

STAINBECK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

<https://stainbeckurc.org.uk>

Sunday 2nd February 2025 held within Morning Worship



BOOK OF REPORTS FOR 2024

SECRETARIES' REPORT

I am sitting in our front room looking out of the window at a street and houses covered in snow! Whilst it is lovely and exciting to look at, and play with, it also causes a few problems. Thank goodness we have Zoom; on this Sunday, 5th January 2025, it saved our Sunday worship.

We must thank Adrian and Helen Booth for opening the Church to welcome those hardy souls able to attend in person and to bring Zoom online for those at home unable to negotiate the ice and snow. We also need to add further thanks to Adrian for his technical knowledge when we gathered in the lounge to worship together during the insulation work that we have had done. This has made the Church and Café Room much warmer and will go a long way to reducing the cost of heating our building. Our thanks also to Judith Taylor and Richard Hamlin, who complete our Tech Team; and to THRIVE for their generous offer for us to use their Cabin to continue to run the Café and to enable all our room hirers to hold their meetings.

It is with some sadness that we must record the deaths of some of our Church family and friends:

- Cy Bennison – husband of Betty and friend of Stainbeck, who died in February.
- A Memorial Service of Celebration for the life of Elvis Nanseu's mother, Mama Josephine, in April.
- Lyndie Griffiths – a friend of Stainbeck who died in April.
- Edna Duke – a Lunch Club member, friend of Stainbeck who died in July.
- Sandra Smith – Elder and Church Member of many years who died in July.
- Maurice Pilsworth – Church Member who died in July.
- Dorothy Jackson – Church Member for over 90 years who died in July.
- Janet Simpson – Church Member who died in August.
- Sheila Kirkland – Church Member who died in October.
- Melaine Murphy – Lunch Club member who died in November.

There were no baptisms or weddings held during the year.

Once again, the Partnership Churches came together on Zoom and in person, for both Lent and Advent courses led by our Ministry Team. Our Thursday prayers continue on Zoom and we have a dedicated group who share the leading of this half-hour prayer service. All are welcome to join us. Stainbeck's dedicated link is on the front page of the website.

We thank Helen Booth and David Wilson, our representatives with Leeds Citizens. Helen reports that we continue to support them as members but this year we have not been directly involved in any of their campaigns – either city-wide or local. We attended the Delegates Assembly in 2024.

The Community Café continues each Thursday between 11-2pm, in the Café room. It is a warm, friendly space for people to meet and enjoy a chat, a cup of tea/coffee, toasties, sandwiches and cake. These are made by our two regular teams of Janet, Kelly, Lindsey, Louiza and Adrian, who work a fortnightly rota. We must also thank Maureen Lillywhite and Vanessa Brown who support the café faithfully every week to offer help and advice to those in our community who need it. If this is something you would enjoy helping with please speak to us.

We thank Emmanuelle Bastide-Wilson, who each Sunday makes sure that there is an activity prepared for the children who join us for worship. Emmanuelle deserves a big THANK YOU for looking after the church finances which is no mean task, and for keeping the website up to date following the retirement of Donald Hughes.

We thank Jo Yates and Helen Booth for our music each week played on various instruments, organ, trumpet, piano and violin. What a talented pair and how lucky are we to be able to enjoy singing and listening to their talents. It is also good to see Liam, our previous organist, who often joins us on Zoom from Boston in America where he now lives with his American wife Susana.

We send our love and prayers to you all and thank you for your prayers for us after Brian's fall. He is doing well and is getting about the house with the aid of Zimmers – one upstairs and one downstairs – and a crutch to help him negotiate the stairs. We are looking forward to seeing and being with you all in 2025.

Avril and Brian Bellwood – Joint Church Secretaries

WORSHIP REPORT 2024

I am really starting from the end of the year in question for this report! It is so good to be worshipping back in our newly insulated church after a year of planning for this to happen and six weeks of relocation in the THRIVE building. I must begin with the sincerest thanks to all those who calmly coped with all the changes, particularly over the 6-week evacuation period when worship was held, very cosily in the lounge and more widely on Zoom.

Thank you to the worship leaders tucked in a corner by the sink, to the Tech Team, to those who shared in readings, squeezing past each other to reach the microphone and the dozen or so who regularly came to sit cosily together. By the 6th week we were all well used to the change and agreed what a lovely atmosphere there was and how we vowed that once back in church we should remember the joy of closeness and not spread ourselves out as near the back as possible!!

