



Dear Friends,

Life seemed very dark for those close friends of Jesus on that first Easter morning. In fact, as I reflect, the anxiety continued for those who waited in the locked Upper Room in the weeks that followed; for the two friends who walked along the Emmaus Road that night; for the fishermen who had returned to their nets and fishing.

And yet didn't they *know* that Jesus had been raised from death? Hadn't they seen him? Eaten with him? Talked with him? What was going on here?

And I pondered how, in the midst of the turmoil of everyday life, the reality of the divine can seem hidden to us. We proclaim ourselves as Easter people.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

And yet how easy it is to forget that 'Easter changes everything'. We are not alone. The God that we know in Jesus walks with us. Goodness really is stronger than evil; light is stronger than darkness; love is stronger than hate; life is stronger than death.

As we move through these 50 GREAT DAYS of EASTER, bearing our own burdens and dashed hopes, this is a timely reminder. God IS with us – nearer than we imagine.

Whether it is individuals seeking to overcome illness or to hold onto jobs, the pain of bereavement or family breakdown, or governments seeking to find unity and stability, the pressure never diminishes.

And yet my mind moves on to PENTECOST.

The God that we know in Jesus meets us at our point of deepest need. Encouragement, comfort, courage, confidence – your need and mine – and above all that peace which is God's gift to us all.



The Lord is here! His Spirit is with us!

Thanks be to God.

Angela

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Easter blessings to all friends – near and far.

Where there is tender care and love, God is present.

It is with sadness that we record the sudden death of **Colin Smith**. We assure **Sandra** and the family of our continuing prayers, love and support following their bereavement.

Also, 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**.



A happy event for Stainbeck when **Revd Samantha Sheehan**, was accepted into membership on Easter Sunday. Our prayerful support for her, and for her husband Peter, as they discover the delights of life in Leeds! We look forward to welcoming Samantha as she leads worship on Sunday 5th May.

Congratulations to **Christine and Roger Robson** who celebrated their Golden Wedding in April. Thank you for the lovely cake!



Congratulations and Best Wishes go to **Joshua Taylor and Sarah Gill** on the occasion of their marriage on Saturday 18th May 2019. Joshua is the son of Judith Taylor and grandson of Doreen and Gerald Elliff.

We have received news of **Shirley Haines**, former Elder, treasurer and organist who regularly follows news of Stainbeck and sends her good wishes to any who remember her. It is now 19 years since Shirley moved to Dumfries and she was delighted to tell me that the peace plant we gave her as she went is still in good health!

Also good wishes, love and prayers sent to us all from **Dorothy Green** who moved to Filey and is currently living in Thornton-le-dale.

HERE AND THERE

Looking back.....

Thank you to everyone who supported the annual Churches Together **Lent Soup Evening** at the end of March in any way at all. Another happy evening of conversation, of hearing of how three Leeds based organisations support those in need.

Following the breakdown of the heating and a very cold church we did briefly think the evening (and the soup) may have to be relocated but, thanks to some careful planning and the loan of some radiators, we were able to go ahead. Particular thanks are due to Peter Craske who has had, together with the Property Committee, a very busy month.

What a wonderful celebration of **Easter** we shared!

Some of us were at the Riding Lights moving and powerful performance of '**The Narrow Road**' pictures of which certainly remained in my head as we heard the story of the Passion throughout Holy week.

It was good to be a part of the Easter **prayer spaces** initiative at St Matthew's when in two days the whole school were led through 10 prayer stations each telling a part of the story with an accompanying thought-provoking activity for the children. There were some amazing responses from the children.

Then our shared **Communion** around the table on **Maundy Thursday** – and what a difference it does make to actually serve each other with the bread and the wine as we sit around a table.

On **Good Friday** morning a number of us from churches in Meanwood took a **Walk of Witness** from Holy Trinity to Stainbeck, this year in beautiful sunshine. In the evening we shared in the **Tenebrae** service of shadows leaving the church in darkness to contemplate the pain and cost of the day.



Easter day dawned with glorious sunshine and the bluest of skies.

‘Christ is Risen,’ we greeted each other ‘He is risen indeed!’ Alleluia!

Communion – breakfast – celebration!

