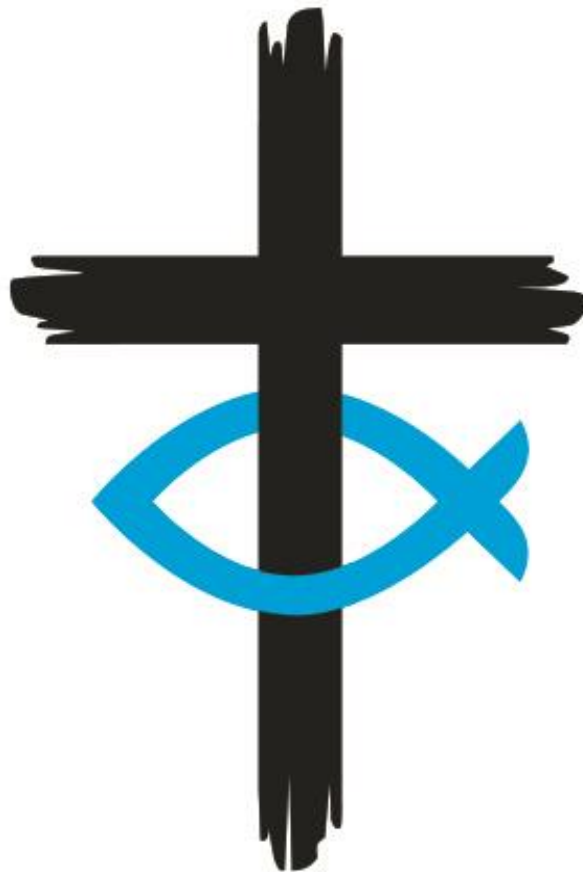


STAINBECK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BOOK OF REPORTS

**for
2020**



**Sunday 7th February 2021 held via Zoom after
Morning Worship**

www.stainbeckurc.org.uk

The lights over ADVENT and CHRISTMAS reminded us that the CHURCH building may be closed – but the CHURCH (the people) are at work still this booklet offers just a taste of our life in this COVID YEAR.



SECRETARIES' REPORT

Dear Church Family and Friends,

What a strange and interesting year this has been and sadly would seem to be continuing into 2021. However, there have been some high lights too not least of which Stainbeck went virtual. Wow! Haven't we all done well in getting to grips with 'ZOOM'? We are so fortunate to have a Minister who has, along with our wonderful IT Team, made sure that we have been able to worship regularly on Sunday mornings. Not only that, other Churches within our Mission and Care group have joined us regularly online. We have shared our skills, our Ministers, our lay preachers, our readers and hasn't it been great to hear all the hello's and welcomes coming in thick and fast when we zoom in on Sunday morning? Is this one of the ways forward for our Mission and Care to grow and flourish?

January progressed as 'normal' with our regular Sunday Worship; Lunch Club on a Monday morning; our Thursday Café; Thursday prayers; Mission and Care meeting. Can you remember the Live Music Night which was held to raise money for Leeds Cares? InterACT activities continued. Messy Church and Thrive Groups met. Stainbeck held its Annual General Meeting in February. There was a Board Games Day and some of our members and friends completed a food handling course. Then along came March and all I have written in my diary is one word – 'cancelled'!

This is where we must say a BIG THANK YOU to our Minister and the IT Team who with their knowledge and expertise brought some of us into the 21st Century with a rush.

All our meetings are now held online and Churches up and down the country are using the internet in different ways to communicate with their congregations. At this point we must also thank the Synod Team who have supported us all so well. Our buildings may be closed but

God's Holy Spirit continues to work wonders among us. Our Church life and worship continues even with the restrictions placed upon us.

