

Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)

# OUTLOOK

December 2021

January 2022



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

<https://stainbeckurc.org.uk>

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**DECEMBER 2021**

Dear Friends,

I am writing this on the first Sunday in ADVENT. Snow is falling, the temperature is currently just above freezing and that pesky little corona virus has once more mutated – this variant known as omicron. And of course CHRISTMAS is coming!



The theme for our worship this Sunday was, '*Heads Up*'! Be alert, raise your heads and do not be afraid! A time, I reflected, to pause, pay attention to God, and regain perspective. It is all too easy to get weighed down in the immediate busyness of our lives.

And yet ..... this week walking along Street Lane to the post box – enjoying the Christmas lights and the open shops and the general feeling of normality – focussed on posting the letter – thinking about the recipient – I failed to look down at the path and my feet. In retrospect I am lucky to be intact with no broken bones or bruised knees!

And I wondered .... 'Heads up'? Yes indeed, but we also need to be aware and alert to what is going on around us – on the ground we might say! Where do we see God at work in our families, our church, our communities – in the world? Look for the signs ....

In all this may we discover again that God meets us not in our dreams and hopes and visions but also in the nitty gritty of our daily lives. God meets us and stretches us until we can receive a greater measure of his grace.

As we begin ADVENT together, we pray for Christ's light to shine, especially for those experiencing difficult times and suffering loss of all kinds. We ask for open minds that we may be aware of God in our midst.

Even as the leaves on the fig tree offer hope in late Winter that Summer is coming again, so may God's Word, in Jesus – the Bethlehem babe and the risen Lord bring us the deep HOPE that we need so badly.

Even so come Lord Jesus.

**Angela**

## FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Where there is tender care and love, God is present

We continue to hold in prayer all those within our local community who are experiencing difficulties and those friends and volunteers who work so hard to support them – **GOD LOVES YOU ALL.**

We wish **Liam**, our organist, a safe and happy visit to Boston USA – we will miss you Liam but hoping to see you on Zoom at some point over the holiday.

**Birthday Congratulations in December and January go to several of our young people**

## HERE AND THERE

### Looking back .....

Since I last wrote the clocks have gone back, the days are shortening, we are drawing the curtains and turning on lights much earlier. It feels like winter is here.

At the beginning of November four of us spent a day at St Andrew's for the Preparation Day for the **World Day of Prayer** service in March. You may recall that we are to be hosting a service locally. It was helpful to go through the 2022 service written by women of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland on the theme of Jesus' words '*I know the plans I have for you*'. What reassuring words those are. We look forward to leading and sharing the service in the New Year, and inviting friends and neighbours to join us on that Friday.



**Team Beckhill** were sorry to say goodbye to Tom Chigbo (Leeds Citizens) as he moves to a new position. They have learned so much from him and have been so well supported by him, as together they have worked to make great improvements in the Beckhill estate. Revd Graham Brownlee is our new community officer for Leeds Citizens and we look forward to working with him. Extensive preparation for the new estate is now underway and the actual building of the new houses is scheduled to start in the spring.



Stainbeck hosted, via Zoom, the latest meeting of the **Leeds URC Partnership Mission and Care Group** where all churches in the partnership were represented.

It was good to learn that the profile for the new Minister to be appointed is now with the national Moderators' meeting. We look forward to hearing of interest being shown in the new post and we hold the whole process in our prayers. **Revd Samantha Sheehan** has been appointed to steer the churches through the process of calling this new Minister.

There will be a **Service celebrating the inauguration of the Partnership and inducting the Ministry Team into the partnership on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm** (venue to be confirmed). Please mark the date!

Following the success of last year's **Advent Course** we are running another this year – entitled '*Journeying with the Magi*'. This will be held again via Zoom on Tuesdays at 10am; Wednesdays at 2pm and Thursdays at 7.30pm. Each week will be led by a different person. There will be discussion, prayer and reflection. Food for thought as we journey through ADVENT together. Why not join us. An hour set aside – apart from the busyness - as we prepare our hearts and minds to welcome the Christ Child.

**InterACT** were represented at the **Meanwood Lights** switch-on which, as the photograph here shows, attracted a good crowd.



Now creativity continues at the workshops at Stainbeck held in readiness for the **Christmas Market at Meanwood Valley Urban Farm**. If you have dropped into the Stainbeck Café on a Thursday recently you will have seen all the sparkly sewing that is going on. See the poster below. And why not come along for some pre-Christmas excitement?