During the course of our worship it was a joy to welcome into membership Revd Samantha Sheehan. This was truly a wonderful day of smiling faces and shared joy and celebration.



Many thanks are due to all those many women and men who once again shared in marking this, the great festival of our Christian year.



Our prayers that we may have renewed confidence to take the living Christ out into the world.

Elder for May – Avril Bellwood

DIARY FOR MAY

Thu	2 nd	11-2pm	Community Café with Family Solutions
		12.30-2.30	Make 'n' Do
		7.30pm	Midweek Worship with Prayers for the Community led by Vanessa
Sun	5 th	10.45am	Morning Worship led by Revd Samantha Sheehan (University Chaplaincy Team and Generation Y Ministry)
Mon	6 th	10.30-1.45	<i>Lunch Club Closed</i>
Tue	7 th	7 for 7.30	Mission and Care Group meet at Trinity United (Roundhay Road) – All Welcome

Yorkshire Assembly at the Spa Scarborough

Wednesday 8th May 11.30-4.00 p.m.

Thu	9 th	11-2pm	Community Café with Family Solutions
		12.30-2.30	Make 'n' Do
		7.30pm	Midweek Worship for all

Christian Aid Week

Sunday 12th May to Sunday 19th May

Sun	12 th	10.45am	Morning Worship for Christian Aid led by the Minister with Holy Communion.
Mon	13 th	10.30-1.45	Lunch Club
Wed	15 th		After 8's Summer Walk led by Sheila Ryan
Thu	16 th	11-2pm	Community Café with Family Solutions
		12.30-2.30	Make 'n' Do
		7.30pm	Midweek Worship for all
<i>Sun</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>10.45am</i>	<i>Morning Worship for Anniversary Sunday led by the Minister. This will be followed by a faith lunch. All welcome. 88 years!</i>
			This Sunday because of Leeds Half-Marathon
Mon	20 th	10.30-1.45	Lunch Club
Thu	23 rd	11-2pm	Community Café with Family Solutions
		12.30-2.30	Make 'n' Do
		7.30pm	Midweek Worship for all

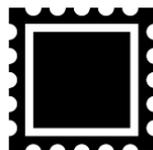
Sun	26th	10.45am	Morning Worship led by the Minister and will include the Baptism of Gino Bennett
Mon	27 th	10.30-1.45	<i>Lunch Club Closed</i>
Tue	28 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Thu	30 th	11-2pm	Community Café with Family Solutions
		12.30-2.30	Make 'n' Do
		7.30pm	Midweek Worship for all

Charity in May is CHRISTIAN AID
(Working to bring an end to poverty around the World)
www.christianaid.org.uk

DIARY FOR JUNE

Sun 2nd 10.45am Morning Worship led by a member from Chapel A Baptist Church

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.



Ann Coates would like to thank all those who have collected stamps in support of the **RNIB**. She was delighted to discover the box in Church already just about full and so has posted off the first collection.

Looking forward.....

Everyone is again invited to the next **Mission and Care** meeting, to be held at Trinity United Church on Roundhay Road. This is the time when all the churches in **Leeds Partnership** come together to learn more about each other and to build relationships. It was good to have the Revd Clare Davison, Mission Enabler to the Partnership, join us for worship recently bringing with her a candle received at her induction.



Christian Aid Week 2019: 12th-18th May

Last year you helped to raise £8,000,000 to help fight poverty. Thank you very much.

Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mother. This year Christian Aid are focusing on helping mothers to give birth safely by building health clinics to provide a safe place to give birth and the care new mums and babies need.

One of the ways you can help with this work is to do a house-to-house collection, in your road or a road near to the church.

All the Christian Aid envelopes which you deliver this year offer the options of giving on-line or by text. A new type of envelope this year has the option for the deliverer to tick that they will not be back to collect the envelope and for the recipient to put it in the church letterbox. (Stainbeck's is currently at the left-hand side of our back door!)

If you would like to help, you can choose either

- to deliver envelopes which you return to collect later in the week,
- or deliver envelopes which the householder can post to church or donate on-line.

If you are able to give some time in the week of 12th-18th May to do a house-to-house envelope delivery that would be great.