This year our Minister has presided over two funerals at Stainbeck. On 13th March that of Simon Dunigan who died on 18th February and on 7th September Peter Craske, our Treasurer and long-standing member, whose unexpected death on 16th August shocked and saddened us. Our good friend Cliff Hutchinson died on the 30th April and his funeral was held on the 18th May in the grounds of Lawnswood Crematorium. Jean Barker, a well-known figure in the local community, died on the 17th May and a service was held at Lawnswood on 8th June. Our Minister presided at both these funerals. All these funerals, except that of Simon, were held under strict Covid guidelines and many people who wished to attend were unable to do so. Hopefully, Stainbeck will hold a memorial service when we can come together to remember those within our Church family and friends who have died. No weddings or baptisms have taken place this year.

In December we all joined together to take part in Candles in the Dark, an Advent Course written by David Adam. Along with members from the different Churches and our Ministers and lay preachers we worked our way each week through the booklet sitting quietly in our own homes. For me it was a quiet and peaceful time for reflection and a reminder that our God is a true and wonderful guide and friend.

Stainbeck also opened its doors during the week for those wishing to contribute to the food bank and for the volunteers who came to collect the food parcels. Our thanks go to Vanessa Brown and her team from InterACT (headed up by Maureen Lillywhite) who have worked tirelessly to make sure that all in need were supported and no one missed out on Christmas. This work is ongoing.

And so, as we move into the New Year, Brian and I send our love and prayers and don't forget – God loves you all.

Avril and Brian Bellwood – Joint Church Secretaries

WORSHIP REPORT 2020

Regular readers of this Book of Reports will perhaps remember that I often begin by referring back to the previous year's worship report and commenting that the pattern remains the same, the central spine in our life together. I ask, "*What can I say that is new?*" In the 2019 report there was much that was new and exciting – we moved totally upstairs with all the innovations that brought about but worship kept to its familiar pattern. Now in 2020, how very different life has been for us all in so many ways but yet how good it is to be able to confidently report that our worship has been a constant through it all.

Sunday by Sunday and Thursday by Thursday we have come together as always to pray, to hear the Word, to reflect, to share in Holy Communion, to keep silent and to sing each in the comfort and ease of our own homes. Many of us feel we have moved into the 21st century, moved by leaps and bounds as we have learned to access Zoom on computers, laptops, iPads and telephones and how good it has been to see each other, greet each other, each Sunday. It has also been encouraging to get to know friends from other fellowships who have joined us from Wigton Moor, West Park, South Leeds, Headingley St. Columba's and St Andrew's. We have been joined by people on their holidays, in a motor home or in Scotland.

We have welcomed visiting speakers who have shared their reflections on the readings with us. Service sheets have been taken or posted week by week to those unable to access the services. All have had the opportunity to worship together.

At the centre of all of this has been Angela who has discovered new IT skills, who has held the pattern of worship in place, has brought us inspiring videos, given us new songs to sing, shared with us photographs of lockdown activities within our community and week by week since the end of March has shared the message of trust, hope and love. We have been truly blessed by her ministry among us. Thank you, Angela.

We express our thanks to Liam whose presence at his keyboard week by week has brought continuity and joy to all who have participated in our worship times. We are grateful too, for the expert IT support which has enabled us to facilitate much of the material used to enhance our worship each week.

At the time of writing, we look forward to a second 'restrictions aware' service in church. Who knows when we will again all be able to meet there but, in the meantime, Stainbeck continues to Walk in the Way and worship together?

Ann Coates – Worship Co-ordinator

A familiar sight for many of us!



Please note that the Sunday reflections are posted on the [church website](#) every week; also on [Stainbeck Youtube channel](#). News is also to be found on [Stainbeck Facebook page](#).

Our thanks to Liam Brigg who has greatly helped Donald with the church website by reformatting it to run on the latest version of software.

SUNDAY CLUB REPORT 2020

This year sadly no Sunday Club as we would wish. Rather we have worked with MESSY CHURCH to deliver MESSY BAGS to our families – bringing stories, activities and goodies for our families. (More about this in the THRIVE Report on page 15.) Doorstep visits and socially distanced chats out and about have had to suffice. Look out for new opportunities in 2021!

