

Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)

OUTLOOK

November 2024



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

<https://stainbeckurc.org.uk>

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NOVEMBER

Dear Friends,

People the light shines through

On 1st November, many churches celebrate All Saints Day. Perhaps we don't do this very often in the URC, but I think it's a really important one to mark. Why? Because saints are all around us, in our lives and our world.

So, what is a saint? In the past I used to think that saints were individuals who were perfect in every way and rather distant from our everyday lives. Now, my favourite description of a saint comes from a story about a little girl. She was on a school trip to a nearby church. When she was looking at the stained-glass windows depicting different saints, she exclaimed: "Now I know what a saint is! A saint is a person the light shines through!"

I wonder, can we recognise - and give thanks for - all those people in our lives who have been saints to us. All those individuals who have let the light of God's love shine through - and transformed our lives as a result?

As 1 John 4:12 beautifully expresses: *"No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and God's love is perfected in us."*

We've lost six wonderful people from our church community since the summer. And we deeply grieve their loss. And yet, their light, their legacy of love through words and actions doesn't disappear, it continues to be with us and continues to shape us.

I do believe that we can all be saints: letting the light shine through us by supporting each other, embracing diversity and creating a world where all are safe and loved.

All Saints for yesterday, today and tomorrow.

In peace, Nicola

HERE AND THERE

Looking back

On behalf of our Lunch Club, Brian and I, would like to say a 'BIG THANKYOU' to **Maureen Lillywhite** who organised the trip to the Wetherby Whaler for a Fish and Chip lunch. It proved to be a good day out and was enjoyed by both helpers and members, sitting under magnificent chandeliers enjoying our fish and chips. What more do you want! We would also like to thank Paul who drove the community minibus. Paul is moving to be nearer his family in Sunderland and we wish him well with his move further up north! We are looking forward to another lunch out together at a Toby Carvery.

Avril Bellwood

As I look back on the past month, I realise that my mind is mostly full of pictures that all relate to the great building project, the transformation that will result from the **insulation work** that has taken place and which, at the time of writing is almost complete. We must show our gratitude to all those who have, in anyway, adapted their normal everyday activities to accommodate this work.

We thank Adrian and the Tech Team for facilitating our Sunday worship from 'The Lounge' to the homes of many friends. We thank those friends who came to sit snugly in the lounge to share together and we thank our worship leaders who mostly address a camera



and a blank wall with sideways glances to those sharing in person. We thank our musicians for recorded music.



We thank our loyal regular Café volunteers and patrons who continued to enjoy the warmth and friendship offered by the Café – for the moment in the THRIVE hub. We thank our THRIVE friends for making this possible for us.

We thank our Lunch Club friends for accepting that their weekly meetings have been ‘on hold’ but are pleased to hear of the alternative lunches out which have filled some of the gaps. Thanks to Avril and Brian for organising these and to Maureen for providing the transport. We thank all the builders, each with their specific skills working hard to complete the work for us.

We so look forward to our return to worship in our special place on Remembrance Sunday, on the 10th November. Do join us to share the joy.



It has been good to gather with friends across the **Leeds URC Partnership** to share in **Bible Studies** led by **Revd Dr Rosalind Selby** which focussed on **Challenge, Action and Hope in a time of Environmental Crisis**. It was good to share in conversation and even in new ways of thinking.

Many thanks are due to **Maureen Lillywhite** who organised another of her exciting trips last month; this time to **Bury Market** and what a great destination that was. So much to see, to buy if you wished, certainly to enjoy - both the venue and the company! Thank you, Maureen and your team of caring volunteers.

The **community garden** is looking much different, there are still some vegetables which are looking healthy but other planters have been covered with straw, presumably to keep them cosy for the winter. We are so fortunate to have such enthusiastic gardeners to work here.

