

Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)

OUTLOOK

MARCH 2025



**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



MARCH 2025

Dear Friends,

This month we enter the Season of Lent. Lent is a season where we are invited into a time of focus and concentration, of stopping to notice what matters most in life. Just as Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness before the joy and excitement of Easter. In our own lives, there are times we can experience our own wildernesses. The wilderness of long-term physical and/or mental illness. The wilderness of grieving for a loved one. The wilderness of losing our job/independence/security.

Yet in this wilderness, as we recognised, acknowledged and declared at Christmas – Emmanuel – God with us. God with us in the pain. God with us in our loss and sickness. God with us in the moments of joy. God with us in looking forward to a hopeful future.

As winter recedes, everything in our beautiful natural world starts to grow again. Bulbs produce flowers, trees release new leaves, birds build nests. Lines come to my mind from Isaiah 43: *“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.”*

We are reminded that is the way with God. New life comes from old, or what seems dead. And if we take time to look, there is newness all around. I wonder if we can perceive it?

- There’s newness in our church – in the Wilderness Project (see page 9)
- There’s newness in our community – in the garden
- There’s newness in our Partnership – in the calling of an additional minister

I wonder, can you name the newness in your own life?

So, this Lent, I invite us to recognise and acknowledge where we see newness in our churches, communities, Partnership and world. And let us not be afraid to name it, share it and thank God for it.

Love and peace,

Nicola

HERE AND THERE

Looking back

I don't know about you but January seemed to go on forever and then 'whoosh!' February has flashed by and here we are looking to March, longer days and maybe even Spring sunshine!

We can reflect for a moment on the past 28 days. We started with our **AGM** as always held appropriately in the context of worship. It was agreed that the 2024 Book of Reports made an interesting read and thanks were offered to all those who had taken part in any of our shared activities, whether as consumers or providers. So many different people carrying on faithfully with their different roles in our shared lives. Thanks, must be expressed to all who responded to the appeals for help with the Welcomers and the Sunday Coffee makers lists. Thank you!

It is a joy to confirm that following her nomination **Claire Jones** is to be ordained as an Elder on Sunday 9th March, and will join the small team of four serving Elders. We will enthusiastically welcome her.

News of the **Leeds URC Partnership** was shared together with encouragement to participate in shared activities and with hope that soon a further Minister will be introduced to the **Ministry Team**. The traditional Faith Lunch was shared after the meeting, always a friendly time of sharing.

Churches Together in Chapel Allerton and Meanwood met together, a well-represented gathering where news of each of the Churches was shared. All are looking forward to the **Lent Soup** evening at Stainbeck on **Thursday 3rd April** when each church is asked to share a brief account of what is exciting them as they look to the Summer – what projects? plans? What hopes do you have for Stainbeck this coming year? Do share your thoughts with any Elder – please.

Work continues in the **Community Garden**, many thanks to those who turned up to litter pick and tidy up on a fairly damp Thursday morning. Many thanks too, to a group of runners from Headingley ‘**Good Gym**’ who, whilst out on an evening run, did a great job of clearing our paths and steps all around the building. And look – an award already! Thanks to all.

Looking forward.....

Our future expectations and hopes re the gardens continue as do plans to try to successfully re-order storage spaces within the building. Things are not yet ‘straight’. I suppose sorting cupboards is quite a typical **Spring-cleaning** activity so let’s get on with it!!