During the year our worship has shared with the Partnership in following the lectionary readings most weeks. It has been led once each month by Revd Nicola and Revd Angela and over the year we have welcomed twelve different leaders, friends both ordained and lay to lead our worship. A small team lead Thursday prayers week by week on Zoom, my thanks to them and on the first Thursday of the month our Partnership friends are invited to join us too. We are fortunate to have so many to share their thoughts, reflections with us. These varied opportunities to share are so important as we realise that whilst we may be small, in number at Stainbeck we are a united part of a much wider group of faithful followers. I do encourage you to make the most of the opportunities given to share thoughts, understanding and prayers that are made available.

We are grateful to the Ministry Team who over the past year planned three Bible study courses, a peaceful Quiet Day at Mirfield and a Pentecost picnic on a beautiful sunny afternoon at Headingley St Columba's.

Messy Church provides a monthly worship focus for families across our local partnerships. How good it is to see the themed activities of arts, crafts, games, songs and stories for so many children and their carers to enjoy. There is always a tasty tea available for all too, a good time for chatting and sharing. The annual July three mornings Messy Church Holiday club was again a great success. It is so good to share together an opportunity for volunteers from our different churches to get to know each other better.

Did you join in the hymn singing and listening to faith stories at the Churches Together hymns in the street event in September I wonder? Another good time to share, this year led by St Matthew's – and in 2025 it is our turn to lead this joy filled event. Do be ready to join in!

Finally, as every year I again sincerely thank our team of willing readers who week by week prepare to thoughtfully bring the bible to us or play a part in the service with prayers or reflection. We are grateful to our musicians whether on organ, piano, trumpet, guitar or violin. We are blessed. There are others too, those who welcome friends and newcomers to church week by week. Those who gift flowers in memory of special people and occasions. Those who deliver flowers to remember our friends in both church and community. Those who prepare and serve tea and coffee after each service. Those who willingly put the chairs away before they have their coffee. Of course, there is our Tech Team who enable worship to be more inclusive both within the building and on Zoom by week by week preparing the presentation of the service. Thank you all.

If you would like to join in welcoming and befriending, in gifting flowers or in serving refreshments after the service please do let any of the Elders know - they will be delighted to add you to any one of these wonderful groups of people helping to make Stainbeck the welcoming, loving community we know it to be as we Walk in the Way together.

Ann Coates – Worship Co-ordinator

SUNDAY CLUB (or the CHILDREN'S CORNER)

Annual Report 2024

This year, we have been delighted to regularly welcome a small group of children and their families. It has been a joy to play, talk, and create and be inspired by Ted, Cole, Nicki, Edith, Sam, and Dorothy.

While we are not able at the moment to provide a separate space for the children to engage in noisier and messier activities, as we did in the past, we have created a dedicated corner at the back of the church. We are continuing to enhance this area to make it more inviting and adaptable for different age groups.

The activities offered in this space include a variety of options with the children's interests and developmental stages in mind. These include:

- Playing with Lego, blocks, toy cars, and quiet-ish games such as memory games and jigsaw puzzles.
- Engaging in paper-based activities like cutting, sticking, colouring, and painting.
- Modelling activities with playdough and tactile materials
- Participating in a specific simple craft project each week that they can take home if they want.

We also encourage the children to follow their own creative instincts and explore activities in their own way on the day.

During the church's closure, we provided activity packs for families to enjoy together at home. Each pack contained a short story, a prayer, and a craft or game activity. We were thrilled to receive photos from families showing how they engaged with the materials week after week. A massive thank you to our amazing doorstep delivery team: Nicola, Angela and Ann.

Another big thank you to the children and families for the joy and enthusiasm you bring. We look forward to more fun, craft activities and conversations in the coming months.

Emmanuelle Bastide-Wilson

STAINBECK LUNCH CLUB REPORT 2024

The Lunch Club has had a very mixed 2024. We meet regularly every Monday morning, except on Bank Holidays, from 11-2 pm, where between 10 and 12 people gather to enjoy a two-course lunch and a lot of chatter and banter amongst those present. They are a friendly group and everyone who comes along is made to feel welcome.

Sadly, as the year progressed several of our members died. During the month of July, we lost Sandra Smith one of our Elders and helper at the Lunch Club along with Edna Duke, Maurice Pilsworth and Dorothy Jackson; in October Sheila Kirkland; in November Melaine Murphy. It has been a sad time for the Lunch Club and all are very much missed. Unfortunately, we had to postpone our Christmas Lunch because quite a few of our members were going away with family and friends over the holidays and others were unwell.

During the period when the Church was closed (the roof and the walls in the Café room were being insulated) Maureen Lillywhite and minibus driver Gary, took us out for lunch. We visited The Wetherby Whaler; Murgatroyd's Fish and Chip Restaurant and Hawthorne Farm – a very nice restaurant situated not far from Leeds Bradford Airport. Everyone enjoyed their meals and company and hopefully we will be able to do a few more outside visits in 2025. Thank you, Maureen and Gary.

