

Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)

OUTLOOK

June 2019



All over the world God's Spirit is moving

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

<http://stainbeckurc.org.uk>

JUNE 2019



Dear Friends,

There are FIFTY great days of EASTER before we reach the festival of PENTECOST. The coming of God's Spirit among us – comforting, sustaining, healing, encouraging and above all equipping us to be followers and disciples of Jesus today. However it is for us just now:

The LORD is here!
His Spirit is with us!

Bereaved, alone, anxious, afraid – overwhelmed, confused, frustrated, apathetic – in good health or unwell, young or old - excited, joyful, thankful, confident – however it is for you today, however it is for me – God IS with us.

Whether we favour that quiet breath of peace described in the Gospel account by John when the Risen Christ appears in that Upper Room: *'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'* (John 20: 21); or whether we rejoice in the exhilarating and empowering wind and fire described by Luke in Acts (Acts 2:1-4), there is no escaping the dramatic change in those frightened men and women. Transformed they proclaimed the Gospel Good News with conviction and faith. They shared their experience of the Risen Christ. This is how it is for me. Listen – this gift is also for you.

In a world where life seems increasingly chaotic and complex we all need to find that quiet still place where we can refocus, quieten our minds and regain our perspective; where we can acknowledge our pain, admit our mistakes, receive forgiveness and a new strength and resolve for the future.

Too simplistic? Well yes and no. Because my guess is that wherever our explorations take us we will be drawn back to this amazing mystery of the God that we know as Father, Son and Spirit. The God who made us, the God who walks with us, the God who sustains us. This Pentecost may we be open to recognise him.

In love and peace, Angela

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Where there is tender care and love, God is present

Sadly, we record the death of **Ken Craven** who died on Sunday 19th May. We remember **Brenda**, who has not been well herself and their family, in our prayers. A celebration of Ken's life will be held in Church on Friday, 7th June, at 12.45pm.

We remember also members of our Lunch Club who are struggling with health issues and are unable to attend.

And now some congratulations!

- to **Pamela McFetridge** who celebrated one of those '0' birthdays in May.
- to **Melanie Ellis and Steve Crawshaw** on the safe arrival of **Finlay**, a little brother for Jessica, Lily, Lewis, Rosie and Harrison.
- to **Sheila Kirkland** who became a great grandma to a little girl called **Zoë**.
- to **Judy Taylor's** son **Josh**, who married **Sarah** on the 18th May.

And finally to **Adele Harmer**, Mum to Edith and wife of Phill, who completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks walk on Saturday 18th May – raising money with two colleagues for *Street Paws* supporting homeless and vulnerable animals with free veterinary care and support in various locations across the UK.



Adele thanks us for support and encouragement. Total raised to date is £880.00. Great effort - well done!

(<https://streetpaws.co.uk>)

A letter from Sandra Smith

Dear Friends

I feel I must write to you all at this sad time. It is the worst time in my life, my heart is broken. I wanted you all to know how much the prayers, cards, visits and kind words mean to me. I am overwhelmed with love.

My Family are all wonderful and very protective of me. I am so lucky to have them near me. Colin and I have been part of Stainbeck for forty years. We have made firm friends here and met numerous people through the Church.

Stainbeck is a warm, friendly and loving place and I am proud to be part of it. Love to Everyone.

Sandra

HERE AND THERE

Looking back.....

After 8's – Twelve of us assembled at 6.45 p.m. in the Car Park at Golden Acre Park. After a sunny warm day, we had hopes of a dry warm evening for our walk. The weather was kind and we enjoyed looking at the plants and strolling around the Park. It is a good place to visit. The Lake had plenty of different species of duck swimming along with their ducklings. A large bird which I was told was a Muscovy Duck followed us along the path for quite a while. This was probably because Cynthia had some bird food with her!



It was good to be out in the fresh air with friends and enjoy the chats and laughs. A good After 8's evening. Thank you to Sheila Ryan for arranging the visit.

