

Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)

OUTLOOK

FEBRUARY 2025



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

<https://stainbeckurc.org.uk>

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FEBRUARY 2025



Dear Friends,

We have celebrated the birth of Jesus and now as we move through the Season of EPIPHANY we gradually discover God at work in and through this tiny, helpless, vulnerable baby. A baby who grew to be a man whose living and loving, welcome and acceptance, questions and challenges led him to death on a Roman cross. But we know this wasn't / this isn't the end of the story as we look forward to EASTER with its message of new life and resurrection hope leading to the enabling Spirit welcomed at PENTECOST. In a nutshell isn't this the **GOSPEL GOOD NEWS**? Isn't this the **HOPE** at the heart of our life and faith?

How much we need it!

In a deeply conflicted world, it is easy to be burdened with many things. And in spite of our relative comfort it is easy to feel overwhelmed and powerless. And yet, we know that in many ways we are so very fortunate, and we do indeed count our blessings.

I think it was Alex Walker who reminded us at Stainbeck, not to dwell on the past nor fret about the future but to remember that it is **TODAY** that matters. How we live and what we do – **TODAY** – now.

During the pandemic and its aftermath we discovered / rediscovered how much we need one another. As churches we need our buildings as places of hospitality and welcome and love but we know that in the end it is **US – YOU and ME – WHO ARE THE CHURCH** – God's people – walking the way of Jesus – God with us.

This year as we move towards **LENT 2025**, as we see the first shoots of green push up through the dark soil, signs of hope and new life, let us continue to support one another in church, in partnership, in community. And above all let us recognise the activity of God in our midst, let us name and rejoice in it.

In love and peace, **Angela**

**Birthday Congratulations in February go to
Jamaal Johnson who will be 16 on the 11 February**

HERE AND THERE

Looking back

This edition of Outlook is always a challenge as we look back over two months to such a busy time of the year in our shared lives. How very good it was to start the month of December with a stirring concert from the **Leeds Concert Band** who have become good friends of Stainbeck. This was a joyful evening – good music, some new, some old but all enjoyable, interspersed with stories of the music played and, as we have come to expect groan worthy jokes from Tanelli Clarke their conductor. This was a good start to the season.

The following day how good it was to welcome **Claire Calder Jones** into membership with us. We wish her many blessings as she shares with us week by week. Claire continues to organise the flower rota for us and if you would like to offer **flowers** for church on a particular Sunday which may be significant to you then do have a word with her or just add your name to the list in the porch. Alternatively you may wish to donate to the flower fund which enables us to give flowers to friends within our church and the wider community - just have a word with Claire.



During **Advent** we shared with Partnership friends in conversations led by the Ministry team which focused on poems in the collection ‘Haphazard by starlight’ selected by Janet Morley. There was a choice of in person meetings at West Park URC, Beeston Hill, or on Zoom. This was a challenging way of sharing and stimulated interesting conversation and reflection.



And then it was **Christmas**. The tree was again beautifully decorated by Joan Craske and her daughters. Thank you very much. The Advent ring was in place and as is customary a candle was lit each week.

Our **Christmas activities** were all carried out with enthusiasm...carols round the firepits and around the streets, Christmas parties, a Messy Church nativity celebration, a Festive Treat organised by Maureen Lillywhite. for which many thanks and of course our Christmas services. The lighting of the Christ candle at midnight on Christmas



Eve is still the highlight of all the celebrations for me.



And so, we moved into January and the **snow** came limiting the ways in which we could gather together once again. We are so grateful to our Tech Team who managed to get to church, along with a small number of brave stalwarts whilst the rest of us were able to share worship – again via Zoom.

What did we do without it!

The Lunch Club and Café Christmas closures were extended until it was safe to walk. Thankfully people are returning to our lovely warm buildings to join together again to worship, and to share in friendly conversations at the Thursday Café. Time for all the ‘normal’ activities to begin again and to make plans for new ventures and opportunities.