Helen Inglis (who has been our cook for many years) informed us that she wished to step down from her role. This was sad news and we shall really miss her. On behalf of the Lunch Club members and helpers we offer a BIG THANK YOU to Helen for her help, support and wonderful puddings. We must also thank Pam McFetridge another pudding maker. The Lunch Club are looking forward to meeting again in 2025 and to one or two trips out together with Maureen and Gary.

Our thanks also to the Church for providing a room for us with a wonderful kitchen and for all your prayers.

Avril and Brian Bellwood- Lunch Club Organisers

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11th-18th May 2024

The theme for Christian Aid week in 2024 was what it means to put love into action and be a community rooted in love.



The focus was on Burundi in Central Africa. Families in Burundi grow bananas, sweet potatoes and beans, sugarcane, tea and coffee. Farming is hard work and it's being made even

harder due to the climate crisis. Many farmers see their crops failing due to extreme weather events such as droughts and floods.

One of the ways Christian Aid is helping in Burundi is by providing community-based training so that families can come together to set up small businesses and support one another financially. Village Savings and Loans Associations offer a way for community groups to manage, save and lend money. More families are building reliable and diverse incomes that are bringing them food security, better health, safer homes, increased resilience and hope for a better future.

Following the success of last year's Christian Aid Café, we had another one on 11th May with all proceeds going to Christian Aid. The café was a great success and, as ever, the Stainbeck congregation were very generous with their time, publicity of the event, baking skills, card making, and gifts of money enabling us to raise a fantastic £861.06 (including gift Aid).

Christian Aid was founded in 1945 to support refugees in Europe following the devastation and upheaval caused by the Second World War. 2025 marks their 80th Anniversary! Over the years they have built up a close working relationship with over 250 partners in 26 countries. In 2024 they were able to reach 4.5m people directly and 19.3m people indirectly. Thank you very much for your ongoing support for this charity.

Stop Press: The Christian Aid total for Chapel Allerton Group of Churches was £1982.60 of which Stainbeck raised a good proportion.

Helen and Adrian Booth - Christian Aid Organisers

AFTER EIGHTS REPORT 2024

It has been an unsettled time for the After Eights as sadly, Sandra Smith after a short stay in hospital, died. Her funeral was held at Stainbeck and was attended by family and friends on the 13th August 2024. She will be sadly missed by both the Church Family and the After Eights. Sandra along with Doreen Moore, helped to organise the events for the After Eights.

The group did not meet in either January or February. They met in March at the Olive Branch Restaurant for their annual dinner, which was enjoyed by those who attended.

In April a very happy gathering of twenty or so people came together for the annual Darts and Dominoes event won by Elizabeth Ford and Peter Moore. A very enjoyable evening.

May was a talk by Jackie Watt of her visit to New Zealand to visit her family who live out there. This was well attended.

June saw us all boarding the number 36 bus to Harrogate for a day out in Knaresborough. We changed buses in Harrogate and headed off to Knaresborough. The weather was fine and sunny and when we arrived it was market day. Some of us wandered around looking at the stalls and others took themselves off to visit the riverside. Brian and I found a lovely restaurant, above the oldest sweet shop in Knaresborough where we enjoyed a lovely lunch and yes, of course we bought some sweets on the way out.

The After Eights hope to meet up again when the weather improves, during the day when they can look forward to some walks or a picnic!

Avril Bellwood on behalf of the After Eights

STAINBECK CLIMATE GROUP REPORT 2024

It's good to announce that because of a lot of effort by many people we achieved our **A Rocha Bronze Church Award** in April this year. Under the following categories, this is what we did.

Worship and Teaching.

Caring for God's Earth is preached and prayed for regularly. Our hymns and prayers amplify this. In September – the '**Season of Creation**' - our talented Craftivists decorated the church railings with flowers to draw attention to this.

Buildings. This is a big part of the questionnaire. In Stainbeck's case, the first job was to split the heating of the nursery from the heating of the church. We then had a survey to identify the main area of heat loss as the fuel bills were so high. Most of the heat was being lost through the roof. After many applications for funding, plus money from the URC Synod and the Manse Fund, we raised £150,000 and embarked on a large **insulation project** in the main church and the café room. The work was completed and the warmth was noted on our first service back in church on Remembrance Sunday. The cafe is now so warm that 2 of the radiators have been turned off! We hope that this and more precise regulation of the heating of the building will result in lower fuel bills in future and thus reducing our use of fossil fuels.

