

**Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)**

# **OUTLOOK**

**February 2024**



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

<https://stainbeckurc.org.uk>

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Dear Friends,

As we move through this season of **EPIPHANY** – we discover little by little the true identity of the infant Christ – God with us – Immanuel. This year we have also explored the different ways that God calls his people to follow him – the patriarchs and prophets – the first disciples – you and me. And soon we will be in the season of **LENT** as we move towards **HOLY WEEK** and **EASTER**.

**LENT** begins with **ASH WEDNESDAY** when we remember our own shortcomings and mortality and the LOVE of God coming to us in JESUS. Love without measure.

Significant then that this year **ASH WEDNESDAY** falls on February 14<sup>th</sup> – St Valentine's Day. Impossible not to reflect on the nature of love ..... and the unconditional love that is of God.

I share the entry in our URC Prayer Handbook this year for February 14<sup>th</sup>:

This day, dear Lord,  
When we think of earthly love,  
Bring near your word  
That we may heed the dove  
Whose offering of peace,  
And restoration,  
Will urge us cease  
This endless war of nations.  
In the midst of all parched places  
Give us strength now to restore  
The long-neglected spaces.  
And refill the hearts of people torn  
By hate and grief with hope, so springing  
From the ashes may come love forever shining.

*Elfreda Tealby-Watson:*

I hope you will feel able to take up some of the opportunities offered this month – read, enjoy and share.

May this LENT bring blessing and peace in these troubled times,

*Angela*

## **FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

**Where there is tender care and love, God is present**

We continue to remember and pray for members of our Church Family who are being cared for in various Care Homes in the city.

We remember **Revd Nicola** who is suffering from a flu-type illness and persistent cough. We hope you will soon be on the mend Nicola. Also **Revd Liz Brown**, who moved into a Care Home eighteen months ago and has struggled to adjust. She is almost totally blind now and very frail needing constant care. Please hold her too in your prayers.

There are others 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 see that the recent storm Isha did not discourage our Lunch Club members from coming out to enjoy a meal of shepherd's pie, broccoli and carrots followed by one of Helen's apple and blueberry crumbles and custard.

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.**

Please remember:

- 1) let us know if you have news to share
- 2) we have an online **PRAYER GROUP** managed by **Hilary Wilson** on WhatsApp and we also share **prayers on Zoom every Thursday evening**. If you want to know more, if you or others have pastoral or practical needs, please talk in confidence to one of the Elders or the Ministers.



We are delighted to announce the safe arrival of **Eliza Joy**, Kay Walker's first great grandchild; and **Reuben Charlie** another son for Melanie and Steve.



Congratulations to all concerned. Enjoy!  
These little ones grow far too quickly!

Finally a 'thank you' from Ann Coates:

Ann and family would like to express our grateful thanks to all those Stainbeck friends who have supported us through these past months in so many different ways. John was always so appreciative of the messages I regularly passed on. We were all so comforted by those who came to share with us both in person and on Zoom as we celebrated his life with us all. Thank you. This was truly love in action.

## HERE AND THERE

### Looking back .....

Looking back for the February edition of Outlook is never easy for so much seems to have happened and I'm not sure where to start! My first thought this morning was RAIN! We seem to have had so much of it through the past two months but at least we have not suffered here as many other folk across our county and country have – just the usual Stainbeck front door paddling pool! Which reminds me to thank all who work so hard to keep our building warm, dry and comfortable. They give so generously of their time and their gifts and we do appreciate it.



All our Christmas services and celebrations went well and were full of joy. We could have done with a few more carol singers at the **Meanwood Valley Urban Farm** but it was a very wet morning so a special thank you to those singers who made it.



However, we enjoyed doing the usual singing on the local estates – including some of the new Taylor Wimpey homes that are now



occupied. And of course there were the **Fire Pit singers**.

We must thank all those who played their part in so many different ways from the **Leeds Concert Band** who started the month off with another great Christmas concert through the **Craske family's** decorating of the Christmas tree, this year with

‘green’ decorations – beautiful – and through all those others who brought Christmas joy through special parties, who donated, so generously, gifts to make Christmas a little brighter to those many families facing difficulties at this time. It truly was a season of giving.

## DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2024

### Elder on Duty – Ann Coates

Thu	1 <sup>st</sup>	11-1pm	Café open for coffee, toasties and toasted tea cakes. All welcome
		7.15pm	Zoom opens for Thursday <b>PARTNERSHIP PRAYERS</b> led by Revd Angela Hughes