Ann Coates

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

Elder on Duty – Ann Coates

- Sun 2nd 10.45am** Hybrid Morning Worship led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson will include the Annual General Meeting and will be followed by a Faith Lunch. (see p7)
- Mon 3rd 11-1pm** Lunch Club re-opens – All welcome
7.30pm Churches Together meeting at the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Parish of St. John Mary Vianney)
- Thu 6th 11-1pm** Café opens for toasties, sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee and friendship. All welcome
7.30pm Thursday Zoom Prayers for the Partnership – led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson.
- Sun 9th 10.45am** Hybrid Morning Worship. A service of rededication to include Holy Communion led by Revd Angela Hughes.
- Mon 10th 11-1pm** Lunch Club – All welcome
- Thu 13th 11-1pm** Café opens for toasties, sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee and friendship. All welcome
7.30pm Thursday Prayers on Zoom led by Karen Benjamin.
- Sun 16th 10.45am** Hybrid Morning Worship led by Revd Dr Rosalind Selby.
3.30-5.30pm Messy Church at Stainbeck
- Thu 20th 11-1pm** Café opens for toasties, sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee and friendship.
11-2pm Community Action Day (see p 11)
7.30pm Thursday Prayers on Zoom led by Angela

- Sun 23rd 10.45am Hybrid Morning Worship led by Sheila Telfer – Elder at St Andrew’s Roundhay.**
- Mon 24th 11.1pm Lunch Club – All welcome
- Tue 25th 7.30pm Elders’ Meeting
6-8pm Launch of Lent Prayer Diary at Holy Trinity Church, Boar Lane (see page 9)
- Thu 27th 11-1pm Café opens for toasties, sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee and friendship. All welcome
7.30pm **Thursday Prayers on Zoom led by Avril and Brian.**

A reminder of the Stainbeck link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7019277749> (Meeting ID 7019277749).

Looking forward

We look forward to our **AGM** on the first Sunday in February which will be followed by a **Faith Lunch**. We don’t seem to have had one of those for a while - remember, bring enough for yourself and one other and there will be heaps for all to share. This is always a happy time of sharing after the meeting in which we recall all that has happened in the past year, and hopefully, look to the coming year with hope and enthusiasm.

It is a time too when we are challenged to see what we can do to help the smooth running of our worship and our church life. I have already mentioned Claire’s helpful role in making sure there are flowers in church Sunday by Sunday. Do you feel you would like to join a team of **WELCOMERS** who would take a turn to greet people as they arrive at church? Or perhaps you would be willing to serve **TEA or COFFEE** after worship, a time of welcome fellowship week by week much appreciated by many of us?

If either of these simple but important roles appeal to you please have a word with Avril, Brian or one of the Elders. As I write this I also think of our **SMALL GARDEN** at the front of church. The community garden

at the rear is expanding month by month and we look forward to the growing beginning again; the front garden however is our responsibility. It is very small, could you take a turn at keeping it in order?

There will be more partnership activities to share in as we move in to Lent. This will be a **LENT COURSE** over 5 weeks with three sessions each week led by the Ministry Team. It will be video-led and based on the book '**God on Mute**' by Pete Greig. See the poster on the back page.

A number of community-based opportunities are opening up again at Stainbeck as the year gets into gear! There is **Bev's Art Class** on Tuesday mornings, **Lucy's Pop Choir** on Wednesday evening and exercise through dancing led by Emma from the RVS on Friday mornings. Just a taste. Details in church or talk to Minister or Elders.

Please consider joining us on **Saturday March 22nd** at **STAINBECK** this year – see page 11 for all details. '**What does pastoral care mean in 2025?**' This is a question for all of us as we care for each other, in church, in our neighbourhood, wherever we find ourselves. A great opportunity.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Seven times a day, as I work upon this hungry farm.
I say to Thee, '*Lord, why am I here? What is there to stir
my gifts to growth? What great things can I do for others -
I who am captive to this dreary toil?*'

And seven times a day Thou answerest, '*I cannot do without
Thee, Once did My Son live thy life, and by His faithfulness did
show My mind, My kindness and My truth to men. But now He
is come to my side, and thou must take His place.*'

Hebridean Altars: Celtic Daily Prayer
Northumbrian Community

Ann Coates

A GOOD READ

For 25 years now **John Harrison** has managed the comprehensively stocked **book cupboard** in the **Café Room**. He has managed a book stall at many events and has sold on books of specific interest. He has raised a considerable amount of money for the church over these years and we thank him most sincerely for his on-going, conscientious work in this way.

