

# STAINBECK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)

<https://stainbeckurc.org.uk>

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023 held within Morning Worship**

## **BOOK OF REPORTS** **For 2022**

### **SECRETARIES' REPORT**

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022 eight URC Churches in Leeds held the long-awaited inauguration of the Leeds Partnership and the induction of the Ministry Team. St Andrew's, Roundhay was full as we all enjoyed a wonderful coming together service and welcomed our three Ministers – Revd Geoff Ellis, Revd Angela Hughes and Revd Tim Lowe with Alex Walker, Elder in Local Leadership. There was a lot of laughter and talking afterwards as we enjoyed sandwiches, cake, tea and coffee.



In September we all gathered again at Christ Church, Halton to ordain Nicola Robinson and induct her into the partnership Ministry Team. Nicola Robinson is the named Minister (first point of call) for Stainbeck, Christ Church, Halton and Headingley, St Columba. Revd Angela Hughes is stepping back from being Stainbeck's Minister although she is a valuable member of the Ministry Team and will still be supporting Stainbeck in other ways as well as the partnership churches. Stainbeck has much to thank her for being our Minister over the past 20 years as she has cared for us both in spiritual ways and through her work in the local community. Angela is held in high regard by many.

We also thank Donald for his support of her ministry and his friendship to all within our Church family and friends. We all gathered, churches and community, to celebrate her work with a fabulous afternoon tea in July which was a huge success.

The Church family have warmly welcomed Revd Dr Nicola Robinson and Maisie the cockapoo and we look forward to working with her in our commitment to bringing the love of Jesus to our local community.

The partnership also came together on Zoom at Eastertime for the Lent Course entitled Encounters and during Advent with a course entitled Travelling Light.

Revd Angela Hughes officiated at the funerals of Bob Watt in April, Dennis Parker in May, Mario Olzer in September, Brenda Craven in November and Georgina Bainbridge in December. There have not been any weddings or baptisms this year.



Our Community Café is running smoothly with the excellent help of Janet and Kelly, our two community volunteers. It would be good if we had the support of some other willing helpers on a Thursday to lighten the load. Brian and I are open to any offers of help.

We must also remember Vanessa and Maureen who work with us out of the Café each Thursday helping those who need advice regarding any problems that they are encountering. Once a month we have a Councillors' Surgery which is supportive for the community. The Café has now been extended for a further hour to offer a 'warm space'. This is a Council funded initiative for people to come into somewhere warm if they are having heating problems at home. Tea and coffee, biscuits and cake plus a chat are on offer.

The Lunch Club is meeting regularly now and enjoyed a visit from the Nursery children who sang Christmas songs and presented us with Christmas cards which they had made specially. Revd Nicola and Maisie

were welcomed by our members and we are looking forward to many more visits.

Our thanks also to John Harrison who continues to make sure that we have an excellent selection of reading material to choose from out of the book cupboard.

We must also remember Doreen and Peter Moore, who are stepping back from being part of the MAP Group. Their good management and help with MAP has been invaluable over the years not least during the pandemic. The church offers a BIG THANK YOU to you both. We welcome David Wilson to the MAP group and look forward to his help and knowledge with all things to do with the building.

Also, our thanks to the tech team for making sure that all who wish to be part of Sunday Worship, even if they cannot be there in person, are able to Zoom in from home.

Once again, please take time to read this booklet. There are many good and exciting things happening, especially our work with InterAct and Thrive, both must read reports!

Our love and prayers from Avril and Brian, we are looking forward to seeing and being with you all this next year.

***Avril and Brian Bellwood - Joint Church Secretaries***



## WORSHIP REPORT 2022

As I write the frost is lying thick on the ground, on the roofs and on trees, a delicate tracery of silver branches. Will it be very cold around our fire pits as we carol this year, or worse will it be very wet? But that is looking ahead to the end of 2022. My task now is to reflect again on a year past, another busy year, another year of change and yet of the same.

We have continued to make available Sunday worship on Zoom and this facility I know has been appreciated by a regular band of worshippers who are still unable to be with us in person. Friendships have developed, stories are shared and support given. We are grateful for their continuing company, readings and prayers. Meanwhile a steady number of members and friends are back in person to share in worship and in fellowship and that is so encouraging.

I would again like to express sincere thanks to the regular team of conscientious readers who are always willing to bring us well prepared and thoughtful Bible readings. We are indebted to Liam who brings us music week by week – even when he is miles away across the ocean, he pre-records the tunes for us and I am sure I am not the only person who sings with greater enthusiasm when Helen plays her trumpet too. Thank you both.

