

**Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)**

# **OUTLOOK**

**May 2024**



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

<https://stainbeckurc.org.uk>

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



**MAY 2024**

Dear Friends,

On 19<sup>th</sup> May, we celebrate with churches across the world – the day of **PENTECOST**.

Imagine the scene of Pentecost as depicted in the Bible. Roughly one hundred and twenty folk assembled in a room, feeling rather lost and despondent and unsure about what to do without Jesus. Then suddenly they experience an extraordinary storm. A violent wind, sparks, flames. And they are ‘bewildered’, ‘amazed’, ‘astonished.’

The people, both in this room as well as in the growing crowd outside, breaks out in wild chatter. Chatter in dozens of languages from across the globe. The vividness of the event, particularly the speaking in different languages sometimes overshadows the auditory transformation.

In the Bible, the Gospel writer, Luke uses the verb ‘hear’ three times in his narrative. A better translation would be ‘to listen’. It is important to capture the active, purposeful nature of the verb. The emphasis of the passage is on listening rather than speaking. Listening to where the Holy Spirit is leading by listening to one another.

The theologian Walter Brueggemann writes that: *‘The capacity to listen in ways which transform depends upon trust in the speaker, readiness to be impacted, and willingness to have newness come into one’s life.’*

On 19<sup>th</sup> May, we also celebrate our 93<sup>rd</sup> church anniversary. So, I’m wondering: what ‘newness’ could we be open to over the coming year? I, for one, am super excited that we are part of the Meanwood Youth Project. The building on our grounds is already making a positive difference in our community which I strongly urge you to learn, engage and pray about.

God is at work through their Spirit!

Nicola

## 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.

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 put a request on our WhatsApp Prayer Group. Details from Hilary Wilson or the Ministers.

## HERE AND THERE

### Looking back .....

I am sure no one needs reminding of all those April showers - or perhaps



I should have written 'downpours!' It is however good to report that several willing volunteers from church and community were not deterred from

joining in the **InterACT Community Action Day**. Litter pickers and purple bags were issued and the work of clearing the ground behind the nursery began.

Here a **community garden** is to be established but as is always the case this initial preparation was essential .... and the rain poured down continuously as the workers picked and shovelled and cleared as they squelched through the mud. A very good job was done and many thanks are due to all those who worked together to make such a difference. There was time for friendly conversation and laughter as their efforts were rewarded whilst they shared in a fish and chip lunch in the new Thrive building. Now we look forward to watching the garden grow.



## 'How do we live now in the light of the resurrection?'

From an Action Day to a **Quiet Day** of reflection when members of the **Leeds URC Partnership** gathered at the **Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield**. No downpours on this day but blue skies and spring sunshine which enabled participants to discover the beautiful grounds, listen to the ever-present singing of a blackbird and enjoy the peace and the calm. The theme of the day, '**How do we live now in the light of the resurrection?**' was devised and led by the Ministry Team and their thoughts led us each to respond personally in a variety of ways.



We shared in prayer times within our group and with the resident Brothers in their daily office in the beautiful church before joining together for an enjoyable lunch. It was good to get to know more of our friends within the partnership, to feel ourselves united in one body and we thank the Ministry team for their support and care.

**Eds: *The Ministry Team shared their answer to the 'Question of the Day' – see title – what is YOUR ANSWER?***

## After Eights April Meeting 2024


Everyone was on good form at the After Eights Darts and Dominoes evening last Wednesday. There were 19 of us for the knockout competitions which were fun for everyone. The eventual winners were **Elizabeth Ford** and **Peter Moore**.

Peter Moore made a corned beef pie which went down very well with everyone and we had the usual nibbles. My thanks to everyone who helped with setting up and clearing away and to Doreen and Peter for doing the shopping. Watch out for the next After Eights meeting.

*Sandra Smith*

## Looking forward.....

### Christian Aid week 2024 is 11<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May.

 As reported in last month's Outlook this year the theme for Christian Aid week is what it means to put love into action and be a community rooted in love. We are focusing on Burundi in Central Africa.

Following the success of last year's **Christian Aid Café**, we will be holding another one, this year on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May** from **11-2pm** with bacon sandwiches, cake, tea and coffee and there will be a **stall** or two as well. All proceeds to Christian Aid.

You will have opportunities to donate at the **Christian Aid Café**, in church, at the **Big Brekkie** (CA Methodists), online or by phone. You may also get a Christian Aid envelope through your door.

If you can, please donate to Christian Aid this May to help the poorest communities. Thank you.

