



King's Church *Durham*

Building Community - Living for God

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If you'd like to know more about Kings Community Projects, do get in touch with us at the church office.

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Community Projects 2012





King's Church Community Projects

King's Church is a young and growing community church based in the heart of historic Durham. Kings Community Projects is an essential part of our church vision to participate in and contribute to our local community.

This year our volunteers gave over 6500 hours to community projects in and around Durham. That's everything from community fun days and street theatre to renovating gardens for the elderly and visiting the housebound.



We're not ashamed of the Christian foundation of our work: building community together is part of how we motivate and sustain our activities. And being part of an ongoing Christian community means we can draw on a pool of people with a range of expertise to support our work - a local doctor, a civil service administrator, someone who speaks another language or another who can teach clowning skills for a community fun day.



Kings works alongside other statutory and voluntary organisations to make our city a better place for all its people.



Kings Start-up Project

'Handcrafted' is a new start-up project providing a workshop to the community, it is:

- A place to learn and share skills and crafts.
- Equipping those in hardship to make something of which they can be proud.
- Carefully tailored to help each individual.

The project will serve the disadvantaged by equipping them with the necessary skills and providing support. The aim is to encourage and enable individuals to become active and positive members of society. Those lonely or excluded can be brought into a creative community. The wider community will also be served through the provision of affordable goods, repairs and services.

The initial focus will be woodwork, metalwork and white goods repair. As the project grows we will expand the range of crafts and skills that we offer.

History and Background

Handcrafted is born out of a desire to see people who are in distress due to crime, alcohol or substance abuse, unemployment, ill health or old age making a positive step and becoming an active member of the community again.

Mayor of Durham, Les Thomson

"...fully supportive of this project which should be of great benefit to the local community, providing as it does training in various skills for those who might not otherwise be able to access this. I wish everybody success in this enterprise"



Strategic Priorities

The economic downturn that has hit the private sector so hard recently will have a significant impact on public services in the next five years. National and local government are gearing up for stronger partnership with third sector organisations for the delivery of less essential local services. Strategic priorities include:



- **encouraging structured volunteering** amongst those not in employment, education and training and education (NEETS)
- **community building** with young people and older generations

The work we do with NEETS and older people is predominantly in the most deprived areas of the City

With experience in motivating and organising volunteers and in serving and networking older people Kings is in a good position to move into these areas.



Kings Internship Programme

Each year since 2005 we have taken University graduates and other young people for the 11-month Kings Internship Programme. So far nearly seventy 18-24 year olds have committed to this year of training and serving.

The Internship training programme includes a focus on developing leadership skills. All interns do community placements in local schools, high security prisons and third sector organisations. One organisation we work particularly closely with is Aquila Way (A project working predominantly with homeless young women) As a result of such placements each year we have a core of able volunteer leaders working regularly on the ground in the local community to support the involvement of other volunteers.



After leaving the programme Interns have entered many walks of life - including business, education, medicine, research, politics and the civil service. The Kings Internship is a particularly good route into the third sector, where organisations recognise the experience, gifts and passion of the skilled and motivated graduates we work with. Many stay in the North East afterwards and continue to serve and give back to the locality.

In 2011 we extended the programme into a second year so that those who want it can take further responsibility for leadership in their local communities.



Year In, Year Out, Year Round

Throughout the year volunteers give time to serve the local community through Kings Community Projects.

We've renovated a local park, provided community coffee mornings for those who don't get out much, help plant hundreds of new trees, run fun days, decorated houses, run a tots and toddlers group and detached youth work, organised sports for local kids, offered students a warm and safe place to sober up before making their way home late from the club, wrapped Christmas presents - all for the smile that it puts on people's faces.

All these and many more are a regular part of the community events programme.



The Orchard Cafe



The June Project

For the last five years Kings has organised a five day Summer community project called The June Project.



This year over 120 delegates, both residents and students, spent four days working in the local community predominantly in the most deprived areas. For Durham students this is a great chance to give something back to the North East before their Summer break. For some residents it gives them an opportunity try volunteering for the first time. Nearly everyone comes back the next year.

The June Project is expanding further into County Durham every year. Volunteers give over 700 hours to gardening projects alone, mainly for the disabled and elderly. But this is just a third of the total hours contributed by volunteers over the four days. All done with a smile.

The Northern Echo