Then there are those unseen others who regularly support our weekly worship. I think of Adrian and Richard our technical operatives, of Glenn and the Karate friends who put the chairs out and Helen and Johnny who help to put the chairs away again after worship. Thanks to Sheila and Judy who prepare communion each month; to those who gift us with flowers which bring so much pleasure when they are distributed and to those who often spontaneously jump up to serve us with coffee after worship.

*“But Ann,”* I sense you thinking *“this is not worship.”* Yes, it is, this is the Stainbeck family coming before God, a family of faith sharing together in word and in deed.



The greatest change for us this year has been the affirming of the Leeds Partnership and the welcoming into our family of Revd Dr Nicola Robinson. How good it was to share in her service of Ordination and Induction in the summer. Week by week we are getting to know her better and better and she is getting to know us. It has been good to have her lead our worship; she will continue to do this at least once a month throughout the coming year. We are grateful for Angela's years of ministry with us and of all that together we have achieved, it is good to have her still 'around'.

We have welcomed several visiting preachers which is always a joy and in particular I must mention how good it was to have 'old boy' Revd. Steve Dixon to lead our anniversary service and to have Revd Julie Martin to bring one of the readings. Many happy memories were stirred on that day. Sincere appreciation is due to all those who have led our worship sharing their insights and thoughts during the year. Do remember that worship and teaching with young people and their families continues every month at Stainbeck when Messy Church takes place, a joyful ecumenical endeavour.

I cannot end without again naming that peaceful, prayerful, regular oasis that is the weekly Thursday prayer time when church friends, community friends, world concerns, personal concerns are all brought to God. If you would like prayer to be offered but are unable to Zoom with us then do let me or any of the leaders, named week by week in Outlook, know and we would be happy to name those concerns for you.



Finally, a particular request – will you please take time to pray for all those whom I have named in this report and for all those others named within this little 2022 Book of Reports. That will be the whole family of Stainbeck praying together. Thank you.

*Ann Coates – Worship Co-ordinator*

## SUNDAY CLUB REPORT 2022

You may remember that during the first lockdowns (2020) we used a breakout room to gather the children together after Zoom Worship. This was useful in those early months but understandably lost its appeal as time went on. We followed this up with weekly FUN BAGS for families (2021) until in 2022 we began step by step to return to church. However because of social-distancing and restrictions at that time we were not able to be very ‘family friendly’.

Alongside this MESSY CHURCH PACKS were delivered to our families monthly until in the Summer months – as permitted – MESSY CHURCH met in the church garden. Now of course MESSY CHURCH is back and flourishing (see p 19), and some of us enjoyed their nativity on the Sunday afternoon before Christmas.



But SUNDAY CLUB has not restarted. Life has moved on and circumstances change. We have experimented with different formats - Zoom in the Café Room or a table at the back of church - but this didn't quite fit the need. Sadly, we no longer have a Sunday Club Team and unless Emmanuelle is in church there is no supervision for little ones.

So what next?

Currently we encourage attendance at MESSY CHURCH and aim to have a child-friendly space in the back corner. We would appreciate thoughts from members and friends – especially our families. We miss you. Can we think this through together?

Once again, our thanks to Emmanuelle and to Messy Church for all that we ARE able to do. Any support for MESSY CHURCH would be welcome as would any fresh way forward as we start this new year.

*Angela Hughes – serving the Leeds URC Partnership*

## **STAINBECK LUNCH CLUB REPORT 2022**

Since we re-opened in September 2021 the Lunch Club has met regularly on a Monday morning for coffee, a lot of talking and a wonderful two course meal. 2022 has been a happy year for our members. Although we are still few in number (eight) we can still make a lot of noise. We now share the upper part of the building on a Monday morning with a baby and toddler group, much to the delight of our members who enjoy saying hello to the little ones and their mums/dads/carers.

We are still enjoying our meals purchased at the COOK shop and various puddings, some home baked, by Helen Inglis, which are much appreciated. Sandra Smith and Helen are our cooks along with Marian Strange who makes teas and coffees and helps with driving and clearing away. Francis Affleck helps to serve the food and Tom Malloy and Christine Robson along with Brian do the driving. All are valuable members of our team.

The Christmas lunch was well received by everyone and we all, volunteers and members, sat down together to enjoy an excellent meal. If you know of anyone who would like to join us on a Monday morning please let Brian or me or any of our helpers know – they would be most welcome to join us.

Sadly, Maurice Pilsworth has had to move into a home, but we sent him a card at Christmas and will keep in touch with him. Georgina Bainbridge, one of our long-term members of the club died in November. Georgina had been a resident in a care home for a few years but we had kept in touch with cards and small gifts. Another of our members Robin Dove, also died just after Christmas this year.

Brian and I would like to thank all our volunteers, along with Revd Angela Hughes, Revd Dr Nicola Robinson and the Church Family for your prayers and support.