Sandra Smith

A photo taken during **THURSDAY PRAYERS** as we prepared for Christian Aid Week. Every Thursday a small group gathers to think, pray and share together. Over the years this has been a vital and formative group for me as your Minister – a tiny space in a busy week yet so important. During these Summer months why not join us? One of the ways we build foundations for our Church life and work. Not the only way – just one way. And on the first Thursday of the month we are joined by ecumenical partners.



Angela

Stainbeck's 88th Anniversary was celebrated with thankful and expectant hearts – and in spite of the dust the singing was joyful, thanks expressed, hopes shared, prayers offered and fellowship enjoyed. Our thanks to the many who made this day special.



Watch this space – it's all happening!

Did you see Vicky McClure's Dementia Choir on TV? Music brought so much joy to those singers. At **Carr Croft Care Home** every month we too see transformation as we sing the well-known hymns of past years. Can you help us? 30 minutes of singing – once a month - also brings smiles and awakens memories. Talk to Angela if this is something you could offer.



Dear Friends,

All went according to plan and **THE BEEHIVE** shop closed at the end of Fairtrade fortnight on the 9th of March. Ironically, we had had a very good trading season and so the good news is that we have been able to send a **cheque for £2,000 to Traidcraft exchange.**

Although we no longer have shop premises, we still hope to encourage and support Fairtrade, Traidcraft and Trade Justice. We are holding a limited stock of food items and can put together small **Sale or Returns** based on what we have in stock at the time. Boxes could be collected from Chapel Allerton or Moortown Baptist Church by arrangement.

We want to **thank you** all again for all your support for **The Beehive** over the 19 years of its existence. It's amazing that we were able...thanks to all of you...to keep going for as long as we did. There's a lot to celebrate in that. It really does make a difference to poor and marginalised producers around the world.

Our very best wishes from **The Beehive Team.**

And our thanks for all you have done to raise awareness of this issue and encourage and help us to do the same. Eds



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.*

Elder for June – Brian Bellwood

DIARY FOR JUNE

Sun	2nd	10.45am	Morning Worship will be led by our Minister
Mon	3 rd	10.30-1.45	Lunch Club
Thu	6 th	11-2pm	Community Café with Family Solutions
		12.30-2.30pm	Make 'n' Do
		7.30 pm	Prayers for the Community led by Revd Sue Rusholme, Assistant Priest at St Matthew's
Sun	9th	10.45am	Morning Worship for Pentecost with Holy Communion led by The Minister
			<i>Monday 10th – Wednesday 12th June</i>
			<i>After 8's break at The Kings Head, Masham</i>
Mon	10 th	10.30-1.45	Lunch Club
Thu	13 th	11-2pm	Community Café with Family Solutions
		12.30-2.30pm	Make 'n' Do
		7.30 pm	Midweek Worship – All Welcome
Sun	16th	10.45am	Morning Worship led by The Minister – Preacher – Prof. Haddon Wilmer
Mon	17 th	10.30-1.45	Lunch Club
Wed	19 th	All Day	After 8's: Day in Grassington
Thu	20 th	11-2pm	Community Café with Family Solutions
		12.30-2.30pm	Make 'n' Do
		7.30 pm	Midweek Worship – All Welcome
Sun	23rd	10.45am	Morning Worship led by Ann Coates – Preacher - The Minister
Mon	24 th	10.30-1.45	Lunch Club
Tue	25 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Thu	27 th	11-2pm	Community Café with Family Solutions
		12.30-2.30pm	Make 'n' Do
		7.30 pm	Midweek Worship – All Welcome
Sun	30th	10.45am	Morning Worship led by Ann Coates – Preacher – Sue Sanderson, reader at St. Matthew's

DIARY FOR JULY

Sun	7th	10.45am	Morning Worship led by Revd. Clare Davison, Minister at Headingley St Columba and Mission Enabler to the Leeds Partnership. She will be looking at the Holy Habit of Biblical Teaching
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Nine of us went to the **URC Annual Yorkshire Assembly in Scarborough** on Wednesday 8th May 2019. The weather was terrible, and the sea was wild. The coach was delayed by a road accident and we had to take a long detour to Scarborough. Despite that we had a wonderful Conference.



