

Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)

OUTLOOK

SEPTEMBER 2021



The world from space

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

<https://stainbeckurc.org.uk>

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SEPTEMBER 2021

Dear Friends,

Unbelievably we are now in September. A new school year and we may wonder what does the future hold? For our children? For ourselves? Bombarded by statistics and heart-breaking images from across the world we may decide to ‘switch off’ and turn our minds to other brighter and less troublesome issues. We may even be wondering where God is in all this mess and why aren’t our prayers answered? We may be asking what can we do in the face of so much pain?

It is easy for us to be overwhelmed by so much hurt and sadness, loss and fear. It is not surprising that we may seek relief by retreating into our own little world - it is our way of keeping safe and feeling ‘okay’. Yet we know that the uncertainty out there in the wider world can also impinge upon us.

There is a weekly blog from LCCT (Leeds Christian Community Network) shared currently on Network Leeds. You will know some of the contributors. This week some of these hard questions were addressed by Roger Quick, an Anglican priest – interested? Let me know.

But a page in Outlook won’t cover it – so this month I’m keeping it simple. Perhaps it can help us – even as it helped Job (*Job 38 onwards*) – to take a step back? See the amazing image on our front cover this month. Imagine how we each fit into that big picture. From space we see things from a whole new perspective.

A reminder of the immensity and wonder of the universe. A reminder of the wonder, responsibility and fragility of this incredible gift of life we have been given. A reminder that our God is very big.

And we move from the story of Job to the Gospel message of God coming to us in Jesus Christ. Born among us, living and loving, dying and rising – the Gospel Good News for you and me.

Held within the love of that God – almighty and eternal yet also among us and within us – may we each find the peace we need at this time,

Angela

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Where there is tender care and love, God is present

We continue to remember those we know who are unwell, who are coping with ongoing frailty, who are grieving loss of all kinds. We are living through strange times and walking in unknown territory. But we continue to support one another and recognise God at work among us.

We hold in our prayers all those among us who are at this time finding things difficult – **GOD LOVES YOU ALL.**

Our congratulations and good wishes to all those who are moving on to a new school / college / university year. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Also congratulations to **Jaikaila Benjamin** who has been awarded her **Duke of Edinburgh Award** and to her Mum, Karen, who is starting a new job this month. If you have sharp eyes you may see Jaikaila in action in the photo?



Well done to all!

**Birthday Congratulations in September
go to several of our young people: 5 to 21 years.**

HERE AND THERE

Looking back

How very good it is to be able to report that the **After Eights** have met, in the flesh, face to face, and have been able to enjoy one of our annual activities. We have had a summer walk! A small number of us met on a sunny morning In Golden Acre Park and had a gentle stroll around the lake. You may have seen photographs of the ducks being fed, the seagulls trying to join in and the ducklings paddling away to grab their share.



It was warm, the sun was not too far away, the flower beds were in beautiful bloom and how good it was to be together, catching up with news of families and friends. Of course, as it was an After Eights event, food was involved. The café in the park has been extended both inside and out of doors too since I was last there so there was

room for us to sit, to eat and drink as we chose and to carry on chatting. We are grateful to Sandra for organising it all for us. We hope it is not too long before we can arrange another 'getting together occasion'.

I have very much enjoyed dropping in to the **Coffee Drop-In** at church on Thursday mornings (11am – 1.00pm). This is another opportunity to catch up with familiar faces not seen for a very long time. Please note that there will be a **Councillors' Surgery every first Thursday** of the month. It seems that, little by little, some things are returning, not necessarily as they were before - but a change is as good as a rest they say. For those unable to return to church yet Zoom-In Coffee time continues led by **Donald** and **Liam**. Our thanks to them both.