***Avril and Brian Bellwood – Lunch Club Organisers***



## **CHRISTIAN AID 2022**

### **Christian Aid Week, 15th-21st May, 2022**

Christian Aid continues to do valuable work with our global neighbours who are increasingly affected by climate change.

It is however increasingly difficult to raise money in this climate of rising prices but Stainbeck managed to raise £199 via envelopes that were distributed in church. 200 'No need to collect' envelopes were also delivered but we do not know the response from these.

Between Chapel Allerton Methodist Church and St Matthews, 1600 delivery envelopes with QR details for local payment were delivered. 30 were returned and no one used the QR code for payment. Chapel Allerton Methodist Church also held a Big Breakfast on the Saturday which was not as well attended as some previous year's events.

The total raised by the Chapel Allerton Group of 4 churches for Christian Aid week was £1287.26 plus any donations made direct to Christian Aid.

By comparison, in 2018 Stainbeck URC raised £1219.65 through envelopes delivered and collected in the community, envelopes filled in the church and café, a card stall, the anniversary concert, charity of the month and café takings.

We will maybe have to think more creatively how to raise money for Christian Aid in 2023!

***Helen Booth- Christian Aid Organiser***



## **AFTER 8's REPORT 2022**

The After 8's this year had a late start with me and Doreen Moore ringing the members in February to ask if they were ready to start up again after the lock down. It was decided to meet up at the Olive Branch Restaurant in Alwoodley for dinner. We enjoyed the occasion and whilst there we arranged a mini-Annual General Meeting at Church on 20<sup>th</sup> April. At the meeting we put a calendar together for the year.

On May 18<sup>th</sup> Sheila led a walk at Temple Newsam. The weather was fine and the flowers were lovely.

On June 15<sup>th</sup> a bus trip to York was on the calendar. What a super day it was, hot and sunny and York was buzzing with tourists as usual. This was an enjoyable day out.

We enjoyed a walk around York Gate Gardens in July with a nice lunch in the café afterwards.

We didn't have a meeting in August, but on September 21<sup>st</sup> we met for a meal at the Beck and Call on Stainbeck Road.

The Darts and Dominoes on October 19<sup>th</sup> at Church in the Café room was a very good evening. There are always plenty of laughs as we try to hit the dart board. The nibbles were very good too. The happy winners were Ann Coates and David Hood.

Our November meeting was a country dancing evening at Moortown Baptist Church.

Fifteen of us attended the Christmas Dinner at Sandmoor Golf Club. This finished out year and we look forward to 2023 and wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

*Sandra Smith – After 8's Secretary*

# **CLIMATE JUSTICE REPORT 2022**

## **ECO GROUP REPORT 2022**

**The aim of our group is to look into what our church can do about the climate crisis, the over-use of fossil fuels and earth's resources and the degradation of the environment.**

### **To this end:-**

Last year we signed up to the A Rocha ECO Church Award scheme. We are joining over 5000 other churches round the UK looking at all aspects of our church life, to see if we could together make it as environmentally friendly as possible. The scheme has 3 different Award levels:- Bronze Silver and Gold. It involves looking at: our Worship and Teaching, our Buildings, our Land, our Community and Global Engagement, and our Lifestyles.

**To this end**, we produced an Action Plan. We presented this on September 1<sup>st</sup> at the Churches Together in Chapel Allerton and Meanwood (CTCAM) combined service at 'Hymns in the Street' at the Chapel Allerton Arts Festival.

So far, Stainbeck can report: Gold level in Worship and Teaching, Bronze level in Buildings, Bronze level in Community Engagement. (We need Bronze level across the board to get an Award!) Many of the activities listed below are working towards this.

February Fairtrade fortnight plus achieving accreditation as a Fairtrade Church in September.

March Soup evening (on Zoom!) saw Mark Powley speaking to us on "The Climate Crises."

May We took part in the Big Plastic Count – which sadly showed that only a relatively small amount of the plastic we use is recycled, and most goes to landfill or is strewn around our environment.

Oct Harvest Service on Caring for the Environment.

There have been articles in Outlook on fairtrade chocolate, the changing

climate, carbon footprints, and using recyclable paper and packaging for Christmas.

In Sept, the Eco Group invited Alex Jowett, the Green Apostle for the Yorkshire Synod, and Adrian Booth from our church Management and Property team to look at what can be done with our 1930's building.

In October, Alex Jowett came again and our new minister, Rev Nicola Robinson joined the team. We discussed Lifestyle changes we could make.

We are improving our recycling on church premises, transitioning to using recycled paper products such as in the kitchen and office, changing to LED light bulbs, using Fairtrade goods. We are also using Green tariffs for gas and electricity, and seeing what economies can be made.