*Helen Booth*

May brings us more opportunities to come together. There are posters in church inviting people to join in spending time with Andrew Roberts, author of 'Holy Habits'. The day has been arranged for all people within the Yorkshire Synod who are interested in '**Making More Disciples**' and will be held at Long Causeway Church in Dewsbury on Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>. Names to Ann Coates – transport available.

Following our service on May 19<sup>th</sup> there is an invitation to join the partnership for a **Pentecost Picnic** at Headingley St Columba URC.

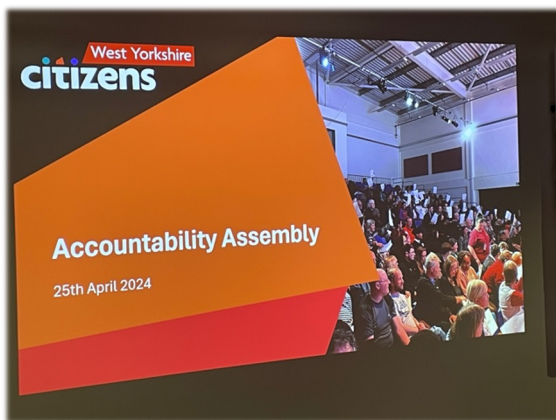


We have received information from THRIVE regarding their plans with their building on our lawn as it progresses:

- Iain, our supportive architect, is currently meeting someone to discuss cladding on the building. Watch this space!
- It now has power, so electrical connection has happened.
- Water connection is imminent.
- The trench should be filled in on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May, so the path will be available again. The rain has delayed this work, so apologies that the path has been out of action.
- We are hoping to work with some young people and **Stitch Up** to make blinds for the building.
- There is the possibility of having some planters to do some growing – if you look through the window of the building, you can see them!

*Hannah Dey*

## UPDATE ... UPDATE ... UPDATE



An update from **Leeds Citizens**, which is now **West Yorkshire Citizens** as a lot of work has been going on in Bradford too.

The Accountability Assembly, held at **The Rose Bowl** on **25th April** with about 200 people across 20-30 organisations attending. Stainbeck was represented by Angela, Ann and Helen with apologies from Nicola and David.

The three potential West Yorkshire Mayoral candidates, Alex Sobel the Leeds NW MP and Cllr Jonathan Pryor, the Deputy Leader of Leeds City Council, were there to hear the issues and answer the ‘Asks’ from Citizen members.

The topics covered were **Work and Employment**, **Bus Transport** and **Mental Health**. We had a poem or song to introduce each topic and there were speakers from different organisations explaining the issues and making their 'Asks'.

- The difficulties with finding **work experience** for under 18's and the limitations on work for international students were discussed.
- The 'Asks' for **buses** were the creation of a new accountability board, reconnecting disconnected communities, free bus travel for asylum seekers, more reliable bus services, training for bus drivers in relation to dealing with incidents to keep passengers safe, and total geographical coverage for student fares.
- In relation to **Mental Health**, the 'Ask' was for an audit of mental health support for young people within 12 months of the WY Mayor taking up office.

It was heartening to see that Citizens is still active and to see so many groups from around the city joining together for a common goal.

*Helen Booth*

## ECO TEAM UPDATES:



You may have noticed that the doors of our toilets now have certificates showing that each toilet has been twinned with a toilet overseas.

Toilet twinning is part of **Tearfund** and you too can twin your own toilet or a friend's toilet. By twinning you will help fund a project teaching communities about hygiene and supplying sustainable resources for families to build their own toilets.

You can choose one of twelve countries to twin with and will receive a framed certificate with a photo of your overseas toilet twin and GPS coordinates so you can look up your twin's location on Google Maps!

Visit <https://toilettwinning.org/> to find out more or to twin a toilet.

**Eds: *Our thanks to the donors of these for Stainbeck. What a good way of publicising this opportunity!***

Simquambo is proud to have built a new toilet for his family in Zambia. Before, they used to have to go out into the bush. He'd watch in despair as his children regularly fell ill, without understanding why. *'This is the way it's supposed to be when you're a dad: you're meant to be able to protect your children.'*



After Toilet Twinning's partner explained the link between poor sanitation and ill health, Simquambo built his pit latrine. Almost immediately, the children's health improved and there were no more trips to hospital. *'All dads should build toilets for their families!'* he says.



