

Leeds

Mission and Care Group Partnership

**Brief profiles of
member churches**

August 2016

Introduction

The Leeds Mission and Care Group comprises seven United Reformed Church congregations of various sizes and six Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs), each with different styles and approaches to worship and located across and beyond the city of Leeds.

For some time we have been looking at how we can co-operate more closely, sharing and making best use of often limited resources in order to further our churches' mission priorities in their diverse communities. After much prayerful consideration, we decided that we would be helped by having an external perspective - and the Mission and Ministry Enabler post was born! We believe that this enabling ministry has the potential to transform our work together and will be formative for our sustained and effective ministry in the coming years.

The Leeds Mission and Care Group Partnership (LMCGP) is made up of eleven churches, ten of which have participated in the development of the Mission and Ministry Enabler post. The two other churches (both LEPs) are welcome to join in the future should they choose to do so.

The following pages contain brief descriptions of all of the LMCGP churches, along with a photo of the church, generally showing members either engaged in day to day activities on church premises or celebrating special occasions in worship.

Over the next few months, within Leeds Mission and Care Group, we will be visiting member churches to learn more about their life and mission and their surrounding communities. We are hoping that this will help us to get to know one another better, to strengthen our relationships and to build trust.

In the month in which we visit a church we are asked to pray week by week for that church. We hope that this booklet will enable this by providing information about the churches and by providing a prayer you may wish to use. .

The inside back cover is incomplete - for you to list the churches month by month.

There is something quite powerful in the knowledge that all the churches within our partnership are praying for us one month in the year. Please give this a try - we believe it is worth our time and effort.

Prayer for our Church community

Lord Jesus, you have called us to this Church,
which seeks to serve you in this community in your name.

Bind us together in love, joy, commitment and service.

Whatever our age, help us to live for Jesus.

Let your love flow within our lives.

Let your love flow from our lives to others.

May others discover your love in us and through us.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Beeston Hill



Beeston Hill is an LEP consisting of three denominations, the Baptist, Methodist and URC.

We are situated in the south of the city amongst a mix of both private and social housing, some of it being newly built.

We are blessed to be a diverse and lively church. Our congregation has a mix across the ages.

Overall our worship style is quite traditional, however we are happy to adapt to different styles and traditions.

As part of our mission and outreach we hold a cafe and charity shop on Friday, which is well used by both church members and the wider community.

In the future we hope to run an agency drop in along side the cafe to further meet the needs of both church members and the wider community.

Our junior church J for J welcomes up to fifteen children each Sunday ranging in age from five to eighteen.

We also have a Brownies, Guides and Boys Brigade attached to the church.

We welcome more children from the community through a Kidz klub which, although run by others, is well supported by our church.

Our present minister is the Rev. Godfrey Nicholson who came to us in September 2015 and we are currently part of a Methodist circuit.

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON



Christ Church Halton is a Local Ecumenical Partnership between Halton United Reformed Church and Halton Methodist Church which was established in October 1989. The Church has a combined membership of 103, 59 Methodist, 11 URC and 34 with Dual membership. The average Sunday congregation is in the region of 70 folk, mostly in the 60+ age range and no regular attendees under the age of 30.

The Church has a very active Messy Church which meets every second Saturday in the month when upwards of 40 young children come along with their parent or carer for fun and games and an introduction to the Christian faith. At the other end of the age range the Church has a very successful Guild with a regular weekly attendance of 45 plus. It is ecumenical including members of other churches and some who do not attend any church. The Church also holds a weekly Luncheon Club when some 40 elderly members of the community can enjoy a hot meal and chat. In school term time we also have a well-attended mums and toddlers group.

The Church is located in a suburban area to the east of Leeds, 5 miles from the city centre and is well served by public transport, schools and shops. The building, which was designed to be flexible with "moving walls", opened in May 1993 and as well as meeting the needs of the Church, is well appreciated by the 10 community groups who use the premises on a weekly basis.

Recently the Church was asked to identify three Mission Priorities. These are focussed on developing Messy Church for older children and involving parents in the wider life of the Church, building links with the local community and exploring alternative ways of worship.

The Church in Cottingley



The Church is situated on an estate between Churwell and Leeds. It is virtually an island cut off by the railway and the M621 motorway. The houses are a mixture of council and private housing. Cottingley is a small church but it does much in the community.

The Church is a Local Ecumenical Partnership. The main dominations who support the Church are Anglican, Methodist and URC. There are also members who are Greek Orthodox, Pentecostal and Roman Catholic. The Community sees the Church as a beacon and feels part of it even though they may not attend on a Sunday. The Church produces a prayer diary which prays each week for people in the community. This is used in the prayers of intercession each Sunday, taken by members of the church.