So far, the recycling in the kitchen is looking good. Thank you

***The Eco Team - Helen Booth, Revd Samantha Sheehan, Revd Nicola Robinson and Christine Robson***



## Report 2022



2022 was as much a time of returning as building on what was born during the time of the pandemic. It was our first **Meanwood Olympics** in two years – the tenth one that Maureen has organised for

our area. We welcomed hundreds of people, new faces and old; so many pleased to be back. As always, it was good to create space for families to have fun together, but even more than usual, we were aware that the simple and old-fashioned games won the day. Sometimes that's all that's needed to have a good time! During the summer, we also enabled 100+ people to go on trips within and outside the city. These are valuable times of connection and memory-making that we're so grateful to be able to facilitate.

**The Pantry** has grown significantly in membership and local support. Over the course of the year, the membership trebled in size and 1463 visits were made, feeding 90-110 people each week. We have a fantastic team of volunteers from the local community and from the local churches, all of whom are getting to know their customers well and building some great relationships. The Pantry is a good place to make new connections, share cooking tips, experiment with new foods, save money and reduce food waste. We very much believe we live by the national Your Local Pantry network's motto of Dignity, Choice and Hope.



This was the year that **My Meanwood Community Anchor** was born. This is a legacy of the partnership working that has been so strong in our area for many years. Representatives of resident groups and Third Sector organisations meet regularly to work out what we can do better together to improve and strengthen our neighbourhoods. We're part of the Leeds Community Anchor Network and this has meant we've overseen the distribution of Government Household Support Fund, intended to help people through the cost of living crisis. This has helped us get fridges,



freezers, microwaves, cookers, food and fuel to people who have been struggling without. Working with others is a vital part of doing this well.



**Meanwood Men Shed** has continued to grow through the year, and we are also beginning to make connections with other Men's groups in Meanwood (that we didn't previously know about!). A group of men meet weekly, mainly to make and build up at the Shed on the farm, but there are social events steadily building that include a wider number

of people. We are constantly receiving requests for more information, so we know that there's interest and a need for these activities.

**Holy Trinity Café** has moved into the larger space at Holy Trinity Hall, which is more comfortable and has better acoustics than the room we previously used. It's made life a lot easier, and we're pleased to see people returning – around 30-35 each week. The café is currently registered as a warm space.

There's always so much more we could report – over 100 hampers delivered at Christmas; focused developments on the Beckhills; a grant awarded that's enabling us to focus on strategic development and becoming more resilient as a charity; but it seems good to end with looking forward.

We're now in partnership with Thrive Leeds to develop a new youth project that will focus on supporting young people to lead and volunteer in the community. We've been working really hard to find funds for a modular building in the grounds of Stainbeck Church, and it feels like we're getting close! If planning permission goes smoothly, the building will be in place in late spring, and we will finally be able to start bringing young people together again, having stopped our Monday Night Youth Club back in 2020 when the first lockdown happened. Definitely something to look forward to in 2023!

***Vanessa Brown - InterACT Co-Ordinator***

# **MANAGEMENT and PROPERTY REPORT 2022**

The Management & Property Team (MAP) meet on the 2nd Monday of each month to discuss all aspects of the Church property. At the start of the year the members were: Brian Bellwood, Adrian Booth, Angela Hughes, Peter Moore and Doreen Moore. In September, Peter and Doreen felt the time was right to step down from some of the roles they undertook at Stainbeck in the light of their other responsibilities. They have both made an enormous contribution to the team over many years for which we are extremely grateful.

We are delighted that David Wilson has since joined the MAP team as a core member alongside Brian and Adrian. Angela continues to provide much valued input during the transitional period.

## **BUILDING PROJECT**

In March we contracted with Yorkshire Pointing to grind out and repoint all walls of the church building where remedial work was needed including replacement of spalled and crumbling bricks. This work began at the end of March and was completed by late Spring.

The challenge of finding a suitable contractor for the remaining external works continued until, in September, we met with a representative of Lenica Building Solutions. With support from Ian Mitchell, who drew up a detailed specification for the works needed, we have now contracted with Lenica. This largely involves the steps up from the car park and down to the South entrance, the walls adjacent to the steps and the front boundary wall. The work should be carried out over the next two months.

## **ENERGY PRICES**

Increases in wholesale energy prices have impacted on churches as well as households and businesses. Our gas contract is on a fixed term until 2024 which has temporarily protected us from significant price increases. However, our electricity costs have increased hugely from £500 to £2,200 per month. The Government has promised some limited

protection from price increases until March but our energy provider has yet to clarify the extent to which this will reduce our costs. It is not known whether there will be any further assistance beyond March.

