



DIOCESE OF HEXHAM &
NEWCASTLE

CARITAS HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE FUND GRANT REPORT

Name of Group: St Aidan's Community Allotment

Name of Contact: Anna Armstrong

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Email address: aarmstrong@staca.co.uk

Date & Amount of Grant Awarded: £2,400

What did you want the grant for?

We applied for funding to help us start the community allotment. In response to the environmental crisis as well as the impact of the pandemic, we wanted to create a safe space for the community to enjoy and instil within people the duty of stewardship. As well as this, we wanted to grow produce to support those in need and to become sustainable. We are committed to three Sustainable Development Goals (Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-Being and Action on Climate Change). We wanted to create a space that would benefit people's mental well-being and allow our community to interact with creation and nature.

What did you do with the grant awarded?

We initially planned to purchasing a shed and a fence but due to the cost we decided to take on a more practical route and purchase things that will allow us to begin growing. We used the money to complete our two polytunnels (we received funding for those from the National Lottery). We purchased raised beds for the polytunnels and potting benches.

What impact has your project made (*what difference has it made to the mission of the Church in your community? If you are able to include some data giving an idea of how many people were helped etc, that would be very welcome*).

We now have two large polytunnels with potting benches and raised beds inside. We also have 10 raised beds outside for vegetables and ten raised beds for flowers.

The pupils from the well-being group have been working hard to sow and plant various produce; so far this year, we have onions, broad beans, garlic and carrots which are beautifully growing outside (last year, we grew onions, carrots, potatoes and tomatoes which were donated to St. Mary's Open House in Sunderland).

As well as this, we have introduced growing produce in classrooms! Ten form groups so far are looking after chilli and tomato plants, as well as herbs such as parsley. The pupils are very enthusiastic and some have even named their plants!

As spring approaches, and the weather becomes better each day, we will be inviting the residents of the local care who helped with the gardening last year to attend our enrichment sessions and help us garden.

Our next steps are to build strong relationships with local nurseries and primary schools in hope to invite younger pupils to attend some of our gardening sessions which will be led by the well-being group. We hope to inspire our future generations to care for our creation responsibly. We want to



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reuse materials where possible; our well-being group are currently working on creating a mud-kitchen for our youngest gardeners!

By working with the local community, we want to promote cross-generational relationships and allow each member of the community to have a sense of purpose, feel valued and make a difference.

Signed: A. Armstrong

Date: 02.03.2023