Angela



STAINBECK LUNCH CLUB REPORT 2020

2020 started off well with all our members attending Lunch Club up until Monday March 16th. Our volunteers had arrived and were preparing the tables for lunch, but myself and Brian felt that due to the guidelines issued to the whole of the country, the Lunch Club should close. After telephone calls to everyone, including the staff at Knowsthorpe Green who prepare our meals and were very understanding about our decision, we sadly cleared away the tables and went home.

Brian and I decided that we needed to keep in touch with all our members, so we set each Monday morning aside when we rang everyone. Sadly, as the year progressed two of our members, Jean Barker and Frank Hudson died. (Not Covid related). Georgina Bainbridge and Elizabeth Walton have moved into Care homes. At Christmas each member, including those who had moved in with their families received a Christmas parcel. These included a small gift; a Christmas cracker; a Christmas serviette; some sweets and a small knee blanket which Maureen Lillywhite very kindly sent for each member. The children from Angel's Nursery, made calendars and Christmas cards which were added to the goodie bag. The gifts and cards were very well received by everyone. It has been a privilege to speak on a regular basis to all our members and volunteers, some of whom have had their vaccine jabs and others are patiently waiting to hear when it's their turn.



Once again, we thank everyone who is part of our Lunch Club and we are looking forward to meeting together again at some point later in the year. Our volunteers are ready to leap into action! Our love and prayers to you all.

Avril and Brian Bellwood – Lunch Club Organisers



Christian Aid Week, 10th-16th May 2020

Christian Aid Week as we know it went digital this year due to the global pandemic. Although not handing out envelopes or hosting a Big Breakfast this year, our hands were still able to reach out virtually to our neighbours around the world: neighbours in refugee camps and cramped living conditions, those without adequate hand-washing facilities, neighbours facing the devastating impact of coronavirus with even fewer medical resources than we struggled to access here. Neighbours facing the loss of loved ones from preventable diseases which we do have the vaccines and medications to treat.

We joined together with the daily reflections and prayers throughout Christian Aid week and could take part in a daily quiz to share with family and friends.

There are therefore no local figures to report as all donations were made online or by post directly to Christian Aid but here are some of the things Christian Aid has been doing this year to assist partners in 20 countries during this time of crisis:

- drawing on their experience from the Ebola crisis and helping communities to prevent and delay infection.
- providing essential soap, water and handwashing training.
- ensuring urgent health messages get through to help keep people safe.
- working through their networks of church partners and faith-based organisations to reach the most vulnerable at this critical time.

Hopefully, we will be able to come together to raise money for Christian Aid in 2021 to help support our global neighbours.

Helen Booth- Christian Aid Organiser

AFTER 8's REPORT 2020

Our Annual General Meeting was in January. Once again, we were invited to 'Craemore' and Peter Moore provided the super supper. Thank you, Peter!

Our calendar for 2020 was decided. Our annual dinner in February was at Casa Mia Italian Restaurant in Chapel Allerton. Very enjoyable and good to see so many After 8's attending.

The next 5 months our meetings were cancelled, as were the 2 days away in the Dales.

We managed to meet in August (hurray!) for a picnic and walk in Meanwood Park. This was organised by Ann. After the gentle walk everyone enjoyed a take-away coffee at the Café in the Park.

We have missed so many activities this year, but we look forward to 2021 with hope that we can get together again very soon. In spite of the way things are in this weird year the After 8's is still here. We miss everyone but will hold our meetings again as soon as we are allowed. Maybe double meetings next year. That's something to think about. Stay Safe.