## **ENERGY CONSERVATION**

The increased cost of energy together with our responsibility to care for the environment has brought the need to reduce our energy use to the top of the agenda as we move forward. We need to explore all options available including insulation of the premises and generation of solar electricity. The age and design of our building make this something of a challenge. Our single central heating system for the nursery and the church means that the nursery, despite being closed during the evenings and weekends, is still heated when the church heating is on. We are in discussion with our central heating contractors about the installation of valves to enable us to control the heating in different parts of the building.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

Other issues addressed over the past year included:

- Cliff and Lynette's bench has been installed outside the front entrance to the church
- Through our contract with Safety Group, a Health and Safety consultancy, we now have an up-to-date Health and Safety Policy. Safety Group also provide specialist health and safety advice when required and act as our named "competent person" for health and safety
- Cabling has been run to the back of the church to improve the reliability of the internet for hybrid services on Zoom
- An easy to open replacement noticeboard has been fitted next to the back door so that notices can readily be kept up to date
- Problems with dumping of rubbish from Sainsburys' bins were dealt with successfully by PCSOs but general littering remains an issue. We have periodically cleared this but a rota of volunteers would be a great help to keep the church site tidy
- New furniture has been purchased for the Small Meeting Room

- Coat hooks have been fitted to the cupboard doors in the Café Room
- All hire agreements were updated by Doreen Moore and signed off by hirers. Brian and Avril are now responsible for hirings
- A sink, water heater and hot and cold-water supply have been fitted in the lounge
- Church lighting has largely been replaced with low energy use LED bulbs as recommended by the Eco Group
- External paintwork has been repaired and repainted
- Damaged or dangerous trees have been dealt with by the tree surgeon who is also dealing with weeds and overgrown areas adjacent to the building to reduce the risk of rodent problems
- A new sign has been fitted at the entrance to the car park to discourage inappropriate parking

***Management and Property Team***

## **MAP at WORK**





## LEEDS CITIZENS 2022

In April we attended the Leeds Citizens Assembly to learn a bit more about the wider Leeds issues and met with Team Beeston who were struggling with similar issues. We re-registered our membership in December.

### Team Beckhills

Graham Brownlee continued to facilitate the meetings at the beginning of the year, Phil Sage replaced Graham in May. The group met 10 times and had invited Taylor Wimpey and members of the Waste / Enforcement / Cleaner Neighbourhoods teams to get some progress on issues around the estate.

**12<sup>th</sup> January** – a hybrid meeting (in person and online) with 7 residents to try and come up with the top 3 priorities for the estate. A mosaic / mural for the wall, green gym and CCTV were voted the most popular by the 7 residents at this meeting.

**16<sup>th</sup> February** – 9 residents did some more preparation for a meeting with Taylor Wimpey on 9<sup>th</sup> March.

**2<sup>nd</sup> March** - Members of Team Beckhills prepped for the meeting with Helen Dean-Charleworth and Ian from Taylor Wimpey. Issues with lack of communication, mud and construction vehicle parking were discussed as well as TB's desire to have a fly tipping campaign.

**9<sup>th</sup> March** – A good turnout for the hybrid meeting with Taylor Wimpey and 17 residents in person plus some residents joining in online. Good meeting, Ian (site manager) explained the various road closures and the reasons for these and the expected timescale. TW agreed to provide a newsletter. An email in the meantime would have the key dates. Ian agreed to attend TB meetings to give progress updates and answer questions.

**4<sup>th</sup> May** – Phil Sage from Leeds Citizens joined us. Ian (TW) attended and said he felt welcomed. The communication was better, and the mud had been cleared up. TB thanked TW for responding to their concerns. Ian updated the team on timescales for the works.

**8<sup>th</sup> June** – 10 residents, Cllr Dowson and Ian (TW) attended the meeting and we had received the long-awaited TW newsletter. One was laminated for a resident to put in the bus stop on Potternewton Lane. Ian

was as fed up with the amount of litter on the estate as the residents. He had spoken with the Council about this issue. After a lot of discussion on bin collections and litter it was decided that a separate waste meeting was required.

**13<sup>th</sup> July** – 6 residents, Ian, PCSO Nikki and two council staff – Tom from Housing and Steve from the ASB Team attended. Nobody from the waste team was willing to attend the meeting. Waste issues were discussed, and Ian gave an update on the progress on site.

**14<sup>th</sup> September** – 8 residents attended. Phil updated them on progress made with Carr Manor School who were training all pupils (primary and secondary) in listening, organising, action and negotiation skills. Litter, bin and fly tipping issues were discussed and Phil took everyone through the 6 steps of community organising - Organise, Listening, Planning, Action, Negotiation and Evaluation.

**12<sup>th</sup> October** – 7 residents and Maureen (Asset Based Community Development - ABCD). Many opportunities to talk to / communicate with new residents were discussed but none were actioned!