Look out also for the **Christmas Community Choir** singing at Seven Arts on Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec at 7.45pm, at Meanwood Valley Urban Farm on Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Dec at 12.30pm and at Chapel Allerton (outside Opposite Café) at 2.30pm. And don't forget **STAINBECK CAROL SINGING** around the estates on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December – 6.30pm start at STAINBECK CHURCH**.

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*Do come; all are welcome to our services. In person are on Zoom.*



Stainbeck Church Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7019277749>

## DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2021

### Elder on Duty - Brian Bellwood

Sunday Worship is now available on Zoom or in Church. Zoom will open at the usual time of 10.15 am and of course the church doors will also be open at the same time to welcome you. We look forward to seeing you in person or on Zoom – the choice is yours.

- Thu 2nd 11-1.00pm Drop-in for coffee, cakes and toasted teacakes with craft workshop  
11-12noon Zoom Drop-in Coffee Time  
7.15pm Zoom open for Thursday Prayers led by Ann Coates - All welcome to join us.
- Sun 5<sup>th</sup> 10.45am Worship for ADVENT 2 led by The Minister
- Thu 9<sup>th</sup> 11-1.0pm Drop-in for coffee, cakes and toasted teacakes with craft workshop  
11-12noon Zoom Drop-in Coffee Time  
7.15pm Zoom open for Thursday Prayers led by Hilary Wilson - All welcome to join us.
- Sat 11<sup>th</sup> 11-3.00pm Christmas Market at Meanwood Valley Urban Farm (see poster below)
- Sun 12<sup>th</sup> 10.45am Worship for ADVENT 3 led by The Minister to include Holy Communion
- Thu 16<sup>th</sup> 11-1.0pm Drop-in for coffee, cakes, and toasted teacakes.  
11-12noon Zoom Drop-in Coffee Time as usual  
6.30pm Carol Singing round the Beckhill Estate – All welcome to join us. Start at Church.
- Sun 19<sup>th</sup> 10.45am **THE CHRISTMAS STORY for everyone**  
6.00pm **CAROLS by FIRELIGHT - Singing round the fire pits. All welcome. Church garden.**
- Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> 11-1.0pm Drop-in for coffee, cakes, and toasted teacakes.  
11-12noon Zoom Drop-in Coffee Time

		<b>7.15pm</b>	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Angela. All welcome to join us.</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.30pm</b>	<b>Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve via Zoom ONLY, led by The Minister</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Worship for Christmas Day led by The Minister (hybrid: in person &amp; online)</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Worship for Boxing Day led by The Minister (hybrid: in person and online)</b>
<b>Thu</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.15pm</b>	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Avril Bellwood</b>

**Please note that the Thursday Café drop in at Church will be closed from 23<sup>rd</sup> December and will re-open on Thursday January 6<sup>th</sup> when we hope to be offering toasties again. The Zoom Drop In will continue to be available over the holiday period.**

**Please notice that the ADVENT Course dates are not listed but see above for details.**

## **DIARY FOR JANUARY 2022**

### **Elder on Duty – Avril Bellwood**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Worship will be led by The Minister and the preacher is Prof. Haddon Willmer</b>
<b>Thu</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11-1.0pm</b>	<b>Drop-in for Coffee, cakes, toasties, and teacakes.</b>
		<b>11-12noon</b>	<b>Zoom Drop-in Coffee Time as usual</b>
		<b>7.15pm</b>	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Hilary Wilson</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Worship to include Holy Communion led by The Minister</b>
<b>Thu</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11-1.0pm</b>	<b>Drop-in for Coffee, cakes, toasties, and teacakes.</b>
		<b>11-12noon</b>	<b>Zoom Drop-in Coffee Time as usual</b>

		<b>7.15pm</b>	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Karen Benjamin</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Worship led by The Minister</b>
Thu	20 <sup>th</sup>	11-1.0pm	Drop-in for Coffee, cakes, toasties, and teacakes.
		11-12noon	Zoom Drop-in Coffee Time as usual
		<b>7.15pm</b>	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Avril Bellwood</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Worship led by Alex Walker, Elder in Local Leadership at South Leeds</b>
Tue	25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Thu	27 <sup>th</sup>	11-1.0pm	Drop-in for Coffee, cakes, toasties, and teacakes.
		11-12noon	Zoom Drop-in Coffee Time as usual
		<b>7.15pm</b>	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by The Minister</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Location and time</b>	<b>Service for the Inauguration of the URC Leeds Partnership and Induction of the Ministry Team into the Partnership</b>
		<b>tba</b>	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Worship led by Stainbeck Team</b>