Sandra Smith – After 8's Secretary





Report 2020

At the beginning of March, we were still running Monday Night Youth Club, Holy Trinity Café,

Play and Learn, prepping for school holiday activities, running crafts and games alongside Stainbeck Café, planning the next board games day and looking forward to Easter. Luke was still in Leeds, and other than the gathering pace of concerning news stories, we were oblivious to what was coming. It's been a very different and challenging year, but also one with plenty of stories of hope. Here's a snapshot of InterACT's 2020.

Responding to COVID

Of course, much of the year was about responding to the changing situation around us. All our regular groups closed – permanently in the case of Youth Club and Play and Learn (but don't worry, there is life to come from these yet). We worked with the Council and Voluntary Action Leeds to help ensure residents in and around Moortown and Meanwood were able to access food and support as the pandemic progressed. We also maintained links with those already known to us, made welfare visits, phone calls, shopped and responded as many various needs arose.

Hundreds of volunteers signed up to be part of the local response. It was so good to work with so many new people, without whom we genuinely could not have helped all the people from our area who requested it over the months. It was also a little strange working, often intensely, with people we still have never laid eyes on. It will be great when we can finally all meet together face to face.

For a brief window of time, we were able to open up Holy Trinity Café, albeit in a very different format! It was a space where people could meet safely indoors, distanced but also together. Needless to say, that didn't last long, but it was good while it lasted.

When the first round of shielding officially ended in August, the need in the area also shifted. Financial struggles really came to the fore, and so

we moved away from bespoke shopping to giving food parcels to those who couldn't afford to shop. Stainbeck generously enabled us to store food in the church, which was a game changer for us. We were able to prepare food parcels in the space as well as involve more people from the church as volunteers. Thank you!



Men Shed

We've been talking about setting up a Men Shed in Meanwood for a while and had hoped to launch this new initiative in July. Men sheds are dedicated spaces for men to meet. Although the official launch for ours was put on hold, we've been really pleased to work with a small group of men and with Meanwood Valley Urban Farm to start preparing space for us to quite literally put up a shed. Based at the farm it will evolve and be shaped by those who become part of it. We look forward to sharing more about this in 2021.

Love Meanwood

Autumn brought the launch of a 2030 Vision for Meanwood. It was launched under the banner of Love Meanwood, and we were pleased to be part of its steering group over the last two years while the vision was being developed.

The aim of Love Meanwood is to empower and enable people from Meanwood to take part in improving our community. We asked as many people who live in Meanwood as possible for their thoughts and ideas on how we can improve Meanwood and the public spaces in our local area.

Of course, the vision wasn't launched in the way we'd planned - in the end it moved online and was far more low key than we had imagined it to be. However, the document can be accessed online or printed for those who request it. It explains the process we followed and what we have learnt about Meanwood. It is also where we introduce three focus

areas that emerged from the consultation process. Each focus area has been broken down further into three projects that contribute to achieving the vision. Printed copies of the document can be ordered but are free to read at www lovemeanwood.org.uk

A Mosaic for Meanwood

At the beginning of the year, we were still enjoying running after-school clubs with children aged 7-11 and their families. We never managed to complete the full variety of activities we had planned, but we did fit in some “fast food home made” cooking sessions, fun adventures at Meanwood Valley Urban Farm, and the



creation of a mosaic to go around the door at Meanwood Community Centre. It was so exciting to see the mosaic installed at the end of 2020 by [Seagulls Reuse](#), the group who helped us put it together. We weren't able to come together and celebrate as we wanted, but we've loved walking by and celebrating all the different symbols of what Meanwood means to us.

Christmas

Hundreds of food bags, Christmas gifts and hampers were taken out to



local people of all ages in the run up to Christmas. We also raised over £1000 from Reverse Advent Calendar donations, which have been converted to Aldi food vouchers, and received many donations of food through Churches Together, Meanwood Primary School and individual donors. This

will all make a big difference in the months to come.

