

# InterACT Annual Report 2015



A member of  
Leeds Christian Community Trust



LCCT

releasing dreams and visions

It's been a fairly steady year for InterACT, although there have been a number of new beginnings. One of the most significant is to welcome Kingsley Dowling as the new vicar of Holy Trinity Church, after Chris Orme and family moved on to new pastures last winter.

It's never easy knowing how to approach the annual report – there's always so much going on and much to celebrate. This year, since it seems we nearly filled each day of the week with activity, we'd like to welcome you to a week in the life of InterACT...

## SUNDAY

### Sunday Beat Orchestra

Jamie Fletcher was back this year to run more drumming sessions, but this time with a difference. Supported by Jim Muckelt from Chapel A Baptist, he ran the 8 week course for people



aged over 14 only and ran it as an ensemble, with the expectation of developing the skills of the group and learning some pieces along the way; in the past, we've run sessions more as a beginners' drop in. There were 11 of us altogether, and it was very well received by those who came. It is particularly worth celebrating, if only because it is quite unusual, that most of those attending this course were men.

The course was funded by what was East North East Homes. If we're able to secure more funding, we hope to develop this further.

## Chill 'n' Chat

This group runs on Sunday nights at Holy Trinity's Community Hall. It is a great opportunity for young people in local churches to invite their friends for games, snacks and a time of discussion/reflection. It's open to all young people in school year 6 and above.



## MONDAY

### Monday Night Youth Club

The make up of this club

has changed quite dramatically over the last year.

Many of the older youth have moved on, and we have





had an influx of younger teenagers (and a few pre-teens). This has been a positive change, although it's always sad to say goodbye to familiar faces. We are building some good relationships and are pleased with the new dynamics.

The club is for young people aged 9-16 and involves "old-school" activities, such as table tennis, badminton, crafts and table football.

## **WEDNESDAY**

### **Drama Club**

This group for 7-14 year olds continues with old and new faces. We are always so proud to see the young people grow in confidence, self-awareness, imagination and team skills. We were



more involved in Stainbeck Church's pantomime this year, which was a great boost to all of the children and their families.

## **Parenting Courses (Wednesdays and Thursdays)**

We've run two parenting courses this year, one for parents of children aged 0-6 and the other for 5-11's. Attendance has been small but valuable, and relationships built can become quite strong as we share our stories and reflect together. One thing to note, which may have been mentioned in last year's report, is that we always have cakes baked by people from our partner churches. They are genuinely a great way for us to introduce the fact that we're Christians and why we're running the course. Participants are usually quite touched by this simple gift, so thank you bakers!

## CRAFTY THURSDAY

**Make It!** is a small(ish) group, but we are pleased that changing the time and space to run alongside the community café at Stainbeck Church does mean more people “pop in” to join us. This is steadily leading to a growing number of regulars and ever developing friendships along the way.



**Craft for Kids** runs after school and continues to be a peaceful and well attended group, involving children from a variety of local schools. It's great that most parents/carers stay with the children, and we



are able to build a relationship with them too.

## FRIDAY

### Play and Learn

A significant “new” venture this year was to restart Play and Learn, which was originally a group run by Meanwood Valley Baptist Church. The aim of this is to create a positive environment for parents and carers of children aged 5 and under to play together. The sessions include eating together, singing, messy play and free time. This runs each week in term time on Fridays between 10 and 11.30am at Meanwood Community Centre. The



grown-ups really seem to appreciate it as a calm and friendly place to be. And it is!



## SATURDAY

### Board Games Day

This is something we've never tried before, and it turned out to be a really good day. We ran it in the church space at Stainbeck Church, about 60 people came and most of them were male (again, significant!). They loved the space and were very appreciative that a church was open-minded enough to accommodate them! More such events are being planned, and hopefully we will see more church folk involved, now that we know what it's all about.