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

Elder on Duty – Ann Coates

Sun	3 rd	10.45am	Hybrid Morning Worship on Zoom and in the lounge led by Dan Morrell
		2.30pm	Leeds Concert Band play at Wigton Moor Church (See below)
		3.00pm	Pet Blessing Service at Christ Church Halton led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson
Mon	4 th	11-2pm	Lunch Club Closed
Thu	7 th	11-1pm	Café open for coffee, tea, cakes and friendship. This will be held in the Thrive Hub until the work in the Church is finished.
		7.15pm	Zoom opens for Thursday prayers led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson

Please note – we return to worship together in Church

Sun	10 th	10.45am	Hybrid Morning worship for Remembrance Sunday with Holy Communion led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson
Mon	11 th	11-2pm	Lunch Club Closed
Thu	14 th	11-1pm	Café open for coffee, tea, cakes and friendship. This will be held in the Thrive Hub.
		7.15pm	Zoom opens for Thursday prayers led by Ann Coates
Sun	17 th	10.45am	Hybrid Morning worship led by Revd Angela Hughes. Preacher: Revd Graham Brownlee
		3.30 –	Messy Church back at Stainbeck this
		5.30pm	month
Thu	21 st	11-1pm	The Café opens for tea, coffee, sandwiches, toasties, cakes and friendship in the Café Room once more.
		7.15pm	Zoom opens for Thursday prayers led by Hilary Wilson
Sun	24 th	10.45am	Hybrid Morning worship led by Revd Angela Hughes

Mon 25th 11-2pm Lunch Club re-opens in the Café Room.

Today Tuesday 26th November the Partnership Advent course beings. Please see the information below – flyers will be available online and in church

Tue 26th 7.30pm Elders' Meeting

Thu 28th 11-1pm Café opens for coffee, tea, coffee, sandwiches, toasties, cakes and friendship in the Café Room once more.

7.15pm Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Avril and Brian

Diary for December

Sun 1st 10.45am Hybrid Morning Worship for ADVENT 1 led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson including reception of new member

3.00pm LCB Christmas Concert (see p 8)

Looking forward

On **Sunday 3rd November** the **Leeds Concert Band** are holding a Concert at **Wigton Moor Church** at **2.30 pm**. Tickets are available from: 0113 8242027 and refreshments are included. Children accompanied by an adult are free.

Also, on **Sunday 3rd November**, **Christ Church Halton** are to hold a pet blessing service led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson, at **3.00 pm**. If your pet has recently died or is a little shy, please bring a photograph. All pets welcome.

At the time of writing, we are pleased to report that all the scaffolding had gone and after our cosy worshipping in the lounge the church looked huge. There is still some finishing off, cleaning and tidying up to be done but, by November 10th, all should be well, and we look forward to **inviting everyone back!**

The young people's **Thrive** hub now has almost all its cladding on and is looking really good. Those of you who have not been able to come in person to Stainbeck for the past month are in for some very pleasant surprises! We understand it will soon be named and there will be a launch of the new building in the New Year.



Information is now available regarding the partnership **Advent Course** and we do encourage you to attend at any or all of those sessions which will be offered over 4 weeks, 3 different times each week. See back page for a flyer.

Also, on **Sunday December 1st**, the **Leeds Concert Band** at 3pm will again be entertaining us with a **Christmas Concert**, always a treat. Tickets as last year £8 for adult, £20 for a family ticket (2 adults + 2 children). There will be a varied programme, interval refreshments and a very Christmassy second half. Look out for tickets!