2021 will bring many new opportunities and challenges of its own. The Moortown and Meanwood Hub work will carry on for the time being, and we will continue to adapt this emergency response according to the community's needs. We will also be looking at more sustainable ways of ensuring local people have access to food and other basic provisions. If you're interested in being involved in plans for a membership based food scheme like this one - yourlocalpantry.co.uk, please get in touch.

Sadly, neither Play and Learn nor Monday Night Youth Club will return as InterACT projects, but there are lots of conversations happening at the moment about setting up initiatives that reflect this new season. This will include a **new partnership youth project**, working with Thrive Leeds and Carr Manor School. We look forward to telling you more about it soon.

Vanessa Brown - InterACT Co-ordinator





The Story of 2020

It has been a year of ups and downs, stopping and starting for everyone and at Thrive we have been challenged to be creative and flexible as we have continued to connect and support children, young people and their families. Our groups and way of working look different at the end of the year from what they did at the beginning, but we have been encouraged that relationships have kept going as we have found new ways of being together. We are thankful to the National Youth Agency (NYA) for their guidance and support as we figure out how youth work can look at this time.

At the end of the year, we joined in with the Chapel Allerton advent window trail with this display, which Helen put together and lit on the 4th December. We enjoyed walking round the trail with Totally Tuesday and WOW youth groups to finish the term and seeing the window celebrating the hope that God brings. Do you recognise any local landmarks depicted?



Messy Church began the year in a brilliant way, with a 'Big Family' special Messy Church session, thinking about our place in the big family of God. We used this session to officially launch Thrive, so we had quite a few extra visitors, making it a busy and fun celebration together. It is great to be able to look back and remember, which can give us hope for how things can be again!

February was our last Messy Church session of the year as lockdown hit before we managed to meet in March. It was also our final gathering at the Methodist Centre, as we had made the decision to base ourselves each month at Stainbeck.



Through lockdown we have kept in touch with our Messy Church families by firstly emailing resources, and more recently through ‘Messy Church in a Bag’ – a fun Messy Church session in a bag, delivered to their doors! Our themes have covered Jesus walking on water, Harvest, Advent and Christmas so far. We have received

lovely feedback from families, and it has been a great way to chat and catch up with each other as we have delivered the bags.

It has been brilliant how faithful Totally Tuesday have been in gathering together on a Tuesday night – on screen for those who can manage it and in person when we’ve been allowed. We kept in touch with TT and WOW with some tasty treats in the post to let everyone know we were thinking of them over lockdown – as you can see, we filled the postbox! Following NYA guidelines, we now run two smaller TT groups – one for school years 5 and 6 and another for Years 7 and 8 – which has given the opportunity to follow the same session plan, but tailor the activities to each age group. It has been great to welcome new young people to TT and continue to grow the group even with the restrictions. We have enjoyed games and baking sessions, as well as exploring topics around connections with parents, friends and online. We were sad to postpone our summer residential but are hoping to get away together as soon as guidelines allow.



At WOW we have taken the opportunity to restructure and find a way of meeting that gives the young people better spaces to talk in a way that they want to and opt into activities that they like. Like TT, WOW now meets in two groups, each once a fortnight. One is a small group, which gathers for support, discussion, looking at the bible and eating snack noodles (!) and the other is more active involving sports, games and shorter times of chat. It has felt like a much better fit and given us some good times talking, playing and hanging out together, as well as more space for the young people to have a say about what happens at WOW. We are currently looking at the topic of wellbeing and our value in both groups. We found some ways of being online that worked really well – who knew there were so many dingbats?! And also baked a mug cake that scored an average of 5/10 and some were even binned! Christmas was an opportunity to send cards for families and also a doorstep visit with advent calendars, so we could have some contact over the second lockdown.

We have been grateful to Rich and Luke for all they have brought to the groups for a number of years and said goodbye and thank you to them this year – we miss them!

Schools: In January and February - we were in schools and led assemblies at Mill Field primary and a transition support small group at Carr Manor High school. It was good to gather a group of girls to help them reflect on their move to high school and one celebrated at the end *'I can listen to people when they're lonely and upset'*. Looking forward to being back in school this coming year!

