



# LEEDS SANCTUARY

THE METHODIST CHURCH  
IN THE CITY CENTRE

## IMPACT REPORT 2021-22

## INTRODUCTION TO LEEDS SANCTUARY

For over 185 years the base for the Methodist Church in Leeds City Centre was Oxford Place Methodist Church. Following bold decisions made by the trustees in 2017-18, the Oxford Place building closed. This decision enabled a new and exciting phase of ministry for The Methodist Church in Leeds City Centre, known now as Leeds Sanctuary.

Beginning as Leeds Methodist Mission (LMM) in 2019, we embarked on discussions with local organisations and people living and working in Leeds. Together with our Mission Development Group, we realised that our place in the City Centre could be to serve the local community by offering opportunities for activism, wellbeing and spirituality. A sub-group was formed to discuss the theological basis for our Mission, and we further developed what are now our four core values of encounter, justice, sanctuary, and flourishing.



Photo by Benjamin Elliott on Unsplash



Between September 2021 and August 2022, we facilitated:

- 4 Regular Community Spaces
- 7 Temporary Communities/ Courses
- 20 Events

We are also present in a number of different community groups, steering groups and organisation boards:



Our vision is to be a network of communities, that each begin with encounter and embody sanctuary and justice, through which individuals and the city flourish in the ways of God's Kingdom.

## WHAT IS IT LIKE TO LIVE IN LEEDS?

Leeds is the second-largest city and the second-largest metropolitan district in the UK.

The residential area which we are beginning to work in is Leeds Dock (LS10), which is in the Hunslet and Riverside area of Leeds. The Dock is home to The Royal Armouries Museum and Event Space, two restaurants, an independent coffee shop, a gym, a yoga studio, a Tesco Express, a bar, and 8 businesses, as well as several hundred residential flats and student accommodation. There is no community hub as such.

Photo by Jonny Gios on Unsplash





## SUMMARY OF REGULAR COMMUNITIES

Our communities are regular gatherings which provide opportunity for us to deepen relationships with those come.

Our communities in the 2021-22 Connexional Year included:

- Monday Mindfulness, taking place weekly online
- Leeds Craftivists, taking place monthly online
- Lunch and Prayers, taking place fortnightly in-person
- Saturday Sanctuary, taking place bi-monthly in-person

No data was recorded for Lunch and Prayers.

Across the other three communities, we hosted a total of 45 individual meetings which were attended by 327 people.

## SUMMARY OF TEMPORARY COMMUNITIES

We made 252 individual contacts in our temporary communities, which included an enneagram retreat day and course, pilot events for our unique wellbeing course, events promoting our book and a wellbeing course.

## SUMMARY OF EVENTS

We held some individual and varied events in the 2021-22 Connexional Year, where we encountered 1045 people. These are outreach events to share who and what we are more widely. They include networks we help run, partnership events and projects and engagement in city wide initiatives.

These included:

- Methodist Church network events
- City-wide events such as Kinder Leeds and the International Piano Festival
- Local ecumenical events such as the Climate Change Church Leaders gatherings

Therefore overall we had 1,624 interactions through our 72 communities, activities and events.

## MONDAY MINDFULNESS



Began:	2020-21 Connexional Year
2021/22 Gatherings:	31
Total no of attendees:	150
Highest Attendance:	13

Monday Mindfulness is a weekly online gathering which aims to create a reflective space for participants, also equipping them with mindfulness tools and techniques to use through the week.

## FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

"I loved the emphasis on self-compassion, something we all need more of."



## LEEDS CRAFTIVISTS

Began:	2020-21 Connexional Year
2021/22 Gatherings:	11
Total no of attendees:	116
Highest Attendance:	15



Leeds Craftivists is a monthly online gathering which provides opportunities for creative activism, with a focus on joy and hope. Themes this year included “Food Waste”, “Migration”, “Gender” and “Peace”.

## FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

“Thanks for an inspiring evening.”

“... thank you for your long distance support, ideas and great company!”

“This group has led me to start using craftivism through work. I work with young people and started a craftivism group for Mums and children on YouTube, we have reached hundreds of families. So thank you.”

“This group has led me to use craftivism in my work, I have created 1000 activity packs for refugees...”

## LUNCH AND PRAYERS



Began:	November '21
2021/22 Gatherings:	16*
No attendance data was recorded	

Lunch and Prayers is a weekly drop-in space where people are invited to join us for prayer and/or community over lunchtime.

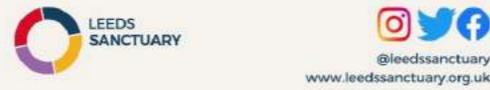
\* Lunch and Prayers met online on 22 December 2021 and paused in January due to Coronavirus guidance advising people to work from home as much as possible.

