- Meanwood Healthy Living Group. This is a recently established group which we have been part of forming, spearheaded by our NHS Neighbourhoods Team. It is good to be working with others to help improve the health and welfare of local people.

### **Other Regular Clubs**

- In addition to the ballroom dancing group and youth club mentioned above, we started a new drama club this year, specifically for children from the Meanwood 6 estates. Claire Phillips, a volunteer who works locally, has given much time to establishing the group, which is about 20



- strong and meets weekly. Volunteers from the member churches are also now beginning now to take part, and there will be plenty of opportunity for further involvement as the group develops.
- Craft Club also deserves a mention. The group has grown significantly in number this year, with mums of young children joining the group in the spring/ summer, when we were able to offer 11 weeks of a “bought in” crèche. The mums still continue to come, with one or two other new faces. There is a lot of skills-sharing and conversation, making it a lively and truly intergenerational group.

## **Other events and activity**

### **highlights**

- We ran a quiz night in March, aimed particularly at folk from the “Chapel Allerton” end of Meanwood (only for the sake of space!). This was a fun and successful event that welcomed a good mix of people.
- More dancing – with sequence and ballroom dance events, including sessions teaching adults the steps we had been teaching the young people through the year.



## **Finances**

Although we still have £3,000 left to find, we are very grateful for the financial support of the following, going into 2011.

Leeds Christian Community Trust; Diocese of Ripon and Leeds; General Purposes Fund, URC Leeds; Stainbeck and St. Matthew’s churches; Leeds City Council Wellbeing Fund: (The Well-Being Fund grant is awarded by local Ward Members through the North East (Inner) Area Committee); The Liz and Terry Bramall Charitable Trust.

## **AND FINALLY**

*2010 has been the year of our formal evaluation by Ruth Smith from Livability; paid for by Leeds Christian Community Trust, of which we are a part. The evaluation has been key to moving us onwards, after Ruth concluded that the work of the project was viable and should continue in one way or another. A number of important developments have already taken place on a strategic level, as we seek ways of moving forward as a partnership. 2011 is sure to be a significant year in the life of Three Churches Project.*