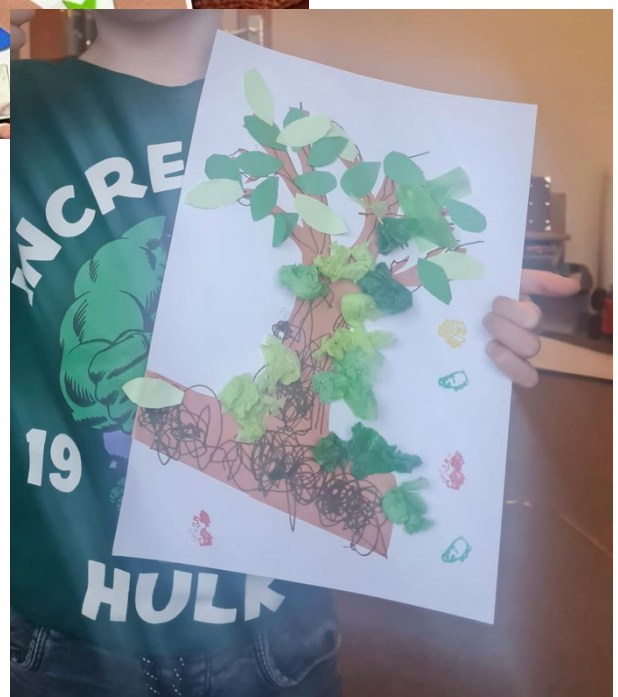


The **Community Garden** is looking much different, there are still some vegetables which are looking healthy but other planters have been covered with straw, presumably to keep them cosy for the winter. We are so fortunate to have such enthusiastic gardeners to work here.

Busy Action Day in October Half Term – planting, tidying and clearing.

And now for something different! **FAMILY FUN** while we have been unable to meet in church!

Our young people have been kept busy this month with **Activity packs** put together by Emmanuelle and Nicola and delivered to their homes each week. We thank them and their grown-ups for sending us photographs of the results of their endeavours. Very good!



And yes – we ARE a team!



On Tuesday 29th October, at 3.30pm at The Workhouse Chapel, St James's University Hospital we were privileged to support the **Revd Dr Frin Lewis-Smith** as she was inducted as the **Specialist Chaplain for Oncology and Palliative Care at Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust**. Frin, was a member of West Park Church round about 2005. She became an Elder, but left to train for ministry in August 2009 and West Park was her sending church. Her first pastorate was Darwen in Lancashire, and she has been a hospital chaplain for 5 years in Salford. Frin's PhD is in Biblical Hebrew. She and her husband live in a flat in Salford, and Dyfrig continues to work as a local government lawyer. (Thank you Irmgard and The Link). I knew Frin (Catherine) in those early days.

How good to see the work of hospital chaplaincy extended in this way.
Please hold her in your prayers.

Angela

A house, a house, my kingdom for a house!

Extracts from an article by Mark Greene, Mission Champion at LICC (Leeds Institution for Contemporary Christianity), addressing the issue for so many of poor housing. This caught my eye a few weeks ago. I thought how much I valued my own home space – it is easy to forget that all are not so fortunate. See or listen to the whole article [here](#).

A house is not a home.

And a housing development isn't a community. Many of them aren't. And many were not even designed to be so. Alas.

Too late now to set aside the space for the community centre or the playground or a clutch of shops. Too late for many of the things in a dwelling that make for a sense of joy and freedom. Every builder knows, not to mention the architect and the developer, that if you use breeze blocks in the party wall of a semi or 50-millimetre board for the internal walls in a flat, the neighbours will be listening to the 10 o'clock news on your TV and you'll have to go for a walk to have a conversation that your kids can't hear. Too late for much of our housing stock but not too late for the next generation of housing.

A biblical vision for home is rooted in God's rich vision for human community, a vision for human flourishing in fellowship with him. You see it in Eden – beauty, joy, provision, safety, community, creation care. You see it in the kind of society envisioned for the people of Israel in Canaan. A place of rest – not the absence of work but ease, security, delight, and satisfaction for family and neighbour, foreigner and sojourner, clan and nation. And you see it in the vision of the new heaven and the new earth of Revelation 21, and Jesus' promise to prepare a place for all his disciples in his father's house.

It's a vision worth working for and one we can all contribute to, whether we're policy makers, councillors, planning supervisors, developers, architects, brickies, estate agents, landlords, renters, sellers, buyers... or just neighbours.

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