

Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)

OUTLOOK

APRIL 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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Resurrection Hope...where the light gets in

This month we journey through the last weeks of the Season of Lent into the Season of Easter. Easter is the time we celebrate that from death, new life is born; that in spite of suffering, something can be found; that hope can be discovered.

We may look at our own lives and our world and be confronted by pain, suffering and injustice. The deep grief for a family member. The displaced people in Myanmar. The many animals going extinct. And we ask the question: why God, why?

Through our Lent course, across the eight churches of our Leeds URC Partnership, we have been exploring those deeply challenging questions we have about pain and suffering and how prayer can help us process it.

In the midst of suffering and challenges, we can trust in God and have faith in God's unwavering, unconditional love. As John's gospel reminds us: *'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.'* Or to paraphrase the singer, Leonard Cohen, *"The cracks are where the light gets in."*

Often, this light is demonstrated in loving actions. Perhaps we experience a flicker of that light in the kindness of a friend. Maybe, through a glimmer of light in the listening ear. Later, we may be able to share a bit of light when we have an opportunity to share our experience with someone going through something similar.

In Jesus' own life, he experienced many trials, situations and deep pain. And yet through it all he showed us the power of asking questions and trusting in God: a God of unwavering love.

This Easter, whether our experiences are shaped by new life or by Lenten wilderness, may we discover strength and courage in the hope of resurrection.

In peace, Nicola

HERE AND THERE

Looking back

As I write the sun is shining again after a couple of very wet days. The buds are definitely bursting and some blossom trees are actually blooming. Spring is here, praise God.

Maureen's trip to Oswaldtwistle was very much enjoyed. Due to the closure of the motorway the journey was so much more interesting than it might have been as the coach wound its way through little Lancashire mill towns and beautiful countryside. The mill itself had lots to offer and was a friendly place. Thanks again to Maureen and the volunteers who support, pushing wheelchairs and helping those who needed it on and off the coach. The next trip, in May, will be to Beverley

This year's World Day of Prayer service was written by the women of the Cook Islands. Once again we heard accounts of the lives and hopes of different islanders and we sang some beautiful new songs. Thank you to the hospitality offered by St Andrew's.

The Fairtrade Café held at the Chapel Allerton Methodist Centre was a well-supported event, an opportunity to meet up with friends (and strangers) once again. We were joined at our table by a man who said he knew me. I'm afraid I didn't recognise him at all but he said we had met on Holy Island many years ago. A lovely conversation about my very favourite place ensued! Opportunities to chat and share stories are always so good.

Fairtrade drinks, cakes and crafts all on sale seasoned with lively eco-conversations. Thanks to all who made this work so well.

What a joy it was to share in the ordination of Claire Jones to the Eldership team. We now have five serving elders whom we prayerfully support as they carry out the responsibilities of their roles.

‘God on Mute’ the Lent course has been well supported, helpful, challenging and well worth attending. It continues until the week of 8th and 9th of April and there is an opportunity to join in whenever is suitable for you.

We were delighted to welcome on behalf of the Synod Elders’ development group many friends from across Yorkshire to a day conference at Stainbeck focusing on **Pastoral Care**. It was an interesting and well supported event with friends from across the Partnership and beyond – even as far away as Hornsea. More time for



sharing stories of how we all care for each other in so many different ways. I am particularly grateful for those who helped to make the day a success. Thank you all.

Looking forward

April begins with another big event as Stainbeck again hosts the **Churches Together Lent**

Soup Evening on Thurs 3rd April at 7.00pm. I have offers of different tasty soups! The plan is for each church to share the work, activity, event which they are particularly excited about in the coming year ahead, so do come along and discover all the things there will be to look forward to in our area! More stories! Just a taste of Stainbeck’s excitement and anticipation – see photo of first apple tree.



