Leeds Lent Prayer Diary

2024



LCCT

Leeds Church Institute

Introduction

Welcome to the 2024 Leeds Lent Prayer Diary produced by Leeds Christian Community Trust in partnership with Leeds Church Institute.

The theme of this year's diary is Compassion. *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience (Colossions 3:12).*

Part of the work of LCCT, through our project Unity in Poverty Action, is to encourage the Christian community and the wider city to work together for the common good. This involves bringing together a wide range of people with different approaches and beliefs and means focussing not on our differences, but on the values we share. Compassion is one of these values, and making Leeds a compassionate city is one of the stated ambitions in the Leeds City Council Best Council Plan 2020-2025.

The range of organisations featured in this diary demonstrate that compassion is very much a part of Leeds city life and that there are many different and creative ways of putting this compassion into action. There is also the acknowledgement that, as Christians, it is God's love and compassion that we draw on in order to be able to share it with others.

We want to thank all the organisations who have contributed to the diary this year. As you pray with them through Lent 2024, we hope you will get a sense of how compassion both motivates and enables people to do what they do.

The artwork on the cover is by local artist Yusef Arjo, founder of Art by Arjo (artbyarjo.com) and co-founder of Sketch Club Social (sketchclubleeds.com). Do visit their website to find out how to join the monthly sketching events around the city.

We hope that you will be able to attend the launch event, hosted by Leeds Church Institute on 6th February 6pm at Roscoe Methodist Church. Details can be found on the websites of Leeds Christian Community Trust (lcct.org.uk) and Leeds Church Institute (lcileeds.org) Diary entries will also be featured across our social media.

Finally, we want to thank all who have purchased this year's copy; without your continuing support, production of the Leeds Lent Prayer Diary would not be possible.

Catherine Beaumont: Leeds Christian Community Trust.

Wed 14th February
Ash Wednesday
Pray for Leeds

When we pray to God, we express our compassion for people in our city. So often in a world of practical action, we can think that prayer distracts us from our work, yet we need to remember that prayer is a major part of our work. In January 2023 P4L gathered at Leeds Minster to hear from the new Reverend Paul Maybury and to pray for our city. In May we gathered at Holy Trinity Church for 'Thy Kingdom Come' Prayer Lunch. In early spring we held a night of prayer at Chosen Church and in late spring New Testament Church of God hosted the Global Day of Prayer where we prayed for different nationalities in our city and abroad. In November we held a citywide prayer gathering hosted by Gateway and Vineyard Churches and were joined by the current Lord Mayor Al Garthwaite and Cllr Sam Firth.

Please pray that people will show compassion through praying individually and coming together to pray for Leeds and beyond.

Contact: prayforleeds@gmail.com, 07903 123283, @prayforleeds, Facebook – Pray for Leeds

Thurs 15th February
Christians in Politics

Compassion isn't always a word used in politics. In Christians in Politics, whether it's UK based or here in Leeds, we believe passionately that God is longing to bring Christians together to support one another in this sphere. Over the last year CIP Leeds have run 2 all-party gatherings which included a discussion on how Christians in Leeds viewed the tragic conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, including contributions from Cllr Sam Firth and Cllr Ed Carlisle. In May 2023 candidates Oli Edwards and Penny Stables were elected to become new councillors, both of whom have a Christian faith. Further meetings have taken place which bring together Christians who hold similar political positions. In one recent meeting, people shared that there were many challenges, including the huge financial issues the Council is facing with a deficit of just under £30 million for the next financial year.

Please pray for energy and strength for elected Councillors, potential candidates and party members.

Contact: 07903 123283, info@cipoliticsleeds.org.uk, @CiPoliticsLeeds

spear leeds a resurgo partner

Fri 16th February
Spear Leeds

Compassion is at the heart of what we do as we support and empower young people, helping to increase their self-esteem, self-worth, independence and work-readiness. The Spear programme was set up 20 years ago because of the high levels of unemployment in young people. We believe that there is untapped potential and talent in these young people who have often faced challenges and obstacles which have held them back from finding work.

We help those aged 16-24, who may face barriers to work, to overcome the challenges they are facing and to find, and succeed in, sustainable employment. The programme is made up of a combination of group and 1-1 sessions, where coaches help trainees overcome challenging attitudes, and offer practical training such as writing a good CV and interview practice. Each trainee then receives a full year of follow-on support. To date, the Spear programme has supported 9000 unemployed young people. This year marks the 4-year anniversary since Spear Leeds opened!

Please pray for:

- **Employers across Leeds to partner with Spear to help young people find employment with support.**
- **Young people who face isolation to be safe throughout the year.**

Contact: charlotte.pearce@spearleeds.org, 0113 320 4341

In2Out Changing lives from the inside to the out

Sat 17th February
In2Out

Having compassion for young offenders may seem a big ask - it isn't easy to look beyond their crimes - but there is more to them and their story than their offences. Childhood trauma, abuse, neglect, mental health issues, being in care, school exclusion, chaotic lives and social deprivation - these are just some of the markers often found on a young person's journey to prison.

"I just feel alone and like I'm not even a person. I don't feel anyone cares about me here…" (A young person in prison).

For 10 years, In2Out has been supporting young offenders offering 'through the gate' mentoring starting in custody and continuing back in their communities. Having supported more than 700 young people, we see that they are full of potential with positive futures, if given the right support.

"Thank you for working with me! You don't know how much you change my mood and mindset."

Please pray for our participants, that they would find the courage to change and the opportunity for a new beginning.

Contact: www.in2out.org.uk, support@in2out.org.uk, 01937 544480

Sun 18th February
Kidz Klub

The Father's heart for the children of our city is embedded in all we do. Just as the Kidz Klub logo contains a heart at its centre, sharing the compassion and love of Jesus with the children and families we work alongside runs through every activity we do. From our home-visiting rounds, where we share time with over 1000 children and their families each week, to our weekly Hub Klubs where the children demonstrate their love for their own communities in action. They are involved in planning activities such as visits to care homes, litter picks and kindness parties to our child-centred Family Support work where our workers reach out to those families who need a little extra help. We are all about reaching out with God's love and being that difference in the communities that need it the most.