Community Development: There are exciting conversations developing in Meanwood around empowering young people, between Thrive, InterAct and Carr Manor High



school. We have been inspired by a visit to CATCH in Harehills and our reflections from working with young people locally, to explore something new together. We look forward to sharing more about this in 2021 and enabling young people to have a voice and be involved.

Thank you for your support of children, young people and families locally through Thrive Leeds. We are grateful for your prayers, interest, time and money that makes all this possible. Please pray as 2021 starts, for connection to grow with God and others, for wellbeing and vision for the future.

Hannah Dey: Project Coordinator and Youth Worker,
hannah.dey@thriveleeds.org.uk

Helen Greenwood: Children and Families Worker
messy@thriveleeds.org.uk



Photos from January – those were the days!

Stainbeck looks forward to hosting a monthly MESSY CHURCH sometime in the coming months.

THANK YOU THRIVE
for all that we can do
together,



LEEDS CITIZENS 2020

Leeds Citizens in conjunction with Citizens UK has campaigned through the year to get a real living wage for care workers in the social sector, get adequate PPE and equality with NHS staff.

In June and August, in conjunction with the Fawcett Society, Citizens UK offered free online training for women in relation to community organising, leadership and getting into politics.

On 19th August Leeds Citizens held their Together meeting via Zoom with an emphasis on Mental Health and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Tom Chigbo was involved in Citizens UK regional training which took place in November (presumably via Zoom).

Team Beckhills

A select group of members of Team Beckhills met on 11th March to discuss the estate and actions which we planned to take in the coming year. Due to the coronavirus all planned activities and further meetings in relation to Team Beckhills were cancelled.

Communication with members of Team Beckhills has been by email. It is uncertain when we will be able to resume activities but possibly not until the Summer of 2021.

Helen Booth - Leeds Citizens Representative

Stainbeck United Reformed Church
Annual General Meeting – Sunday February 7th 2021
PROPERTY REPORT 2020

The Management & Property Team meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month to discuss all aspects of the Church Property. Members: Peter Craske (Convenor), Brian Bellwood, Adrian Booth, Angela Hughes, Helen Inglis, Peter Moore, Doreen Moore (Minute Secretary).

FEBRUARY 2020

The sale of the Manse took place on February 12th. All keys handed in to the Estate Agent by PC.

Following 2 break-ins in the lounge in November and December 2019, Metal Fabrications fitted a Security Gate across the flat roof above the kitchen.

‘Storm Ciara’ caused flooding in the back of the hall, Nursery kitchen door and Ladies toilets, debris and overgrowth were removed from the grates in the car park and the culvert was cleared – this cured the problem - 15 hours of work involved with this task – thanks to Peter, Joan and Dylan Jay.

MARCH 2020

The first Coronavirus lockdown started on March 23rd which meant all hirers ceased to use the church for their activities.

All wooden guttering around the church was replaced (by Purdy’s) with aluminium and where necessary new tiles were fitted. A further problem arose on the South entrance flat roof with rain leaking through onto the oak floor at the bottom of the stairs – this was rectified by replacing the pipes on the flat roof.

Weekly fire alarm tests were carried out on a Saturday morning.

The speaker on the entry phone system was replaced and the phone moved to the kitchen window area in the Café room.

Coronavirus was discussed and it was agreed that hand sanitizers were needed. PC to approach suppliers.

A Hygiene (sick) clean-up box has been placed in the cupboard underneath the hand wash sink, a First Aid Recovery mat was purchased by Helen Inglis.

JUNE 2020

During the Coronavirus lockdown, PC organised the installation of vinyl on the South entrance stairs leading to the Café room. The back entrance stairs were also repaired following the removal of the stair lift.

