

THE EASTERLY ROAD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
 (COMMUNITY INITIATIVE)

Introduction

The **Easterly Road Development Project** is the community expression of the New Testament Church of God here in Leeds. In May 2019, this faith community would celebrate 60 years of continuous Christian ministry in the City of Leeds. Initially the church was made up primarily of individuals who had migrated from the Caribbean.

Today the church is multi-cultural with members coming from different countries and having thirty one nationalities represented. Over the almost 60-year period the church has had a strong community focus, catering for diverse needs within the community. Using one of the parables of Jesus as our bedrock, found in Matthew 25:35, *“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; for I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited me in; I needed clothes and you clothed me; I was sick and you looked after me; I was in prison and you came to visit me”*.

For us, it is important to have an holistic perspective and cater for the whole person, so whilst our Services and various outreaches cater for the spiritual side of the person, the Easterly Road Development Project caters for the other aspects of individuals, bearing in mind that we are tripartite beings - body, soul and spirit with a focus on physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing.



Pastor Tony Parry



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Community Alpha Course**
- **Youth Group**
- **Men’s Group**
- **Women’s Group**
- **Senior Citizens**

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED

£1.5 million

Phase One: £500,000

AMOUNT RAISED SO FAR

£160,000

BACKGROUND



New Testament Church of God Leeds started in 1959 in the Chapeltown area of Leeds. Today the church is situated at 3, Easterly Road, near the boundary of Ford Green and Roundhay Road. It is a thriving church with over 300 members and has, as a central part of its vision, to be **outward-facing**. The Easterly Road Development Project is our way of giving a practical expression to that. Over the years this particular church has been involved in several community-focused activities. The following is a snapshot of some of them:

Provision of Saturday School or supplementary education for school-age children to supplement what they were receiving by

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way of formal education in school, and encourage young people to fully engage with education or educational opportunities as they present themselves. As a result of such initiatives a very high proportion of these young people went on to university, and are graduates today in such fields as social care, civil engineering and healthcare.

Arranged holiday schemes over the summer holidays or Easter break to provide a safe place for parents to leave their children, where they can interact with other children from the community of all backgrounds, have fun, make friends, acquire new skills. Sometimes these schemes were run in partnership with other community groups, but in the main they were led by ourselves. A similar programme is still run today for the benefit of the community at large.

A luncheon club for older people and community members. Such an initiative was set up over 20 years ago and is still run by volunteers from the church. We provide a nutritious meal for elders, many of whom may be widows or widowers, where loneliness can be a major issue that they are faced with. The club provides a space for socialisation where they can come and be themselves, where they can engage in age-appropriate exercise to keep them as mobile as possible. The luncheon club also provides meals for those elderly who are housebound and cannot get out. The club runs on Wednesdays and Fridays and twice a week they will hand-deliver meals to the housebound. Activities are culturally sensitive and meet the social needs.



Current Elevation (Car Park)

THE DEMENTIA PROJECT

It became quite clear through the church's work in the community that there are a number of families living with dementia. Normally this will manifest itself with one family member being designated the main carer to look after that individual. Over time this can have an adverse effect where the main carer's health also can deteriorate. What is at the heart of this community initiative is to provide respite on a weekly basis for the carer, so they can have time away from the person living with dementia so they can 'recharge their batteries'.

The project sent in appropriately qualified individuals to sit with the person living with dementia while the main carer gets a break. The referrals for this programme come from family members in the community or other organisations who are working with older people who may have dementia. The sitters are fully funded for the time. The project was initiated and piloted with some seed funding for 6 months. After establishing the need for the project the church continued to fund the project for over 18 months.

The learning from the project was that when working with ethnic minority individuals living with dementia, what tended to be important for them was cultural issues and faith issues and if they had a background of faith there was clear need to incorporate this in the service. As national and local trends indicate, the number of people living with dementia in the community is increasing exponentially.



Bernadine Bailey
Retired Health Visitor
& Church Volunteer

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Christina Cambridge
Church member and
Care Home Rep



TEEN CHALLENGE TRAILER

For many years we have worked in partnership with Teen Challenge, an international initiative, once a week in the Chapeltown area and more recently in the Harehills area, offering a space for community members to receive help and support, a warm drink and some counsel.

Their initiative primarily is trying to support those living with some form of addiction to try and help them navigate a way out. There have been several success stories, many of whom have become faithful Christians living a new life in Christ and supporting their families and local communities.

YOUNG MEN'S GROUP

This works with young men from across the city aged from 10-25. The group tackles a number of issues, including the adverse effects of gun and gang culture, knife crime etc. The group occasionally brings in positive role models in the community, from the areas of sport and education to help raise the aspirations of the young men. The identification of self and confidence building are regularly addressed.

30th March 2019—5th Year Celebration Event.