Please pray for the continued provision of volunteers, finances and practical support to continue doing this.

Contact: clare@kidzklubleeds.org.uk, 07710408080

Mon 19th February
Space

Space provides weekly groups for young people at high school. Most of them live in some of the poorest areas of our city. We focus on developing these youngsters in all aspects of life and empowering them to make the best choices towards a better future. We develop relationships with their families too by regularly visiting them at home.

We are moved by compassion for our families – actions speak louder than words, so we try to show our young people that we care, by loving them however unlovely their behaviour might be. We are there week after week and try to get to know them all as individuals and respond to their particular needs.

Pray for peace in the lives of our young people; home life for many is chaotic. Please join us praying that we might develop as an organisation and pray for patience to wait on God's plans in His timing not ours.

Contact Annie - aeospace@googlemail.com or 07904 004362,
www.leedsspacenetwork.co.uk

Tues 20th February
SPARK

SPARK is a social justice project for young adults from 18 to 30 years. We are part of the Justice and Peace Commission in the Diocese of Leeds, making the connections between faith, compassion and action for change. Through supporting a focussed event or small coffee morning in their local area, a SPARK leader can involve and motivate others to find ways to work for social justice, promoting a wider understanding of our shared humanity. Through offering these "taster" sessions we aim to build a SPARK community which will have an input into the Commission and connect those with a passion for social justice. We have some funding to pay session leaders for their time.

We pray for those who have been denied their rights and dignity. Inspire us to speak out against oppression and inequality, and help our leaders to work together for equity, justice and the common good.

Contact: sparks.jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk, 07756717032, @SPARK Social Justice, @sparksocialjustice

Wed 21st February
Youth with a Mission

Youth With A Mission is a global movement in 180+ countries dedicated to knowing God and making God known. This is done through training, mercy ministries and evangelism. YWAM Arise Leeds is a new YWAM community planted into Leeds in 2023. Our vision is to train up sons and daughters who carry revival to unreached people groups, in key cities of Europe such as Leeds, and in the nations they are from.

Compassion is the fuel for every expression of evangelism and outreach we have and hope to have. Jesus is our ultimate example; when He saw the crowds He felt the suffering of the shepherdless sheep around him. This encompasses our heart and vision to love the unloved and the unseen. Our training shows the need for compassion to do the "even greater works" that Jesus did by experiencing the Father's heart for the lost.

Please pray for:

- **More team members to count the cost and follow the call.**
- **Housing that will enable our discipleship community lifestyle to thrive**
- **Churches and organisations to partner with us so that this vision will become a reality**

Contact: 0793266359, info@ywamariseleeds.org, www.ywamariseleeds.org, @YWAMAriseLeeds

Thurs 22nd February
Gather Leeds

Unity and a sense of togetherness embody the very essence of compassion. A key call for the Church in the city is: “How do we love each other as Jesus has loved us?” (John 13: 34) Gather Leeds seeks to mobilise greater togetherness and connectivity in different mission fields. Over the last year we have continued to support networks that bring Christians together in business, health, politics, media and intercultural mission. We have also supported a new Leeds Church Leader Connect gathering that happens termly. In March we ran a citywide Movement for Recovery online event that focused on bringing Christians together from different geographical areas. This has led to the formation of East Leeds Gathers which has held two face-to-face gatherings involving over 50 people coming together to seek the wellbeing of East Leeds.

Please pray for everyone working to mobilise connected mission and that God will grant strength through the challenges of bringing overstretched people together.

Contact: gatherleeds@gmail.com, Twitter: @GatherLeeds, Facebook: Gather Leeds

Fri 23rd February
Horsforth Shed

Horsforth Shed is a well-equipped workshop designed to facilitate woodworking activities and a social area for refreshments. We aim to serve the needs of our community by reducing social isolation and supporting vulnerable people. Our work is motivated by a real desire to meet people where they are at and demonstrate God's love and compassion. Whoever they are, whatever challenges they may be facing, we will try to find a way to engage them in meaningful practical activities. However, sometimes what is needed is a cup of tea, a biscuit and a chat. One Shed user told me, *"Being at the Shed, doing what I love and making things that help me in other areas has been bringing me back up."*

Chopping boards, garden trugs, stools, a miniature aircraft hanger and a pool cue box are some of the many projects tackled this year. All of these can be seen, along with some of our shed users on our Instagram page or on Facebook @horsforthshed.

Please pray that all who need our service find us and that their many challenges don’t prevent them from coming each week. Please pray for volunteer Shed Supervisors who have the experience, skills and availability to join the team.

Contact: horsforthshed@gmail.com

Sat 24th February
InterAct

"People! Everything would be so much easier if it wasn't for people!" I must have said (screamed?) this phrase more times than I can count. People – with all their annoying habits, unwillingness to change, complicated messiness. Don't THEY make life difficult! Thank God compassion helps me put things in perspective or I'd miss the joy of working with people and the compassion that's also shown to me. Connecting through, and despite, complicated messiness is a reason to get up in the morning. It's our privilege.

Our work is community development, and our experience of that is broad and rich. One moment we're helping someone get hold of a bed to sleep on, the next we're celebrating a young volunteer and naming their gifts.

Please pray for us in our different roles and spaces – that we get the balance right and that busyness never gets in the way of love.

Contact: vanessa@interact.uk.net, www.interact.uk.net

Sun 25th February
Meeting Point

Compassion, according to one dictionary is "a feeling of sorrow or pity for the suffering of another with a desire to alleviate it". Although we don't claim to have been able to alleviate the suffering of all those who have come to us over the past 20+ years, the project has been able to assist thousands of asylum seekers and refugees in various ways from its base in Christ Church, Armley.