Heather Raistrick, the Convenor, led the Assembly with a very positive, light touch. The Assembly has been meeting for 100 years (yes 100 years) and we were asked whether we wanted it to continue. "Yes" was the resounding answer.

Revd. Clare Davison, from Headingley St Columba and our Leeds Mission & Care Partnership's Mission & Ministry Enabler, led prayers and worship including a taste of Christian dance in worship, which for me was a powerful and moving spiritual experience. Margaret Wood once again accompanied our worship on the piano in a very capable manner.

Kevin Watson, our Moderator, gave his message in the morning based on "re" to link in with the afternoon talk on recycling. He covered redemption, restoration, relationships, retirement (Kevin is retiring next year) and recycling from a Christian perspective, to name but a few. His enthusiasm and passion for Jesus shone through as ever. He is an awesome speaker.

In the afternoon we had a very entertaining and inspiring talk by Chris Powell MBE (aka Captain Rummage) about his job at Betty's and Taylor's of Harrogate. He has been running the Cone Exchange since 2003 turning trash into treasure and funding many projects in the local community e.g. a hydrotherapy pool for a special school. He can certainly tell a good story. We were also entertained by the Seaside Uke Strummers, a 9-piece group of Ukulele players. It was a very enjoyable, lively, foot-tapping interlude. All in all, we had a great day and we are already looking forward to returning next year.



Hilary Wilson

<https://www.coneexchange.org> (Worth a look – Angela)

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK has been one of those fixed dates in my calendar since way back in the early seventies when we lived in the Barthorpes. I said to our then minister Michael Taylor “*D’you know, we never get any Christian Aid envelopes delivered*” “*Why don’t you deliver them then?*” he replied and so it has been for the past 40 odd years.

Times change, lives change, and I don’t know about you, but we haven’t had door-to-door charity collectors round for a number of years and now it looks as though the appeals for collectors for Christian Aid may no longer be heard.

Of course, in a way I am glad that the walk round my beat will no longer be a May necessity - especially if in a wet and windy May - but a part of me will miss the annual catch up on life in the two Barthorpes. People have moved on, children have grown up, homes have been definitely upgraded. Some gardens have been paved over, some are looking a bit sad, but others are still obviously in receipt of regular loving care.

A number of familiar faces however are still there and how good to have a chat – to former neighbours, to the lady who bought our house, to an old friend not often seen now, but also to new faces who have become familiar and who are always welcoming. I have heard that a number of groups have stopped supporting the annual door-to-door collection because of unfriendly, even abusive responses from house holders but I can truthfully say this has never been my experience. Yes, of course I have had refusals – one a regular one when I forget that the house with the laburnum tree at the gate is where the Jehovah’s witnesses live but the refusals have always been polite. I have reminded myself it is the house holders right to refuse so no problem there.

As I say a likely goodbye to my annual visit to the Crescent and the Avenue I thank God for the warmth and the generosity of the people I have met there over the years confident that their generosity and kindness will continue in other ways without my knock on their door.

Ann Coates



THIS YEAR again our thanks to Helen and Adrian Booth who have co-ordinated our collections and all who have supported this important work in so many different ways. £661.11 counted so far this week – full details on this year’s collections next month.

In a changing world we are looking at different ways to publicise and support their work. Please continue to remember the work which goes on out in Sierra Leone and many other areas in need.

Looking forward.....

Not much space to look forward this month you may think? And yet so much is in the making! Building, mission, new beginnings please hold your Minister, Elders, Property Team and all members, friends and partners in your prayers over these Summer months.

Leeds Citizens invite you to join their *summer party* to celebrate their work, connect with other groups doing Community Organising and contribute to our campaigns.

Leeds Citizens uses Community Organising to listen, build relationships, identify injustices and campaign to address some of the big local and citywide problems.

Stainbeck Church is a member group and we hope to have a small delegation attending. Are you interested? Talk to Angela or Helen Booth or David Wilson. Lifts available. **Thursday 4th July** starting with a shared meal at 6.30 pm followed by our meeting at 7 pm. Alternatively book your free ticket online via [Eventbrite](#) **or** [Facebook](#).

