

Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)

OUTLOOK

October 2023



**Please worship with us:
Sunday Morning at 10.45am
Thursday Prayers at 7.30pm
on Zoom**

<https://stainbeckurc.org.uk>

Stainbeck Road,
Leeds, LS7 2PP
revnicola.robinson@gmail.com



OCTOBER 2023

Dear Friends,

Monday 4 October is the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi. Many paintings and statues depict him with all kinds of animals, birds and trees. Francis recognised that all of creation is interconnected with one another and with God, who is present in each and every single thing that is living.

I invite you to read and ponder his beautiful words:

“Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures, especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and you give light through him. ...Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars; in the heavens you have made them, precious and beautiful.”

This month, Sunday 8 October, we have a special service in the afternoon to celebrate the joy of our pets and animal companions, in our first ever Pet Blessing service. We will give thanks to God for all they bless us with and remember those loyal companions we have lost.

Later in the month, we will celebrate Harvest. Harvest is a time when we recognise that each one of us can do things differently with the abundance of God’s gifts. Especially, when we also recognise that this abundance is **not** shared by all. And when we recognise this injustice, we can acknowledge and explore ways of sharing that abundance.

Indeed, with the **UN COP 28 Climate Change Conference** due to take place in November, these actions highlight to the world our commitment to building God’s kingdom of justice and joy for all.

Nicola

A wee prayer (from Simon Taylor)

Let us
till the earth gently,
tend the animals lovingly,
share with the hungry generously,
pay the worker fairly,
enjoy the food thankfully,
praise the Giver abundantly. **Amen.**

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Where there is tender care and love, God is present

There are those within our Church Family who have not been feeling too well over the last few weeks; if you are one of those, please remember that you are remembered and spoken of at the Elders' meeting and Thursday prayers.

It was good to welcome into membership, on the 17th September, **Jackie Watt**. Jackie wishes to say a big 'THANK YOU' to everyone for making her day so memorable.

Brian Bellwood would like to thank everyone for singing happy birthday to him on his big '0' birthday, also on the 17th September. He was still smiling when we went out for a celebration meal with all the family. Thank you to **Anny Kochman** who celebrated a birthday with us on Sunday 24th September with a lovely caterpillar chocolate cake!



It was good to see all our Lunch Club friends back together after our August break. Twelve of us all sat down to lunch which was prepared by **Helen Inglis** and ably assisted by **Pam McFetridge**. It is good to have Pam back on board. If anyone feels able to help occasionally at the Lunch Club, it is always good to have an extra pair of hands. Please speak to Avril or Brian.

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

HERE AND THERE

Looking back

After some very dismal, damp August weather our hearts and spirits were lifted as we greeted the sunshine and warmth of the start of September.

Chapel Allerton Arts Festival was a joy to walk around in the sun, seeing people not seen for a while, investigating all the craft work on the stalls, having a coffee in the Methodist Centre and maybe even receiving a blessing from the Churches Together stall – I hope you didn't miss that.

Hymns in the Street organised this year by Chapel Allerton Baptist Church, was a lovely service of hymns and reflections supported by a



great group of musicians and singers from across the churches. A good crowd enthusiastically raised their voices – thank you to all who took part in what has become a valued time of sharing across our denominations.

As I write, the shared partnership Bible Study series '**A Glorious Whisper**' is coming to an end. The gatherings at Stainbeck on Thursday afternoons have been well supported with open conversations and shared experiences of knowing God in our lives as well as reflecting on accounts of God entering the lives of people in our bible stories. I think there will be an opportunity in Advent for a further series of sharing together led by the Ministry Team – to whom we give our thanks for leading us through this series.

Angela and Ann were at the service to mark the closing of St. Mary's in the Wood, Morley's church building. It was interesting to hear something of their long history in that place and good to hear that they hope to continue their ministry and mission within the town whilst based within the Central Methodist Church there. We wish them well. I could not help but remember **John Tilbury**, a long-time loyal member at Morley and a good friend to Stainbeck and to other churches within the former Leeds District Council over many years.