<b>Sun</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Hybrid Worship led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson which will include the <b>Annual General Meeting</b> followed by a Faith Lunch – All welcome</b>
Mon	5 <sup>th</sup>	11-2 pm	Lunch Club
Thu	8 <sup>th</sup>	11-1pm	Café open for coffee, toasties and toasted tea cakes. All welcome
		<b>7.15pm</b>	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Avril and Brian Bellwood</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Hybrid Worship with <b>Holy Communion</b> led by Revd Angela Hughes to include the <b>Rededication of Elders and Church Members</b></b>
Mon	12 <sup>th</sup>	11-2 pm	Lunch Club
Thu	15 <sup>th</sup>	11-1pm	Café open for coffee, toasties and toasted tea cakes. All welcome
		<b>7.15pm</b>	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers marking the beginning of LENT; led by Ann Coates</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Hybrid Worship for LENT 1 led by Revd. Geoff Ellis</b>
Mon	19 <sup>th</sup>	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Mon		1.30pm	<b>LENT GROUP 1 @ URC in South Leeds</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>THRIVE Annual General Meeting open to all.</b>
Wed	21 <sup>st</sup>	2.00pm	<b>LENT GROUP 1 @ Headingley St Columba's</b>
		7.30pm	<b>LENT GROUP 1 on ZOOM</b>
Thu	22 <sup>nd</sup>	11-1pm	Café open for coffee, toasties and toasted tea cakes. All welcome
		<b>7.15pm</b>	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Karen Benjamin</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Hybrid Worship for LENT 2 led by Revd Rosalind Selby, former Principal of Northern College</b>
Mon	26 <sup>th</sup>	11-2pm	Lunch Club
<b>Mon</b>		<b>1.30pm</b>	<b>LENT GROUP 2 @ URC in South Leeds</b>

Tue 27<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Elders' Meeting

**Wed 28<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm LENT GROUP 2 @ Headingley St Columba's**  
**7.30pm LENT GROUP 2 on Zoom**

Thu 29<sup>th</sup> 11-1pm Café open for coffee, toasties and toasted tea cakes. All welcome

7.15pm Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Hilary Wilson

## CHARITY for the month InterACT FOOD PANTRY

### DIARY FOR MARCH 2024

**Sun 3rd 10.45am** Revd Dr Nicola Robinson leads worship with Dr Charlotte Naylor

**Looking back some more ...** it was good to receive Christmas greetings from friends near and far – including the Church Family here at Stainbeck, June and John Mawson, Abraham Haile, the Nursery children, Anita from People in Action, the Kathryn our from Butlers. Our blessings for us all as New Year.



**FESTIVAL CAFÉ**  
**Thank you Meanwood C of E Primary**





**Preparing for Midnight Communion**



**MESSY Nativity**

### **Looking forward....**

And so as we move into 2024 we look forward to the completion of the modular building soon to be transformed into a **THRIVING YOUTH HUB**, and we give thanks for the blessings of **THRIVE** and **InterACT** as we work with our local community.

Please join us for Stainbeck's **Annual General Meeting** – members and friends all welcome. It is held within our Sunday worship on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February**. Please also note the **THRIVE AGM** – the chance to hear from some of the young people themselves. See page 9 opposite.



Join us to celebrate this past year at **THRIVE** and hear some stories from the children and young people who make us what we are!

We will begin by praying outside at the site of the building, before heading inside to listen and share. We're welcoming SCOPE. Who have been working with us to reflect on inclusion.

<https://www.scope.org.uk>

**MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY AT STAINBECK CHURCH**  
**7.00 pm ON THE GRASS TO PRAY,**

**followed by**

**7.30 pm IN THE CHURCH FOR THE AGM**  
**OR JOIN US ONLINE HERE:**

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

**ID 7019277749**

## **Going Green for Lent**

*Instead of giving up chocolate for Lent this year why not make treading lighter on our planet your Lenten discipline.*



***Choose one or more of these ideas***

*Travel more sustainably: walk or cycle where possible*

*Can you give up, or reduce, the amount of plastic you use?*

*Reduce or give up meat*

*Buy nothing except essentials. Use the stuff you already have.*

*Collect rainwater and have a personal hosepipe ban.*

*Plant wildflowers in your garden.*

*Improve the insulation in your house.*

*Find out what can be recycled near you and commit to recycling more.  
([leeds.gov.uk/recycling](https://leeds.gov.uk/recycling))*

*Measure your personal carbon footprint. Set yourself a challenge to  
reduce it by a certain amount. This website can help.  
(<https://www.climatestewards.org/offset/>)*

*Review where your money is invested. Is it doing good for the planet?*

*Think of your own ideas and let the editor know what you did!!!*

***The ECO Team***

**ALSO**

**Why not give the LENT COURSE A TRY?**

Led by the Ministry Team – talk to an Elder or the Ministers for more details or for transport – Zoom link is the usual Stainbeck one and will be shared each week.,

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/act-poverty-resource-packs>





# LEEDS URC PARTNERSHIP LENT COURSE

ACT ON POVERTY FROM CHRISTIAN AID

FIVE WEEK COURSE STARTING FEBRUARY 19TH  
MONDAYS 1.30PM URC IN SOUTH LEEDS LS10 3LG  
WEDNESDAYS 2PM HEADINGLEY ST. COLUMBA LS6 2DH  
WEDNESDAYS 7.30PM ZOOM ONLINE SESSIONS.

SESSIONS WILL RUN AT THE SAME TIME EVERY WEEK BUT LED  
BY DIFFERENT MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** 07752904317

**CONTACT ANGELA HUGHES** [angela.hughes1@icloud.com](mailto:angela.hughes1@icloud.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash Wednesday

Holy Thursday

Forty Days

Sacrifice

Good Friday

Jesus

Almsgiving

Holy Saturday

Passover

Prayer

Easter

Foot Washing

Fasting

Palm Sunday

Resurrection

Lent

Purple

Holy Week

Palm Branch

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