The past year has seen nearly 5,000 attendances by 561 individuals; we have registered a total of 279 new clients and 3511 food parcels have been provided. A hot meal is available as well as clothing, household goods and English classes.

One beneficiary 'A' who has volunteered since the end of the Covid 19 lockdown and who has just been granted Leave to Remain said "This place means everything to me and I can continue to give something back."

Thank God for the supply of short shelf -life food from various supermarkets and pray that this provision might continue.

Pray for continued financial provision.

Pray for staff and volunteers that we might continue to show compassion to those who come for help especially during the very busy drop-in times.

Contact: Emma Crossley 0113 2796700, emma.c@ccacp.org.uk

Mon 26th February
Christians Against Poverty

Christians Against Poverty is a charity that has compassion at its core, particularly for the poor and marginalised. Working in Leeds, in partnership with Mosaic Church and Bridge Community Church, we provide free home-based debt help. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis continues to lead more people into debt and struggling to cope. We offer a unique service through two local staff members and their volunteers from the local church, who provide practical support for clients whilst CAP's head office specialists create a budget, negotiate with creditors and provide ongoing technical support.

Pray for the local and national staff delivering the service, and for us to be able to grow the local team so we can support people in more postcodes across the City.

Anyone struggling with unmanageable debt should call 0800 328 0006. Any referral agents wanting more information should contact the Centre Manager Helen Bolton at helenbolton@capuk.org

Tues 27th February
Horsforth Chaplaincy Project

HCP works closely with Horsforth Churches Together as we seek the flourishing of all in the community of Horsforth.

This year we have seen compassion in action through launching Horsforth Town of Sanctuary, spreading awareness and fostering positive interaction with locally-housed asylum seekers. We have seen compassion in helping a reeling community as they mourn the tragic death of a teenager. We aim to be a compassionate presence in our community with regular assemblies in all 7 Primary Schools, groups in the High School, Community Events at Easter, Summer and Christmas, and a monthly Farmers' Market.

For prayer:

- **Give thanks for the team of 3 working together well, and pray for the right person to be recruited for a 2-day refugee Support Worker**
- **Pray for a new Community Pantry being built at St James'**
- **Pray for new volunteers and wisdom in where to put our energies over the next year**

Contact: duncan@horsforthchaplaincy.org

Wed 28th February
Baby Basics Leeds

Baby Basics is a charity giving out packed Moses baskets to mothers who are unable to buy essential items for their newborn babies. These mums may be asylum seekers, refugees, fleeing domestic abuse, teenagers or in social care. Referrals are made by midwives and health visitors. Packs contain donated second-hand clothing, blankets, towels, soft toys etc and also new toiletries for baby and Mum and nappies, wipes etc.

We are grateful to God for:

- A successful Donations Day in the summer, which not only brought in many donations, but also spread the word around the area.
- The great team of passionate volunteers, whose skills complement each other.
- The vision of our CEO to expand and develop the Charity.
- The Church of St. Paul's Ireland Wood, who allow us to use their facilities and space.

We pray for God's provision as we go forward:

- For more storage space for bigger items, and an area of increased size where we can sort and pack items more easily.
- That donations will keep coming, and that we can keep up with referrals.
- That the service becomes wider between midwives and health visitors.
- That our packed Moses baskets bless those who receive them.

Contact: babybasicsleeds@gmail.com

Thurs 29th February
Teen Challenge

Teen Challenge Leeds, in partnership with Bridge Community Church, operates a small community coffee lounge in Lincoln Green Square known as 'The Welcome'. Guests are offered complimentary refreshments and friendly conversation with volunteer hosts. We hold small-group Bible study and discussion sessions on Saturdays, including Christianity Explored, Hope Explored and Discipleship Explored courses. The courses are popular with guests and there is often standing room only.

The opportunity has arisen to move to larger premises within the Square. **Please pray that the Lord would continue to develop and grow the work in the new unit**, so that we can share the good news of Jesus with more and more members of our community. **Please also pray for those struggling with addiction and mental health challenges in our city**, many living alone and suffering behind closed doors. May God use us to bring the light and life of Christ into their lives.

Contact: teenchallengeleeds@webip.co.uk, 0113 2424644

St. George's Crypt

Fri 1st March
St Georges Crypt

St George's Crypt has been offering care, compassion and hope to the vulnerable of our city and those living with homelessness for 93 years. Inspired by the pioneering work of the Revd Don Robins (the vicar of St George's Church, who founded the Crypt in 1930), we seek to show the love of God through simple acts of kindness. Don Robins' vision was inspired by the words of Matthew 25, 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me'. Today we stay true to that vision and at the Care Centre and at our sites across the city we offer shelter, food, and opportunities for people to access the health and wellbeing services that many of us take for granted. As you pray, please give thanks for Don Robins' legacy and pray for our continued work across the city.

Please pray for our Growing Rooms projects for both women and men. The projects are a 15 month, 12-step programme that take those living with addictions from Chaos to Citizenship.

Contact: chaplain@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk, 0113 2459061

REPAIR CAFE

Sat 2nd March
East Leeds Repair Cafe

The East Leeds Repair Café has now been running for just over a year as a missional partnership between the Methodist Church and Connecting Crossgates. Over the last year we have repaired over 150 items and welcomed over 250 people through the doors. The Repair Café is one way we can share God's love for the people of East Leeds and work together for the protection and restoration of all creation.

We provide a safe space for people to bring in items in need of repair, particularly when they cannot afford to simply replace them or if they have sentimental value.

Over the next year please pray for the continued sustainability of this project, that more people would join our team of volunteers and that we would continue to build relationships between the church and the local community.

