

Three Churches Project

Annual Report 2006-7



Three Churches Project

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

*A member of
Leeds Christian Community Trust*



LCCT

releasing dreams and visions

www.threechurches.org.uk;

www.lcct.org.uk;

Beginnings

In 2000, the Ripon and Leeds Diocese of the Church of England undertook an audit, which identified the Beckhill and Miles Hill estates, together with some other Meanwood estates, as areas where churches had little impact.

The audit inspired a fresh vision for the local churches working together. Stainbeck United Reformed Church and St. Matthew's, Chapel Allerton, already had a good history of ecumenical work. They joined with Holy Trinity, Meanwood, and the seeds of the Three Churches Project were sown.

Vision

At the first meeting of the project, the ecumenical group that was to establish it agreed its purpose:

We aim to discover God's purpose for the area as we learn to share the love of Jesus in words and action.

Gradually the project began to take shape and use of the creative arts (interpreted in its widest sense) became central to it. The vision was to set up short courses/ opportunities to learn, try and experience different things - art, music, drama, writing, cooking, gardening etc, and in this way for members of the churches and local communities to meet together on a level playing field.

Community Development

On September 21st 2005, the project was officially launched, following the appointment of a full time worker in the July.

The Three Churches Project is now very much part of a wider regeneration strategy in North East Leeds, working alongside Council agencies, community groups, local residents and schools, with a desire to see real, grass-roots transformation of the area.

Structure

We are a member project of Leeds Christian Community Trust, whose vision is **"to enable, encourage and support Christians, working in unity and in mission, to pursue their dreams and visions and make a positive difference in Leeds."**

There is one full time paid member of staff, a management team made up of representatives of each of the churches and a minister from one of the churches, as well as a wider team to act as a further link to the churches.

Events and Activities 2006-7

At the time of our last annual report, we had just been given a substantial amount of funding to buy **hand drums and percussion, as well as digital cameras and camcorders**. These are a fantastic resource for the project.

The drums were first used in July 2006 when a number of people from local schools, community and churches came together to “Drum for Justice”, as part of the Make Poverty History campaign. They have continued to prove very popular at fun days and events and we hope now to use them more regularly for short courses and drum circles. They attract people



of all ages and different cultures and are a good way of encouraging people to work together, whilst having fun!

Our digital cameras have been used throughout the year for a project with Carr Manor High School, where we created a book with a group of pupils, to celebrate the 800th birthday of Leeds as a city. We hope the idea will catch on and birth more ideas that will see more people take advantage of this resource. We do have some good editing software and a laptop computer (also given to us as a grant this year) to help make this easier and accessible.



Photo© Matt Tullett/ ReflexPictures

Silk Printing Course. This was run towards the end of 2006, building on the textile course run earlier in the year. About 8 ladies took part, a mix from all three churches and the local community. Some strong friendships were formed and, as before, everyone was left wanting more.

Craft Club. The course also built upon the success of Craft Club, which now runs each week on Thursday afternoons for two hours. This is gradually growing in numbers and has been especially appreciated by people who want to get out of their house and meet new people. We are now starting to see agencies refer people to the



group, where there is a very relaxed approach to help people “have a go”. It has been a good space for church and local community to come together.

Radio Leeds Festival Workshops.

In April we hosted three workshops as part of the Radio Leeds 2007 festival. The group learned some techniques of radio journalism, using their own personal stories to create an audio piece. The pieces were entered for a Radio Leeds competition, which saw Jean Barker, one of our workshop participants come runner up in the adult section.



If you would like to find out more about our part, or hear the pieces we created, please visit this part of the BBC website:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/leeds/content/articles/2007/06/25/three_churches_feature.shtml

Local Stories. The workshops were a catalyst for us gathering more local stories, a project we began over a year ago. We have now interviewed and met with a good number of people from the local area, who have shared their memories and recorded their stories on CD. These are being kept with locally stored archives of the area. Many of these stories were also available to listen to as part of the Meanwood Festival.