We had Action Days with My Community United, our local residents' group. We litter-picked the church land and the adjacent wilderness. With the help of Mears, the trees were trimmed and roots dug up. Another Action Day saw weeds cleared, wooden planters filled and soon vegetables, fruit, herbs and flowers flourished. This 'Incredible Edible' food was available for local people to pick and take. Money was donated by ABCD funding received through InterACT and Lyn Brown



constantly makes applications for further funding and encourages people in the community to enjoy and use the garden.

As climatic change also strongly effects people from overseas, we raised £700 for Christian Aid's work in Burundi, Central Africa, via a **Christian Aid Café** one Saturday and from various gifts. Farmers in Burundi are seeking to adapt their farming to the changing climate, to improve incomes, to enable schooling, better health and wellbeing.

Because of a generous gift, all the **toilets** in Stainbeck have been **twinned** with countries far away eg Congo, Tanzania, Nepal, Malawi. Enabling families to build and maintain their own toilet cabins improves hygiene, health and safety.

Fairtrade Fortnight took place in September. We had a Fairtrade themed service followed by browsing an extensive stall brought by Christine Brett, an independent fair trader. As a **Fairtrade Certified** church, we are committed to serving coffee, tea and sugar which bear the Fairtrade Mark.

We continue to work with the **Churches Together in Chapel Allerton and Meanwood Eco Group**. They are currently tackling the problem of recycling pill packets, often composed of plastic and foil. These are expensive and difficult to recycle. They have written to all the drug companies used by members of our congregations to ask if they will commit to altering to or maintaining the use of 100% aluminium blister packs which are recyclable in household collections recycling. So far only one reply has been received.

We have made some good changes this year. Let us go into 2025 to see what else we can do to combat climate change in our everyday lives, and as a church.

Helen Booth and Christine Robson

InterACT Report 2024



Over the last few years, we've been working to connect better with other spaces in Meanwood, where previously many people associated InterACT with Stainbeck Church alone (I know, it might seem strange from Stainbeck's perspective, but I promise you it's true!). The Men Shed is based at Meanwood Farm; Holy Trinity Café is based, well, at Holy Trinity; and the Pantry is located at Meanwood Community Centre. This has been a valuable to increase awareness of InterACT and help a wider number of people feel a sense of ownership and belonging.



That said, it's been good this year to see more InterACT activities return to Stainbeck Church. The afterschool drop-in on a Thursday is now well established, and young people from the 2023 cohort of leaders have been supporting their younger peers to take over through the Autumn term. You may remember that originally, the drop in was almost a holding space, allowing young people to volunteer whilst waiting for the youth

building to arrive. The latter took so long to happen that we are now in the third run of drop in, and it looks like it's here to stay!

And so, to the youth building. Well, this finally arrived in February after what felt like an age of fundraising and planning applications, waiting and readjusting. Two plain white buildings on the back of a truck slowly transformed into one space, with an accessible toilet, kitchenette, furniture, furnishings and cladding. It was particularly useful during Stainbeck's period of insulation fitting, enabling groups to continue where they would otherwise have to pause. We are excited to have an official launch date for the space as an actual youth building at the end of January 2025.

Also making its mark on Stainbeck's vista is the community garden that is well and truly establishing at the corner by the nursery. For the past two years, InterACT has been funded by Leeds City Council as something they call a Pathfinder organisation. The commission is specifically for community development on the Beckhills that has strengths and assets as the starting point (known as Asset Based Community Development, or ABCD). You will be familiar with the phrase, "*what's strong and not what's wrong*" – well that's the starting point of the philosophy in a nutshell. Through this emerged Lynn Brown, who had connected for some time through Team Beckhill, and with funding through the ABCD work, was able to get the garden started.

Lots of people have been involved since its early days in Spring, watering it through the summer, taking part in action days, weeding, growing, harvesting and chatting in passing. It's been a fantastic point of connection and a great space that will only keep growing, developing and seeing fruit in so many senses of the word. Watch this space!

Vanessa Brown - InterACT Co-Ordinator

www.interact.uk.net





LOOKING TOWARDS 2025

We have really enjoyed celebrating the end of the year across THRIVE, by adding in something a little different to our regular groups – film nights, a nerf battle, Messy Nativity, Christmas biscuit decorating – lots of opportunities to finish the term with some fun! It also brings the chance to encourage and thank our amazing volunteer teams, both adults and young people, through a party and our fourth Young Volunteer Celebration with our partners InterACT, which saw 21 young volunteers achieve through our award scheme. We are who we are, because of the brilliant people who give their time, energy and compassion to get involved in their community – marking this is a great place to end the year.

This term at **Messy Church** we have had a lot of fun welcoming back families old and new. We decided that the building work inside Stainbeck Church was too messy (even for us!), so for October and November we relocated to the Methodist Centre. We were encouraged that people kept coming and we were able to share time together in a different space. We've been going 'back to basics' a little bit, thinking about what God is like, and who Jesus is. In December we had our annual Messy Church Nativity.

