



INTERACT CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Annual Report 2021

www.interact.uk.net

2021 feels very much like a year of two halves for InterACT. The first half was dominated by **COVID HUB ACTIVITY**, as we continued to work with Leeds City Council and Voluntary Action Leeds. This meant coordinating volunteers in our area to deliver food, pick up prescriptions, make befriending phone calls and carry out other helpful tasks for people struggling with the impacts of the pandemic.

We weren't entirely limited to the Hub role in that first part of the year, however. We worked with the Barn Coffee Shop at the beginning of the year to make **FOOD BOXES WITH PREPARED INGREDIENTS AND RECIPES, WHICH WE DELIVERED EACH WEEK FOR 8 WEEKS TO AROUND 15 DIFFERENT HOUSEHOLDS**. We ran it as a pilot to see if it was something we could do in future – a treat delivery which also helped people try out new foods and recipes. It was very well received and certainly something we'd love to do again.

We did follow up with something similar at **EASTER**, with food deliveries that included fresh chicken or a vegetarian alternative. Thanks to our friends and Neil's Wholesale Fruit and Veg for their help with this.

“Fantastic recipe packs that I was able to do with my daughter and she didn't find them too hard or lose interest which has been great. She's really enjoyed seeing what comes and what she could make each week. Thank you to all the team that were involved with this. It has been fantastic for us.”



Measuring up for the new building

Throughout the year, we worked with Thrive Leeds, Carr Manor School and Community Action To Create Hope (C.A.T.C.H.) as we began developing a **NEW YOUTH PROJECT FOR THE AREA**.

The project will give opportunities for young people to build positive relationships with each other and adults, working together to establish activities that serve local people in Chapel Allerton and Meanwood, help build community and develop young people's life skills.

Through participation in a unique volunteer development programme, young people will be supported to:

- make a positive difference within the community,
- develop skills and attributes that will unpin their future employability,
- open doors to new opportunities.

The programme will reward them for their commitment through a range of incentives and awards and help shape them as positively-engaged citizens.

Essential to the vision is a dedicated space that young people can call their own: a space to design, invest and socialise in, and use for wider community purposes. Fundraising for this building is now well underway.



Keeping a safe space available during COVID was invaluable for some

Also throughout the year, **HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY CAFÉ**, a joint activity with InterACT, managed to stay open, albeit with a limited menu of hot drinks and biscuits for much of the year. It was good to be able to keep the space available for those who wanted/needed it. This was particularly important in the colder months to those who were desperate for somewhere to meet up with friends but who were not yet ready to gather in more enclosed venues and homes.



Laying the foundations: Meanwood Men Shed

In April we erected a mammoth 32x12ft shed at the allotments in Meanwood Farm, the base for **MEANWOOD MEN SHED**. By the end of the year, the shed was electrically powered and ready for a steady programme of activities as we go forward.

Following a few low-key but very enjoyable social events, a group of men worked on our first project – making the structures for nativity scenes exhibited at the Farm over Christmas.

Dressings for the structures were created by a very talented group of women meeting each week in the later part of Autumn, making for some wonderful life-size nativity characters and a lovely community enterprise at the end of another difficult year.



Creating the nativity scene for Meanwood Farm's Christmas Fair

In July , we opened our **FOOD PANTRY** in a converted shipping container on the grounds of Meanwood Community Centre. It was hard work to get to opening day, but it has definitely been worth it.

The Pantry holds to the ethos of dignity, choice and hope, in line with the wider **YOUR LOCAL PANTRY NETWORK**, of which we're part. It's different from a Food Bank in that it's not intended to be an emergency provision but rather a community shop and hub.

It's a space where members make significant savings on the cost of shopping, have an opportunity to help run the shop as a volunteer, receive help and advice where needed, and pick up recipe ideas (or share their own with others!).

"I'd had a very weepy morning and all 3 of you brightened up my day. It truly means a lot coming into the Pantry and seeing you all..."

(Pantry volunteer – message to their team)

The shop opens three times a week and is run by volunteers, some of whom joined us after working with us through the pandemic. There were around 50 members by the end of the year, and now the team are confident in running this new venture, we look forward to welcoming more in 2022!



Outside the Pantry, shortly after opening



Celebrating Meanwood with Meanwood Valley Partnership

SUMMER plans were impacted by COVID, but we were thankful to take part in **CELEBRATE MEANWOOD**, a fantastic community celebration event organised by resident group Meanwood Valley Partnership as part of Meanwood Festival. We were also able to organise some trips for residents so desperately in need of different spaces after so much time in lockdown.