Meanwood Festival, June 5-12th 2007. This week-long festival gave us great opportunity to draw together different aspects of our involvement with the local community through the past year. As such, it proved to be a celebration of the work of the Three Churches Project, and of our growing relationships, within the churches and, importantly, beyond.



The week began with some environmental work, organised by Groundwork Leeds, on the corner of the Stonegate estate. It ended with Meanwood CE Choir giving a fantastic rendition of the songs they were rehearsing for an upcoming concert. And in between, we transformed spaces with an interactive exhibition of stories and art at Holy Trinity Church, and an arts and crafts exhibition of local artists at

Stainbeck Church. The main event was a family fun day on Meanwood Park. In one way or another over 500 people took part, with support (practical and financial) from the local council, agencies and residents groups and the wider Christian community of Meanwood and the City.

Craft Party. Our latest event was a craft party run for pupils of Miles Hill and Potternewton Schools, in the first week of the extended summer holiday (as both schools are closing this year). Sixteen children age 5-11 from the local area came to the party, run by volunteers from the community as well as the Church. It was a really successful event and one which we hope to repeat on a regular basis.



Bridges and Relationships

Prayer Diary. This was printed near the beginning of 2007 and is a resource to help informed prayer for the project, as well as find out more about what we do. Copies are still available if you would like one.

We continue to represent the churches at **local forums and committees**, where we are seen as an important connection between the agencies and local community. As part of this work we regularly work in partnership and support of other projects, for example, running activities for youth groups and local schools, and writing for Carr Manor High's School's Community Newsletter, the Voice. The community Café run by Stainbeck Church has been really valuable in helping us build these relationships. It has been a fantastic space for us to connect with the local community, agency workers and members of the church.

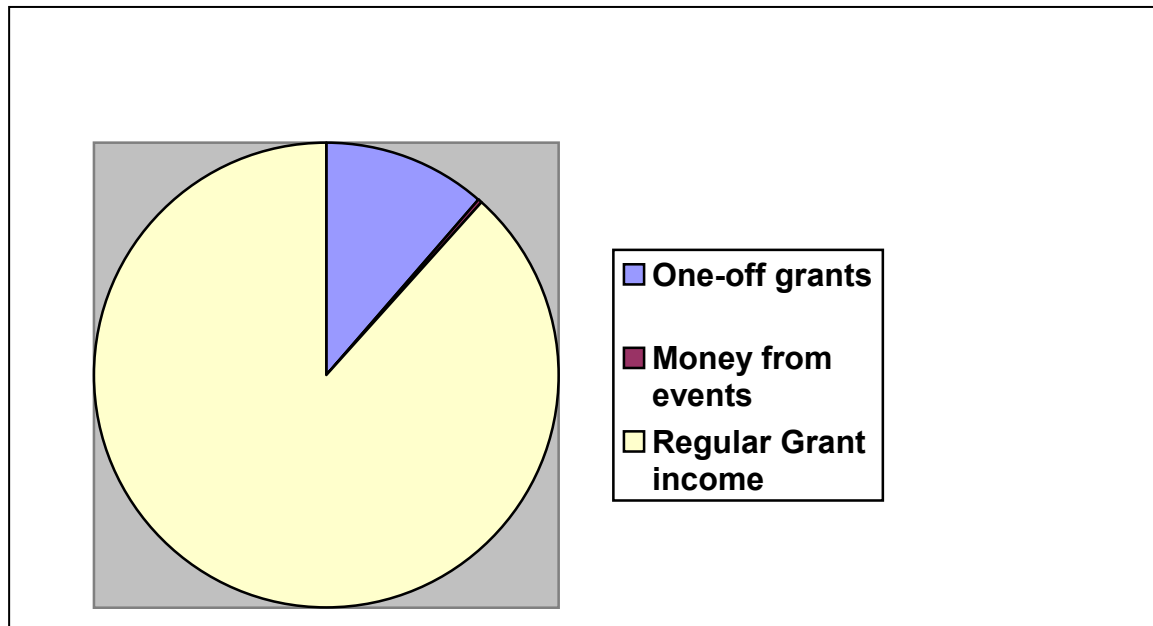
Vanessa has also led a number of talks, discussions and activities with different groups, focussing on finding God in play, which in many ways is what the project is all about. These discussions link us further with **wider activities of the city and beyond**. Although we are a local project, we are very much supported by a wider network.