Our young leaders have been continuing to do a great job at Messy Church, and we look forward to some new young leaders joining in the New Year.

Totally Tuesday has felt a very different group since the summer holidays, as we have said goodbye to older members moving to **WOW**, welcomed a new team of young volunteers and had some new group members join! Each week we see interesting conversation and questions as the group listen to one another and share their opinions about topics which have an impact in their lives – jealousy, comparison, gratitude and what it means to be loving to ourselves and those around us.

We have had a wonderful start to this academic year at **WOW** welcoming lots of new faces that have moved on from Totally Tuesday and it was lovely to see many of our older members returning after taking a break before the summer to concentrate on their GCSE's. We have been thinking about science and faith which really opened up some big discussions and questions. We once again made up snack packs for Homeless Street Angels which has been a wonderful initiative led by the young people and very much appreciated by the charity.

We have also welcomed new young volunteers at **Drop In**, who are supported and encouraged by those who have volunteered before. We have a core group of young people who come along and also regularly meet new people who appreciate the space to relax and socialise after school. We spent a couple of months using The Cabin (more details below!) while Stainbeck Church had building work, which brought some joy and challenges our way. We met a lot of new people who were walking past on their way home from school and some have continued to come after we've moved back into the church. The young volunteers enjoyed organising games on the grass, so we appreciated the mix of indoor and outdoor space. It was a challenge to fit everyone in, which has helped our understanding around how The Cabin can best be used in the future.

It seems a while ago now, but in the summer holidays we welcomed 45 children for our annual **Holiday Club**, 'On Your Marks!' We had great fun with our Olympic theme as we learned that we are all invited to be a part of Jesus' team as we travel on our journey of life together, with everyone having a part to play.

A number of young people from WOW and TT came and supported Holiday club as young leaders. They each brought their own gifts and skills, and it was brilliant to see them taking on new roles and growing in confidence during the 3 days. Holiday Club requires a lot of adult volunteers, so a big thank you to all those who joined us to help lead teams and activities. It's always such a pleasure to see people from all the different churches combining their gifts to make Holiday Club a fun and special time.

There have been a few mentions of **The Cabin** above, which is the name that we have settled on for the new youth building in the grounds of Stainbeck Church! It has been exciting to see it develop this year and, as the year ends, the finishing touches of cladding on the outside and furniture on the inside have been completed! We have been helped on the way by many people; local workers, volunteers from QBE insurance on a work day and the young volunteers who have been supported to get involved in

We are working with the young volunteers to plan the launch on **Sunday 26th January from 2-4pm**, so that they can be involved in all the different aspects of the celebration. This is such a good opportunity to have a go at developing skills around event management - programme planning, advertising, risk assessments, through to running activities, welcoming and communicating on the day. Please do join us for the launch – we'd love to see you there!



We are saying goodbye to Sarah as the year ends, as she is moving to Scotland with her family, which is a long held dream! We will miss her compassion and organisation, which has brought so much to WOW. Thank you for your support and encouragement this year, which creates space and opportunities for children, young people and their families.

Hannah, Helen and Sarah, Thrive staff team

<https://thriveleeds.org.uk>

MANAGEMENT and PROPERTY REPORT 2024

The Management & Property Team (MAP) meet on the 2nd Monday of each month to discuss all aspects of the Church property. Membership comprises: Brian Bellwood, Adrian Booth, Angela Hughes, David Wilson, Nicola Robinson and Judy Taylor.

In addition to dealing with regular and ad hoc management and property issues throughout the year, MAP focused on a major project to better insulate the church.

INSULATION PROJECT

Based on an energy assessment of the church building by Mesh Architects we successfully sought grant funding, targeting the areas of greatest heat loss to improve comfort and reduce future energy costs. This consisted of insulating the roofs in the main worship area and the ceiling and walls in the café room, improving ventilation in key areas such as the café room and toilets, and replacing the toilet windows. The work was project managed by PCS Surveying Ltd and carried out by Teale Construction.

Work began on site in September with the main worship area and café room out of action. Services were held in the church lounge with most people participating via Zoom. Thanks to the generosity of Thrive, the community café and some other users of the church space were able to relocate to the new Thrive building while the work took place.

Church services resumed on Remembrance Sunday and the café room was back in use a few weeks later. The church and café room are now much warmer, and the heating needs to be on for less time.

ALSO, DURING THE PAST YEAR...

Following a generous donation by Dorothy Jackson's daughter Valerie we have bought a new projector with a much brighter and sharper picture than the old one.

We have updated the sign in front of the church to show Nicola as our named minister.