**We are really delighted to have been awarded the  
Bronze ECO AWARD  
from A Rocha.**

Big thanks to **Christine Robson** and **Helen Booth** who head up our **ECO TEAM**. **What next?**

We have agreed to focus our efforts on one thing at a time and we are starting with looking at our cleaning products. **Time to change to Bio options which do not put harmful chemicals in the wastewater.** Brands such as:

**Ecover, Method, Bio D or some supermarkets own brands are ok.**

Eco-friendly cleaning products are made up of more compostable and organic materials, so biodegrade so much better than harmful plastics. A lot of environmentally friendly cleaning companies also encourage using reusable bottles, and ship products in recycled packaging.



Look out for more details on our **ECO BOARD** in the **Café Room**.

How much change can we make in one month?

## **LEEDS CONCERT BAND**

The **Leeds Concert Band** will be performing a concert at **Stainbeck Church on Saturday 18th May at 7.30pm** to raise money for the insulation of the church roof.

The band, conducted by **Taneli Clarke**, will be performing a varied and packed programme including **Pixar Movie Magic**, **Swings the Thing**, **Opening Night on Broadway**, **The Blessing**, **October** and **Music for a Darkened Theatre** amongst others. Something for everyone. There will be an interval for refreshments. **Tickets £8 for adults, £20 for a family (2 Ad + 3 Ch) available in advance or on the door (cash only).**

## **DIARY FOR MAY 2024**

**Elder on Duty – Ann Coates**

Thu	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11-1pm	Community Café open for sandwiches, toasties, cakes, tea and coffee. All welcome
		7.15pm	Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers with the Partnership led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Hybrid Worship led by Revd Angela Hughes, preacher Prof Haddon Willmer
Mon	6 <sup>th</sup>	11-2pm	Lunch Club closed (Bank Holiday)
Thu	9 <sup>th</sup>	11-1pm	Community Café open for sandwiches, toasties, cakes, tea and coffee. All welcome
		7.15pm	Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Hilary Wilson

### **Christian Aid week 11<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

Sat	11 <sup>th</sup>	11-2pm	Christian Aid Café – All welcome, see details below
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Hybrid Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Angela Hughes
Mon	13 <sup>th</sup>	11-2pm	Lunch Club reopens
		7.30pm	MAP Meeting

- Thu 16<sup>th</sup> 11-1pm Community Café open for sandwiches, toasties, cakes, tea and coffee. All welcome  
7.15pm **Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Revd Angela Hughes**
- Sat 18<sup>th</sup> 10-3.30pm Making Disciples Day at Long Causeway Church, Dewsbury  
7.30pm Leeds Concert Band
- Sun 19<sup>th</sup> 10.45am **Hybrid Worship for Pentecost led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson**  
1.00pm **Pentecost Picnic at Headingley St Columba – All welcome – see back page**  
3.30-5.30pm **Messy Church at Stainbeck**
- Mon 20<sup>th</sup> 9.30 am InterACT trip to Bakewell – talk to Avril  
11-2pm Lunch Club
- Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> 11-1pm Community Café open for sandwiches, toasties, cakes, tea and coffee. All welcome  
7.15pm **Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Ann Coates**
- Sun 26<sup>th</sup> 10.45am **Hybrid Worship led by Alex Walker, Elder in Local Leadership and member of Leeds Partnership Ministry Team**
- Mon 27<sup>th</sup> 11-2pm Lunch Club closed (Bank Holiday)
- Tue 28<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Elders' Meeting
- Thu 30<sup>th</sup> 11-1pm Community Café open for sandwiches, toasties, cakes, tea and coffee. All welcome  
7.15pm **Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Karen Benjamin**

**Charity for the Month of May is  
Christian Aid**

## **DIARY FOR JUNE 2024**

- Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.45am **Hybrid Worship led by Sheila Telfer, Elder at St Andrews, Roundhay**

A request for help - we would welcome anyone who would be available to be a **WELCOMER** on a Sunday morning to add their name to this list. This is a simple but nevertheless very important role to fill. Speak to Avril or Brian. (This will replace the Stewards' Rota)

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

***Revd Dr Nicola Robinson, Minister: [revnicola.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:revnicola.robinson@gmail.com)***

***Avril and Brian Bellwood, Church Secretaries: 0113 293 5847***



# Leeds URC Partnership Pentecost Picnic

Sunday 19th May  
Headingley St. Columba  
Headingley Lane  
LS6 2DH



**ARRIVE FROM 1PM, WORSHIP AT 2PM.**

**INDOORS IF WET.**

**BRING A PICNIC, DRINKS PROVIDED.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ALEX WALKER**

**ALEXWALKER67@GMAIL.COM 07972901634**