Much needed time out after living with restrictions

Our **CHRISTMAS** schedule was also hindered by COVID restrictions, and our planned Christmas Day dinner for those who would have spent it alone was not able to go ahead. However, with the support of Leeds Rhinos and Moortown Fire Station, we were able to deliver hot food, food parcels and treats to people throughout the Christmas period, including on Christmas day. We were also able to do some Christmas fundraising, with support

from the likes of Meanwood Valley Partnership and The Big Give (via Your Local Pantry network).



Raising funds to support people through the winter period

Our Supporters

From practical volunteering to people who pray, to those who help us communicate across the area, there are many who give to us in many different ways. If you would like to sign up to our newsletter to find out more about what we do on a regular basis and how you can be involved, please email vanessa@interact.uk.net, or call 07961 535 767.

Financially, activities this year have been funded by: Leeds City Council (Inner North East and Inner North West Community Committee Funding; COVID-19 Community Hub Funding; Housing Leeds through our local Housing Advisory Panel; MICE money); The National Lottery Community Fund (with thanks to the Government for the Coronavirus Community Support Fund); Charities Aid Foundation; Leeds Community Foundation Stay Well This Winter Fund; Leeds Christian Community Trust and Unity in Poverty Action; All Churches Trust; Leeds South & West

Methodist Circuit; Stainbeck United Reformed Church; Meanwood Valley Baptist Church; St. Matthew's Church; and Holy Trinity Church.

We are also grateful for the many donations and standing orders from individual donors, businesses and groups. Support comes in material goods such as food and gifts, as well as money donations. Donors this year have included The Barn Coffee Shop, Meanwood; B&M staff; St. George's Crypt; Leeds Irish Centre; Meanwood Valley Partnership; Meanwood Primary School; Lloyd's Bank; Neil's Wholesale Fruit and Veg; Waitrose Meanwood; Sainbury's Local, Meanwood; Leeds Rhinos; Moortown Fire Station; Richmond Hill Elderly Action; East Leeds Rugby Club; Beckett University; Trinity Tots; QLM Meanwood.

Structure

InterACT is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission, number 1171402.

We are formally a partnership of four congregations: Holy Trinity, Meanwood; Meanwood Valley Baptist Church; St. Matthew's, Chapel Allerton; Stainbeck United Reformed Church. We are additionally supported by Leeds South and West Methodist Circuit.

www.holytrinitymeanwood.org.uk; www.mvbc.org.uk;
www.saintmatthewschurch.com; www.stainbeckurc.org.uk;
www.lswmethodists.org.uk/meanwoodmethodistchurch.aspx

Can you help us?

The number of activities we now run on a regular basis has significantly grown over the years, and we are an established and well-known part of our local community. We rely on an amazing group of volunteers to make this happen, and we would love more people to join the team! There are so many ways to get involved, from setting up equipment to chatting to folk who attend our activities and much in between. Please get in touch.

And if you feel you can support us financially, you can make donations online at www.interact.uk.net/donate or email vanessa@interact.uk.net for a financial giving form

If you'd prefer to make your own arrangements, our bank details are below:

Our Bank Details

Acc. Name: InterACT Church and Community Partnership;

Acc. No.: 00030580;

Sort Code: 40-52-40;

Name of Bank: CAF Bank;

Address: 25 Kings Hill Ave, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19

Gift Aid: *If you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim back 25p in every pound that you donate, making your gift go further. It can make a big difference.*

Our Gift Aid form is below. Please return it to Stainbeck Church, Stainbeck Road, LS7 2PP or email vanessa@interact.uk.net



InterACT
 Church and Community Partnership
 Office: Stainbeck Church,
 Stainbeck Road, LS7 2PP
 0113 393 0600
 info@interact.uk.net
 www.interact.uk.net
 Charity Number : 1171402

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

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Charity Gift Aid Declaration

(use for one-off donations)

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ to InterACT Church and Community Partnership

(use for multiple donations)

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to InterACT Church and Community Partnership

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.

My Details

Title _____ First name or initial(s) _____

Surname _____

Full home address _____

Postcode _____ Date _____

Please notify the charity if you: • want to cancel this declaration • change your name or home address • no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self – Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.