The Church consists of about 20 members, varying from 3 months old to those in their 80s. Many work on a Sunday and often find it difficult to attend services. The church averages about 12 members on a Sunday even though sometimes we get as many as 17. It may be small in numbers but all the members take on tasks in the Church. There are two members with degrees in theology, 5 worship leaders and a Methodist local preacher who can take services. It has a prayer and Bible study service on a Tuesday. This often gets people who do not normally attend on a Sunday. During the year it puts on various events eg a Christmas dinner for the community and coffee mornings and pop up prayer cafes in the shopping centre. The worship of the church has evolved over the last 30 years. We look forward to the appointment of a URC minister who will empower and enable us to carry the Church forward.

Our Mission Statement

"The Church in Cottingley is:

A Spiritual home for worship, fellowship, refreshment and renewal, inclusive and accessible to all.

A place where the community is welcomed, can meet and feel at home.

A place where we are all encouraged and empowered to go out and show God's unconditional love for all people as Jesus did."

Headingley St Columba's URC



Headingley St Columba URC (HSTC), situated 2 miles from the city centre on the A660 was formed on 1st January, 1979 by the union of St Columba's Presbyterian Church, which began its life in Cavendish Road and the former Headingley Hill Congregational Church. We are a 'gathered' church with 59 Members and 17 Friends, some of whom live up to 25 miles away. We have been in Vacancy since the retirement of our Minister, the Rev Bill Frame in December 2013 and are hoping to appoint a new Minister working 50% at HSTC as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and 50% working for Synod promoting partnership among the URC Churches and associated LEPS in Leeds. We are an ageing congregation. Our worship style is traditional, but we welcome other forms of worship. Music plays an important role in our church life and we are fortunate in having a fine three-manual organ and an active choir under the direction of our Organist and Choirmaster, Ian Lawrie. We have a modern Sanctuary and audio-visual system.

Its proximity to the University of Leeds and the Beckett Park campus make Headingley a popular home for students and it feels very different when they are not here. In recent years, new student residencies have been built in the city centre and some of the multi-occupied homes have reverted to family dwellings and we hope that this will bring new opportunities to expand our Membership.

We are active members of Churches Together in Headingley and we share worship with Headingley Methodist Church once a month. HSTC strongly supports joint activities in CTH such as the Lent Lunches and Good Friday Walk of Witness, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Women's World Day of Prayer and Christian Aid Week. We have a Prayer Group, a Bible Study Group and the Guild which meets socially for lunch and tea with a speaker twice monthly. Although at present, our Junior Church numbers are low, we hold Summer and Christmas Parties for about 30 children and their families from Social Services and a local Refuge.

HSTC has two large halls and a number of smaller rooms that are used by about 25 groups from the local Community and beyond for meetings and activities e.g. Tail Waggers, Tai Chi, Scottish Country Dancing, Embroiderers, badminton etc.

HSTC has always had close links with the URC University Chaplaincy and has provided financial support and until recently a Manse, and will continue to support the new Generation-Y post.

'In God we Trust, We Share His Love'

St Andrew's Roundhay URC



St Andrew's Roundhay is a strong church with 167 members and some 80 Friends of St Andrew's who are not formal members but who regularly join us in worship. The average size of the Sunday morning congregation is of the order of 160.

We aim

- a. To be an open, inclusive, welcoming and growing Christian presence at the heart of our community attracting new people to our life and worship.
- b. To develop a sense of a community of faith by providing spiritual leadership and teaching.
- c. To maintain and increase our current number of members and adherents.
- d. To continue our focus on youth and children's work.
- e. To maintain our focus on the pastoral care of the whole congregation.
- f. To continue to maintain and develop our premises to meet our mission priorities

Our minister will be leaving us in June 2016 having been called to ministry in Scotland. We are currently giving prayerful thought to what we would want to seek in terms of a new minister for St Andrew's, but we have already decided that we wish to remain fully involved in the discussions initiated in the Leeds Mission and Care Group about the scope for developing closer partnership working amongst the Leeds URCs.

Our premises are well used throughout the week with between 500 and 1,500 people crossing our threshold on a weekly basis. We see ourselves as a community church striving to help meet the needs of those who live in Roundhay.

St Mary's in the Wood URC, Morley



St Mary's in the Wood has a long history which we are proud of dating back to 1086 and is recorded in the Domesday Book. In 1650 local Presbyterians for 500 years (the freehold was bought in 1950 and presented to St Mary's in the Wood Cong. Trustees) Worship changed from independent to Congregationalism towards the end of the 18th century. The current church is an establishment of the 3 congregational churches in Morley: Rehoboth; St. Mary's in the Wood and St Mary's Mission in 1967. The church has a history of being a thriving church and has always been central to the town of Morley. In present times it has a small congregation and has been in vacancy for approximately 18 years.