Photo by Jonny Gios on Unsplash





## SATURDAY SANCTUARY



### Saturday Sanctuary

Saturday 14 May 10am - 12pm

Newspapers and board games    Free tea, coffee and pastries    Community and quiet space

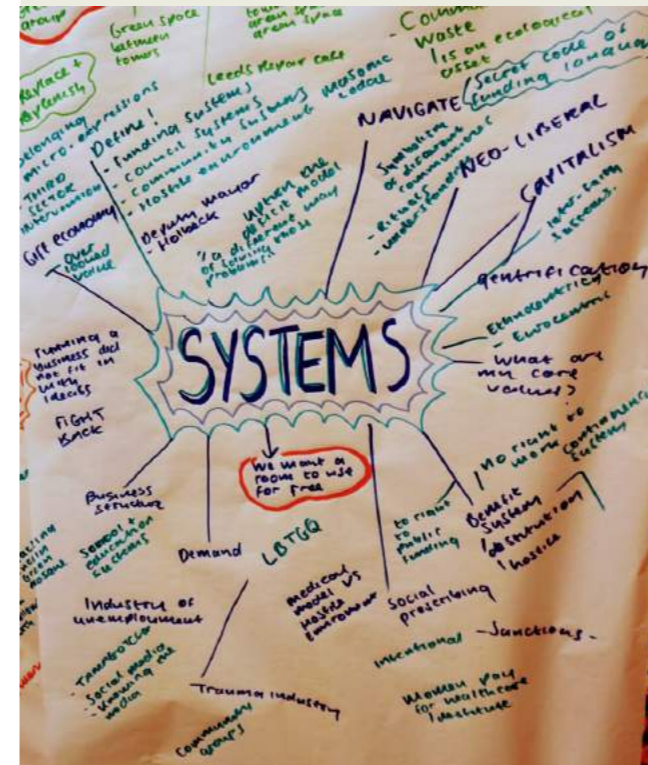
The Glass Box, Leeds Dock, The Boulevard, LS10 1PZ  
Contact David Goodall for more information:  
07854 308 513

Began: March '21  
2021/22 Gatherings: 3  
Total no of attendees: 61  
Highest Attendance: 25

Saturday Sanctuary is a monthly space at Leeds Dock where we supply free tea, coffee and pastries; newspapers and board games; and curate a relaxed environment for local people to start their weekend.



## OUR TEMPORARY COMMUNITIES



Our Temporary Communities are opportunities for us to encounter those living, working and/or frequenting our locality in the centre of Leeds, and opportunities for those people to encounter us and the other work that we do. The nature of these communities is such that they run for a short time, but we hope that the relationships that have been built – either between participants, or between participants and Leeds Sanctuary – will last afterwards.

In total, we had 252 people attend our Temporary Communities in 2021-22

## FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

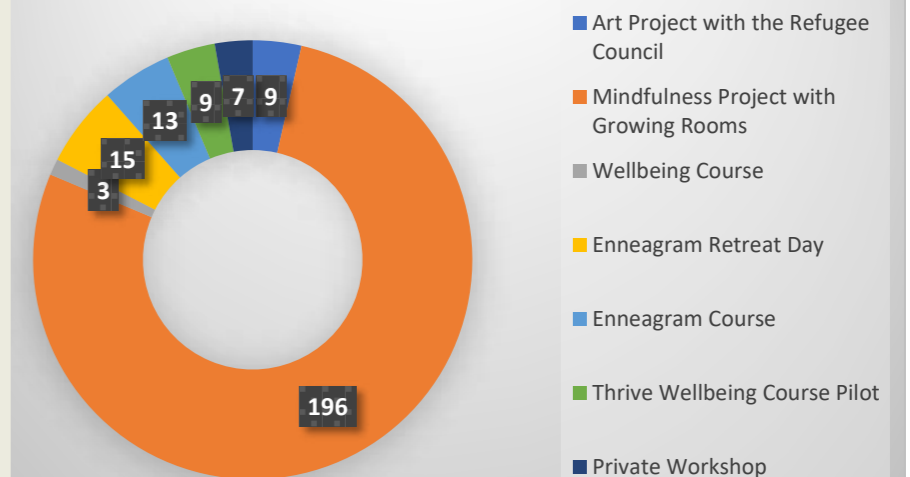
“Relaxed, inclusive, informative but not overwhelming. Felt a real sense of magic in connecting with myself.” (Enneagram Retreat Day)

“Being given tools to look deeper at our own personalities, analyse if we agree with it. Felt very safe, comfortable, compassionate group.” (Enneagram Course)

“Having time and space to think, effect and talk to others. Being able to examine myself and my life in relation to the 5 ways to wellbeing was a really good focus point.” (Wellbeing Course)

“I wish we had more social time” (Enneagram Course)

### Temporary Community Attendees



## OUR EVENTS

Our Events are opportunities for us to encounter those living, working and/or frequenting our locality in the centre of Leeds, and opportunities for those people to encounter us and the other work that we do. While there is no emphasis on lasting relationships between participants, Events do provide us with an opportunity to build relationships with other local, ecumenical or Methodist organisations.