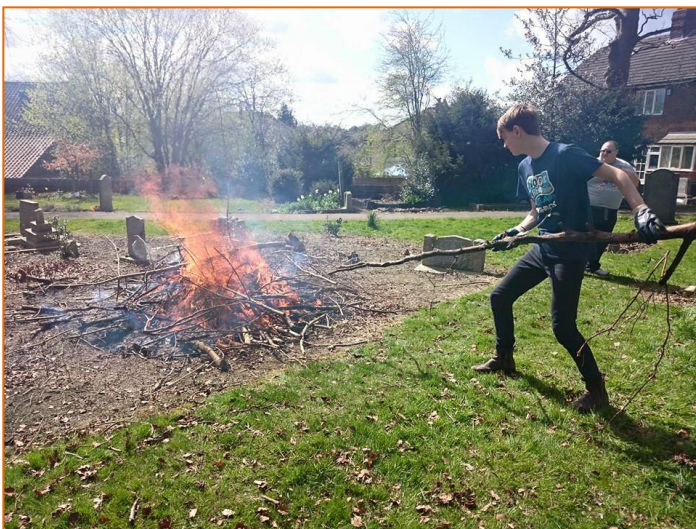
## ALL WEEK (MORE OR LESS)

### Five Stars

We ran activities over several days at Meanwood Valley Urban Farm at the beginning part of the year, bringing families together to share fun and healthy food. One of the highlights was collecting eggs from the farm and using them to make pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.



### Hope Revolution



We were delighted to welcome a team of around 20 young people and leaders to support us for several days of community

activities again this year. We cleared ginnels and gardens, supported a family fun day, made (good and helpful) fire in Holy Trinity's



churchoyard and put on an afternoon tea party, aimed particularly at people in the community who are isolated.

These events are such good opportunities for helping young people develop and grow in service and faith, while benefiting from their energy and enthusiasm. Win Win!




**Encouraging questions,  
developing faith**

Summer holiday club focused on the theme of being investigators



this year, encouraging the children to ask questions, pursue truth and seek information about Jesus. Open and thoughtful minds in regards to faith is both fun and important!



## Our Supporters

Support comes in many guises, including time volunteered, skills shared, prayer and baked cakes! We're very grateful for them all.

Financially, funders this year have included: Leeds Christian Community Trust; URC Synod Mission Fund; Diocese of Ripon and Leeds; Prince Phillips Playscheme; Leeds City Council; Chapel Allerton Community First; Housing Leeds; Stainbeck URC; Meanwood Valley Baptist Church; St. Matthew's Church and Holy Trinity Church.



We are grateful for a number of donations and standing orders from individual donors.

We have also been awarded a sizeable grant for 2015-2017 by the Church and Community Fund.

## Structure

InterACT is a member project of **Leeds Christian Community Trust**.

LCCT enables, encourages and supports Christians, working in unity and in mission, to pursue their dreams and visions and make a positive difference in Leeds. You can find out more about them here: [www.lcct.org.uk](http://www.lcct.org.uk)

The church congregations that currently make up the InterACT partnership are: Holy Trinity, Meanwood; Meanwood Valley Baptist Church; St, Matthew's,

Chapel Allerton, and Stainbeck United Reformed Church.

[www.holytrinitymeanwood.org.uk](http://www.holytrinitymeanwood.org.uk)

[www.mvbc.org.uk](http://www.mvbc.org.uk)

[www.stmatthewschapelallerton.org.uk](http://www.stmatthewschapelallerton.org.uk)

[www.stainbeck.urc.org.uk](http://www.stainbeck.urc.org.uk)

**Would you like to give financially to the work of InterACT?**

Please complete the form overleaf and send to us at Stainbeck Church, Stainbeck Road, LS7 2PP. Enclose one-off donations with this form. Information for standing orders and Bank Transfers is below, for those who prefer to set this up themselves. We'd be very grateful if you let us know you're planning to give in this way. Thank you.

## InterACT Financial Giving Form

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am giving a one-off gift of £\_\_\_\_\_ and enclose my donation.

I will be making a donation of £\_\_\_\_\_ by BACS

I am setting up a standing order mandate with my bank for the following amount £ \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer InterACT to send me a paper copy of a standing order mandate so that they can help me set this up with my bank.

**Our Bank Details:** **Name of Bank:** Unity Trust

**Address:** 9 Brindley Place, Birmingham, B1 2HB

**Acc. No.:** 20143620 **Sort Code:** 08-60-01

**Acc. Name:** LCCT InterACT Church and Community Partnership

### 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. Please ask us for a Gift Aid form.

