

Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)

OUTLOOK

April 2019



**CHRIST IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!**

**Please worship with us:
Sunday Morning at 10.45am
Thursday Evening at 7.30pm**

<http://stainbeckurc.org.uk>



Dear Friends,

Bad things happen to good people. The rain falls on the just and unjust – life simply ‘isn’t fair’! Last week’s Gospel reading (Luke 13:1-9) made that very point. We may look for someone to blame but of course tragedies need not be directly caused by human hand.

In any one week it is not difficult to identify tragic news stories and often stories close at hand that are just as tragic but will never make the news headlines. I believe that how we convey such news and how we respond tells us more about us than it does about the story in the news.

In the Gospel reading we may recognise that the tendency for many to blame the Roman authorities or to see every disaster as judgement from God led to the Jewish rebellion against Rome and the destruction of Jerusalem a generation later. It was a bitter harvest of a particular mindset.

Likewise, if our thought is to find someone to blame, rather than standing alongside the victim, then perhaps we too, need to repent, or change our mindset (which is what repentance means).

Our mindset will produce a harvest in keeping with its nature.

G.K. Chesterton famously contributed to a long-running correspondence in a London newspaper on the subject of ‘*what is wrong with the world?*’ with the simple response, ‘*Dear Sir, I am.*’

Food for thought in this Season of Lent as we look towards Easter. Bad things happen. After the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004, the people of Thailand’s answer to this was, ‘*Yes. But when bad things happen we work to bring good from them.*’ And my mind turns to our Easter faith and the deep Christian hope we hold.

In the words of one of our Easter hymns:

‘Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green’ (R&S 243)

We have good news to share – light is stronger than darkness – death is overcome! Do not be afraid!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Where there is tender care and love, God is present

We think of all those, who have on-going health issues or who are struggling in other ways, who come and go through our building: you are remembered – **God loves you all.**

We continue to pray every Thursday evening for those in need to which all are welcome to join us. (7.30-8.00 pm).

HERE AND THERE

Looking back.....

There was a well-attended and lively **Synod Meeting** held in Mold Green, Huddersfield. In particular an interesting and thought-provoking presentation by the past Assembly Moderator, Alan Yates. Alan, co-moderator with Kevin Watson, was / is a strategist – and we look forward to sharing some of his thinking with you.

For their March meeting the **After Eight's** were delighted to welcome **Matthew Bellwood** again to bewitch us with his story telling. What a gifted man he is – he even led us in singing one or two sea shanties.

Thank you to him, and to Sandra for organising the evening.

The recent **Mission and Care Group** met in the bright and friendly Armley Church. The photo shows a few of us, including Wesley Bear. Wesley, it seems, keeps an eye on all activities!



Jacob Lowe showed us a short video of the Youth Assembly held in Staffordshire – it looked like fun!

The M & C Group is investigating the possibility of joining Leeds Citizens as a group of churches.

We heard of the progress of the process to appoint a new Moderator to replace Revd Kevin Watson who is due to retire in 2020. A new profile of all the churches in Yorkshire Synod is being put together. Any thoughts on the gifts needed by our new Moderator will be welcomed. Please talk to Angela or an Elder.

Alex Walker agreed to organise another prayer walk between our Partner churches. He will forward details as they become available.

Also at these meetings the Revd Claire Davison reports on her work as Mission Enabler for the **Leeds Partnership**. It is important for us to remember that increasingly our life and witness will be supported through this Partnership. Mission and Care meetings give us the opportunity to get to know and support one another in our journey of faith. #together we can.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday May 7th** at **Trinity United (URC/Methodist), Roundhay Road** Not far away. Do please consider attending. Lifts are always available.

Looking forward

More from the After Eight's who invite you (on Wednesday April 17th) to another evening of *Darts and Dominoes* with light refreshments [nibbles].

This is always a popular, fun evening. Everyone is welcome so bring a friend! Please let Doreen or Sandra know that you intend to take part in the fun, so that teams and partners can be planned which ensures all can run smoothly.

