

Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)

OUTLOOK

March 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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MARCH 2024

Dear Friends,

This month, we continue to journey through the Season of Lent.

A season when we are encouraged to stop and notice what matters most in life.

One of the readings during Lent comes from the Gospel of Matthew:
"store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6: 19-21

The phrase, *"treasures in heaven"*, was one that Jesus and his listeners would have recognised from their faith tradition. It refers to God's kingdom of justice. And people's duty to notice and acknowledge injustice, inequality, hate so they can work together in transforming them into justice, equality and love.

In our Partnership Lent course on poverty, one of the speakers we listened to, Stef Benstead, talked about the difference between *"charity"* and *"justice"*. She said we, as Christians, sometimes find charity easier – because in helping someone when we didn't need to, it can make us feel good and like a nice person. While justice is harder – because it is much more challenging and means we have to change how we do things.

So, this Lent, I wonder:

Can we stop and notice where we can see justice in our churches, city and world?

Can we stop and notice where we need justice in our churches, city and world?

And then together, we then look at ways to transform the ways that we pray and act so that God's kingdom of justice may come.

In peace, Nicola

A Church Action on Poverty prayer

Holy Trinity, you give dignity to all
Remind us that we all are treasured by you
Loving God, you lift up the lowly
Remind us of those among us whose value is not seen
Jesus Christ, you bring good news to the poor
Remind us to reach out for justice for all
Holy Spirit, you free the captives, you challenge and inspire us
Empower us to build a society where everyone belongs. AMEN.

Urzula Glienecke

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Where there is tender care and love, God is present

Sadly, we learned of the death of **Cy Bennison**, husband of our good friend Betty. Most of us remember attending their wedding at Stainbeck



when after meeting via the internet and corresponding for a while they decided to get married. We quote Betty's message to Cy – *"Goodnight, God bless you, Cy. Thank you for our 10 years together – full of love and laughter. So many happy memories – always in my heart."* Revd Angela Hughes led Cy's Service of Thanksgiving at Lawnswood

as we remembered his long and full life. We send our love and prayers to both the families of Betty and Cy as they mourn his death.

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.

We are looking forward to the return of **Revd Dr Nicola Robinson** who will be leading worship on Sunday 3rd March. Revd Nicola has been leading worship at the Council for World Mission Pre-Assembly in Wales.

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.**

If there are other people you know of who you wish us to pray for, please let your Elder, Revd Nicola or Revd Angela know and they will be included in our Thursday prayers or you may wish to join us via Zoom on Thursdays.

HERE AND THERE

Looking back

We begin by peeking back into the end of January when **Revd Dr Steven Dixon** was our preacher. We had hoped he would be able to lead our worship in person as we began a new year, but he was required to be in Huddersfield where a service to mark his years of ministry in the Church there was being held (see photo). Kindly he recorded his sermon and spoke to us on Zoom so we were still able to share with him. We send him our congratulations and look forward to sharing with him in person later in the year.



This month we look back on meetings: first we recall our **AGM** when we focussed on a full Book of Reports and rejoiced in all that we have been able to do together during the past year. We acknowledged the commitment of all those who volunteer in different areas of the life of the church and we gave thanks for the ongoing development of **InterACT**, **Thrive Leeds** and the growing relationships within the churches of the **Leeds URC Partnership**. It is good to hold this meeting in the context of worship, as we so clearly see the evidence of '*faith in action*' week by week as we do our best to follow the way of Jesus. Copies of the Reports and Minutes are in church.

The following week we celebrated further with a service of **Rededication for Elders and Church Members**. **Hilary Wilson** was called to a further period of service together with the other 5 Elders. We

thank the Elders for all they do in many and varied ways to support the life of the church. They and all members present committed themselves to another year of sharing and working together at Stainbeck and in the Partnership and wider church.

At this point it is worth saying that if you feel called to participate more closely in the week-by-week work of the church do please have a word with Nicola, Angela or one of the Elders. (Avril, Brian, Emmanuelle, Ann, Sandra and Hilary). Please also see below for some ideas?