Ann Coates

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

Thu	2 nd	11.00-1pm	Drop in for coffee, cakes and tea-cakes in church
		11-12noon	Zoom Drop-In Coffee Time as usual
		7.15pm	Zoom Open for Thursday Prayers led by Ann Coates
Sun	5th	10.30am	Hymns on the Green at St Matthews Church. All invited to join us.
Mon	6 th	11.00am	Meeting of Lunch Club volunteers to discuss the re-opening of the Lunch Club
Wed	8 th	10.00am	MAP meeting Zoom
		7.15pm	Mission & Care Meeting on Zoom
Thu	9 th	11.00-1pm	Drop in for coffee, cakes and tea-cakes
		11-12noon	Zoom Drop-In Coffee Time as usual
		7.15pm	Zoom Open for Thursday Prayers led by Avril Bellwood
Sun	12th	10.45am	Zoom open from 10.15am Worship led by the Minister with <i>Holy Communion</i>
Thu	16 th	11.00-1.0	Drop in for coffee, cakes and tea-cakes
		11-12noon	Zoom Drop-In Coffee Time as usual
		7.15pm	Thursday Prayers led by Hilary Wilson
Sun	19th	10.45am	Zoom open from 10.15am Worship led by the Minister
Thu	23 rd	11.00-1.0	Drop in for coffee, cakes and tea-cakes
		11-12noon	Zoom DropIn Coffee Time as usual
		7.15pm	Thursday Prayers led by the Minister
Sun	26th	10.45am	Morning Worship led by the Minister Worship will be available on Zoom from Church.
Tue	28 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Thu	30 th	11.00-1.00	Drop in for coffee, cakes and tea-cakes
		11-12noon	Zoom Drop-In Coffee Time as usual
		7.15pm	Thursday Prayers led by the Minister

Sunday 3rd October Climate Sunday @ HARVEST



InterACT Men Shed: updates

What a delight it was to come down to the Barn Café at Meanwood Valley Urban Farm to enjoy our first *ever Men Shed Pizza Evening*. There's nothing quite like a friendly, relaxed gathering in the fresh air to chew over the events of the day whilst enjoying your meat feast pizza,

fresh from the oven. Also, the café there supplies what must be the best coffee in Meanwood, so that was definitely a bonus too.

The weather had been quite kind with no rain and just a gentle breeze to pick up the smokey wisps of cheesy yumminess that only a pizza oven can provide; giving you that assurance that something tasty was about to emerge from it, which indeed it did, until we'd all had our own expertly made pizza, cooked to order. Thanks to Alex for providing all of that.

Our conversations covered all sorts of things as we began to get to know each other; one topic being the jobs needed next on the shed, as technically, we weren't actually at the shed itself; that being a couple of hundred yards up the hillside on the allotment. The longer we chatted about it, the more jobs went on our "to do list". But I'm sure that will all work itself out, so long as we remember to keep going with the pizza.



Let's hope we can do it all again soon.

David Keighley

<https://interact.uk.net>

Want to know more? Have a look at the InterACT website (see above) and sign up for the regular updates. Eds

MEANWOOD FESTIVAL celebrates life after lockdown!

Our thanks to the **Meanwood Valley Partnership** for all their hard work in making this happen on the August Bank Holiday weekend. Also to **Leeds Community Spaces** who hosted the event so well.

So many activities and initiatives were highlighted from **Meanwood Valley Urban Farm** and **Love Meanwood** to **Litter-Free Leeds** and the **Youth Movement Against Violence (YMAV)** – not forgetting of course the **InterACT PANTRY** and amazing cakes served with tea or coffee from **The Barn Café**.



Oh and there was a **Steel Band** to entertain us; and if you had small children with you there was plenty to do at the **Meanwood Valley Preschool**.

Just a taste of all we enjoyed together in the sunshine.



Angela

Looking forward

Finally, like everyone else I am looking forward to returning to church - either in person or virtually to be able to see inside our building from our own homes. It has been reassuring as we've worshipped each Sunday through Zoom to see the sanctuary, the window, the Cross, the pulpit but to see it with Angela and others really in the space will be something else.



Ann Coates

AND SO

Not too long now as we are now equipped to live stream through Zoom. Our thanks to **Synod** for funding from the **Mission Fund** enabling us to renew our sound system and purchase a camcorder. And our thanks to **Dan Morrell** for the advice and installation.



Due to holidays and the need to gain some familiarity with the equipment, we have the end of September in mind – probably Sunday 26th for our first hybrid service. Also thanks to **Adrian** and **Liam** for the support in using all this technology effectively.

We are now hoping for a few volunteers to join the **IT Team** – this won't be solo work – two per Sunday. Please consider if this is a way you can support and enhance our worship life.

Also our thanks once again to the **MAP Team** and to **Glenn** for all the ongoing work as we prepare for the coming year and to the Treasurers – especially Emmanuelle – as we prepare for Leeds Partnership and new opportunities.

Angela

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

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