Angela and Peter organised a discussion on ‘A Road Map for Reflection – where are we now and how we travel forward’. We discussed the Coronavirus restrictions and social distancing and accepted that it could take a long time (middle of 2021?) before we will get to a recognisable ‘normal’.

It was agreed that Zoom meetings had been a great success.

JULY 2020

The Church meeting on 19th July agreed that a sum of £25,000 should be released from the Stainbeck Manse Fund, to go towards work to be completed on the building, in response to recommendations made in the 2017 URC Quinquennial Survey. We have a ‘Wish List’ which includes replacing seating in the lounge, redesigning and refurbishing the Office and carrying out the building work.

AUGUST 2020

- Notice boards were put up in the ground floor lobby and in the church (PC).
- Joan Craske painted the toilet door downstairs and painted over the rain marks in the Café Room and touched up other areas.
- Weight Watchers and Karate both restarted their activities at church.

SEPTEMBER 2020

Notice boards

- AB sourced a new sign for the rear of the church ‘Private Land No Idling’.
- Peter M and Adrian will repair the notice board at the front of the church.
- We require a new notice board at the rear of the church (in memory of Lynnette Seaward).

An 8ft Fusilier bench has been ordered from ‘Classic Memorial Benches’ using the legacy that Cliff Hutchinson left for this purpose. This is an Oak bench (untreated) and has a deeply carved inscription of the wording in memory of Lynnette Seaward and Cliff Hutchinson. Delivery could be 18-20 weeks.

Helen Booth has updated the Fire Risk Assessment.

Glenn Riley has agreed to do the fire alarm test from a different call point each week – this will be logged in the Fire Safety & Maintenance Log Book.

OCTOBER 2020

Adrian sourced a new projector and this was installed in the church.

Following more leaks in the back entrance Purdy’s came and fit a new cast aluminium hopper head and new aluminium downpipes – this has cured the problem.

Helen Booth organised an ‘Emergency Lighting’ maintenance test – this was satisfactory and certification will be submitted on due course. A fire alarm test was also carried out and a fire detection inspection and servicing report was provided for our records. The report includes for the church and café only.

The Nursery may need additional call points - further contact is required to clarify what is needed and also to clarify whether responsibility for call points and extinguishers in the Nursery areas of the building rests with the church or the Nursery.

NOVEMBER 2020

Health & Safety Policy – Helen Inglis is looking into the requirements and actions that we need to take to comply with the Policy.

The Lift was installed in September 2019 so was due for an Inspection – this took place on 6th November 2020 by Allianz Engineering and everything was ok. The next Inspection will take place in May 2021. In addition to this we have renewed the Lift Service Contract with Invalift Ltd, this includes 2 service visits, one in March and another in September, 2021.

We are currently in the process of engaging a Contractor to carry out the building work at Stainbeck, initially we used ‘My Builder.com’ to find suitable Contractors who may be interested in taking on the work. We have an 8 page detailed list of the work along with photographs. We met with the 3 Contractors at church and explained the work and received quotations from them all. The quotes were more than we anticipated so we are now breaking down the work and looking to carry out the most urgent work first – this is to replace/repair the walls and steps.

It was agreed at the November Church Meeting that the Millennium notice can be removed.

DECEMBER 2020

A decision has been made to install a Defibrillator outside the front church door.

Neil Pentelow, Senior Localities Officer, Communities and Environment, Leeds City Council has approached Stainbeck and has (in principle) an agreement from Chapel Allerton and Moortown Cllrs to joint fund one for Stainbeck Church.

The project would be to fund, purchase and install a cabinet and defibrillator on the outside of the church so that it could be accessed by the public even if the church was closed. The idea is that on calling 999 in the case of a cardiac arrest a member of the public can be directed to the nearest defib and given a code to access. The machines are simple to use and provide instruction for the user. They could be the difference for a victim of cardiac arrest whilst awaiting an ambulance.