There was a very successful **purple bag litter pick** around the church and into the Beckhills when many bags were filled by friends from Stainbeck, from InterAct, from local churches and from the community litter picking groups. Our thanks to all. We hope this support will be a real encouragement for us all to keep our own area tidy and clean. Look out for the next date and you could join in too!



This month we enter the season of Lent, and the **Partnership Lent groups** begin using material from Christian Aid. All dates and times are in the DIARY – we have spaces in cars if you need transport to either the Church in South Leeds or Headingley St Columba. Or on Wednesday evenings we have Zoom.

Good, very good news as **Avril and Brian** report watching the arrival of the new building for **THRIVE** on Monday morning 19th February. They watched with the children from **Angels Nursery**. Great excitement as the building was winched up from the back of the two lorries that arrived with the two separate halves of the building.



It was welcomed into place later in the evening – the date of THRIVE'S AGM. A group met inside the building by the

light of a little lantern to welcome it. We gave God thanks and prayed many blessings on all the activities that will take place within it.

After some warming hot drinks, the AGM continued in church and what a happy meeting it was - a celebration of all the years of work that has gone into the project reaching this stage. In this building the work of the Meanwood youth project – long awaited - will develop. A safe space for young people to meet, to make friendships and grow together. All this is a shared part of the work of **THRIVE**, **InterACT** and the supporting churches (**US of course!**).

Friday March 1st sees the annual celebration of the **World Day of Prayer**. The service for this year was prepared over 2 years ago by the Christian women of Palestine with the theme *'I beg you, bear one another in love.'* How poignant and appropriate is that.



Available services see below:

11.00 am: St Edmund's Church, Roundhay; St Martin's Church, Potternewton; 2.00 pm: St Andrew's Methodist Church, Beeston; 3.15 pm: Oakwood Church; 6.00 pm: Holy Trinity, Meanwood, and Immaculate Heart Roman Catholic Church, Chapel Allerton.

You will be warmly welcomed to any of these services.

For several years now we have hosted a **Churches Together Lent Soup** evening at Stainbeck. This year is no different – you are warmly invited to come along at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 6th March when we will share together in a slightly different way. There will be no invited speaker this year, instead there will be displays, details, stories of all that we as churches have done together over the years. Your memories may well be jogged.



You may have a specific event that you recall. You may even have photographic, literary or any other piece of evidence of what you have shared with others from the Meanwood and Chapel Allerton churches. Bring it along.

If you would like to make a pan of soup for the evening perhaps you could let Avril or Ann know. You may like to bring a dessert to share-but nothing that requires a spoon to enjoy it!

We also remind you of the planned **Partnership Quiet day** on **Saturday April 20th at Mirfield**. Do please give your name to Angela if you wish to enjoy this day. No cost and transport available. **See poster on p 12.**



POST COVID we have gradually settled into a new rhythm of life and worship – an amazing Tech Team; a new Minister; a growing Partnership of our Leeds URC Churches; an evolving Youth Group – all encouraging to see. But we also discover a few missing opportunities along the way.....

It has been so good to welcome some **new families on a Sunday morning** recently. We really would like to be able to offer the smaller children a place of their own for their activities – and maybe even a story. If you are willing to occasionally make this possible by **volunteering** to join an elder or parent to go into the lounge – or if you have other thoughts or suggestions, please have a word with a minister or an elder – please remember our families in prayer – parenting is not easy in these times.

And speaking of volunteering – there are still a few empty spaces on the **Flower List** for this year. The gifting of flowers each week to those we wish to remember and care for is an important part of our ministry of valuing each other. Claire would be so pleased if you would choose a Sunday which may be of significance to you. If you are unable to bring or arrange flowers yourself a donation to the flower fund would be appreciated, have a word with Claire and she will do the rest.

One of the good the things about coming to church on a Sunday morning is to see the welcoming face of a friend or, if you are visiting perhaps for the first time, the welcoming smile of someone who may become a friend. We need people willing to meet and welcome others as they come into church. It is not an onerous task at all, in fact it is one of the

best 'jobs' to do. Everyone has a smile - let's use them. Avril will be delighted to receive your offer to do this for us. Thank you.