Three years ago the church independently reviewed its mission asking how could a small congregation make an impact in 2013 on the Town it had served since 1086. Morley's demographic is changing however there are many people live in Morley who were 'born and bred' in Morley. Like the general population they have to cope with life with all that getting older brings. St Mary's quickly identified a need for people who have dementia and their carers. Morley Elderly action provides generic services for the elderly but there was nothing specific for people with dementia. Following discussions with Elderly action, the Alzheimer's society and the local NHS commissioners, in February 2014 we commenced running the St Mary's Memory Café once a month on a Thursday afternoon. The café has thrived. It is well-attended and very much appreciated by those who attend. All members of the congregation are involved to make the café the success it is.

Our church is very Morley focused with two Elders serving on Morley Town Council, one of those Elders is also an elected member on Leeds City Council representing the Morley Borough independents .

We worship each Sunday at 10.30 organising our own leaders of worship with a regular congregation of about 8. Over the past five years we have welcomed people into our congregation usually when their lives have been in crisis. Once their lives have returned to some normality these people have moved on. This is possibly another identified function of our fellowship.

Our very large building is used for small-scale community groups. In the main these groups are also struggling in terms of numbers but they have an identity with St Mary's and appreciate our facilities. Members of these groups join us for fellowship at Saturday coffee mornings. One Elder represents St Mary's at Morley Church Leaders once a month and works with this group to provide Christian events in the year: Walk of Witness Good Friday, Praise in the Park Pentecost and Sheep Trail in advent.

We strive to fulfil our Mission 'Worshipping Jesus Christ as Lord, we seek to welcome and bring the special love of God to the people of Morley and beyond .'

STAINBECK URC - THE EVERYDAY CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY



THE FACTS

Stainbeck is the only church within a mile radius. It is surrounded by mixed housing, including pockets of high deprivation.

The majority of members and adherents are active in the life of the community, and live within one mile of the church.

InterACT is a partnership of local churches, established with Stainbeck as the lead partner. This partnership has helped the church to develop a community-based ministry and mission relevant to the needs of the area. A recent Messy Church initiative, again undertaken ecumenically, is enabling us to grow and consolidate our work with families and children.

An important place where our objectives, including those related to the five marks of mission, come together, is at the weekly Community Café .

THE FAITH

Worship is varied, informal and inclusive respecting the diversity of theological understandings within the congregation.

In some ways the original aim of the InterACT project "to discover God's purpose for the area as we seek to demonstrate His love in words and actions" illustrates the faith of the congregation.

THE FUTURE

A faith community, friendly, welcoming, caring for each other, will continue to care for others in need, encouraged by the enthusiasm of those who have been drawn to an outward looking church, believing that this is where the future lies.

THE URC IN SOUTH LEEDS



The United Reformed Church in South Leeds was formed in 2002 by the coming together of three churches. We now own two buildings: one on Dewsbury Road, in an area of great diversity and considerable social deprivation; the other, where we worship, a new building on Belle Isle, a large estate three miles south of the city centre.

We are a small congregation - 21 members and 9 adherents - with a strong sense of commitment and mission. Sunday worship is often traditional but sometimes more innovative with cafe style or other formats. We use Rejoice and Sing and the Good News Bible, and members of the congregation take an active part in worship. There are often no children in worship, but at the periodic parade services for our uniformed organisations the church can be packed! We are pleased to sometimes be able to welcome friends from Nesfield Lodge, a dementia-friendly residential care home adjacent to the church.

An important part of our mission is The South Leeds Team Ministry Charity, which manages Trinity Network, providing social opportunities for older people (activities, occasional trips, and a hot lunch). This operates on two sites - Dewsbury Road and Belle Isle - and is partly funded through Adult Social Care.

We have a monthly Bible Study and discussion group, and regular games and social evenings. In conjunction with Trinity Network we hold a well-supported monthly Community Cafe. Uniformed organisations (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) run thriving groups at Belle Isle. At Dewsbury Road we operate a charity shop, and a small congregation of the New Testament Church of God use another part of the building for regular worship. We are members of Churches Together in Middleton and Belle Isle and share worship with other local churches several times a year.

Wesley Road Chapel

*Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Church
Working in a Local Ecumenical Partnership*



Wesley Road Chapel is a modern chapel just off the main Armley Town Street in Leeds 12, a very multi-cultural area. It has a small mostly elderly membership of 57.

There is weekly Sunday morning worship and also Coffee slot worship, two Tuesday mornings each month and a bible study group two Thursday mornings each month. Wednesday community lunches are held on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday each month. There is a new Knit & Natter group that meet each Tuesday afternoon and a keep fit group meet every Monday evening.. Monthly there is a circuit reading group (2nd Friday) and Saturday film club (1st Saturday).