The East Leeds Repair café meets on the third Saturday of the month at Crossgates Methodist Church. You can find us on Facebook or get in touch by email at repaircafe@leedsnandemethodist.org.uk

www.leedsnandmethodist.org.uk

Sun 3rd March
Christians in Media

Christians who operate in media (whether in the industry or volunteering at a local church) are charged with maintaining integrity - presenting the truth without bias or agenda while holding firm to our Biblical beliefs and convictions. In a fast-moving culture, where the truth often appears capricious, remaining rooted in faith can be a profoundly challenging place! The Leeds hub of the national charity, Christians In Media (christiansinmedia.co.uk), exists to bring together Christians who work or volunteer in this area across Leeds and surrounding areas. We meet in person at least four times yearly to network, make friends and, most importantly, pray.
We also connect regularly in an online group.
We would appreciate prayer for the group to become known by those who need it and for the right people to come and speak at our in-person gatherings.
Contact: Hub Leaders - Mark Kelly and Tim Hobbs.
Email - leeds@christiansinmedia.co.uk
Online group - www.facebook.com/groups/christiansinmediaanddigit

Mon 4th March
Lighthouse

Lighthouse West Yorkshire is a fresh expression of church reaching out to those who are battered and bruised by the storms of life, such as homelessness, addiction, offending and mental ill health. We offer a safe haven, a place of belonging, and a supportive and hope-filled community. Compassion is one of the driving forces of Lighthouse. Community members who have often received little or no compassion from others throughout their lives show deep care and concern for each other in their struggles. Many see Lighthouse staff members and other community members as family – we are "Lighthouse brothers and sisters". Our compassion, rooted in and displayed through Jesus' love, for those who have often suffered deep trauma, changes lives.

Our prayer for the coming year is that we can keep journeying through the highs and lows of life with our brothers and sisters in Christ, giving consistent care through community.

Contact: Lighthouse West Yorkshire, St George's Church, Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3BR

email: hello@lighthousewestyorkshire.org.uk

Lighthouse West Yorkshire – Registered Charity No: 1164239

Tues 5th March
Connecting Crossgates

Connecting Crossgates facilitates groups and activities in the community to assist wellbeing and address poverty. Our compassion extends to the whole person, so we offer emotional, practical, financial and spiritual support.
We began in 2012 with a community café and now offer over 10 projects. We help individuals and groups start their own projects to meet local needs.
At our Community Fridge, customers choose 12 items for £3.50, enabling all to combat food waste and save pennies. Each term, 40-50 children mostly from low-income families, attend our Holiday Clubs. Other initiatives include peer support groups, music/craft activities and a repair café.
Compassion, for us, means including everyone and creating roles based on the volunteers' needs and strengths. To develop this, we want to recruit a Volunteer Coordinator and a Communications Officer to assist our 3 part time staff in 2024.
Please pray that we secure sufficient funding and find the right people to support all involved.
Contact : karen@connectingcrossgates.com, 07985 035125

People of Peace

When Jesus looked at the crowds he had compassion. He saw that the people were lost. People of Peace helps equip believers to become “disciples who make disciples” so that more people can find the peace and love of God that we know. During 2023 we organised a number of sessions training people to use the Three Thirds (3/3) discipleship tool. People from across the denominations have shown enthusiasm for adopting this simple approach. We learn to regularly share what God is teaching us with our friends, family, neighbours and colleagues. It’s becoming easier to ask "Would you like to read the Bible to find out more?", and people are saying yes! Each group looks different. We meet people in their own settings rather than trying to draw them in to a strange church group with which they have no connection!

Pray for the 8-10 potential new groups of ordinary people we are supporting as they explore how to put this into practice.

Contact: Kären Gray, peopleofpeaceleeds@gmail.com

Wed 6th March
Wellsprings Together

Wellsprings Together works in partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Leeds with a strategic focus to support faith communities as they look to serve, love and bless those around them. We aim to be a resource, adding capacity and expertise to local efforts and work. The charity has been operating in Leeds for the past four years acting as a catalyst and connector for extending the reach, depth and quality of social action through dynamic partnerships with churches, civic authorities, faith and local community groups and others who share our aims.

We are fortunate to see the incredible compassion of churches to their communities over long periods of faithfulness. Pray for our team that they are able to make a difference to the groups they support.

Contact: team@wellspringstogether.org.uk

Thurs 7th March
St Luke's Holbeck: Gardening & Environmental Project

The aim of the project is to share gardening and environmental skills primarily with young people and their families and help empower them to improve their own locality. When starting the project we surveyed the area asking people what changes they would like to see. Overwhelmingly people said it was dirty and they would like it improving.

At the end of lockdown we set up the community garden at Dewsbury Rd Hub, where we run various events including Healthy Holidays and after school club for children and their parents and work with refugee families. We have planted Pictorial Meadow flowers with local young people and are establishing a community garden at the rear of St Luke's where veg can be taken by the local community.

Pray for safety in the community for the team on dark evenings that everyone feels safe.

Give thanks for the new communities in South Leeds that we are working with, particularly refugees and asylum seekers.

Pray for funding for the group. We are continually fundraising to keep the group on the road.

Contact: 0113 271 7996

Prison FELLOWSHIP

Fri 8th March
Prison Fellowship

Inspired by the compassion of Jesus, Prison Fellowship has come alongside those in prison for over 40 years to show them that we care. Our programmes aim to bring hope and restoration to those who often feel hopeless.

We bring friendship to those who feel lonely, through our letter-writing programme (Letter Link) and offer a free Prayer Line which can often bring comfort. Our Christmas gift-giving scheme (Angel Tree) aims to restore relationships between parents in prison and their children, while our restorative justice course (Sycamore Tree) helps inspire compassion towards victims. We also create a weekly Bible Study where people can pray and reflect, alongside those in prison.

Our wonderful volunteers and supporters display compassion towards those in prison by serving practically, prayerfully and financially. We are blessed to spend time together remotely each month, celebrating and praising God for the hope that we can bring to those in prison.