In total, we had 1,045 people attend our Events in 2022-23.



## FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

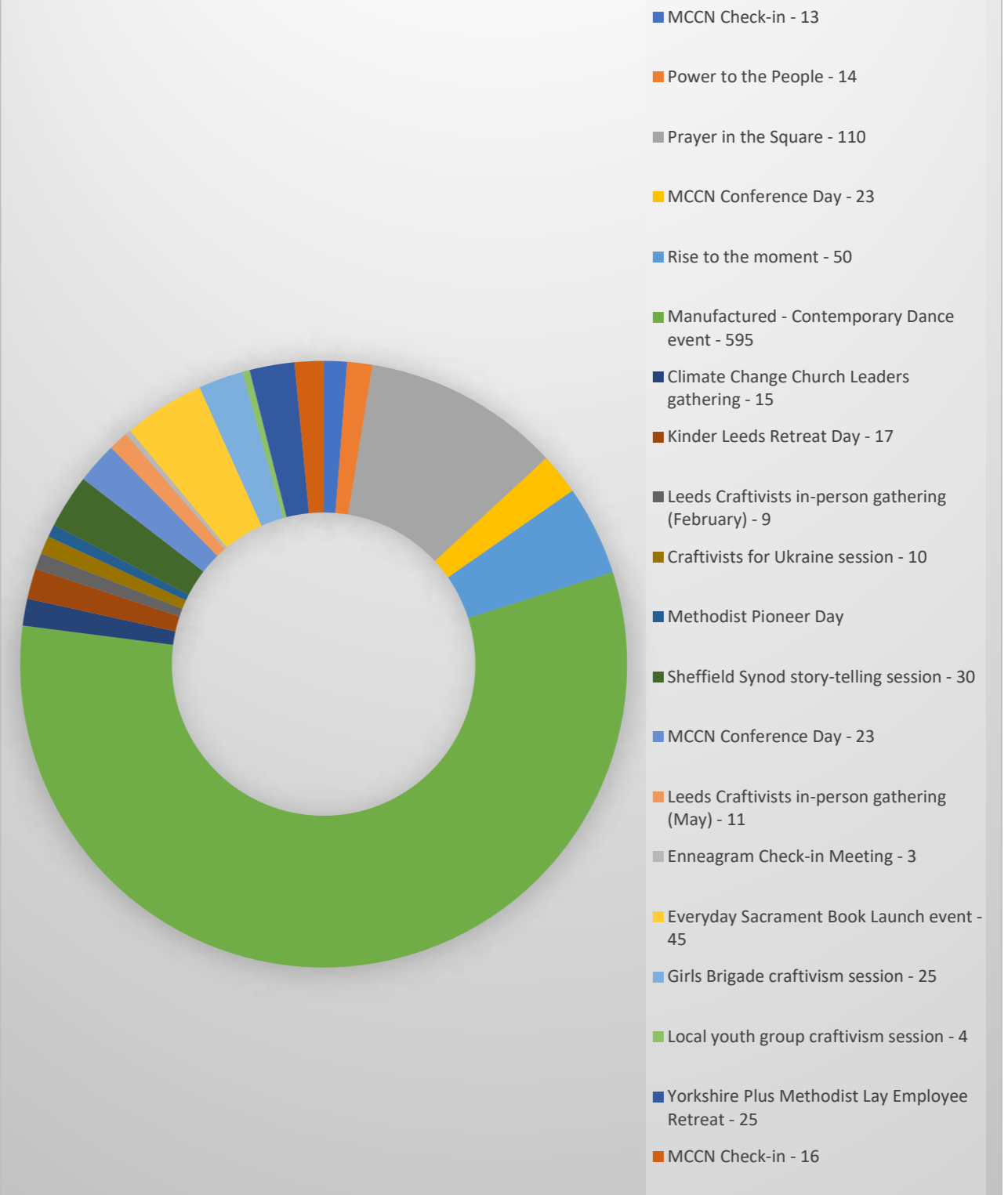
“Many thanks for the day - it was really helpful especially in my current discernment process.” (MCCN Conference Day)