Have you booked your place at the **Yorkshire Assembly** as the Spa in Scarborough on Wednesday May 8th?

This is an opportunity to get together and celebrate with URC friends from across the county. See the poster in the Café Room for further information. Enjoy a day at the coast. Avril is taking orders for lunches. Talk to her or to Ann if you want to join them for this interesting, inspiring and entertaining day out.



Ladies and gents, this is the moment you've waited for...

Our Greatest Showman themed party is opening its doors at Stainbeck Church on Friday 5th April 2pm-5pm to young people aged 5-14.

Get ready to show off your dance moves, sing along to your favourite songs and play loads of circus games.

It's everything you ever want, it's everything you ever need.

And it's here right in front of you.

This is where you wanna be!

Please let us know if you would like your child to attend this event:
vanessa@interact.uk.net; 07961535767

Brought to us by [Fall Into Place](#), and funded by the Inner North East Community Committee

Elder for April – Sandra Smith

DIARY FOR APRIL

Mon	1 st	10.30-1.45	Lunch Club
Thu	4 th	11-2pm	Community Café with Family Solutions
		12.30-2.30	Make ‘n’ Do with children’s activities
		7.30pm	Midweek Worship with Prayers for the Community led by Stainbeck
Fri	5 th	2-5pm	The Greatest Party (see above)
Sun	7 th	10.45am	Morning Worship for Lent 5 led by Anne Parker - Elder at South Leeds URC.
Mon	8 th	10.30-1.45	Lunch Club
Thu	11 th	11-2pm	Community Café with Family Solutions
		12.30-2.30	Make ‘n’ Do with children’s activities
		7.30pm	Midweek Worship for all
Sun	14 th	10.45am	Morning Worship for Palm Sunday with Holy Communion led by The Minister
		3.30-5.30	Messy Church at Chapel Allerton Methodist Centre – Families welcome
Mon	15 th	10.30-1.45	Lunch Club
Wed	17 th	8.00pm	After 8’s Darts and Dominoes – All Welcome
Thu	18 th	11-2pm	Community Café with Family Solutions
		12.30-2.30	Make ‘n’ Do
		7.30pm	Communion round the Table for Maundy Thursday
Fri	19 th	11.00am	Good Friday Walk of Witness from Holy Trinity to Stainbeck where we will share in fellowship and Hot Cross Buns.
		9.00pm	Tenebrae Service of Shadows at Stainbeck
Sun	21 st	9.00am	Easter Communion
		9.30am	Easter Breakfast – open to all
		10.45am	Easter Celebrations to include the reception into membership of Revd Samantha Sheehan – All welcome
Mon	22 nd	10.30-1.45	Lunch Club Closed
Tue	23 rd	7.30pm	Elders’ Meeting

Thu	25 th	11-2pm	Community Café with Family Solutions
		12.30-2.30	Make 'n' Do
		7.30pm	Midweek Worship for all
Sun	28 th	10.45am	Morning Worship led by The Minister – Preacher Peter McEvoy – Spiritual Care Manager at St Gemma's Hospice
Mon	29 th	10.30-1.45	Lunch Club

*Charity for April is People in Action
(A local charity for people with learning difficulties)*
www.peopleinaction.org.uk

DIARY FOR MAY

Sun 5th 10.45am Morning Worship led by Revd Samantha Sheehan (University Chaplaincy Team and Generation Y Ministry)

Transport: if you require any transport to church or for any other event, please contact your Elder or, on a Sunday morning, telephone the church (2370251) or the Minister (07752904317) and leave a message.



Our Easter Journey

On **Palm Sunday** (April 14th) Jesus and his disciples turn towards Jerusalem to share the Passover Festival. On **Maundy Thursday** (7.30pm) we share bread and wine around the Table – remembering Jesus' last meal with his disciples.



Then at our **Good Friday Tenebrae** (9.00 pm) we reflect on the Passion Story. As the lights go out one by one we leave in darkness to await the returning light of Sunday morning. Finally on **Easter morning** we rejoice in a risen Lord as we celebrate **Communion** at 9.00am followed by an **Easter breakfast** and a **Family Celebration** at 10.45 am.