Financial Summary of the Year.

Our financial year has now changed to match that of the LCCT, whose year ends December 31st. The following therefore sums up Jan-Dec 2006.

A profit and loss and balance sheet is available for the first half of 2007 on request.

Income 2006



More detail:

One off grants: £3,094

West Yorkshire Police Community Trust
Awards for All
Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest

Regular grant income: £23,752

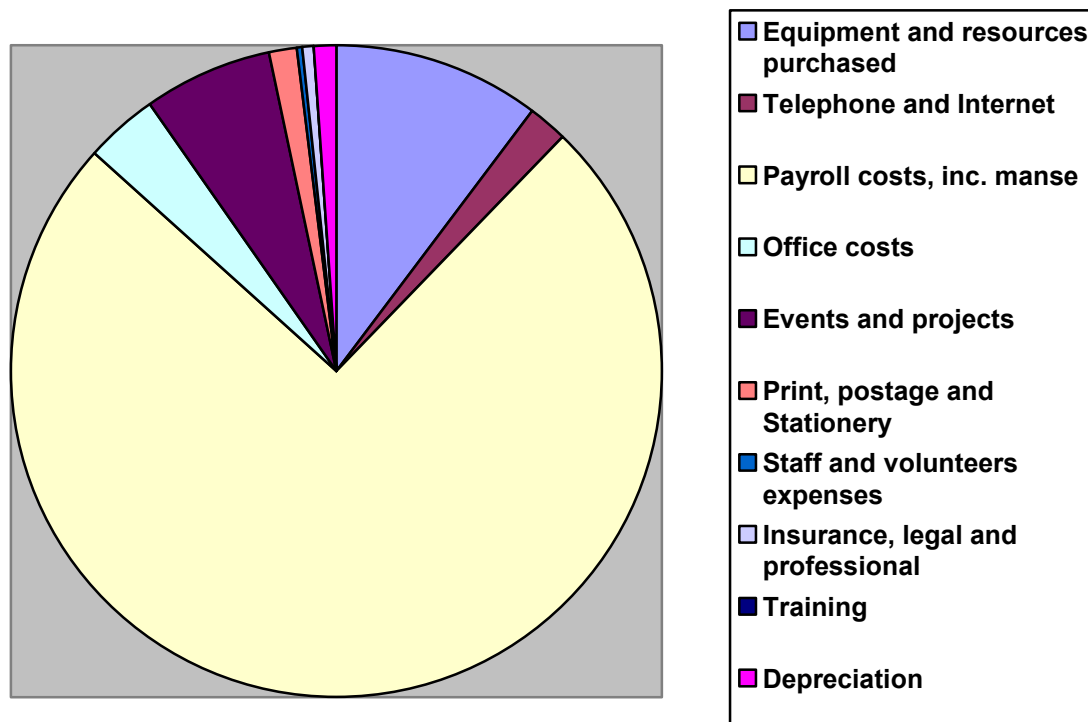
Anchor Foundation
Church Urban Fund
Diocese of Ripon and Leeds
Holy Trinity Church
St. Matthew's Church
Stainbeck Church
Yorkshire Congregational Union
Leeds Christian Community Trust

Money from events: £23

Donations from courses

Total: £26,869

Expenditure 2006



More detail:

Equipment and resources: £3,447

Telephone and Internet: £631

Payroll costs, including insurance, manse and payroll admin fees: £24,966

Office costs, including rent: £1,222

Events and projects: £2,132

Print, postage and stationery: £473

Staff and volunteers: £57

Contents insurance, legal and professional fees: £152

Training: £45

Depreciation: £351

Total: £33,476

Explanation of income/ expenditure imbalance:

The change in our accounting period from Jul-June to Jan-Dec, plus grant payments over three years weighted heavier towards the first part of this period, to allow initial set-up, left us with money in the bank at the start of this accounting year. In addition, we awaiting back payment from grants of £2,500.