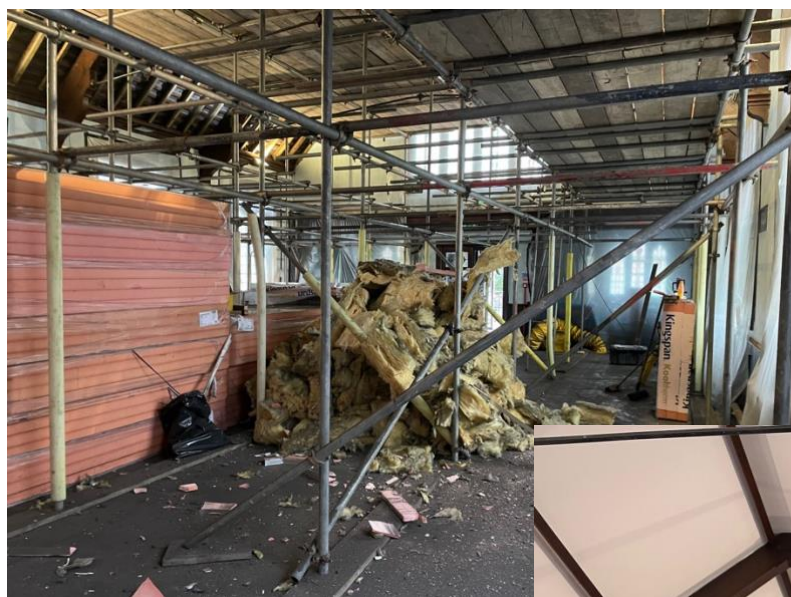
We have also set up an online bookings calendar so everyone can easily see when different parts of our building are in use. You can check it out here: tinyurl.com/stainbeckbookings

CURRENT PRIORITIES

We have met with representatives of Yorkshire Synod to start the process of negotiating a new lease with Angels Nursery to replace the current lease which expires in August 2025.

We have also applied to the Yorkshire Synod capacity fund for an administrator. This would be a joint post with West Park URC. A key role of the administrator would be to provide support with room bookings together with other administrative tasks to assist with the smooth running of the church building.

Management and Property Team



Notes on Financial Report

AGM 2025

INCOME

Donations (including Gift-Aided Donations)

All our different donations have raised a total of **£27,448** from donations. Additionally, **£3,058** has been reclaimed from HMRC through the Gift Aid and Gift Aid Small Donation (GASD) schemes, covering the period up to 30 November 2024.

A very big thank you to everyone who contributes—every donation truly makes a difference!

Interest Received

We earned **£628** in interest from our deposit account with HSBC and our CAF current account.

Other Income

We are deeply grateful to the **Leeds Concert Band** for hosting two beautiful and enjoyable musical evenings this year, which raised **£1,093**. **InterAct** also transferred **£1,272** as part of their Warm Spaces Grant. And, although the Café is not a fundraising exercise, and we are grateful for the connections, conversations and friendships created, it has contributed additional income, which also helps.

Income from the nursery: the nursery lease contributes £25,000 to our income. The nursery has also made extra payments totally £17,000 towards utilities cost (These payments were allocated to the Utilities cost centre)

Income from Room Hire

Income from room hire is detailed below, with several key updates:

- This year, we bid farewell to Art for All and Leeds Mind (Inkwell Art) but warmly welcomed Craft2gether as a newcomer.
- Payments for the last quarter of 2024 were not fully received by 31 December; these will be accounted for in January 2025.
- During the period when the church building was closed, some hirers used the Youth Building. Consequently, income generated from this usage will be allocated to Thrive Leeds, resulting in a decrease in our room hire income compared to last year.

Hirer	Amount
Explorer Scouts	£540
Lunch Club	£1,000
Art for All	£1,063
Craft2gether	£230
Karate	£2,125
Leeds City Council	£400
Leeds Concert Band	£908
LEEDS MIND	£1,260
Beavers and Cubs	£670
People in Action	£700
Revive	£110
RVS	£1,031
WW	£1,225
Total	£11,261

EXPENDITURE

Ministry

The total expenditure relating to ministry amounts to **£30,764**. This includes:

Our Mission and Ministry contribution to Synod (£1,516 per month), Stainbeck's contribution to the Leeds Partnership (£637), Preaching fees paid to visiting preachers, Music expenses.

Mission and community

As in previous year some of our mission and community work has been carried out thanks to our participation in **InterAct, Thrive Leeds, Leeds Citizens, the Community Café**. The Lunch Club is managed separately. This year, we have also supported the following charities:

Food Pantry, Thrive, Christian Aid, Baby Bank, OWL, Thrive Leeds, Baby Bank

The total expenditure for these activities is **£7,639**. However, some payments to charities are still pending as we await confirmation on how to process these transactions. You can read about activities in more detail in the separate reports included in the Book of Reports.