**9<sup>th</sup> November** – Team Beckhills met with 4 members of the Waste and Enforcement teams from the Council. It was a productive meeting where the Council staff were clearly listening. They had not realised the extent of the issues as people do not report incidents of bin bags thrown around causing them to split or being left in a heap that is never collected. One resident had 9 weeks of missed bin collections over the Summer. A request was made to map the estate so people do not get missed. They committed to a walk around the estate with residents but would not commit to meeting again with Team Beckhills due to other priorities. This was the last meeting of Team Beckhills for the year, meetings will resume on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

***Helen Booth - Leeds Citizens Representative***





## Looking towards 2023

This last term at **Thrive Leeds** has been full up with lots of fun, celebration and growth: residentials away for **Totally Tuesday** and **WOW** (teenagers); welcoming Sarah, our new member of staff; our first **Messy Church** nativity and a girls' group at **Carr Manor Community School**. Some new things to explore, amongst the regular goings on at Thrive!



We have had a few firsts at **Messy Church** this term. At our Advent session in November, we welcomed our first live animals as some guinea pigs came to visit, which delighted everyone especially the children. And our first **Messy Church Nativity** was a big success and both children and adults got

dressed up and joined in the telling of the Christmas story. It was slightly chaotic at times (well it is Messy Church!) but it was a joy to be able to share in the Good News of Jesus at Christmas. We have welcomed some new people into **Messy Church** this term, as well as keeping building relationships with those we have known for years, with plenty of opportunities to support and encourage in different ways.

We have welcomed a new team of young volunteers at **Totally Tuesday**, who bring their own wonderful set of skills and experiences. It has been encouraging to see them take the lead and do it in a different way to how it has been done before. When asked about their experiences, they shared *"I really like how at TT everyone's opinions are valid...it is a safe place to express thoughts and ideas!"* and *"I love TT because of the brilliant way it gets us to think while having fun with others!"*. Another highlight



this term has been our residential to the West End Centre when we spent the weekend together exploring the beautiful area and reflecting on Jesus being with us every day and through everything.

It has been brilliant to welcome Sarah Meyer to the Thrive team and here are her reflections on how her time with us has begun...*In November I started as the new Youth Support Worker for **WOW**. I am a member of Chapel Allerton Baptist church and a special education Teaching Assistant. I am extremely excited about my new role with WOW and have some exciting ideas which I look forward to exploring in the New Year. My first introduction to WOW was joining the West End residential on Sunday morning. It was apparent in conversations that they had had an enjoyable weekend of cooking, walking, talking, and playing games together. The questions box was brimming with very interesting questions about God, Christianity and other religions, which opened up great conversations.*

It was great to be back in **Carr Manor Community School** this term to meet with a group of Year 7 girls to offer space to chat about wellbeing, encourage connection and offer support. We look forward to continuing this relationship with the school as the academic year goes on and supporting the pupils with them.

As the term comes to a close, we have made a big step forward with the **MEANWOOD YOUTH** development, as we have placed a deposit on a modular building! This year has seen a focus on fund-raising, and we have been encouraged to have reached the target to get to the stage of placing a building. Thank you for all the local fund-raising alongside the grant applications – your support cheers us on!

We will need to continue this effort, as we make adjustments to the building to include a kitchen and make it accessible, but this feels a great stage to have arrived at. In the New Year, we will be applying for planning permission to place the building in the



grounds of Stainbeck Church and meeting with local young people to look at beginning an after school drop-in and helping with the building work, where we are able. So more adventures ahead!

It is wonderful to work so closely with **InterACT: Church and Community Partnership** and find our way with this work together, sharing the load and navigating the challenges.

We appreciate the support you give to Thrive and us, which makes this work possible – thank you for the encouragement, funds and prayers.

*Hannah, Helen and Sarah, Thrive Staff Team.*  
**[hannah.dey@thriveleeds.org.uk](mailto:hannah.dey@thriveleeds.org.uk)**

## **UPDATE – UPDATE – UPDATE – UPDATE**

Planning permission has now gone in – please hold this exciting new initiative in your prayers.

### **ALSO:**

#### **An invitation to**

#### **THRIVE AGM at 7.30pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

Join us to celebrate all that THRIVE is and be encouraged by stories from the year. We will hear from the children and young people about what it means for them to be part of THRIVE, as well as looking ahead to what the future may hold.

On Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84035656508?pwd=cTErOTBlQ1FXSmpBcWh5RGdjbVNsZz09>

Meeting ID: 840 3565 6508; Passcode: 636512



# FINANCE REPORT 2022

## Payment and receipts for the year ended 31 December 2022 Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)

			Amount
<b>Income</b>			
	Donations	£	19,657
	Income Tax Recovered	£	6,808
	Church Group	£	276
	Other Income	£	16,327
	Room lettings	£	12,610
	Nursery lease	£	25,000
	Community Café	£	980
	Grants received	£	15,200
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>96,857</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Ministry	Organist	£	1,300
	Preaching Fee	£	840
	Ministerial expenses	£	3,000
Worship	Worship resources	£	223
	Mission and Ministry	£	19,496
	Leeds Partnership	£	3,266
	Outlook	£	261
	InterACT	£	2,755
	Work in the Community	£	1,277
	Charities	£	524
	Leeds Citizen	£	250
	Community Café	£	194
	Thrive	£	1,800
Property	Repair and renewal	£	17,250
	Routine maintenance	£	6,095
	Cleaning	£	4,582
	Utilities	£	21,657
	Telephone/internet	£	338
	Waste Disposal	£	4,077
Office	Stationery	£	462
	Postage	£	319
	Professional Fees	£	510
	Licences & Subscriptions	£	945
	Bank Charges	£	99
	Insurances	£	3,734
	Publicity	£	-
	Office Printer Expenses	£	1,113
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>96,368</b>
<b>Net Receipts/Payments</b>			
		£	489
	Balance Brought Forward (31/12/2021)	£	25,398
	Held on behalf of LeedsPartnership	£	8,301

Adjustment	£	370
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>33,818</b>
Made up of (balance at 31/12/2022)		
HSBC Community Acct	£	26,349
HSBC Bmm Acct	£	7,469
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>33,818</b>

**Stainbeck Church (United Reformed) -  
Receipt and expenses report 2022 - notes**

**Receipts**

Donations

Gift Aid giving	£ 10,694.00
Other Donations (incl Church donations)	£ 8,277.87
Benevolent Giving	£ 1,200.00

Other Income

Insurance	£ 15,976.03
Photocopying from InterAct	£ 346.37
Church magazine	£ 5.00

**Payments**

Donations to Charities

MVUF	£ 174.45
KidzKlub	£ 132.01
Lineham Farm	£ 85.11
Food Pantry	£ 132.57

*\*\* still to pay to Charities*

<i>Lineham Farm</i>	<i>£ 49.82</i>
<i>Martin House</i>	<i>£ 124.05</i>
<i>Christian Aid</i>	<i>£ 5.00</i>

Repairs and Renewal

Vitalis (chairs in lounge)	£ 1,400.00
Adrian Scully (Pointing)	£ 11,000.00
Plumbing	£ 1,300.00

Utilities

Gas	£ 8,667.95
Water	£ 2,601.00
Electricity	£ 10,388.49

Vacancy	£ 367.65
Enabler	£ 266.18

**Leeds Partnership fund\***

Receipts	£ 22,138.71
Payments	£ 13,837.96
Balance	£ 8,300.75

\* Stainbeck is treasurer for the Leeds Partnership

***Church Treasurer – Emmanuelle Bastide-Wilson***

# **Financial report 2022**

## **Receipts**

The total receipts for the year ended 31 December 2022 is £96,857

## **Donations**

Donations have totalled £19,657, just over half being gift aided. Many donations are made by standing order or bank transfer. A big thank you to all who have donated this year, it is much appreciated and really helps Stainbeck in supporting its mission.

## **Room Hire**

The total received from room hire this year is £12,610. The groups hiring are well-attended, needed and welcomed by the community and Stainbeck is also benefiting from the income it provides. Another big thank you to Angela, Doreen, Avril and Brian who have made huge efforts for this to start to work well.

## **Other income**

It is worth noting that £15,976.03 of this is the final settlement from the insurance regarding loss incurred during Covid. We will not have this income this year.

## **Payments**

The accounts show that our ministry is evolving as we contribute to the Leeds Partnership. Also that we are part of several charities which are key to our mission and outreach: InterAct, Thrive, and Leeds Citizens, also the Community Café. Importantly all form part of our ministry.

## **Donations to Charities**

Elders took the decision this year to allocate 2 months for the chosen charities so that our donations will hopefully make a bit of difference to them. Below are the charities we have supported:

- Kidz Klub;
- Meanwood Valley Urban Farm (MVUF);
- InterACT Food Pantry
- Lineham Farm
- Christian Aid
- Martin House

## **Routine maintenance and Property expenses**

The MAP group are doing an amazing job at ensuring the building is looked after regularly with checks, services and routine repairs being done regularly.

Big expenditure this year has been the purchase of chairs for the lounge (£1,400) which has completed the transformation of the room, as well as the installation of a sink in that room (£1,300), and the pointing of the building (£11,000) which was part of the work requiring completion in our last quinquennial review.