You are invited to **bring a flower** with you to decorate our Easter Cross. A Cross for you and for me. A Cross for the world! Good News indeed!

Many opportunities to remember this story which is at the heart of our faith. It is a week in which we are taken on a roller coaster of emotions – from joy to deep sorrow and back to joy. Here is life as we know it – joys and sorrows intertwined. How much we need to

know the deep abiding hope of Easter morning.

Also on Good Friday churches in Meanwood are planning another Good Friday **Walk of Witness** which will leave Holy Trinity Church at 11.00 am reaching Stainbeck at mid-day for hot cross buns and fellowship. There are two prayers along the way ending on the steps of Stainbeck before we go in for refreshments.



All are invited to join us.



We were sad to say ‘good bye and thank you’ to the **Beehive** shop which has provided fairly traded goods, coffee, cake and conversation for many years in their friendly shop in Potternewton Lane. But of course the work goes on.

Choose Fairtrade

When we see people both here and abroad struggling to make a living, it’s easy to feel helpless - what can **I do?** It’s the system.



When we see big corporations *eg* Del Monte, multinational chocolate firms, the Big Six tea companies, and big coffee chains make huge profits and directors getting ridiculous salaries, we feel it’s unfair. Often small farmers and companies are pressed too hard, only offered minimal payments for their produce, which they often have to accept because they have no other choice.

Fairtrade certified companies will offer a guaranteed minimum price which is equal too, or above the world commodity price. They also pay a Social Premium *eg* 2 dollars on every box of bananas, or grapes. The community (often a Cooperative) choose what to spend it on such as a day nursery for small children, a piece of machinery, a minibus, a weekly health clinic.

People are not getting charity. They are working their way out of poverty.

There are lots of things with the **Fairtrade Logo** – not just the usual ones. Look for spices, pineapples, honey, olive oil, sugar, peanut butter, rice and pasta hand-made crafts such as greetings cards, recycled tyre flower planters, games, toys, clothing .. to name but a few.

Fairtrade is not just Traidcraft. To get the Fairtrade Mark, the Fairtrade Foundation certify these products, and check them. Good working conditions and no child exploitation are insisted on – I saw this for myself in South Africa. It really works. It’s great to see people flourishing.

A few pence more makes a great difference. *It’s a hand across the oceans.*

Be a Fairtrade Logo Hunter
Choose to buy Fairtrade

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY

On 14th March (see Reflections below), we went to see the kitchen at the URC/Methodist church in the middle of Ilkley. I was not impressed by the kitchen, but intrigued and encouraged by an article in the church magazine, 'Wider Horizons'. The line '*Early Christianity was not a belief system but a way of being*' echoed what I'd been thinking recently. But Steve Amos concluded his notes on what Robin Meyer said by reflecting that for progressive Christians 'religion can be in our heads and not our hearts – we need to 'do'. Try these:

- **Act graciously**
- **Respect everyone**
- **Grow a garden and get in touch with our planet**
- **Violence is the scourge of humanity**
- **Be humble – walk lightly through your day**
- **Leave places, people and things better than you found them**
- **Don't litter**
- **Don't cheat**
- **No-one is self-made, however appealing an idea that is**
- **Give everyone the benefit of the doubt**
- **Don't let atheists bother you – I don't believe in the God they don't believe in either**
- **Believe in the 'transrational' – the 'more' that can be known**
- **We all need a beloved community and sacred space**
- **Preaching must be biblically responsive, intellectually honest, emotionally satisfying and socially significant.**

I hope there is something in the above that challenges you, as it does me, to 'be' more like Jesus every day. *PLC*

*As a church we are currently focusing on Andrew Robert's book '**Holy Habits**'. We all have habits some of which we have held for many years, maybe even inherited from our parents, many which we can't explain. Maybe as we reflect the 'habits' which help us to live well, we should also consider those which are unhelpful to ourselves and others? More food for thought? Eds*

REFLECTIONS

10th February 4.30pm Sun and blue sky on my Eccup walk today, and much to reflect on. An article in the NS, (Estonia 2016: ‘Brexit seemed from there to be a crime against humanity’), is written, from a cynical Romania, on the smaller picture of the European project as being simply about the single market, and contrasts the four freedoms across a disparate continent, of freedom of movement of goods, capital, services, and labour, with those of Roosevelt in 1941, freedom of speech, of worship, from want, from fear.