The defibrillators are battery operated but the cabinet requires power as it regulates temperature to ensure that the equipment is operational even in cold weather. This could make the difference between life and death for local residents. The defibrillators don't use much power so the consumption would be negligible in terms of energy bills (typically under £5 annually).

Doreen Moore – Property Minute Secretary



MANAGEMENT REPORT 2020



This seems a good point to recognise and give thanks for the life of Peter Craske and his involvement in the life and work of Stainbeck over so many years. In particular, for this report, to acknowledge the way he and Joan headed up the re-ordering of our building so that it would be 'easier to manage and more sustainable for the future'.

I believe he would also want me to remind you that this is the perfect opportunity to refocus our mission as we enter a greatly changed and changing world. Rather than becoming, by default, a Community Centre, perhaps we need to be more intentionally a Christian Centre within and for the local community.

I suspect that as we move on through 2021 our rethinking will be even more radical than Peter imagined. Challenging but also exciting as we seek God's will and purpose for Stainbeck. Food for thought and prayer during these current lockdown weeks.

The Management and Property Group (MAP) have continued to do an incredible job during these past few months. Jobs and responsibilities are being restructured in ways that we hope will lighten the load – see the list of appointments which members received with their Report Books.

You will notice there are still a few vacancies and you will also notice there are no accounts. This is simply because we have not had access to the church account – a long story – but by our AGM on 7th February we should have more to report with a new account – up and running.

We are grateful for the on-going giving of the congregation; also that the sale of the manse is completed and all is in order. Details will follow in due course from our treasurers: Emmanuelle Bastide-Wilson and Suzie Hamlin.

Helen Inglis has been our Health and Safety Officer for a number of years now but has felt she should retire to enable a serving Elder or someone who has more access to the users of the building to take on this role. Our thanks to Helen for her work and sharing of expertise over past years.

Also thanks to Doreen Moore for writing these reports and keeping everyone on their toes.

Angela

Reading through last years' 2019 AGM report , Peter Craske wrote about 2019 being a 'special year'. Joan Craske's idea in January 2019 of leasing the ground floor to Angels Nursery became a reality, Peter talked about the amount of work that went into the project, he talked about the importance of the monthly meetings of the Management and Property Committee when all the strands and plans were pulled together. Peter was always at the forefront of all our meetings and actions that took place at Stainbeck. He dealt with the sale of the Manse which was an important phase in the life of the Church. We miss Peter so much, but we will continue the amazing work he did for so many years as 'Convener' of the MAP group.

2020 has been a difficult year for all of us, the lockdown on March 23rd meant no services in church and hirers were unable to use the church until August. We then, of course, had another lockdown at the end of October.

Angela introduced us to Zoom which has been really good and has given us the opportunity to hold our services and our monthly meetings online, which have worked well.

During June, July and August, Peter Craske followed an 'Emerging from Lockdown Checklist' which included preparing Risk Assessments for the church which Adrian helped with, these were:

- Risks associated with opening for church activities and external lettings
 - Preparing the buildings for reopening
 - Social Distancing
 - Cleaning
 - Additional risks associated with opening for public worship
-
- Also, Covid compliant posters were displayed, hand sanitisers were made available, contact list data collection was ready, deep cleaning was undertaken, Insurance company informed, additional appropriate signage was posted around the building.

Hirers - In August Weight Watchers and Karate returned to hold their sessions/classes at Stainbeck. Both groups supplied their Risk Assessments.

Other groups decided not to return but we hope they will come back when things are 'back to normal'.

One of the main projects the Management and Property group are currently working on is planning the external building work at Stainbeck, repairing, rebuilding the walls and steps both outside the front of the church and down both sides. We need to repoint some of the walls, paint the pipes, windows, railings, doors and replace the

polycarbonate sheets over the windows on each side of the church. More details on this project can be found in the Property Report 2020.

Doreen Moore – Property Minute Secretary



www.stainbeckurc.org.uk