YOUNG WOMEN'S GROUP

This group works with young women or young girls in various areas, for example the sort of things they have covered this year are cooking sessions, and practice in preparing a meal for their families; they have received hospitality training, training in table décor; they have served as volunteers at the Community Health MOT Day and at appreciation meals for their parents and retired leaders.

They have contributed at National events and engaged in community fundraising initiatives such as a Fun Mud Run at Temple Newsam Park. The group has set an excellent example of building confidence among young girls. I would not be surprised if some of the connections that have formed develop into life-long connections.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY SPORTS DAY



Annual Community Sports Day hosted by New Testament Church of God, Leeds at Thomas Danby Sports Centre.

Family Weekend 21st—23rd June, 2019

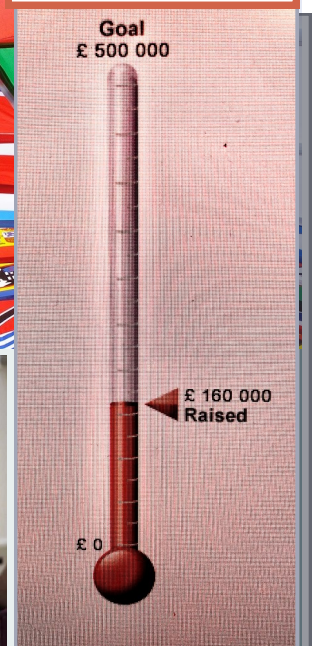
This normally takes place in the heart of the community in a sports complex where between 250 and 300 people from the community gather, free of charge, to partake in a range of fun activities. There is normally a community barbecue, different sports activities taking place; a real family-orientated activity day, a day that is well looked forward to by many community members and their families.

“There is normally a community barbecue, different sports activities taking place.”

**JOIN US
TODAY!**

COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

The Service which normally takes place in the church building has been taken to a venue in the community where it is enjoyed by many folk who may not ordinarily come to church. [15th Dec. 2019]



CITY CENTRE OUTREACH

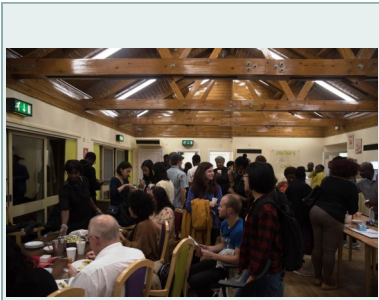
During the winter months, a group of volunteers take warm clothing to give out to homeless people in the City Centre.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

October has been designated Black History Month in the UK and a number of activities have been organised for the whole community, including Black History creative workshops, a cook-up night, etc. The venue would be at a church or in the community space.

19th-20th October 2019





New Testament Church of God
3 Easterly Road, Leeds LS8 2TN



10th-14th June 2019



Guests at NTCG Annual fund-raising Festival Ball for Easterly Road Development Project



PATHWAYS TO WELLNESS
Know Your **RISK!** - Be Informed!

FREE EVENT
Facilitated by Healthcare Professionals

CHECK YOUR:
blood pressure
body mass index

INFORMATION SESSIONS

- Managing Minor Illnesses
- NHS Screening Tests
- Common Health Risks:
 - Heart disease, Diabetes, Strokes
 - Dementia Screening Tests
 - Falls Advice
- **CANCERS: Prostate, Breast**

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THE ALPHA PROGRAMME

For those seeking answers to life. It is being held by a number of volunteers and held at the BAME Health and Wellbeing Hub in the heart of the community: Reginald Terrace, Leeds LS7 3EZ. **Every Wednesday at 6pm.**

TRAINING WEEK

Once a year, in addition to regular departmental activities, a whole week is dedicated to church-wide training. Sessions are held on different topics and open to everyone from the wider community. The training week is publicised widely to encourage community members to attend via networks, publications, the local Health and Wellbeing Forum and Public Health, Leeds.

HEALTH MOT DAY

There is a recognition that a number of individuals in the community may not be accessing appropriate medical services but may have no problem coming to a church building which they consider to be a safe place. On an annual basis the church, working with a range of health and social care professionals puts on a Health MOT Day. So we bring the health professionals to the church to do a range of tests, from blood pressure, blood glucose, BMI, also a range of health screening questionnaires on dementia, diabetes, sleep apnoea, prostate cancer, etc. These health screening filters help determine the risk factors to individuals of acquiring these illnesses. All the results are collated and screened by a health professional or GP who may recommend a further course of action. These have been considered very worthwhile by the community and who knows, may have contributed to saving someone's life.

COUNSELLING

We also provide one-to-one counselling sessions to members within the community on a range of issues from relationship problems to families struggling with debt.

We plan to commence confidential specialist sessions, facilitated by a Financial Inclusion Advisor.