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul talks, in a society divided by control of wealth, power, and prestige, with poverty, hunger, and debt exploited, of a time, ‘when every ruler, and every authority and power’ will be destroyed. Resurrection is the key, but not of the body. ‘We will not all die, but we will all be changed’ (vs. 51). Speaking personally, ‘by the grace of God I am what I am’ (vs 10), I can’t help wishing, praying even, and hoping, that the spiritual presence of Jesus Christ would sweep across the world, and, for the sake of the young, bring peace, joy, hope, and love.

21st February 2pm Headline in the Daily Telegraph: Churches Can Scrap Sunday Services. Now that would need a Resolution!

28th February 11.30am The funeral of an old friend from the pharmacy. A Humanist funeral. Memories instead of prayers. Perfect in every way, from the laughter outside, to the memories inside, except that it lacked hope.

3rd March 1.58pm Tim, from Roundhay: go to the ‘top of the mountain’, (or whatever works for you), for your experience of God, but then come down to ordinary life to carry that awareness of God with you.

6th March 8.25am ‘Our Mathematical Universe’ is a book Jasmine has picked up for her Gareth, currently in Hartlepool, who suggested I might read it before she next goes up to see him. It’s a flight through the stratosphere of cosmology to the Level 1V Multiverse, the ultimate nature of reality, according to Max Tegmark. He shows how reality is best understood in terms of Mathematical Universe Hypothesis, everything that exists as a mathematical structure, and parallel universes are a prediction of this theory. There are mathematical patterns

everywhere. The book ends on a moral note. Over the next million years, life, existing only on Earth at this time, could fill the Universe...but only if we don't destroy it first.

9th March 11.46pm To be or not to be? 'The dread of something after death?' Hamlet's fears...from a different era?

14th March 10.14pm The Sermon on the Mount: not a single word about beliefs – it's all about what to do, how to be. AD 325 Nicene Creed: not a single word about what to do, but instead what to believe. Steve Amos, Ilkley URC on 'Saving Jesus from the Church' by Rev. Dr. Robin Meyer.

15th March 9.42am Years ago, I had a line to say in a play which included the word 'bourn'. I looked it up...a boundary, a limit. It came to mind after I arranged to meet Alan Bourne, at St. Paul's, Harrogate. Then we went to see Hamlet at the Playhouse, an illuminating production. I listened out for the word but didn't hear it. And last night, after we'd been welcomed to St. Paul's, and discussed dishwashers at great length with Alan and his wife, I turned the page on Anthony Powell's novel, volume 10, and found the line quoted: 'The undiscovered country from whose bourn No fellow-traveller returns, puzzles the will? There are patterns everywhere!'

19th March 9.25am Both Joan and I had a hymn in our minds, waking at 4am this morning. Turned out to be two different lines from the song 'Bless the Lord O my soul', brilliantly led by 'the band' on Sunday. The classic hymns which are capable of moving us often have words from a different era of belief. Modern hymns sometimes try to put too much into words, draining the music of emotional content. But 'Bless the Lord' has relevant words, in some ways traditional, which, when put to music with a contemporary sound, create a song the singing of which is inevitably 'with feeling'. Perhaps that is partly because of its truth. To 'bless the Lord' isn't something to be done intellectually, or even over emotionally, but something which just happens, by the grace of God, when we allow our deepest sense of being, our soul if you like, the freedom to be open to that which is beyond. **PLC**

Views expressed by individuals are personal and not necessarily those of Stainbeck Church.

Revd Angela Hughes, Minister: 0113 2669985

Avril and Brian Bellwood, Church Secretaries: 0113 293 5847