Coffee mornings are held every Saturday

Wesley Road has recently, with Rev Tim Boocock's guidance, developed a resource centre in the large upper room of the chapel, with a small prayer/contemplation room. The resource centre holds a large library of Theology resources as well as WiFi access for local preachers (and ministers) in training. This room is suitable for large meetings and is available for outside groups to hire. The Methodist circuit office is situated in the chapel building.

WEST PARK URC, LEEDS



West Park URC is a friendly, welcoming and inclusive congregation situated in North Leeds, in a residential area approximately 4 miles out of the city.

The building (the Sanctuary, a smaller Meeting Room, Office, modern kitchen and utility room) is well maintained by our Property Committee and the Manse is owned by the church and is located 300 yards away.

There are 30 members and approximately 12 adherents. Sunday morning worship at 10.30 is quite traditional (our theology is broad - we use NRSV Bibles and sing from CH4), with Holy Communion monthly. There are usually a few children sharing in worship. Tea / coffee and refreshments are provided after the service and warm fellowship is enjoyed!

During the week the church is used on a daily basis for various church and community groups. We have a thriving Toddler and Baby group, a fortnightly House Group and a popular monthly Saturday Cafe. Recently we've started a Church Fellowship, visiting places of local interest or enjoying speakers.

We are part of the Commitment for Life with our partner and in May do house to house collection for Christian Aid. We support The Leprosy Mission and local charities including Leeds Faith in Schools and Caring for Life.

We are part of Abbey Churches Together (ACT), along with two Anglican and one Roman Catholic congregation and shared Lent study groups and various joint services are held.

Our successful Spring and Christmas Fairs help with church funds but are also part of our outreach in the community.

Health and Safety and Safeguarding Policies are in place with trained personnel.

WIGTON MOOR URC



Wigton Moor URC is a small, community church with a 'parish' fairly well defined by three main roads in North Leeds. Set in an area of growing mixed ethnicity, our local community are a mix of upper-middle class white British, Jewish and Asian background.

Our congregation and membership, currently just over 40, are predominately retired, independent and keen. Numbers on a Sunday morning fluctuate between 25 and 40 depending on the time of year and often the worship leader. Our Minister, Peter Clarkson, has a 50% stipend with us (the other 50% is as University Chaplain at the time of writing) and as such leads Sunday morning worship on average twice a month; the others led by members of the congregation and visiting preachers. The worship style is traditional but with a modern, contemporary edge, using both organs and acoustic guitars for hymns. The lessons and sermons are a mix of evangelical and theological depending on who's preaching.

Other activities include Little Angels, our church-run mums and tots group, fortnightly Wednesday fellowship, a much more relaxed and informal meeting, and our Friendship Guild, a group for retired pensioners, which meets once a month. We recently launched a quarterly Messy Church which has seen many families reached and the response has been positive.

We are very fortunate to share good links with our local primary school and many of the local community groups. We are also blessed with many varied talents within our congregation, membership and eldership.

As a church we are embarking on the 'Leading Your Church into Growth' initiative and we are keen to encourage faith and the Holy Spirit within our community and the wider Leeds city.

MONTHLY PRAYER FOCUS & VISITS 2016/17

June:	The Church in Cottingley <i>Sat 11th June Coffee Morning</i>
July:	Headingley St Columba's <i>Tues 26th July Strawberry Tea</i>
August:	Partnership Pilgrimage <i>3rd, 9th and 10th August</i>
September:	Pilgrim Reflection <i>Sun 18th Sept 2pm at Belle Isle</i>
October:	Stainbeck <i>Sun 2nd Oct 3pm Community Songs</i>
November:	Beeston Hill <i>Fri 4th Nov 8.45-11.45pm Charity Shop</i>
December:	St Andrew's, Roundhay <i>Sat 26th Nov 2 - 4 pm German Visit</i>
January:	Christ Church Halton <i>Mon 30th Jan 7.30 pm Virtual Prayer Walk</i>
February:	
March:	URC in South Leeds <i>Sat 18th March Community Café</i>
April:	West Park <i>Sat 1st April Community Café</i>
May:	
June:	

CATCH THE VISION PRAYER

May the Spirit of the Lord rest upon us,
may the call of God sustain us,
as we seek to be God's people,
transformed by the gospel,
announcing good news to the poor,
proclaiming freedom for those in prisons,
of wealth, poverty, disease and disorder,
committed to making a difference to the world's
kingdoms
for the sake of Christ's kingdom.

May we deploy our resources as the Spirit guides,
not shirk from decisions about the priority of mission,
pledge ourselves anew to work with all our fellow
Christians,
and use the gifts of all God's people,
so that all may be filled with the Spirit of healing,
justice and peace.
Amen!