GOOD NEWS GOOD NEWS GOOD NEWS GOOD NEWS

THRIVE and **InterACT** have – at last - received confirmation from Leeds City Council that we have been granted planning permission to erect a detached single-storey building with a ramp in the grounds of our Church. Things can now be put in motion to start the building process – watch this space! A real encouragement to leaders and young people!

A big **‘THANK YOU’** to all those who have worked so hard to put the application process together – an excellent result – from Avril and Brian on behalf of Stainbeck.

DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2023

Elder on Duty – Hilary Wilson

Sun	1st	10.45am	Hybrid Café Style worship led by Revd Ashley Evans – URC Synod Evangelist
Mon	2 nd	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Tue	3 rd	7.30pm	A Glorious Whisper part 4 – the Partnership Bible study continues via Zoom
Thu	5 th	11-1pm	Café open for coffee, cakes, toasties and toasted tea cakes. All welcome
		2.00pm	A Glorious Whisper part 4 – the Partnership Bible study continues at Stainbeck
		7.15pm	Zoom opens for Thursday prayers with the Partnership led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson
Sun	8th	10.45am	Hybrid Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson
		3.00pm	Pet Service led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson
Mon	9 th	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Thu	12th	11-1pm	Café open for coffee, cakes, toasties and toasted tea cakes. All welcome
		7.15pm	Zoom opens for Thursday prayers led by Avril and Brian
Sat	14 th	10.00am	Yorkshire Synod of the URC meet at Holme URC, Bradford

Sun	15th	10.45am	Hybrid celebration of the Harvest led by your Elders
		3.30-5pm	Messy Church at Stainbeck
Mon	16 th	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Wed	18 th	7.00pm	After 8's Darts and Dominoes
Thu	19 th	11-1pm	Café open for coffee, cakes, toasties and toasted tea cakes. All welcome
		7.15pm	Zoom opens for Thursday prayers led by Revd Angela Hughes
Sun	22nd	10.45am	Hybrid Worship led by Revd Angela Hughes - Preacher Prof. Haddon Wilmer
Mon	23 rd	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Tue	24 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Thu	26th	11-1pm	Café open for coffee, cakes, toasties and toasted tea cakes. All welcome
		7.15pm	Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Hilary Wilson
Sun	29th	10.45am	Hybrid Worship led by Ann Coates and the Eco group – Preacher Prof. Colin Beale from A Rocha (See below)
Mon	30 th	11-2pm	Lunch Club

November Dates for your Diary

Sun	5th	10.45am	Hybrid Worship led by Revd Angela Hughes
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Looking forward

FINDING HOPE IN THE CARE OF CREATION

A Rocha is a global family of conservation organisations working together to live out God's calling to care for creation and equip others to do likewise. A Rocha, which means "*the rock*" in Portuguese, was founded in Portugal in 1983.

<https://arocha.org.uk>

On **Sunday October 29th** for our special ECO themed service we have a speaker from A Rocha UK, Professor Colin Beale.

‘Colin Beale is a trustee of the Christian Conservation Charity A Rocha UK and is a Professor of Ecology at the University of York. As well as writing and publishing on a wide range of topics in conservation science, he has worked in practical conservation in Lebanon, Portugal and the UK. He lives in York with his family, is a member of the village church and enjoys being outside with a pair of binoculars and a lot of birds!’

Our church is currently working with A Rocha to become an Eco church. This involves examining all parts of our church life from heating efficiency of our buildings to the food we serve in the Café. We know we cannot keep using up the earth’s resources without thought. We are warming the atmosphere by our actions and causing wildfires and floods elsewhere in the world making life much harder for many people.

Surely the problem is too large, what difference can we make?

Global warming is being made worse by lots of people doing lots of small things that don’t show care for our planet. However, if we all do small things to help our planet, we will collectively make a big difference.

On the windowsill in church, you will find a book labelled **Just One Thing** (real title ‘How bad are bananas?’) **DON’T TRY TO READ IT ALL** – dip in for 5 minutes. Find lots of interesting things you never knew – and ways you can make a difference. Borrow it for a few days or read it in the Café. If you have ideas how we can make a difference in church, speak out!

