

InterACT Annual Report 2012



[formerly Three Churches Project]



A member of
Leeds Christian Community Trust



LCCT
releasing dreams and visions

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

InterACT is a partnership of local churches working in an area of Meanwood, Leeds. The goal is lasting change in the lives of individuals, from both church and community, that will lead to transformed communities.

At the beginning of the year, we printed a booklet of some of the activities that we're involved with in Meanwood and Chapel Allerton. There's much on offer in the area, and it's encouraging to know the Church is very involved with this, offering access to opportunities that bring friendship, relieve boredom, develop skills and grow confidence.

Many of these activities are highlighted in this report.

Short Courses

For six weeks in the summer term, we ran a **basic sewing course**. The aim was to bring people



together, teach new skills and encourage participants to develop a “make and mend” mindset, which is particularly useful in the current economic climate.

Eleven women took part, from in and around Meanwood. They tried a number of different projects: mending old clothes, making Jubilee bunting, creating gifts for their children, and designing pieces of art, a community banner, and costumes.

Some participants went on to buy their own sewing machines or “resurrect” old family machines that haven’t been used for years. We loaned the machines we bought to Passion for Fashion. They were used for several months at Leeds market, and so have been of benefit to others. They’re certainly a resource that will be used time and again in our local community.



We're pleased that this course met our objectives. One participant said:

"This course has enabled me to start sewing. It has been a personal goal for me. Very welcoming and friendly atmosphere. Would love to do more."

Participants attended from our local outreach areas and are keen for something like this to happen again.



Craft sessions for children have always proved popular, and we've been pleased to run these latest workshops with the support of our local Extended Services (providing extra-curricular activities or wider services before and after the school day, to the local community). Attendance at

these particular sessions was small, although valuable for the families that took part. We're delighted that we've now received funding to run more sessions at a different venue, which will make them more accessible to the wider community.

Ongoing Clubs

Drama Club continues to be a small but growing group. They consistently encourage us with their enthusiasm, growing confidence and dedication to the club. The families who have been involved from the beginning are now more actively involved in other areas of our work, and within the partnership of churches.



At the beginning of 2012, we welcomed Testament, a Hip-Hop emcee/producer, to run a short course in beat-boxing. This was a particular highlight, and we're grateful for the funding we received for this.

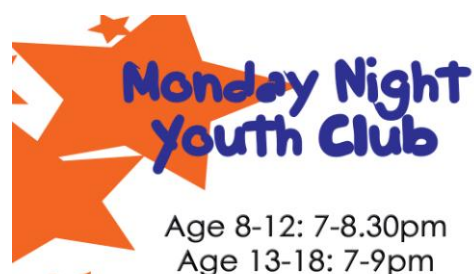
Later in the year, we were able to host a one-hour play plus workshop, by Suitcase and Spectacles Children's Theatre Company. The children loved the character of Miss Dotty, whose performance drew on a number of Christian parables. Miss Dotty then led them through a series of workshop activities, focussing on themes of creativity, story and worldviews.

Monday Night Youth Club is run in partnership with Leeds Youth Service (Leeds City Council).

We now have a core group of between 25 and 30 young people attend each week. We are still one of the only youth groups in the area attracting this number of young people, and it acts as a good first-contact point, as well as a place to build relationships.

The club struggled on through 2012 with a reduced number of volunteers and the loss of one of our Youth Service workers. However, the beginning of 2013 looks to be very positive, with a more healthy-sized and able staff team.

The volunteers for this club continue to be a mix of church members, local residents, and people who work in other agencies in the area. This mix is always as it was intended to be, and the relationships among the staff are as much a part of our vision and purpose as our work with the youth.

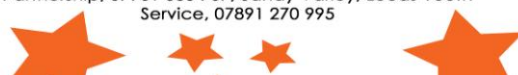


Wii, badminton, ball games, crafts, pool, table tennis, board games, tuck shop, "chill and chat" space, special events and loads more

Meets at Stainbeck Church,
Stainbeck Road
TERM TIME ONLY

Come and join in!

contact: Ness Brown, InterACT Church and Community Partnership, 07961 535 767; Sandy Varley, Leeds Youth Service, 07891 270 995



Craft Club still meets each Thursday after community café at Stainbeck Church. This group is now facilitated by two volunteers and welcomes a good number of people. They craft alongside a computer class, made up of Asian women, who regularly join in the creative activities. We are also still pleased to welcome participants who have been referred by other agency workers.