“What a great diversity of performances” (Power to the People)

“The stations were so thoughtfully put together.” (Kinder Leeds Retreat Day)

“Really enjoyed seeing everyone in person!” (Leeds Craftivists in-person)

## Events Attendees

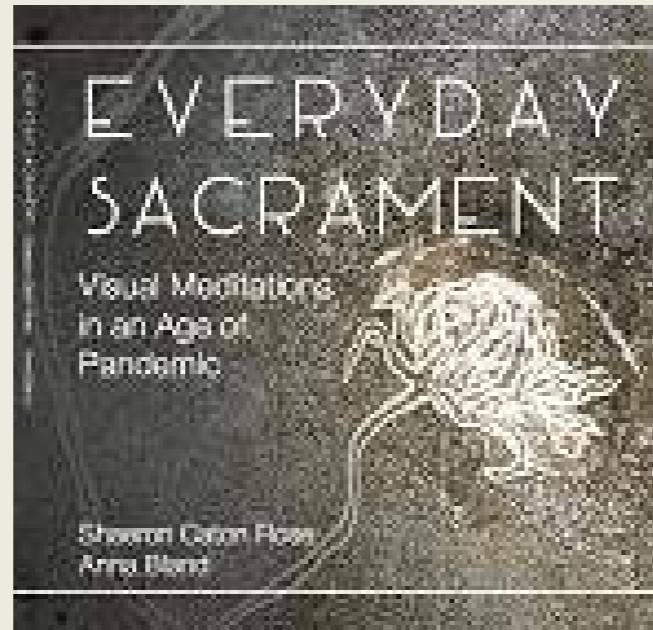




## RESOURCES AND DIGITAL

In addition to our communities and events, we make a commitment to create content and resources which can be accessed through our website, at the convenience of the viewer. In 2022-23, we have released:

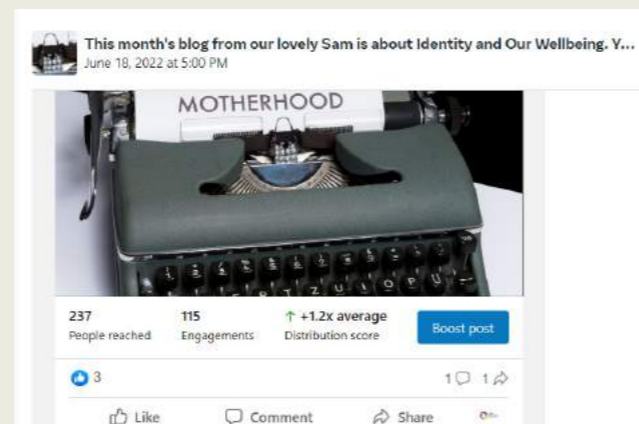
- A book of art meditations
- A craftivism campaign session resource for use by other groups
- 11 podcast meditations
- 44 blog posts.



We reached more Facebook accounts than ever before, and created an Instagram page.



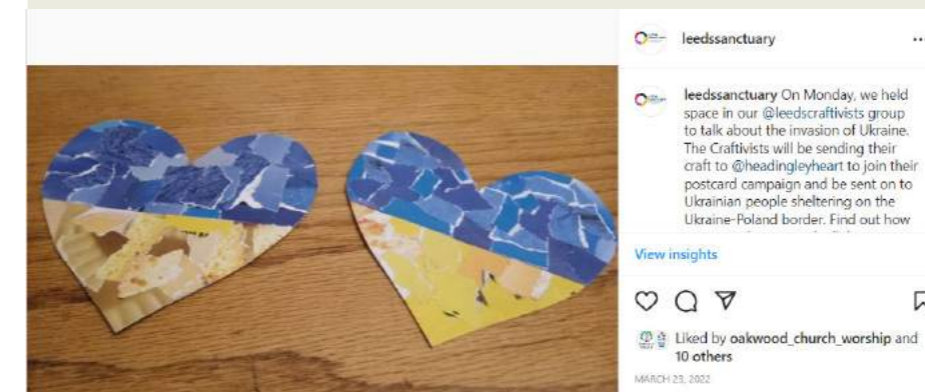
Our most popular Facebook post was this blog written by Sam, our Wellbeing Practitioner.



Our most listened to podcast meditation was "Recognising the Judge Within".



Our most popular Instagram post shared details of the Leeds Craftivists gathering which aimed to show solidarity with Ukraine following the invasion of Russia.



The Tweet that made the most impressions shared photos of our origami boat display at "Rise to the Moment".

Our most popular blog post was the "Leeds Craftivists: Sunflower Campaign" resource, which was viewed 111 times.





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