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022

Dear Friends,

*Uncertainty continues to be the order of the day for us all but, as a church we are looking forward in anticipation to the long-awaited changes that will support us as we move forward. The inauguration of **the Leeds URC Partnership** – at last – is a real turning point. Please hold the Ministry Team and all our churches in your prayers as we move into this period of transition. Please also pray for discernment, patience, and wisdom as we call a new Minister to join the team.*



*Meanwhile let us share a joyous, if different, Christmas and may our New Year bring us each that peace which passes all understanding. Be blessed,*

**Angela**

## **Churches Together take action for Climate Justice**

To coincide with COP26 in Glasgow, 17 people from our local churches joined several thousands on November 6<sup>th</sup> for the **Global Day of Action March** around Leeds city centre. Just one of 100's across the UK and in other countries worldwide.



We designed a two-sided banner with 'No Copping Out' on one side and 'Churches Together in Chapel Allerton and Meanwood' on the other.

We joined with a throng of organisations – Environmental groups, Fairtrade organisations, Tearfund, the Salvation Army, CND, Quakers, Socialist workers. The atmosphere was



enthusiastic and friendly.

We gathered in Millennium Square and set off briskly at 1pm following the beat of the Unity brass band. We were led in chants as we went:-

**What do we want? Climate Justice**

**When do we want it? Now**



In City Square we passed the impressive 8-metre cube which shows what just 1 tonne of carbon looks like.

## **So what is Climate Justice?**

The rise in global temperatures has led to flooding, famine and shortage of water, wildfires, increasingly violent storms, crops reduced and land being washed away. People are already suffering, and the temperature is still rising.

The risks and effects of climate change are not felt the same everywhere. Unfortunately, the countries which have caused the most damage to the climate, are not those most greatly affected by it. Many richer nations face lower risk because they are located in the northern temperate regions of the world where increased heat is less dangerous. They may not be in the path of cyclones or know what it is to have a 'hungry' (dry) season. If it gets too hot, they install air-conditioning, if disaster strikes, they can afford to rebuild.

In the warmer tropical and equatorial regions, they have none of these advantages and face higher risks of devastating weather and sea-level rises with fewer resources. Those who live in the richer countries are the ones who fly, drive, and use far more energy but will be the last to suffer. The injustice is that the effects of climate change fall on those least responsible for the problem.

At COP26 the southern countries made a just case for richer countries to make payments towards loss and damage which has already occurred, and to pay the cost of adapting to climate change. The delegates from vulnerable island groups were probably greatly disheartened when their fears that a small increase in temperature will cause their homes to be submerged in twenty years was not heard by great coal-producing nations.

There has not been an agreement that all governments must take the necessary action to avoid 1.5°C warming. There is much to be done. Please continue to do what you can.

*Helen Booth and Christine Robson*



**MEANWOOD VALLEY  
URBAN FARM**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH LOCAL CHURCHES,  
THE BARN CAFE, INTERACT, AGE UK LEEDS

**CHRISTMAS  
MARKET**

**CRAFT STALLS, SANTA, NATIVITY SCENE,  
CAROLS & CHRISTMAS MUSIC IN THE  
COURTYARD, REFRESHMENTS, TREASURE  
HUNT WITH GOODIE BAGS**

**TO BOOK A CRAFT STALL PLEASE EMAIL:  
CEO@MVUF.ORG.UK**

**11 DECEMBER 2021 11AM-3PM**

*Views expressed by individuals are personal and not necessarily those of Stainbeck Church.  
Revd Angela Hughes, Minister: 07752904317*

# **Christmas at Stainbeck URC**

please come and join us:

## **Carol Singing on Estate**

**Thu 16th Dec 6.30pm (In person)**

## **The Christmas Story**

**Sun 19th Dec 10.45am (In the building & on Zoom)**

## **Carols by Firelight**

**Sun 19th Dec 6-7pm (In the Church Garden)**

## **Midnight Communion**

**Fri 24th Dec 11.30pm (On Zoom)**

## **Christmas Celebration**

**Sat 25th Dec 10.00am (On Zoom & in the building TBC)**

Website: <https://stainbeckurc.org.uk>

Phone no: **07752 904317**