Special Events



In the summer, our partner churches ran **Bible holiday clubs**. We can celebrate that a wider group of people from a wider number of churches helped lead the Meanwood club,

which ran alongside the one hosted by St. Matthew's Church in Chapel Allerton.

Approximately 25 children aged 5 - 11 attended Meanwood each day. There were plenty of games, songs, crafts, drama and Bible stories. Everyone had a great time, using the inspiration of the Olympics as a way of looking at Jesus' life and how we run our race.

The **Autumn Light Party** was another highlight, particularly because of the number of local residents who facilitated alongside church members.

One of the volunteers said:

"We all had great fun playing games, eating hot-dogs, hearing a pumpkin-related tale, making our own pumpkin faces, apple-bobbing, sculpting clay candle-holders, singing songs, and learning that God's light is much more powerful than the darkness of winter and Halloween"

Working with Others

We continue to work alongside other agencies in the area. Two particularly successful initiatives that we've been pleased to support this year are both organised by Zest Health for Life, a project of NHS Leeds: **Meanwood Olympics**, held at Woodhouse Cricket Club, is another great opportunity to meet residents and support the ongoing work in the community; **Gizzajob**, hosted by Stainbeck Church and supported by Job Centre Plus, provides support to help people find work. There has been much added value in this, as participants this year have not only found work but gained confidence to access support for many other areas of their lives.

Resources

More than ever, 2012 was a year to celebrate our volunteers. They have carried the activities of the partnership through our paid worker's Adoption Leave and into what has been a significant reduction in her working hours.

Like many organisations, we've struggled to find the same level of funding as we've known previously. This means that we've had to reduce our paid hours from 37 ½ to 13. However, more employment possibilities look to be opening up in 2013, and we're encouraged to have been able to access some grant funding and make use of other resources available to us. The full impact of the changes will become more apparent as we move through next year.

We're very grateful to those who have funded our work this year. In addition to individual givers, these are: Leeds Christian Community Trust; Yorkshire Synod of the URC; Diocese of Ripon and Leeds; Leeds City Council (MICE money awarded by Moortown and Chapel Allerton Ward Councillors); East North East Homes, Leeds; Chapel Allerton Community First; Stainbeck URC; Meanwood Valley Baptist Church; St. Matthew's Church.

LEEDS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY TRUST

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012**

InterACT	2012	2012	2011	2011
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations		11540		11426
Gift Aid		60		0
Grant Income		3959		11844
Fees Received for Activities		0		0
Income from Events		0		42
Income from Trading		0		0
Fundraising Events		0		0
Sales of Goods & Services		0		0
Investment Income		0		0
Other Incoming Resources		0		0
Allocated from TRUST		4000		8125
TOTAL INCOME		19559		31437
Expenditure				
Grants Payable	0		0	
Fundraising Costs	0		0	
Bank Charges	0		0	
Office & Admin	2818		1811	
People Costs	9841		26996	
Project Costs	2488		2637	
Governance Costs	40	15187	0	31444
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		4372		(7)
Funds transferred		0		0
Designated fund opening balance		1818		1825
Restricted fund opening balance		0		0
Total funds 31 December 2012		6190		1818
Designated fund balance 31 December 2012		5818		1818
Restricted fund balance 31 December 2012		372		0
		6190		1818

InterACT is a project member 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.

They do this by providing a legal and support structure that allows projects such as ours to focus on what we're passionate about, without forcing us to deal with the bureaucratic pressures normally associated with setting up a new initiative. In addition to this, they have provided us with 'seed funding' and development support.

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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

www.mvbc.org.uk

www.stmatthewschapelallerton.org.uk

www.stainbeckurc.org.uk

Looking forward to 2013...

The year is set to be a busy and exciting one, as we look forward to welcoming a new member of staff to the team. We will also be delivering our first parenting course, more crafts sessions for children and carers, and the usual mix of weekly clubs and special events.

Follow what's happening and find out more at **www.interact.uk.net**

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You can also email info@interact.uk.net to reach another member of the team.