DIARY FOR APRIL

Elder on Duty – Claire Jones

- Tues 1st 7.00pm Lent Partnership course ‘God on Mute’ 4 at St. Edmund’s Church Roundhay
- Wed 2nd 7.30pm Lent Partnership course ‘God on Mute’ 4 on Zoom – Stainbeck’s Zoom link
- Thu 3rd 11-1pm Café opens for toasties, sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee and friendship. All welcome
- 7.00pm **Churches Together Lent soup evening – ‘What are we looking forward to?’ All welcome to join us.**
- Sat 5th 10am Partnership refresher First Aid training at Headingley St. Columba
-3pm
- Sun 6th 10.45am Hybrid Morning Worship led by Revd Andy Hobbs**
- Mon 7th 11-2pm Lunch Club – All welcome
7.30pm Lent Partnership course ‘God on Mute’ 5 at St. Edmund’s Church Roundhay
- Wed 9th 7.30pm Lent Partnership course ‘God on Mute’ 5 on Zoom – Stainbeck’s Zoom link
- Thu 10th 11-1pm Café opens for toasties, sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee and friendship. All welcome
- 7.30pm **Thursday Prayers on Zoom led by Revd. Angela Hughes**
- Sun 13th 10.45am Hybrid Morning Worship and Café Church for Palm Sunday led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson**
- Mon 14th 11-2pm Lunch Club – All welcome
- Thu 17th 11-1pm Café opens for toasties, sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee and friendship. All welcome
- 7.30pm **Maundy Thursday Communion Round the Table led by Revd Angela Hughes**

Fri	18th	9.00pm	Tenebrae Service led by Revd. Angela Hughes
Sat	19 th	10.30am -12pm	Coffee morning at Headingley St. Columba All welcome
Sun	20th	9.00am	Easter Day Early Communion
		9.30 am	Easter Breakfast
		10.45am	Easter Celebration – led by Revd Angela Hughes
Mon	21 st	11-1pm	Lunch Club – closed
Tue	22 nd	7.30pm	Elders’ Meeting - Stainbeck
Thu	24 th	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 Bellwood
Sun	27th	10.45am	Hybrid Morning Worship leader to be confirmed
Mon	28 th	11-1pm	Lunch Club Open – All welcome

A gentle reminder of the Stainbeck link:

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

Charity this month: LEEDS FAITH IN SCHOOLS:

<https://www.lfis.org>

STAINBECK’S LITTLE LIBRARY: I wonder, have you noticed ‘**little libraries**’ in unexpected places as you have walked around? Our book cupboard at Stainbeck was always very popular for many years but you may recall that we had to change the ‘management’ of it. Now we invite you to use it as a ‘**little library**’.

If you have enjoyed a book at home and think others may enjoy it too please feel free to bring it to our cupboard and maybe browse the shelves to see if there anything there which appeals to you. If there is then please, help yourself! If you come on a Thursday morning you could have a drink in the café too and maybe compare notes about what you have enjoyed reading!

Wilderness Project

The Wilderness Project is a scheme designed to encourage young people to take part in the missional life of their local churches. Ann and I are part of a small team enabling and supporting four young people in our community to grow and develop their faith, gifts and talents through service.

On Saturday 15 March, we joined together with our four Wilderness participants: Caitlin, Eva, Sarah and Kate along with Hannah and Helen from Thrive and Megan, our Synod's Children and Young People's Development Practitioner. We spent time reflecting, sharing, learning, chatting and sharing lunch together. Please do keep these wonderful young women in your prayers.

Nicola



An Invitation:

Easter Saturday Coffee Morning at Headingley St Columba on Saturday 19 April, 10:30-12:00 noon. Please come and join us. And if you're feeling creative: bring along a decorated egg, hat or garden. Prizes for the best.

HStC & Nicola

Easter Services at Stainbeck see page 11 and 12.

PRIDE CHURCH

LEEDS

7PM WEDNESDAY 2ND APRIL



Inclusive Christian Worship
in the City Centre

First Wednesday of each month

Leeds Minster LS2 7DJ

All are welcome!

Nicola is delighted to be part of an amazing ecumenical group organising this new monthly gathering in Leeds. Want to know more - talk to Nicola.

Looking Forward some more. ..

Once more we are looking forward to journeying together during **Holy Week**.

In our worship on **Sunday 13th March** we mark **PALM SUNDAY** celebrating the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem – our King with a difference – seeking peace and not war. This year **CAFÉ CHURCH** will enable us to share as family - all together – as we are reminded of the emotion and excitement as Jesus rode into the city.



On **MAUNDY THURSDAY** as we remember the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples we too share bread and wine and remember. This is at 7.30pm and all are very welcome.

On **GOOD FRIDAY** we hold our **TENEBRAE**, Service of Shadows, as we listen again to the story of this day. This is at 9.00pm and lasts around 40 minutes ending in darkness as we wait for the light and joy of Easter morning.

Again all are welcome – it is good to remember and reflect.



All this is leading us to our **EASTER SUNDAY** Celebration reminding us of the resurrection life and deep hope that is at the heart of our Christian life and faith. There will be a service of **Holy Communion** at 9am followed by **Easter breakfast** with a **Celebration** at 10.45am. Please join us.

CHRIST IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