DIARY FOR MARCH

Elder on Duty – Avril Bellwood

Sun	2 nd	10.45am	Hybrid Morning Worship will be led by Dan Morrell
Mon	3 rd	11-2pm	Lunch Club – All welcome
		7.30pm	Thrive AGM. All Welcome
Tue	4 th	9.30am	OUTING: Departing from Meanwood Terminus – pre-booking necessary. Contact Maureen Lillywhite at the Café.
Thu	6 th	11-1pm	Café opens for toasties, sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee and friendship. All welcome
		7.30pm	Thursday Prayers for the Partnership – on Zoom led by Ann Coates
Fri	7 th	6.30pm	St Andrew’s Roundhay: World Day of Prayer – written by the Christian Women of the Cook Islands (see Notice Boards for other services)
Sat	8 th	10.00am	Meeting of the Yorkshire Synod of the URC at Heckmondwike URC.
		10-1pm	Fair Trade Café at Chapel Allerton Methodist Church (see poster on page 10)
Sun	9 th	10.45am	Hybrid Morning Worship for LENT 1 with Holy Communion led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson. This service will include the Ordination of Claire Jones as an Elder of the URC.
Mon	10 th	11-2pm	Lunch Club – All welcome
Tue	11 th	10.30am	Lent Partnership course ‘God on Mute’ at South Leeds URC Week 1
		7.30pm	Lent Partnership course ‘God on Mute’ at St. Edmund’s Church Roundhay
Wed	12 th	7.30pm	Lent Partnership course ‘God on Mute’ on Zoom – Stainbeck’s Zoom link

Thu	13 th	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 Geoff Ellis
		3.30-5.30pm	Messy Church at Stainbeck
Mon	17 th	11-2pm	Lunch Club – All welcome
Tue	18 th	10.30am	Lent Partnership course ‘God on Mute’ at South Leeds URC Week 2
		7.30pm	Lent Partnership course ‘God on Mute’ at St. Edmund’s Church Roundhay
Wed	12 th	7.30pm	Lent Partnership course ‘God on Mute’ on Zoom – Stainbeck’s Zoom link
Thu	20 th	7.30pm	Thursday Prayers on Zoom led by Avril and Brian Bellwood
Sat	22 nd	10-3.30pm	Synod Mathetes Conference at Stainbeck. All welcome, details below or speak to Ann Coates
Sun	23rd	10.45am	Hybrid Morning Worship led by Revd Time Lowe, Minister at St. Andrew’s Roundhay and Wigton Moor URC’s
Mon	24 th	11.1pm	Lunch Club – All welcome
Tue	25 th	7.30pm	Elders’ Meeting - Stainbeck
Tue	25 th	10.30am	Lent Partnership course ‘God on Mute’ at South Leeds URC (Week 3)
		7.30pm	Lent Partnership course ‘God on Mute’ at St. Edmund’s Church Roundhay
Wed	12 th	7.30pm	Lent Partnership course ‘God on Mute’ on Zoom – Stainbeck’s Zoom link
Thu	27 th	11-1pm	Café opens for toasties, sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee, friendship. All welcome
		7.30pm	Thursday Prayers on Zoom led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson
Sun	30th	10.45am	Hybrid Morning Worship led by Revd Angela Hughes BST begins

ADVANCE NOTICE
LENT SOUP EVENING Thursday 3rd APRIL

A reminder of the Stainbeck link:

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

Looking forward cont'd

We are pleased to report that Stainbeck and West Park Leeds have received a grant from the **Yorkshire Synod Mission Capacity Fund**. This will enable us to appoint a part-time Administrator to join our team of volunteers and ministers in maintaining our current programme of activities and further develop our mission to our local communities.

Please note the **World Day of Prayer Service** at St Andrew's at **6.30pm on Friday March 7th**. This is the service that used to be called 'Women's World Day of Prayer'. It is still written by groups of women from across the world but how much more inclusive it now is. I recommend a visit. It is so moving to be part of a great wave of prayer that starts as the sun rises in the east and travels over the globe until it sets in the west. And how much our world needs voices joined in prayer.

Don't forget the **Fairtrade Café on Saturday 8th from 10-1.00pm.**, at Chapel Allerton Methodist Church – always an opportunity for good cake and a chat. And then the following week the **Partnership Lent Course** begins – three different opportunities over the five weeks to join in. Join in when you can. Full details are on the poster on page 10.

As referred to in last month's issue, Stainbeck Church is delighted to be hosting friends from across the Yorkshire Synod for the annual **Mathetes Conference** on Saturday March 22nd. "Mathetes" means disciples, followers and surely as followers of Jesus, that means us!