Building

Our largest area of expenditure has been the building, with total costs of **£52,281**. This has been made manageable thanks to regular contributions from the nursery toward utility costs and use of our manse fund held at the YCU.

Insulation Project:

A significant project this year was the insulation initiative. As of 31 December 2024, the total cost was **£109,142**, of which **£107,150** was raised through grants. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to **Angela, Nicola, Adrian in particular**, and the MAP team in general for their incredible efforts in applying for grants, sourcing the work, and following up with exceptional efficiency.

The Leeds Partnership

Stainbeck has been acting as treasurer for the Leeds Partnership. Until August 2024, these transactions were processed through Stainbeck's current account. They are now managed in a dedicated Leeds Partnership CAF Account.

Bank Account

In August 2024, Stainbeck successfully opened a new current account with the CAF Bank, a more ethical bank dedicated to supporting charities.

Although the complete transfer of operations to the new account was slightly delayed due to the insulation project, it is expected to be fully finalised in the first quarter of 2025.

Treasuring

This year, both **Suzie** and **Hilary** had to step away from their roles within the treasuring team. Their dedication and contributions over the years have been invaluable, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to them for their efforts. We are also grateful to **Hilary** for continuing to approve bank payments and to **Helen (Booth)**, who has kindly taken on the responsibility of counting the cash collection and maintaining the financial spreadsheet.

Emmanuelle Bastide-Wilson
January 2025

Stainbeck Church United reformed

Total Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2024

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Receipts			
1001 GA Donations	10,062	-	10,062
1002 Other Donations	15,186	2,200	17,386
1003 Income Tax Recovered	3,058	-	3,058
1004 Church Group	-	-	-
1005 Other Income	8,025	392	8,417
1006 Room lettings	11,761	-	11,761
1007 Nursery lease	25,000	-	25,000
1008 Community Café	2,465	-	2,465
1009 From Manse Fund	-	20,000	20,000
1010 Grants received	111	115,150	115,261
1010 Legacy	-	-	-
1011 Leeds Partnership	-	29,120	29,120
Total receipts	75,668	166,862	242,530
Payments			
2001 Organist	1,740	-	1,740
2002 Preaching Fee	1,434	-	1,434
2003 Ministerial expenses	-	-	-
3001 Worship resources	435	-	435
3002 Mission and Ministry	18,192	-	18,192
3003 Outlook	68	-	68
3004 InterACT	2,500	-	2,500
3005 Work in the Community	323	500	823
3006 Charities	1,580	1,493	3,073
3007 Leeds Citizen	-	-	-
3008 Community Café	1,236	-	1,236
3009 Thrive	2,000	8,000	10,000
3010 Leeds Partnership Expens	8,963	-	8,963

	General Fund	Restricted	Total
3011 Leeds Partnership	-	30,377	30,377
4001 Repair and renewal	10,528	109,142	119,669
4002 Routine maintenance	3,340	-	3,340
4003 Cleaning	6,630	-	6,630
4004 Utilities	26,896	-	26,896
4005 Telephone/internet	307	-	307
4006 Waste Disposal	4,581	-	4,581
5001 Stationery	521	-	521
5002 Postage	129	-	129
5003 Professional Fees	721	-	721
5004 Licences & Subscriptions	967	-	967
5005 Insurances	4,267	-	4,267
5006 Publicity	27	-	27
5007 Office Printer Expenses	1,987	-	1,987
5008 Bank charges	129	-	129
Total payments	99,500	149,512	249,012
Net receipts / (payments)	(23,832)	17,350	(6,482)
Transfer	-	-	-
Balance brought forward	30,249	3,602	33,851
Balance carried forward	6,417	20,952	27,369
Made up of:			
HSBC Current	7,139		
HSBC BMM (deposit)	15,326		
Cash	213		
CAF Bank	4,691		
	<u>27,369</u>		
Manse Fund (YCU)	23,041		

LEEDS URC PARTNERSHIP: Looking Back/Looking Forward

Each one of us, as individuals and as a church, are part of the Leeds URC Partnership. So, let's take a wee look at what we have been able to share and participate in together over the past year. And can I take the opportunity to say that if something piques your interest or if you haven't tried something before but feel curious, do ask about it and then try one of these opportunities in this coming year.

Quiet Day

In April, members from across our eight churches came together for a Quiet Day at the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield. Together we pondered and reflected on the question: 'How shall we now live in the light of the resurrection?'. We had time and space inside or outside, alone, or together, in the quiet and in worshipping together, to reflect on the theme.

