



## Press Release

7 October 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### St George's Crypt launch new book to celebrate 85<sup>th</sup> birthday

A prestigious celebration event is to be held to mark the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St George's Crypt ('the Crypt'), a homeless charity which changes and saves lives, and will take place at Leeds Civic Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 6.00pm. The event is taking place during the same week as World Homeless Day (10<sup>th</sup> October).

The evening will be opened by Tom Riordan, CEO of Leeds City Council, and Chris Fields, CEO of the Crypt, who will share their thoughts on the role of the Crypt, and some of the history behind their unique work. The evening includes the launch of their new book, 'Entertaining More Angels'.

The book which aims to challenge the traditional image of a homeless resident was a collaboration between the Crypt, Biskit and students and staff from Leeds College of Art's masters programme and BA (Hons) photography, illustration, fashion, and visual communication programmes. It contains a beautiful selection of photographs, interviews and illustrations about the lives of those connected with the Crypt. Signed copies of the book will be available to purchase on the evening.

To book a free ticket to the launch event, which is open to the public, visit their Eventbrite page [here](#) or pop in to St George's Crypt.

**Chris Fields, CEO of St George's Crypt said:**

"Although the Crypt has been helping the homeless and vulnerable for 85 years, the book will aim to challenge the stereotype of a homeless resident, as the reasons people use the Crypt today are different to what they were 85 years ago. It can just take one month for someone to slip from having nothing and it can happen to any of us. The need is greater than ever and we now operate 24-7 365 days of the year, offering a multi-layered and diverse system of support, care and most importantly Christian love."

**BA (Hons) Visual Communication student at Leeds College of Art, Monica Merino Said:**

“Working on this publication with St George’s Crypt has been an emotional journey. Homelessness is a real issue globally, not just in Leeds. However, it is a subject full of misconceptions and assumptions; I know this because of this project. I have loved being a part of this publication and having been given a chance to shape this book into a powerful message.”

### **Editor’s Notes**

For more information, images or to arrange interviews contact: Emma Morris, PR & Communications Officer, 0113 202 8044 or [emma.morris@leeds-art.ac.uk](mailto:emma.morris@leeds-art.ac.uk)

<http://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/>

On the evening light canapés and refreshments will be provided by Nurture and there will also be an opportunity to hear about the making of the book, and see some of the photos and interviews on display in the Banquet Hall.

Since 1930, the Crypt has been caring for people all of backgrounds, ages and faiths, often from the very margins of society.

The book ‘Entertaining More Angels’ is a sequel to ‘Entertaining Angels’ published ten years ago, will give a voice to the residents, staff, volunteers, trainers and benefactors who make up the Crypt community.

<http://www.stgeorgescrypt.org.uk/charity/>

Ed Ryder from Biskit was the Project Manager of the book.

Biskit is an Otley based marketing and design agency, working with clients on innovative branding and strategy projects across the UK.

<http://www.biskit.co.uk/>

Key contributors to the project from Leeds College of Art:-

#### Students

George Addy - BA (Hons) Illustration  
Joe Hawkins - BA (Hons) Illustration  
Rebecca Hickman - BA (Hons) Photography  
Monica Merino - BA (Hons) Visual Communication  
Catherine Morgan - BA (Hons) Fashion  
Ailsa Read - MA Creative Practice

#### Staff

Martell Baines - Progression manager  
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