An ADVANCE NOTICE about a BIG DAY OUT



when we hope to take a group over to *Flamingo Land* for the day – all ages – if there is enough interest we will look for funding for families. **Saturday 14th SEPTEMBER.** Talk to Angela in the first instance.

REFLECTIONS

28th April 1.43pm ‘Like a Fading Shadow’. He’s arrived at the boarding house where, through the bathroom window, he can see the balconies of the Lorraine Hotel.

30th April 10.33pm Stepping out into the corridor of this small hotel in Lanzarote, a door closes, sounding, to me, like a gunshot. Not so much to eat and drink today, not too far to walk, and not too much sun. Even read a little Bonhoeffer for the soul, and at the end of the street is a Glastonbury style stage with great music.

1st May 12.01pm Feeling sorry for someone differs from empathy. Feeling sorry leads to condescension. With empathy you find yourself alongside the other person. We’re in Costa Teguse. A feeling of well-being.

2nd May 4.22pm On the plane, I read ‘In real life, the future lasts forever’. Of course, he doesn’t mean our individual lives, limited, like a novel, to a beginning and an end. And yet, we emerge from the beginning of time and dissolve into the endless future.

4th May 9.21am Leaving the apartment to go to Playa Blanca, I dropped and broke my sunglasses, but I rarely wear them, loving the bright sun. Bonhoeffer writes, ‘If you do good, you must be quite unconscious of it, otherwise it is your virtue, and not that which has its source in Jesus Christ’.

‘Like a Fading Shadow’, Antonio Munoz Molina, is an extraordinary novel which tells the story of the two months James Earl Ray spent on the run, having murdered Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968. He could never understand the fuss which people made over the killing of one black man. He drove to Canada, then came to Heathrow, immediately flew to Lisbon, then back to London where he was arrested. The narrative is interlinked with that of the author’s own life as he writes his first novel, visiting Lisbon briefly, leaving behind his young family, and then that of his life twenty seven years later. ‘The meaning of stories themselves, be they true or fiction, are best demonstrated in the telling’.

How is the call of Jesus to be ‘handed on to us today?’ asks Bonhoeffer. How do we know we are not following ‘our own wild fancies?’. Jesus does not meet us in the street to call ‘Follow me’ as he did to the disciples. And ‘the Scriptures do not present us with a series of Christian types to be imitated according to choice’. To ask ourselves ‘should I give up everything and follow Jesus’ is the wrong question. Jesus Christ is not dead, as in a story from the past. We should not retreat from ‘the presence of the living Christ’ speaking to us today, in our situation. Jesus is not a memory, but a part of what I have to do and be, as the monologue tomorrow will conclude. A decision, re-made every day.

We walked the length of the promenade in Playa Blanca, and back to a Bus Shelter with time to spare. With my head full of 1968 America, I wondered if the man already waiting was aware of our hesitation in sitting with him, if indeed we were hesitant. He struck up a conversation with J., as we looked around to check if this was where our bus would stop. He was from Senegal. We had an amusing conversation about wives. He had two, one in Lanzarote. Two days later, we were in Costa Teguisse, and, for the first time, saw the ‘this good price’ Africans selling sunglasses, watches, and towels. The first man to try his luck at our table, outside in the sun (sardines and canarian potatoes), was, to our mutual surprise, our man from Senegal. Regrettably, prejudiced by the past, I didn’t replace my broken sunglasses. Even an exorbitant price would have been OK. Decisions!!

15th May 7.14pm Having survived a freezing night, two very hot days, and a double walk (climbing 4441ft), I remember that A. W. Wainwright is like God – won’t ask you to do anything you can’t do, and if you need help it will be provided. Thus, on the ‘Three rock steps, each 20 – 30 ft. high’ which require ‘concerted action by hands, feet, elbows, etc.’ there are fingertip crevices to help you pull yourself up, and once, for me especially, the hand of DJ from out of the blue sky above. Robinson: 5. A Pictorial Guide to the Lakeland Fells. But you don’t always have the courage.

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

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