## **Utilities**

Utilities are the biggest expenditure for Stainbeck at present representing £21,657. Although gas expenditure will remain stable for another year, the electricity expenditure is going up dramatically as our contract ran out in the Autumn. We will be looking at ways to reduce our consumption but also at negotiating more contribution from the building users. In 2023 this is going to be one of our biggest challenges.

## **Leeds Partnership**

One of the significant things to happen this year was the inauguration of the Leeds Partnership of which Stainbeck is the treasurer. In due course a separate bank account will be set up but delay with HSBC means that the fund is held within Stainbeck's current account but accounted for separately.

You will also see that our financial contribution to the partnership has increased but note that this is because all ministerial expenses will in future be paid by the partnership. This is a new way of working together and we hope it will encourage a greater sharing of ministry (and all resources) across the churches.

I want to thank all who help the treasurers do their job, and most of all who donate so generously to this church.

***Treasurers: Emmanuelle Bastide-Wilson, Suzie Hamlin***  
***Banking: Hilary Wilson***

## **THE LEEDS (URC) PARTNERSHIP**

The Leeds United Reformed Church Partnership officially came into being, (after several years of discussions), on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022, when a service of inauguration was held at St Andrew's Roundhay United Reformed Church, led by the Yorkshire Synod Moderator, Revd Jamie Kissack. During the service, the members of the Ministry Team were inducted into the Partnership.

### **The churches**

The Partnership comprises the following churches of the Leeds Mission and Care Group:

- Beeston Hill United Free Church (LEP: Baptist, Methodist, URC)
- Christ Church Halton (LEP: Methodist, URC)
- Headingley St Columba URC
- St Andrew's Roundhay URC
- Stainbeck URC
- The URC in South Leeds
- West Park URC
- Wigton Moor URC

The churches which chose not to join the Partnership are welcome to do so at a later stage should they so wish and, as members of the Leeds Mission and Care Group, they will continue to be invited to take part in all shared events.

### **The ministry team**

The ministry team currently comprises:

- Revd Geoff Ellis – self supporting Minister
- Revd Angela Hughes – self supporting Minister
- Revd Tim Lowe – Stipendiary Minister
- Revd Dr Nicola Robinson – Stipendiary Minister
- Mr Alex Walker – Elder in Local leadership (self supporting)





## The vision

The vision and opportunity of the Leeds URC Partnership is to enable each member church to fulfil God's vision and mission within its own local community, enabled by the ministry team. Although some activities may involve some or all of the member churches, many will be for churches on their own. Through the Partnership, the churches will continue to co-operate, encourage each other and make the best use of limited resources.

## How it works

- All Partnership churches have a named minister as their first point of contact. Currently, the pairings are as given below but this is subject to change (with the approval of ministers and churches) as the Partnership develops and / or ministers leave or retire:
  - Beeston Hill United Free Church: Revd Peter Brazier (Methodist)
  - Christ Church Halton: Revd Helen White (Methodist) & Revd Dr Nicola Robinson
  - Headingley St Columba URC: Revd Dr Nicola Robinson
  - St Andrew's Roundhay URC: Revd Tim Lowe
  - Stainbeck URC: Revd Dr Nicola Robinson
  - The URC in South Leeds: Mr Alex Walker, Elder in Local Leadership
  - West Park URC: Revd Geoff Ellis
  - Wigton Moor URC: Revd Tim Lowe

Revd Angela Hughes is a member of the team but not the named minister for a church.

- The ministers are normally expected to lead worship at least once a month in the churches for which they are the named minister and also occasionally in the other Partnership churches so that they are known throughout the Partnership,
- The ministers work collaboratively in a way that best utilises their skills and abilities and enables elders and members to work for the benefit of all the churches in the Partnership. As the Partnership is so new to both the churches and the ministry team, ways of operating are still being worked out and it is expected that they will continually evolve as situations change.
- The ministry team is accountable to the collective churches of the Leeds URC Partnership through a steering group, which includes one lay person from each of the member churches.
- Currently Emmanuelle Bastide-Wilson is Stainbeck's representative and also the treasurer for the partnership
- In the future, funding may be sought to finance an administrator for the Partnership, who would also manage the expenses of the ministry team.
- Funding may also be sought to support other ministries within the ministry team to work across a number of churches or the whole Partnership eg Church Related Community Worker (CRCW), youth and children / family worker.
- A review of the Partnership will take place when the shared ministry at Christ Church is reviewed in 2025, judging its success on how well the churches are being enabled to worship, fulfil their mission and have pastoral care. Appropriate adjustments will then be made to the Partnership and / or team.

***Nicola Robinson – named minister at Stainbeck Church***

Avril & Brian Bellwood, Church Secretaries: 0113 293 5847