The speaker is the Revd Dr Michael Hopkins who will lead our thoughts as we consider '**What does pastoral care mean in 2025**' I encourage you to join us - everyone cares for someone. All details on the poster on page 11.

The Wilderness Project

The Wilderness Project gives young people the opportunity to explore and offer their gifts to the church and allows churches to benefit from the contribution that young people can bring.

We are delighted to be supporting four young people who are taking part in the **Wilderness Project**. They are paid a part time salary by the Synod for 6 months. Two will work with Messy Church, one with WOW and one will set up a Board games club at the Cabin, at the same time as Drop-In at Stainbeck.

And we can all offer them lots of support and encouragement. This could include: praying for them, giving them opportunities to talk in church about what they are doing, volunteering to work on the project, and bringing them cake!



Please try and join us for **THE THRIVE AGM**
Monday 3rd March 7.30-8.30pm IN THE CABIN



What does Pastoral Care mean in 2025?

Annual Mathetes* Conference

*Formerly known as the Elders' Development Group

Saturday 22nd March 2025 – 10.00am to 3.30pm

Stainbeck United Reformed Church

Stainbeck Road, Leeds, LS7 2PP

A day to explore what this might mean for us, whether you are an experienced pastoral visitor wanting to refresh or deepen your understanding, or someone exploring beginning this and wishing to dip a toe in the water?

Speaker – Rev Dr Michael Hopkins. Author of the recently published *Pastoral Care in Practice. An introduction and Guide*. Michael brings to the subject more than twenty years of experience of pastoral ministry in the URC and ecumenically.



- 10.00am - Arrivals and Tea/Coffee will be available
- 10.30am - Opening worship
- 10.45am - 12.45pm – two sessions covering: Calling and Context; What is a 'visit'?
- 12.45pm - 1.30pm – lunch - **Please bring your own lunch**
- 1.30pm - 3.30pm – two sessions covering: Caring in difficult situations; Prayer and pastoral care
- Closing worship

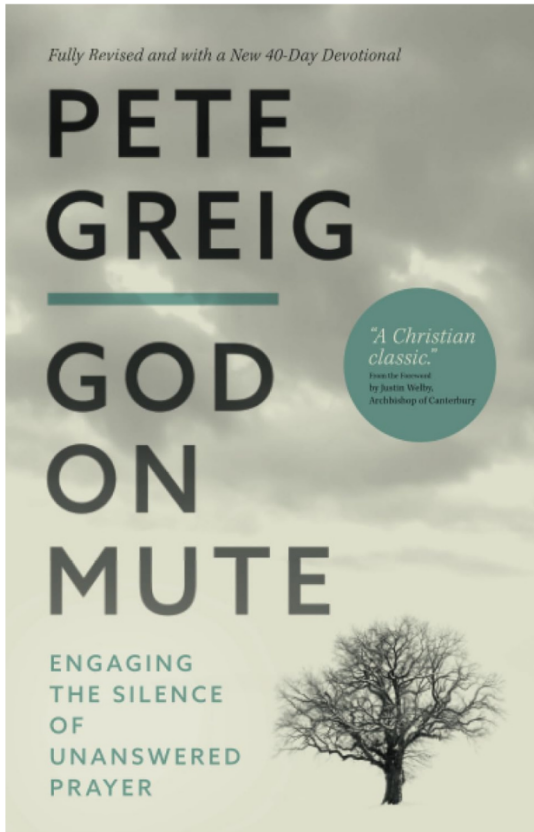
- **To book your place email: valmorrison7@btinternet.com**





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:
revnicola.robinson@gmail.com

THRIVE

You are warmly
invited to our
AGM
Monday 3 March



at The Cabin
7.30-8.30pm

Celebrate the past year of
wonderful work with children
and young people

speaker: **Nicola Swales**
from 'Shine Bright'



Thrive Leeds Annual General Meeting: Monday 3 March 2025

7.30pm at The Cabin, Stainbeck Church, LS7 2PP

RSVP to chair@thriveleeds.org.uk for annual report
and accounts in advance