Contact www.prisonfellowship.org.uk

mha
Live later life well

Sat 9th March
MHA

MHA works with over 2900 people across Leeds enabling them to 'Live Later Life Well' through our activities which include Communities Schemes, Retirement Living Schemes and Care Homes. Compassion runs through everything that we do at MHA. Our values are to Respect, Nurture and Inspire everyone within the organisation - those who use our services, their friends and relatives and those who work and volunteer there.

Everyone deserves respect simply by virtue of their humanity, despite our different needs and varying abilities that alter over time. Mutual concern is expressed through a sense of nurturing each other, as we develop and change. Some changes have a challenging edge, perhaps accompanied by a sense of loss. Inspiring each other can mean listening to someone's story and being amazed at what they have achieved. It can mean encouraging each other in our work and recognising the differences we make in supporting each other, whether resident, relative, volunteer, or worker.

Please pray for us.

Colossians 3:12 "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."

Contact: Fiona Nuttall Area Support Chaplain, fiona.nuttall@mha.org.uk

Sun 10th March
Network Leeds

At Network Leeds, we believe that the Body of Christ thrives when we stay connected to each other. We are moved by compassion for the city of Leeds and this drives the heart behind Network Leeds to be the voice for congregations, people and projects of all denominations.

Network Leeds provides an online space for sharing and promoting local projects, whether large or small, seeking to bring communities together and provide a platform for information-sharing.

Network Leeds sends out a weekly e:Bulletin featuring the latest events, news pieces and jobs. It is a valuable resource for helping connect job-seekers with both paid and voluntary roles in the Christian charity sector.

As you pray for Network Leeds today, please pray for wisdom and strategies for how we can sustain and grow Network Leeds. Please pray for new partnerships as well as for our existing partners. Thank you for praying!

Contact: hotline@networkleeds.com



Mon 11th March
Chapeltown and Harehills Learning Project

Having and showing compassion towards marginalised individuals.

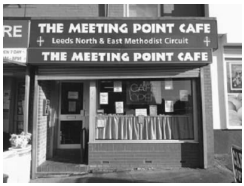
The charity has expanded the Help Team community service we provide to marginalised adult individuals. As well as providing the educational side of the business, the community service has increased. Throughout the year, we have provided our beneficiaries with Aldi vouchers and fuel vouchers, which provide funds towards their electric, gas and water supply. We have also provided clothes, baby food and supplies to several families.

We have supported a wide range of disadvantaged individuals in Harehills and Chapeltown. The service has proved to be of great benefit and support throughout the high cost of living crisis.

Please pray that we will expand on the Help Team service and take it into different cities and regions within West Yorkshire, as the service is needed near and far.

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 1 Peter, verses 3:8.

Contact: 07895982019, info@cahlp.com, www.cahlp.com



Tues 12th March
The Meeting Point Cafe

The Meeting Point Café is a Methodist Church project, set up in 1992 as a new and innovative contribution to the Christian presence in Harehills, after the closure of Harehills Lane Methodist Church. True to its name, it has always been more than a café. It has been a meeting point where all sorts of people from the local community can come to eat and drink, talk and be listened to. The Café Manager, Pauline, with her team of volunteers has built up a reputation of offering understanding, compassion and a listening ear for the many people who use the café.

For all the years it has been open, Meeting Point has continued in its work of offering friendship, care and concern to its many customers, and for those in greatest need, providing food and drink with no charge.

We pray God's guidance as we explore plans to adapt our premises, and further develop the service that the Café can make to the community.

Contact details: email: adelha.kaka@methodist.org.uk, 0113 249 8575

Women Arise
honour • encourage • empower

Wed 13th March
Women Arise

Women Arise started in 2019 and seeks to invest in women from migrant backgrounds by providing ESOL classes, wellbeing and signposting support. Showing compassion and kingdom hospitality is at the heart of all we do as we honour, encourage and empower women to flourish and to shine.

Over 90 women come from a range of countries (including Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Eritrea) and face many issues that hold them back from being more fully integrated in society. Motivated by compassion, we seek to remove some of those barriers. We are thankful for God's provision that supports a large team of varying expertise and a number of volunteers with lived experience.

Pray that God would continue to sustain and strengthen us into 2024 with finances, capacity and volunteers, so that we can continue to extend kingdom hospitality.

Pray that refugees in Leeds would settle, grow in learning English and find their place in British society.

Contact: womenariseleeds@gmail.com

Thu 14th March
WYDAN

WYDAN provide accommodation, everyday necessities and support to destitute asylum seekers in Leeds. Up to 10 people are accommodated all year round in two houses and a flat, and during the winter emergency accommodation is provided in partnership with the Methodist Church, in a permanent Winter Night Shelter for up to 10 men in Leeds LS9.
We give thanks for the care and compassion shown by our dedicated staff, volunteers and supporters, who go out of their way to make these people who endure constant rejection and suspicion, safe and welcome.

We pray that funding and wells of compassion will not run dry, that development work in our Night Shelter will continue successfully, and that our asylum seeker guests may find peace, security and be enabled to maintain their hope.
New volunteers are always needed!

Contact details: email: shelter@wydan.org
phone: 07515 996871
donations: https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/15943

Fri 15th March
Joanna Project

We at Joanna Project work with women who suffer from a lifetime of disadvantage and are now trapped by addiction and street sex work. The issues they face are complex but we love to journey with them helping them improve their wellbeing and move closer to the life they want.

This Lent please pray with us that:

- **Our Daytime Sanctuary would continue to be a place of welcome and hospitality for women who come to our door.**
- **For breakthrough in addiction and life circumstances that feel impossible to break.**
- **That the love and kindness of Jesus will be felt by each woman we encounter.**
- **For systemic change; that our women would no longer be judged or defined by their disadvantage.**

For more information about what we do please visit https://joannaproject.co.uk/

Sat 16th March
Leeds Church Institute

At the heart of LCI is our passion for promoting social justice learning for a faithful city. We work through events, publications, the arts and research to provide learning opportunities that are accessible and relevant to city life. A key priority for 2024 is to challenge marginalisation through a focus on racial justice, social isolation, and theology and disability. We can't do any of this unless we listen with compassion to city voices, to those who learn with us, and to the wider Christian community.