THE FUTURE

It is our desire to develop the premises so that Easterly Road Project can be fully realised. To do that we need to fully extend the premises so more activities can take place there. We are resolute that this initiative, including the establishment of a Community Hub with a range of community activities will be carried out. We have been constrained by inadequate community space for all that we would like to carry out from our current premises. On occasion individuals or groups wanting to use our community facilities have had to be turned away because of capacity issues. Once the building has been extended we will deliver the following additional programmes and schemes from that space:

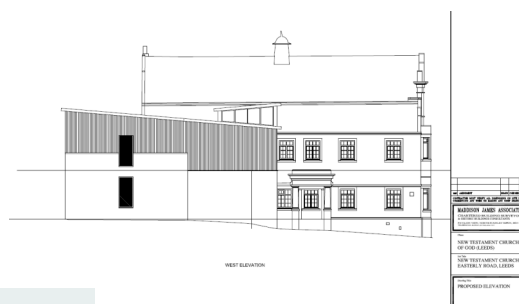
Community Education Programme where the following can be delivered - Home Work support services, Basic Maths and English, up to GCSE level. We believe that such qualifications are essential building blocks for young people as they attempt to enter the world of work. Therefore we will work in partnership with Leeds City College to deliver this programme from our Community Hub.

Provider of a number of Apprenticeships

Whether this is in a number of Health and Social Care areas such as Administration or Catering, this will be done with service providers such as PATH Yorkshire.



Current Elevation (Upland Road)



WEST ELEVATION

Before and After

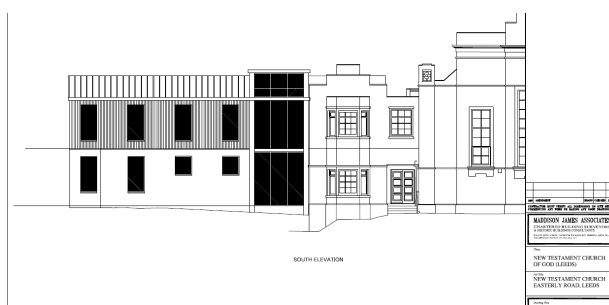
As part of the Community Hub we will have a purpose-built IT suite providing a range of courses from beginner to advanced level. We recognise that Information Technology is a necessary tool for all of us today without which access to many services is almost non-existent. Again Leeds City College is likely to be a service provider and we are working in partnership in this area and drawing on some expertise within our own resources.

The Community Hub will be a centre or base for a number of community projects to operate from and provide services from, or to have hot-desk arrangements. Giving local children the best start in life will remain a key focus of the hub in view of our well attended Children's Ministry.

The re-establishment of the Dementia Project which will be housed in the Community Hub with a Coordinator and pool of trained volunteers and sitters who support the programme.



Current Elevation (Easterly Road)



SOUTH ELEVATION



We are a bible-based, evangelical Christian church, who believe God has called us to serve others. Our various church ministries, all of which have this in mind, are outward facing, seeking to serve our communities whether that is through our Prison Ministry, our Young Men's Group, our evangelism activities or our social responsibility programmes. All of these have at their heart, service to others. In and through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our Lord has called us to be salt and light in practical ways to those around us.

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COMMUNITY COOKING WORKSHOPS

One of the strengths of our community is its diversity and one of our commonalities is food. So we would like to run, from the Community Hub, community cooking workshops where various recipes are exchanged; different facilitators from different communities will come and lead and share their learning of different cultural dishes which will culminate in a multi-cultural cookbook being produced.

Following the success from the community participation, with greater space the Community Hub can house regular sessions with health and social care professionals who can come in and give advice to people who may not use mainstream services.

How Can This Be Achieved?

The Easterly Road Development Project Community Initiative can only be achieved by extending the building in a way that increases capacity for community activity. Therefore the plans are to extend part of the property and build on the existing structure – please see drawings (inside pages) which have been amended to take on board advice given following the pre-application stage. As you can see this will increase our community capacity by approximately 250%. The Community Hub will be used by a range of community organisations and ourselves to provide a full spectrum of services for the youngest to the oldest in our communities. The focus is on the most vulnerable and providing the full scope of volunteering and learning opportunities for those in need.

Conclusion

For almost 60 years the church has continued to provide a range of support services to the community, by and large, from its own resources. Under this initiative, The Easterly Road Development Project and the desire to create this community hub, we need your help and the help of others to take this, from aspiration to a reality for the benefit of all segments of our local our community especially the vulnerable and those at the extremes of age.

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: **£1.5 million**. Phase One: £500,000
AMOUNT RAISED SO FAR: **£160,000**.

Thank you for your kind support. Please call (0113) 2406561 or donate online: <https://www.givey.com/ntcgleeds>

We are so grateful for our current partners: The Alzheimer's Society; Leeds Citizens'; our Local Councillors, PATH Yorkshire; Leeds City College.

Tony Parry
Easterly Road Development Project