

InterACT Annual Report 2016



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As ever, it's been a packed year and one which has brought highs and lows.

Challenges have included a drop in numbers for some of our activities, with the inevitable questions of whether to finish one thing to make room for another; we have continued to struggle to find enough volunteers for all we're doing; and a number of our grant-givers completed their grant commitments last year, leaving us at one point in a weak position.

However, we ended the year in a very positive place with much to celebrate. We have steadily growing numbers in attendance, are ready to take up new opportunities in the new year, held a thank you meal for our volunteers, and received a good number of grants as the year came to a close.

Behind the scenes, there is always so much happening, from interagency meetings that help ensure we work as effectively as possible, to those smaller, seemingly less significant events that nevertheless impact individual lives.

What we've included here is just a selection of all that has happened in our year. We hope you enjoy reflecting with us as you read it.

Our Weekly Activities

Play and Learn

This weekly session creates space for children aged 0-5 and adults to play together, with messy play, healthy snacks and time to sing together at the end. It continues to be oversubscribed, but it is often described by those who come as having a peaceful atmosphere

Craft for Kids

This has become a very popular group for 5-8's and their parents/carers. Every week there's a new theme and activity, and children and adults work together to create something from the materials provided. Around 30 children and their parents come each week during term time, and we have enjoyed running special sessions in the school holidays.



Drama Club

We've had a small and fluctuating group this year, so we've had to be adaptable with our programme! However, small numbers have allowed us to work more intensively with the young people (aged 7-14) to develop their skills and confidence.



The group also took part in a unique holiday session, using circus skills to tell the Easter story (more on this later), got involved in the local pantomime (we were very



proud of them), and were led on a very intriguing walk through our local woods and park, hearing stories from a past time.

Monday Night Youth Club

We've really enjoyed having a core group of young people begin to invite friends and really make this group their own this year. As numbers began to grow again

towards the end of the year, we look forward to what 2017 will bring.

Makelt!

This is a craft session running alongside the community café at Stainbeck Church on Thursday afternoons. As



numbers have been small this year, we have plans to extend what is on offer at this time, to include board games, cards and dominoes. We're grateful to a number of funders, whose support will enable us to get started on this in the new year.

Special Events

Youth Team Visitors

We were pleased once again to host a group of young people from Leeds and Bradford, who litter-picked in some pretty horrendous weather, supported some of our regular



activities and organised a much-loved afternoon tea for the community. Hosting these teams are a great opportunity for them and us to learn from one another and bring extra energy for something special.

The Easter Story

We joined with another local youth group at Easter to take part in a full day workshop, where young people learnt circus skills and then used them to tell the Easter story to an audience of around 50 people. We loved watching the young people



overcome fears and push themselves to have a go at all the activities on offer. It was a great day.

Trip to Lineham Farm

Lineham Farm is an activity centre on the outskirts of Leeds. We were fortunate enough this year to be able to take a group of young people along for free,



due to a funding grant that had been given to the Farm. We used their climbing wall, rope assault course and had a



“nightline” (blindfolded) course through the woods, before seeing some of the animals on the farm. Another great experience for all involved. Thank you Lineham Farm!

Summer Trip to Scarborough

This year’s annual trip to the seaside was to Scarborough. 57 people of all ages made the trip by coach, and it was great to be able to take people that might otherwise struggle to go. The weather wasn’t perfect, but a fair-sized group of us managed to get out onto the beach for most of the day. And when we weren’t on the beach, we were eating fish and chips in nearby cafés! Lovely.

Board Games Days

This event fills the venue every time we run it – board gaming is definitely becoming a



popular activity once again. This year, we've begun making lunch for those who come along, as another way of showing hospitality. A good community is growing up around these days, with ages ranging from 8 upwards.

Family Fun Days

Family fun days run by Zest (an NHS project) have been taking place in our community for a number of years. In 2017, the ownership of these events will be passed to InterACT, and Maureen, who heads them up, will be joining our team as a sessional worker to run them. We were more involved in running the summer sessions this year, and look forward to what is to come.



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: URC Synod Mission Fund; Diocese of Ripon and Leeds; Leeds City Council: (MICE money, Wellbeing Fund, Housing Leeds and Youth Activity Fund); Church and Community Fund; Garfield Weston Foundation; Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation; Sir George Martin Trust; Wades Charitable Trust; Stainbeck United Reformed Church; Meanwood Valley Baptist Church; St. Matthew's Church and Holy Trinity Church.

We have also received a grant from the British Science Association, which will be used for activities in and around British Science Week 2017.

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

Structure

We have been a member project of Leeds Christian Community Trust for many years. The Trust has supported

us with finances, structural support, training and opportunities to meet and learn with others around the city. Having “nursed” us through our early years, we are now ready to become independent from LCCT and are putting things in place to do so in 2017. We really want to thank them for all they’ve given and helped us to become.

You can find out more about them at 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

www.mvbc.org.uk

www.stmatthewschapelallerton.org.uk

www.stainbeck.urc.org.uk

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 really do 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, please complete the form overleaf and send to us at Stainbeck Church, Stainbeck Road, LS7 2PP. Enclose one-off donations with this form. Information needed for standing orders and bank transfers is included, 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: CAF Bank

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

Acc. No.: 00030580

Sort Code: 40-52-40

Acc. Name: 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.