Please pray for

- **Growing engagement with Churches Against Racism to create real change**
- **Effective action and reflection for justice through our partnership with Leeds Citizens**
- **Inspiration and learning through our Art and Theology projects**
- **Compassionate nurture of faith and learning in our Younger Years initiatives**

Contact: 3 The Calls, Leeds LS2 7EY, 0113 2454700
www.LCILeeds.org Facebook|Twitter @LCILeeds

Sun 17th March
Leeds Faith in Schools

This year, Leeds Faith in Schools is celebrating 30 years of working in high schools across Leeds! We work to bring the gospel and be a Christian presence in schools through lessons, assemblies, clubs, group work, and one-to-one mentoring. Over the last three decades we have seen many young people's lives changed for the better in our city. Since you prayed for us last year, we have been blessed to not only continue our work but to even see an increase as our team has grown in number. Through this we continue to see the effects of the covid-19 pandemic on young people who are still struggling to cope with 'normal' day-to-day life.

Please pray for us as we come alongside anxious and worried students; that we would be a consistent and compassionate presence, demonstrating the care and love of Jesus in our schools.

Contact: Ben Cordy, 07828264542, info@lfis.org, www.lfis.org

Mon 18th March
Christians in Business

Compassion and Business don't always go naturally together but we give thanks to God where Christians in Leeds and the region are able to live out their faith and allow God's compassion to come alongside their different business related activities. The last 4 years haven't been easy since the pandemic hit and many working in business face a climate of stagnating economic growth, rising costs, hybrid working and a general unpredictability.

Christians in Business (Leeds) is very grateful to Krystina Gadd who has faithfully led the group over the last year and initiated different gatherings both physically at Holy Trinity Boar Lane and on Zoom. In November we heard an insightful talk by the financial adviser Murray McEwan, who highlighted that the bible has a lot to say about wealth / money and talks about the topic over 2000 times. **Please pray for wisdom and God's guidance for all Christians working in business and for this network.**

Contact: info@howtoacceleratelearning.co.uk

Tues 19th March
Transformations Leeds

Immigrants have a bad press in this country. They are often seen as 'a problem', despite the largest immigrant group, international students, contributing £42 billion to the UK economy last year. This negativity results in many international students experiencing racism and feeling unwelcome in Leeds.
However, God calls His people: "to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt" Deuteronomy 10:19.
This is why Transformations Leeds equips Christians to welcome and befriend international students, particularly through our Living Room social event. It's made a big difference:
"The chain effect of having new friends through the Living Room has literally changed the entire experience [of being in the UK]" - a Chinese student
"Living Room volunteers care about me just like I was a family member." - a Libyan student

Please pray that more international students would enjoy the Living Room as their 'home away from home'.

Follow us: www.instagram.com/thelivingroom.leeds/
Laura.Palmer@transformationsleeds.org.uk

Wed 20th March
Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals is a global movement of people who believe every child deserves an education and enough to eat. From feeding just 200 children in Malawi in 2002, we now serve a nutritious meal in their place of education to more than 2.4 million hungry children every school day in some of the world's poorest countries. Our work is built on compassion and only possible thanks to the many little acts of love carried out by our amazing supporters, volunteers & staff, working together to bring hope to the lives of the children we serve.

We depend on volunteers helping within their local community here in the UK to raise funds and awareness of our mission. Will you join us to help reach the next hungry child waiting? We would also be delighted to visit any churches or groups who would like to learn more about our work.

Please pray for the work of Mary's Meals that we are able to reach more of the world's poorest children with a nutritious daily meal in their place of education. We give thanks for the wonderful compassion of all our volunteers & supporters who use their little acts of love to help us keep our promise to the children we serve, bringing them hope for a brighter future.

To find out more about the work of Mary's Meals: www.marysmeals.org.uk

Thurs 21st March
Leeds Homeless Charter

Showing Compassion to those who have no home is essential in these challenging times. A common story people are experiencing is that when they have to leave their accommodation, they find themselves seeking support from outside the official structures. Whether it be charities, churches, staff/volunteers, all are doing their best to help people into accommodation when safety nets fail**.** B+B's are being used more frequently and the time for newly granted refugees to find accommodation has been reduced from 28 days to 7, leading many to experience short term homelessness.

The Homeless Charter brings partners and people with lived experience together to tackle homelessness. Recent developments include an increase in groups providing household items; finance being released to provide B+B spaces, St Anne's hosting 3 evenings to support the homeless and groups/churches providing 14 meals every evening to a Homeless B+B Location.

Please pray for miracles and that people will be able to access accommodation when they need it.

Contact: davepaterson.upa@gmail.com, 07903 123283

Fri 22nd March
Simply Mobilising

Simply Mobilising (SM) UK is part of an international movement mobilising all God's people to be part of His mission to the nations. Our national office in Leeds administers the various courses we offer, including Kairos.

Jesus had compassion on the crowds because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. This led Jesus to mobilise His disciples to pray for God to send out more workers into the harvest and indeed, to become the answer to their own prayer. SM UK also seeks to mobilise both prayer and workers from the church in the UK to make Jesus' compassion known to all the nations.

