

# AGENDA FOR LEEDS

## From A Christian Perspective

# 2010



Leeds is looking to the future and drawing together a vision of what sort of city it wants to be.

Christians, both as individuals and as worshipping communities, are engaged in praying for the city, in caring for vulnerable people within the city, in challenging the power structures and in being alongside those with responsibility in the city. This agenda has been drawn from existing experience\*, alongside ongoing reflection and hopes for the future. It stands as a bridge for those who want to work with others on our common agenda and as a framework for the continuing contribution of Christian communities to the city.

### **Love your neighbour as yourself. *Mark 12:31***

In the city there are Christians who offer spaces and resources for activities such as parent and toddler groups, lunch clubs and dance groups.

This means that we value neighbourliness and those things that build community.

**We want to see a city that has strong local communities that are outward looking.**

### **God saw everything that he had made - and indeed it was very good. *Genesis 1:31***

In the city there are Christians who create green spaces and take part in environmental projects.

This means we value the earth which gives us resources for life.

**We want to see a city where environmental impact is taken seriously.**

**Those who oppress the poor insult their maker, but those who are kind to the needy honour him.** *Proverbs 14:31*

In the city there are Christians who campaign for a better deal for people who are marginalised both in the city and on national and international fronts.

This means that we recognise the resources of our world are not fairly shared.

**We want to see a city that recognises the injustices in our city and in our world and works to create a fairer world.**

**Since there will never cease to be someone in need on the earth, I therefore command you, Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land.** *Deuteronomy 15:11*

In the city there are Christians who work with those who are in debt and struggling with financial issues.

This means we take seriously the place of money in our society.

**We want to see a city where the global and local economic factors are taken into account and social wellbeing is a measure of economic success.**

**Who is my neighbour?** *Luke 10:29*

In the city there are Christians who participate in many different volunteering activities from schools to charity shops, from environmental clean ups to community cafes.

This means that we recognise our responsibility to contribute to the society in which we live and work.

**We want to see a city where our mutual interdependence is recognised.**

**Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.**

*Hebrews 13:2*

In the city there are Christians who work with people seeking asylum and refugees to offer friendship, practical and moral support.

This means that we value the stranger, we respond to those in need and we challenge the status quo where it is wrong.

**We want to see a city that embraces diversity and challenges injustice.**

**What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?** *Micah 6:8*

In the city there are Christians who work with other people of faith and people of no faith on areas of shared passion and common concern.

This means that we recognise everyone has a contribution to make to the common life of the city.

**We want to see a city where all are valued for their contribution and the distinctiveness of each group or individual is respected.**

**And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.** *Zechariah 8:5*

In the city there are Christians who work with children and young people, both to offer opportunities for growth and development and to protect and sometimes rescue young people from the pitfalls of life.

This means that we recognise the value children and young people bring to our city and recognise their need for support as they grow into adults.

**We want to see a city that is safe for children and young people to grow and develop and recognises its responsibility to marginalised young people.**

**Show respect for old people and honour them.**

*Leviticus 19:32*

In the city there are Christians who work with older people through friendship groups, day care services and visiting schemes.

This means that we recognise the gifts older people have given and can still give to our society and recognise our responsibility to care for those who are isolated because of their age.

**We want to see a city that uses the strengths and wisdom of older people and shows respect and compassion for those who are becoming more fragile with age.**



This document has been drawn together by Kathryn Fitzsimons on behalf of Leeds Churches Together in Mission (LCTiM) November 2010

*\*This builds on the research for Faithful Capital (LCTiM, 2007). It draws on conversations and focus groups at various events during 2009, including Leeds Faiths Forum Environment Conference (15.03.09), Bringing People Together (T4P, May 09), Finding God in the City (LCTiM, LCI and Transform, 21.09.09) and the Leeds Summit (T4P, 21.11.09).*

For more information, to give feedback or engage in dialogue with us email [info@leedschurchestogether.org.uk](mailto:info@leedschurchestogether.org.uk) or visit [www.leedschurchestogether.org.uk](http://www.leedschurchestogether.org.uk)