



# Annual Impact Report 2024

SUMMARY OF REPORT OF TRUSTEES  
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# INTRODUCTION

REVD CANON PAUL MAYBURY, CHAIR & PRESIDENT OF LCI

On behalf of the trustees, I invite you to celebrate with us a year of momentous change and development as we continued to deliver on our five-year plan and transitioned from Dr Helen Reid to the Revd Dr Chris Swift as Director. We are very grateful to Helen for her leadership over 10 years. Helen's legacy lives on in the various work streams which have changed and developed during the year.

The trustees are very pleased with the outcome of the necessarily involved recruitment process for a new Director, and welcome Chris and look forward to working with him for many years to come.

We are so very grateful for such a dedicated and creative staff team who have all had to work through a challenging period. I'm grateful too to my fellow trustees who have all taken on additional work during the year.



# OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

In 2024, Leeds Church Institute continued to run a varied and inclusive calendar of events, publications, research and media programmes.

Through the course of the year, people across Leeds of many denominations attended events, and LCI posted and shared a wide variety of newsletters, blogs, and YouTube videos for online engagement.

The work focused on four different, but complementary themes; Faith and Theology, Faith and Creativity, Faith and Racial Justice, and Faith at the Margins.





# ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES



## Faith and Theology

The Hook Lecture 2024 was given by Richard Reddie, under the title 'Turning Key Moments into Movements For Change', encouraging churches to be proactive in seeking racial justice, not just reactive to tragic events. 140 people attended, and the recording has been viewed 159 times. Five issues of CITYtheology magazine were produced, including an extra issue saying goodbye to Helen Reid as Director and Editor. The December edition celebrated the tenth anniversary of the publication.

We funded scholarships for two University of Leeds MA Theology students. Erin Clark completed her studies, and John Richardson began his studies in September 2024. John is researching the use of the term 'gift' in the context of social work.

We also funded Leeds Trinity University MRes student Norman Pickavance in his research on theology and poverty in the city.

We worked with one undergraduate placement student at the University of Leeds, supporting her BA studies in a workplace context.





# ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES



## Faith and Creativity

The Art Theology Festival launched as a pilot project in 2024, with a variety of events across venues in Leeds during May. This included a Pentecost-themed Sketch Walk in Kirkgate Market with Leeds Sanctuary, a talk on Art Theology by Bronagh at Holy Trinity Boar Lane, a 'Cake, Coffee and Conversation' event, and a Creativity Catalyst day retreat at Roscoe Methodist Church.

The Chair of Sanctuary continued its tour of venues around Leeds, including St Richard's Church in Seacroft, and a residence at Allerton CE Primary School. Bronagh is now working towards producing a case study of the chair as an example of effective creative pedagogies, in partnership with researchers at Leeds Beckett University.



## Faith and Racial Justice

In April we held the launch event of Churches Against Racism, which saw the Bishops, Pastors and Priests group (now called the Churches Against Racism Group) speak about their experiences of racism and racial justice work in Leeds communities.

Two monologues were commissioned for the event from Testament, which have since been turned into training resources for clergy in the Church of England, exploring the lived experience of everyday racism towards Black congregations and clergy in white-majority churches. They are available on YouTube, and between them have over 1000 views.

LCI contributed towards the Triennium Fund application by the Church of England Diocese of Leeds for Racial Justice work.



## Faith at the Margins

We ran a five-week online course on Disability Theology in partnership with Dr Charlotte Naylor Davies, and ran our second Disability Retreat at the St George's Centre. Both were valuable opportunities for Disabled Christians to connect and share experiences.

LCI supported the first ecumenical Leeds Pride Celebration Service at Leeds Minster, which drew 170 people in an act of inclusive worship. Our work with East Leeds Gathers continued in the first half of the year, including a prayer lunch during Lent, but was brought to an end in Summer 2024. The launch of the Leeds Lent Prayer Diary invited Liz Harden from Lighthouse and Andy Muckle from St George's Crypt as speakers on compassion in the city. The prayer diary project has now been handed over to LCCT.

# FINANCIALS

This is a summary of LCI's financial performance taken from the 2024 independently examined accounts of Leeds Church Institute (Incorporated). The full accounts are available on request.

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
<b>Income</b>	150,446	190,553
<b>Expenditure</b>	(383,318)	(445,667)
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	(232,872)	(255,114)
<b>Change in value of investment</b>	167,669	394,024
<b>Net Income / (Expenditure)</b>	(65,203)	138,910
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	6,175,264	6,240,467



A planned deficit was incurred in both 2023 and 2024 as LCI continued to implement its 5 year development plan. In 2024 there was an underspend compared to budget, largely due to the vacancy of the Director's role and the resulting pause in some activities. 2024 was a reasonably steady year for LCI's investments - the value of the investments increased and income from the investments continued at broadly the expected level.