And finally, a practical request: The **Church Food Cupboard** is running low on supplies. If anyone is able to make a contribution these are goods that would help to support those families who are in need: tea bags, small jars of coffee, sugar, long-life milk, tins of soup, beans, spaghetti, porridge pots (just add hot water to these), cup-a-soups, instant hot chocolate, rice pudding and any cereals. These supplies are made up into emergency bags. Thank you for your support and prayers.

After Eights Update – Wednesday 20th March

We are hoping to book a dinner at the 'Olive' restaurant in Chapel Allerton. If they can accommodate us this will be at 7.00 pm. As usual everyone is welcome. We do need to know numbers, so please let myself or Doreen Moore know **as soon as possible** if you would like to be included. Looking forward to seeing you all – thank you.

Sandra Smith (268 7582)

CHARITY for MARCH 2024 is the InterACT FOOD PANTRY

DIARY FOR MARCH 2024

Elder on Duty – Brian Bellwood

Fri	1 st		World Day of Prayer (See below for dates, times and venues.) All Welcome
Sun	3rd	10.45am	Hybrid Worship for Lent 3 led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson with a reflection by Dr Charlotte Naylor-Davis
Mon	4 th	11-2pm	Lunch Club
		1.30pm	Partnership Lent course at URC in South Leeds

Wed	6 th	2.00pm	Partnership Lent course at Headingley St Columba
		7.30pm	Partnership Lent course on Zoom
		7.30pm	Churches Together Lent Soup Evening (see below and poster) All Welcome
Thu	7 th	11-1pm	Café open for toasties, sandwiches, cakes and toasted tea cakes, tea/coffee.
		7.15pm	Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers for the Partnership led by Revd Angela Hughes
Sat	9 th	All Day	Meeting of the Yorkshire Synod of the URC at Central URC Sheffield
Sun	10th	10.45am	Hybrid Worship for MOTHERING SUNDAY - Lent 4 with Holy Communion led by Ann Coates
Mon	11 th	11-2pm	Lunch Club
		1.30pm	Partnership Lent course at URC in South Leeds
Wed	13 th	2.00pm	Partnership Lent course at Headingley St Columba
		7.30pm	Partnership Lent course on Zoom
Thu	14 th	11-1pm	Café open for toasties, sandwiches, cakes and toasted tea cakes, tea/coffee.
		7.15pm	Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson
Sun	17th	10.45am	Hybrid Worship for Lent 5 led by Revd Samantha Sheehan
		3.30pm	MESSY CHURCH at Stainbeck
Mon	18 th	11-2pm	Lunch Club
		1.30pm	Partnership Lent course at URC in South Leeds
Wed	20 th	2.00pm	Partnership Lent course at Headingley St Columba
		7.30pm	Partnership Lent course on zoom
		7.00pm	After Eights update – see below
Thu	21 st	11-1pm	Café open for toasties, sandwiches, cakes and toasted tea cakes, tea/coffee.
		7.15pm	Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Ann Coates

Sun 24th 10.45am Hybrid Worship for Palm Sunday led by Revd Angela Hughes

Thu 27th 11-1pm Café open for toasties, sandwiches, cakes and toasted tea cakes, tea/coffee.

7.30pm Communion round the Table for Maundy Thursday led by Revd Angela Hughes. This is in person.

Fri 29th 9.00pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service led by Revd Angela Hughes. This is in person.

***All our Easter Services are Hybrid Except Breakfast
PLEASE REMEMBER clocks go forward on EASTER morning!
Bring a flower for the CROSS!***

Sun 31st 9.00am Early Communion

BST 9.30am Easter Breakfast

10.45am EASTER CELEBRATION

All led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson

DIARY FOR APRIL 2024

Thu 4th 11-1pm Café open for toasties, sandwiches, cakes and toasted tea cakes, tea/coffee.

7.30pm Thursday Prayers on Zoom

Sun 7th 10.45am Hybrid Worship led by Terri Raddings

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

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