Christine Robson

This month we look forward to Stainbeck's first **Pet Service** at **3 pm on Sunday 8th October**. You are invited to bring along your pet of



whatever sort. Bring your special friend to share in a time of appreciation and thanksgiving. Don't worry if you are not a pet owner, you will still be very welcome. If you had a pet of any kind who is no longer with you please feel free to bring a photo of them and of course memories of the times you shared

with them. Tea and biscuits (and of course treats!) to share after the service.

The following **Sunday 15th October** we will once again celebrate the **HARVEST** with a service led by the Elders. We invite you this year, as we have done before, to bring gifts suitable for stocking the Food Pantry in Meanwood, an **InterACT** initiative. We ask that no fresh fruit of vegetables are brought but that you bring tinned or package goods perhaps bearing in mind items for vegans, vegetarians, people who are on a gluten-free diet, multi-cultural shoppers as well as those items like long life milk, cereals and pasta and drinks which are often on our shopping lists. The pantry also stock household goods, childcare and most importantly, hygiene products. There is plenty to focus your imaginations on.

Conversely if shopping is not easy for you, then gifts of money in an envelope marked Pantry would also be gratefully received.

On **Saturday 14th at 4.00pm** we will **decorate the church** for harvest in the usual fashion with flowers of all sorts. We would appreciate gifts of flowers to be brought to church that afternoon please. The flowers will later be distributed to bring joy to church and community friends. Thank you in advance!

A volunteering opportunity: Would you like help at the weekly **Monday Lunch Club**? An extra pair of hands would be very welcome to join the group who offer hospitality, lunch and friendship to this happy group. It need not necessarily involve you every week. Please speak to Avril for more details if you would like to join the team. Again, thank you.



And here's a long shot – any offers to help us clear and organise the **CLEANING CUPBOARD? Angela on behalf of MAP - and willing to help!**

BRAVE WORDS is a theatre company with a group based in Meanwood Community Centre. They make new work telling inspiring stories.

This is what they say about themselves:

'We ask why we are telling the stories, and what we can learn from them. We champion the voices of people from all backgrounds, and invest in developing communities to feel able to tell their stories. We help children and young people grow confidence and make theatre exciting, accessible and adventurous.'

BRAVE WORDS are to perform a play called **MUTTON** and one of their performances will be based at Stainbeck – **Wednesday 22nd November**.

This is their exciting new three-part theatre and performance project telling the story of Mary Bateman – Leeds most famous witch and con-woman. Mutton is a dark comedy exploring the life and times of the Yorkshire Witch. How the desperation of ordinary folk in the early 1800's is paralleled today. The dangers we face by trying to grasp a little more control over our lives.

1809 – Mary Bateman is about to be hung for witchcraft and murder. Only one of those things is illegal. Her career of crime has included fake identities, magic charms, poisoned pudding, a holy hen, drunk watchmen, a fire at the mill and – of course – a freshly shaved leg of MUTTON.

If you would like to come along and see the performance please either buy your ticket at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mutton-community-storytelling-group-tickets-718411878267>

or speak to Avril and Brian and we will obtain the tickets for you. The play is to be performed in the Church so there will be a limitation on the number of seats available. The cost of the ticket is £3 per person.

Don't miss out! Book now!

Also see from the poster below – an opportunity to join their weekly story-telling sessions. The invitation is open to all and is held at Stainbeck on a Wednesday evening.

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

**Revd Dr Nicola Robinson, Minister: revnicola.robinson@gmail.com
Avril and Brian Bellwood, Church Secretaries: 0113 293 5847**

**BRAVE
WORDS**

MUTTON COMMUNITY STORYTELLING GROUP

Re-telling stories of local people
who have lived in Meanwood
through the centuries.

Using creative writing, poetry,
and performance skills to
collaborate with people in your
local community.



Stainbeck URC, Stainbeck
Road, Leeds, LS7 2PP



Wednesdays, starting from
Wednesday 4th October
18:30 - 20:00

Suitable for all, no experience necessary.
Come along and try it out!

Scan the QR code to register:

Or email rheanna@bravewords.co.uk



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Pet Blessing Service



All pets and their humans welcome

Sunday 8 October

3:00pm

**Stainbeck United Reformed
Church
Stainbeck Road
LS7 2PP**