Also please note that **Chapel Allerton Methodist Church** are hosting a **BIG BREKKIE** event in the Methodist Community Centre (Lounge) on **Saturday 11th May from 9.30am – 12.30pm** for Christian Aid. There will also be a book stall in aid of Christian Aid. Everyone warmly invited.

If you are able to help in any way please talk to me or to your Elder.

Helen Booth

REFLECTIONS

28th March 1.35pm Outside in the sun. A cool breeze reminds me of one or two holiday moments, looking for suntraps, or ‘bothies’, in Fuerteventura, circular, low, stone walls, to shelter from the strong (‘fuerte’) winds. A ‘bothy’ is found on the beach, far from being a mountain refuge in Scotland, but the word always seemed appropriate.

31st March 11.03pm At St. Andrew’s, Roundhay, for the Elders’ Conference, addressed by Andrew Roberts, author of ‘Holy Habits’, ten stations had been set out relating to the ten Holy Habits, which Andrew had derived from Acts 2: 42-47. The book is described as ‘a call to Christian discipleship’. For me, the most significant line from the passage is that ‘they had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need’, but this early form of utopian socialism seems too far removed from the life of the typical Elder, and its elision into the word ‘sharing’ hardly seems adequate.

The other obvious point made by the stations was that half of them clearly related to religion: worship, biblical teaching, prayer, the breaking of bread, and making more disciples. The other half seemed appropriate to family, friends, and fellowship: serving, eating together, generosity and gladness, fellowship itself, and sharing (in the book, giving, familiar to all grandparents!). Now, whilst ‘habit’ is helpful in friendship – the habit of keeping in touch, or religion – the habit of going to church, it seems to me that we need something more enlivening, more creative, more disruptive even, as we think about our holy habits, a bit like the advent of grandchildren in a family. To be fair, the book is full of such ideas.

13th April 4.03pm Reviewers are important. Rachel Cooke, reviewing television for the NS, is one with whom I broadly agree, but who is able to tell me exactly why I agree. I probably wouldn’t have watched Fleabag on BBC Three without her review of the first series, which she now describes as a ‘scabrous comedy’. It was very funny. Not so funny, though it has its laugh out loud moments, is the second and final series,

now described by Rachel as ‘filthy philosophy’. She devotes almost half a column to quote one speech which ‘covers the strange and sometimes paralysing vertigo that is born of freedom like a bell jar’. Life is full of ‘doubts and missteps and so-called choices’. *What should we do?* The Catholic priest (they fall in love) is a ‘metaphor not a man’. The Rolling Stones ‘you can’t always get what you want’ survives as the ‘impossibility of having everything that you want’. And for Fleabag, ‘it’s the way with life, with men, and with religion’

16th April 11.40pm Moortown Baptist Church. The Riding Lights Theatre Company. The acting and music was good, and I wanted it to work, but, for me, ‘The Narrow Road’ didn’t. Perhaps it was too narrow?

17th April 7.02pm At the Elders’ Conference, I bought a copy of Bonhoeffer’s ‘The Cost of Discipleship’, which makes me think I’ve never actually been a Christian, so uncompromising is his analysis of the Sermon on the Mount. Obedience to the Call separates the disciple from the world. ‘If we love God, we hate the world; and if we love the world, we hate God’. The book was published in 1937, eight years before Bonhoeffer was executed for being part of a plot to assassinate Hitler. In a letter, smuggled out of prison in 1944, he wrote ‘Today I can see the dangers of this book’. Perhaps it was too starkly black and white.

21st April 6.51pm In a chapter headed ‘Holy Habitats’, Andrew Roberts quotes from Bonhoeffer about the quality of shared life in a Christian community ‘that by its life communicates the gospel’. Five ministries are essential: Holding one’s tongue; Meekness; Listening; Helpfulness; Bearing with others individuality, weaknesses, and oddities. That’s more like it!

22nd April 7.36am Jacob Burda, lecturer in literature and philosophy, moved to Los Angeles, by the sea, and felt ‘as though I can expand my mind, be creative. I feel as if the narrowness of life is taken away’ Could the same be true of Lanzarote? I hope so, even though we’ll be taking the plans for installing the lift and kitchen, and hirer’s calendar with us!

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

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