This was the second of two Quiet Days led by the Ministry Team and financed by the URC Discipleship Development Fund. These days have offered opportunities for personal reflection and time to listen to one another and build important bonds of friendship and understanding. In 2023 there were 27 attendees and 47 in 2024.



A small selection of feedback:

“... On a warm (enough) spring morning, the grounds at Mirfield are very beautiful. In the quiet and the stillness, I sat and pondered. I felt at ease and as one with the Holy Spirit in that place. “

“The church and chapel at Mirfield feel like a place to refresh faith and hear the voice of God again, perfect for what we were doing that day ... the future feels quite exciting from my viewpoint!”

"I came away reassured of my Hope and Victory in God."

This second Quiet Day has been another important milestone in building relationships across the Partnership and encouraging people to think about their own journey of discipleship.

Bible Studies

Over the past year, Bible studies across the Partnership have included: Act on Poverty (Lent 2024) – using material from Christian Aid to focus on how we think of and react to poverty both locally and globally, especially in a general election year.

Reading the Bible in a Time of Environmental Crisis: Challenge, Action and Hope (October 2024)

Haphazard by Starlight (Advent 2024) – drawing on Janet Morley’s edited collection of poetry.

With each Bible study course, there have been options to take part on Zoom and in person in a church building. These occasions of coming together have provided opportunities for us to share our own faith and our corporate church journeys, wrestle with Bible passages and their relevance to our lives and world today and ask questions.

This year, we hope to have courses in Lent, in the middle of the year and in Advent. We are also looking at opportunities to use different church venues each time we run a course - fitting with a particular church’s availability. We will also continue to have one session on Zoom.

Sharing Worship

In May, we came together for a Pentecost Picnic at Headingley St Columba URC. We were fortunate that it was a really sunny day, so we

enjoyed time chatting and eating our packed lunches outdoors. Afterwards, we celebrated a short interactive worship service led by the Ministry Team.



Three churches in the Partnership – Christ Church Halton, Headingley St Columba and Stainbeck marked the Season of Creation with a craftivism project. Craftivism is for anyone who wants to make beautiful and useful craft

with a message — helping us and others to stop and reflect. We made and displayed flowers to draw attention to the beauty and diversity of our world. We also hoped to highlight that being part of God’s Creation means we need to pray and act with care and love.

So, members of our congregation and community groups who use our buildings including Rainbows and Brownies, Badgers, Messy Church and an art group, as well as individuals who responded to social media posts drew on craft to create flowers. Knitted flowers, crocheted flowers, fabric flowers, coloured in flowers – so many beautiful flowers. And these flowers were displayed on our railings, our windows and our trees outside to highlight that, through our prayers and actions, God’s Creation can thrive and flourish.

Calling a third stipendiary minister

This year, our Synod Moderator informed us of the very exciting news that there is scoping for the Partnership to call a third stipendiary Minister of Word and Sacraments to the Ministry Team.

So, throughout the year, a lot of thought, work and time was devoted to putting together our Profile. The Profile outlines who we are as individual churches and as a group of churches, our aims and priorities as a Partnership and what we are looking for in a minister. Our Profile is due to go live at the January Moderator’s Meeting.

A Prayer for the New Year

Loving God,
as we embark on this new year, be with us.
May we praise and thank you
for all the ways you are present in our Leeds URC Partnership.
We look forward to all we can do together:
worshipping and praying in various ways;
nurturing each other's faith in Bible studies and Quiet Days;
sharing in coffee mornings and fellowship;
supporting each congregation's mission;
engaging in justice for people and planet
and so much more.
Empower and inspire each and everyone
connected to the Leeds URC Partnership
to open our hearts and minds
to new possibilities and opportunities
in the new year ahead.
With all that we are and all that we can be,
together we pray,
Amen.

Yours in peace,
Nicola

(on behalf of the Ministry Team: Geoff Ellis, Angela Hughes, Tim Lowe,
Nicola Robinson, Alex Walker)

Leeds URC Partnership Ministry Team

Please remember you can keep up to date with all activities on the church website (see front page for link), facebook pages, monthly OUTLOOK magazine, e-mail or phone. Don't miss out.

revnicola.robinson@gmail.com / 07572 986305



INVITATION TO THE CABIN LAUNCH

SUNDAY 26TH JAN 2-4PM
GROUNDS OF STAINBECK CHURCH, LS7 2PP

WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE CABIN, OUR NEW DEDICATED YOUTH SPACE! WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO JOIN US TO CELEBRATE AND MARK ITS OPENING!

- ACTIVITIES, CRAFTS AND GAMES LED BY YOUNG VOLUNTEERS
- REFRESHMENTS
- AN OPENING CEREMONY

TO RSVP CONTACT

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THRIVE