Pray for:

- **A new generation of volunteers and workers to enable us to fulfil our mission here in the UK.**
- **For new members to join our National Coordinating Team as we introduce new initiatives to mobilise both the indigenous and diaspora churches.**

Contact: info@simplymobilising.org.uk

Sat 23rd March
Leeds Torch Fellowship

65 years ago, the founders of Torch Trust for the blind were moved with compassion when they met girls from a training centre for visually impaired young women who were wanting to know more about Christianity but who were not able to access Christian literature. The girls were delighted to receive magazines in braille and soon the work expanded throughout the UK and abroad. Now, Christian literature is produced in Braille, giant print and audio; holidays are organised and local Torch Fellowship groups have been set up in many areas of the UK.

The Leeds group meets on the third Saturday of each month, 2.30– 4.30 pm at City Evangelical Church, Beeston. New faces (and guide dogs!) are always welcome. We are a small group but those with sight loss always find a welcome and hear of the compassion of Jesus and His love for them.

Pray that God will call some younger people to help in the meetings and to provide transport.

Pray for churches in Leeds to become 'sight-loss friendly' churches (see www.torchtrust.org) and to use Torch materials to help those in their congregations with sight loss.

Contact: Steve Rhodes, rhodessteve5@gmail.com, 07501 345619

Sun 24th March
Leeds Food Aid Network (FAN)

Food Aid Providers have continued to support many vulnerable people across the city who are struggling with food poverty. The Leeds South and East and Leeds North West Foodbanks have provided food alongside on-location advice delivered by Money Buddies, who have supported many people in financial hardship whilst they have visited foodbanks. One of the key developments across the city has been the presence of food pantries, where vulnerable people are asked to pay a small amount (£3 - £6) to receive £15 - £25 worth of food. Churches and projects such as Pudsey Community Project, Vineyard, Connecting Crossgates, Church of the Nazarene and St Stephen's Church in Kirkstall are some of the many food pantries in the city. In conjunction with this, Leeds FAN has been partnering with Food Savers, who work to link Food Pantries with Credit Unions so that Pantry members can have access to a credit union account and save a minimum of £1 every time they visit the food pantry.

One of the most significant activities over the past two years has been the Chair of Leeds FAN and Unity in Poverty Action (UPA) working with Leeds Christian Community Trust and the Council to allocate the Household Support Fund to support food providers. This has resulted in £1.3 million being allocated to support the cultural food hub delivered by Hamara and Give a Gift, alongside over 60 food and item providers to support people with food, items and fuel. The fund has proved to be a lifeline for many vulnerable people. The council works hard to make sure that cash is allocated to people's pockets. Finally food allocations continue to be distributed to where food is needed; supporting food providers by organisations such as FareShare Yorkshire, Rethink Food and Surplus to Purpose.

Please pray for all those struggling with food poverty and the range of different agencies, food providers and council workers supporting them. Please pray for the National Government and that, should it be God's will, they will extend the Household Support Fund which has been a lifeline for many.

Contact: info@leedsfoodaidnetwork.co.uk, @foodaidnetwork

Compassion UK

What is Compassion? Concern for those who suffer, Sympathy, Fellow Feeling, Empathy, Understanding, Care, LOVE. Of course these are just some of the attributes of Faith and our calling in Christ. Compassion UK has the mandate to release children from extreme poverty (£1.75 a day) IN JESUS NAME.

Compassion works with the local church across Leeds and West Yorkshire to enable this missional work, connecting a child with a loving sponsor who will write to them and encourage them. Sponsorship means the child is taken into a Compassion programme, whether it be in Africa, Central/South America or Asia. They are educated, fed, clothed and provided with medical and spiritual care. This changes one life at a time.

Please pray for God's people to keep saying YES to sponsorship, for the Church to continue to rise up and meet the need, and for the children who continue to suffer every day in extreme poverty.

Regional contact details: beths@compassionuk.org

Mon 25th March
Home for Good

Home for Good is a UK charity dedicated to finding a home for every child who needs one. We mobilise the Church in the UK to respond to the needs of children and young people in care, inspiring families to explore fostering, adoption or supported lodgings and church communities to wrap around families with support.

We are working with churches in Leeds to find more foster carers, adoptive parents and supported lodgings hosts for children and young people in care. Together we can find a home for every child who needs one.

Pray for children and young people in Leeds who right now are waiting for a safe and loving place to call home.

Pray for families who are caring for children and young people through fostering or adoption.

Prayerfully consider if you could open your home, short-term or long-term, to a child or young person.

To find out more, contact us at info@homeforgood.org.uk.

Tues 26th March
Schools of Sanctuary

Schools of Sanctuary Leeds is a stream of City of Sanctuary UK and supported by Leeds Church Institute. We work to ensure that schools in Leeds are welcoming places for refugee and asylum seeking children and that school children from all backgrounds learn about the reason why people are forced to leave their homelands. Schools which sign up to the award commit to learning about migration issues, embedding the concept of welcome into the school as well as sharing this with parents and the local community.

Pray for those schools signed up as they work to fulfil the criteria necessary and for all those seeking asylum and with refugee status. Pray for compassion towards them from the people of Leeds and from those in government given the current hostile policies. You can read more here about the scheme at www.schools.cityofsanctuary.org and Leeds City of Sanctuary www.leeds.cityofsanctuary.org

Contact: Katherine Hogg sanctuary@leedschurchinstitute.org

https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/

Wed 27th March
Thrive

Thank you so much for praying for us today! We are an organisation who work alongside children, young people and their families in Chapel Allerton and Meanwood, with the support of four local churches and in partnership with others. The values that come out in our work are Including and Accepting, Empowering and Enabling, Growing and Transforming.

Please pray that we would embody compassion in these places:

- **For young volunteers as they grow and try new things; that we would have a wonderful compassionate combination of challenge and support**
- **In our day to day encounters in youth groups, schools, Messy Church, in the streets**
- **As we grow in partnership with InterACT Church and Community Partnership, that we would listen well and seek the best for one another**
- **Within our teams; that people would be seen, known and loved and act out of the knowledge that they are loved by God.**

Contact: hannah.dey@thriveleeds.org.uk 07918029840

Thurs 28th March
Leeds School of Theology

Leeds School of Theology is an informal school offering theological education which brings academic theology and missional practice together. The Leeds School of Theology is open to all and is an exciting opportunity for anyone wanting to gain a greater knowledge of God, Scripture and theology.