However, the time has now come after all these years for a change. The large cupboard in the Café Room will now operate on an ‘exchange’ basis. If you have a book which you have enjoyed and would like to pass it on then feel free to bring it to the cupboard. If you are looking for a good read the cupboard will be open every Thursday and Sunday; feel free to make your choice and help yourself. If you wish you may pop a donation into the pot on one of the tables - have a good read!

SUPPORT THE RNIB!

I would like to thank all those who faithfully continued to save **used stamps**, both UK and foreign during the time when the little box on the back window was unreachable. I am happy to say it is now back in situ and I can begin sending stamps off again in support of the **RNIB**. Please note that the RNIB do request that the stamps are trimmed with approximately one centimetre of paper around the edge. Rest assured, I can do that as long as you leave me enough room! Thank you.

LEEDS LENT PRAYER DIARIES

Once again we are ordering the above **Prayer Diaries** for our partnership. Please make sure you collect a copy – every day a different city charity is described and we are asked to pray for it. A great way to discover some of the amazing work carried out across our city and to see the ways we can support one another. Look out for **THRIVE LEEDS** and **InterACT: Church and Community Partnership**. If anyone would like to go to the **Launch (Tuesday 25th February)** at **Holy Trinity Boar Lane** please talk to Angela.

YOUTH CABIN LAUNCH



What a joy to see so many gathered as the CABIN was finally named and celebrated. Representatives from local churches, Carr Manor School, URC Synod and the local community looked on as the journey was

described and many were thanked by Ness and Hannah. The ribbons were then cut by the young people. A great afternoon.

Rain and cold did not dampen our spirits although it was good to



enjoy the warmth of our newly insulated building for games and some refreshment afterwards. We look forward to watching this exciting new initiative unfold.

Angela

BECKHILL COMMUNITY GARDEN Community Action Day

THURSDAY 20th FEBRUARY



11AM - 2PM

Come and join us for Spring half term!!



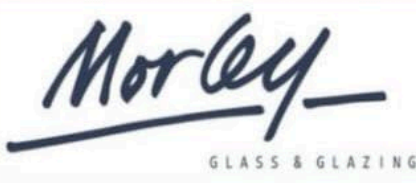
- Clearing Space
- Filling beds with soil
- Move woodchip for paths
- Litter Picking

LUNCH PROVIDED 🍷

Please can you all wear STURDY SHOES!!!

Meet at the back of

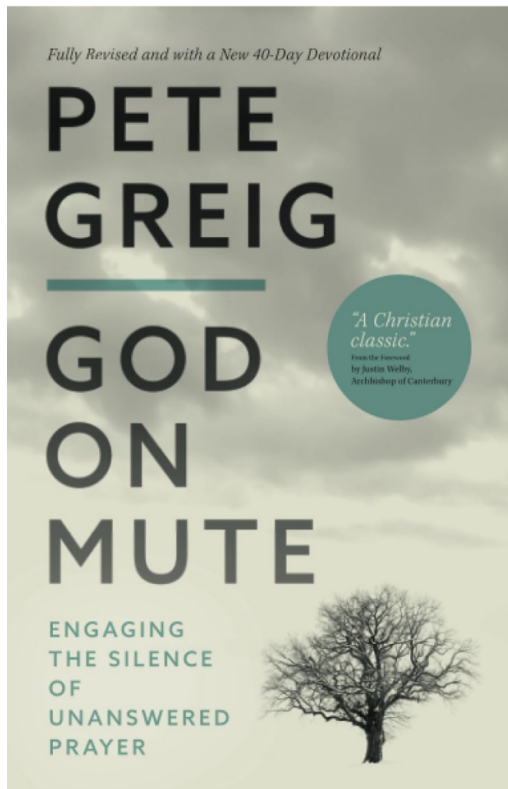
STAINBECK UNITED REFORM CHURCH





The
United
Reformed
Church

LEEDS URC PARTNERSHIP LENT COURSE



A 5 week course
exploring the
themes of Holy
Week and how
prayer can help
us process life's
hardest
questions.

Beginning on:

Tuesday 11 March, 10:30am, URC in South
Leeds, Dewsbury Road, LS11 5HR

Tuesday 11 March, 7:30pm, St Edmund's
Roundhay, Lidgett Park Road LS8 1JN

Wednesday 12 March, 7:30pm, Zoom,
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7019277749>

For more information, email:
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*Views expressed by individuals are personal and not necessarily those of Stainbeck Church.
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