Running since 2014 we have trained over 750 students both online and in person and have been amazed at the way in which God has used the school in the lives and ministries of students. This year we are delivering the Bradford Theology, our Nightschool & Mission, Theology & Ministry for the Margins courses.

Please pray that the courses will equip students in their faith giving them a confidence to read study and apply Gods word in their lives.

enquiries@leeds-school-of-theology.org

Fri 29th March
Good Friday

When we read one of the Passion accounts, we follow the contours of the darkest day in history. God has come into the world, and has manifested His great love in the flesh; yet that flesh has been subject to all kinds of mistreatment, humiliation, scourging, torture and death, ultimately because of the rejection of that love.

We know all too well that the brutality that killed Our Lord is not new, and there are obvious, tangible events of just that kind manifesting themselves in our time to a world that is keenly watching. Not to mention the countless other places where it has or does go on, with little or no interest raised such as those in abusive relationships, those struggling with addiction, those struggling to feed their families. As Christians, we are supposed to make a connection with this day, a day we bring to mind on other Fridays throughout the year, so that we don't forget to unite the sufferings of our Lord and the sufferings of violence and injustice in our world in our prayers, and of course, in our actions to build a different and better world.

But in the midst of such scenes on this day, there is a deeply personal question for each of us, as we hear the contours of the darkest day unfold before us. You see, it would be a mistake to allow this drama to unfold but yet remain an observer, or that it is simply to do with what is happening a few steps or even thousand miles away from us. Today is about each and every human person, and it comes with a challenge: God has come into the world and manifested His great love in the flesh: so how have I/you rejected that love?

If we read the great words of the Passion, with our eyes wide open, and with hearts that seek to learn, we may just get an insight as to what form that rejection takes in our own lives. It's a daring question to ask, because it drags us right into the heart of the story as a protagonist and not an observer, puts us at risk of seeing glimpses of what we are like at our worst, and for that to be laid bare before God.

But this is precisely what God is doing to each of us on this day, because He wants us to see the shape of our struggles to accept His love, so that through His struggles, His wounds and His death, we can be healed.

That is why we call today Good Friday. Today the God for all creation tells us that those who care for the poor, those who take a stand against injustice, those who seek to bring peace and yet suffer, are acceptable to God. These are the ones who will share the life of the victorious Risen Lord.

Rev. Dr. Joseph D Cortis

Leeds Cathedral

Sat 30th March
Sunflower ESOL

Sunflower ESOL exists to make English learning accessible to those who can't access it through college. It is impossible to not be moved to act with compassion when I hear the stories of the people I work with. The lives of asylum seekers and refugees - and the work of those trying to support them - are full of difficulties, lack of resources, dead ends, long waits and a seemingly powerless struggle. The light, hope and love that Jesus offers is in limitless supply.

Pray that his power and presence will transform people as they come to the Sunflower ESOL gardening groups.

Contact: Clare Jackson, 07849 342 852, clare@sunfloweresol.co.uk

Sun 31st March
Easter Sunday

The story of Easter Sunday leads us to joy, to thoughts of Jesus' victory over death and sin, to images of a stone rolled away and an empty tomb. Yet I suspect our experience of Easter is very different from that of the disciples. For the disciples, that first encounter with the resurrected Jesus must have stirred mixed emotions ranging from disbelief and fear, through to joy and wonder. We know that they were in hiding and were marginalised from the mainstream community, and that the resurrection did not immediately change that.

For me, the person most evident in the story of Easter Sunday told in the Gospel of John, is Mary Magdalene. Mary, who after Simon Peter and the others had left, stayed outside the empty tomb, in tears, distraught at the disappearance of Jesus' body. This grief was so strong that it overcame her fear and took her back to the tomb. In his compassion, Jesus does not leave her lost in grief but instead calls her by name. So I wonder how Mary was affected by the seemingly simple act of being called by her name. In this encounter between the risen Christ and Mary Magdalene, the use of her name, and the way in which it was spoken, turned her sadness into joy. It meant that she was recognised and valued as an individual, as someone with her own hopes, dreams and passions. Someone who was important to Jesus. In some ways Mary could be said to represent each and every person who has ever existed. The risen Christ calls each and every one of us by name with love and compassion.

Mary was the first person Jesus spoke to after the resurrection. She was not the most powerful or the most influential of his followers, but she was the one who most needed his compassion. As with all his ministry on Earth, here too Jesus went first to the margins. Today, as we celebrate the good news of Jesus' resurrection, how can we show compassion to those on the margins?

This morning let us pray that the risen Christ will help us reflect his compassion in the way we speak to and about those who are marginalised. Amen.

Paul Coleman: Leeds North and East Methodist Circuit

Could you support Leeds Christian Community Trust?

LCCT is a Christian charity rooted in the life and teaching of Jesus, seeking to work with people of all backgrounds who share our ethos. We support small/medium Leeds based projects by providing a charity framework and infrastructure which enables them to function and develop at their own pace. If you would like to work with us towards seeing positive change in Leeds, see below for details of how you could get involved.

Become a Trustee: We are looking to recruit Trustees who share our passion to enable and equip small grassroots projects working to alleviate hardship, to combat injustice, and to promote human flourishing across the city.

Our Board of Trustees are responsible for financial and strategic oversight of the charity and for ensuring compliance with charity law.

Donate: We rely on donations to keep costs manageable for the projects we support. Donations can be made through our website or contact us for more information.

Volunteer: Please contact us if you feel you could spare a few hours a week to volunteer with our central team or on one of the projects.

For more information please visit our website lcct.org.uk, email catherine@lcct.org.uk , or phone our office on 0113 3508622 and leave a message.