

**Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)**

# **OUTLOOK**

**OCTOBER 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  
OCTOBER 2025



Dear Friends,

Jesus said, *'You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.'* Matthew 5:43-44.

It is not always easy to love those around us. Jesus knew that.

Jesus and his friends lived under Roman occupation. An Empire which impacted on so many parts of a person's life and must have felt like it could last forever. There were divisions within the occupied Jewish people as well as fear of the Roman occupiers.

Jesus' words about loving your neighbour would not have been easy. And yet, he challenges his hearers to go beyond that and also to love their enemies.

The parallels to our own world could not be more striking. With growing enmity between our global neighbours as well as widening gaps between different ways of interpreting Christianity and Christian identity along with protests and counter-protests regarding asylum seekers, our world can feel frightening.

When I feel discouraged, despairing or fearful, I remind myself to draw on the deeply stirring lines of the Iona Community song:

*'Don't be afraid.  
My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear.  
Don't be afraid.  
My love is stronger and I have promised,  
promised to be always near.'*

Bishop Desmond Tutu has become known as the voice of the anti-apartheid movement amidst racism and segregation in South Africa. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 and once said: *"If you want peace, you don't talk to your friends, you talk to your enemies."*

When I listen to someone's views I may strongly disagree with or find offensive, I remind myself that part of following Jesus is seeking to see beyond the hurt or offence and see the whole human being, full of complexity and diversity. I can recognise that the heart of peace-making is knowing deeply that each and every human being is made in the image of God, made in and for love. And in that, I can seek to love them.

Loving ourselves, our neighbours and our enemies is definitely not easy. But it is utterly transformational – offering a way of peace and justice our world so desperately needs.

In love and peace, **Nicola**

## HERE AND THERE

### Looking back .....



How grateful we were when the sun continued to shine, at least for the daytime events at the **2025 Chapel Allerton Arts Festival** and for **Hymns in the Street**. Did you go on either of the days? If you did you will recall the streets on Saturday fully of happy families investigating all the stalls, enjoying the entertainment,

sampling the tasty food on offer and exchanging smiles with happy faces both young and old.

The **Churches Together** stall (the only free event available on the day!) offered the chance to search in the sand for blessings for young and old alike and it was a joy to see the beaming smiles that lit up the recipients faces.



Thank you to all those who came on Sunday to hear moving, interesting stories of bravery. It was affirming to learn that bravery can be experienced in so many ways. As always it was great to raise voices, a street full of them and sing familiar favourite hymns together. We are grateful to all the musicians, the singers and Nick Seddon. Thank you too to **Revd Nicola** for co-ordinating our worship. A special day.

It has been good to welcome young people back to a new term of activities at the **Drop In** which is a part of **InterACT** and **THRIVE'S** work with young people in the community. This is a group which encourages peer leadership, where the young people can enjoy games, crafts, conversations and snacks together for an hour after school each Thursday. It is good to see relationships developing and responsibilities being so willingly undertaken. Also great to see the **Youth Community Action Team** getting together for planning and action in **The Cabin**.



See photo. If you are interested in these new initiatives talk to Ann, Vanessa or the Ministers.

As I write, the car park ‘**potholes**’ have been filled, drains repaired and redirected and the space is again accessible. Our thanks to all who enabled this important repair and for everyone’s patience with the disruption.

Look out for the tidying up of weeds and general mess in the back garden area. And more thanks due here – this time to the **Meanwood Menshed (InterACT)**. The **Youth Team** (as above) and of course the **Community Garden** volunteers.

Which neatly leads to the **Beckhill Community Garden** which has won more awards. This time **Best New Entry in Yorkshire** and a personal accolade for **Lynn Brown** as **Best Community Champion**! Lynn is very delighted and thanks everyone for the support she has received. We are also delighted – and look forward to all we can continue to do together in the future.



# DIARY FOR OCTOBER

## Elder on Duty – Avril Bellwood

Thu	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11-1pm	The Café opens for tea, coffee, toasties, sandwiches, cakes and friendship
		7.30pm	<b>Zoom opens for Partnership Prayers led by Revd Angela Hughes</b>
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	<b>Hybrid Morning Worship led by Revd Dr Rosalind Selby to celebrate the Harvest. (See p 8)</b>
Mon	6 <sup>th</sup>	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Tue	7 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Churches Together meet at Stainbeck
Wed	8 <sup>th</sup>	10-2pm	'Pilgrims of Hope' at St. Anne's Cathedral
Thu	9 <sup>th</sup>	11-1pm	The Café opens for tea, coffee, toasties, sandwiches, cakes and friendship
		7.30pm	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday prayers led by Ann Coates</b>
Sat	11 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Yorkshire Synod of the URC meet at St. Andrew's Roundhay
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	<b>Hybrid Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson</b>
Mon	13 <sup>th</sup>	11-2pm	LUNCH CLUB CLOSED TODAY
Thu	16 <sup>th</sup>	11-1pm	The Café opens for tea, coffee, toasties, sandwiches, cakes and friendship
		7.30pm	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday prayers led by Karen Benjamin</b>
Sat	18 <sup>th</sup>	11-2pm	'All Things New' celebration at Stainbeck. All Welcome (see p 8 & 12)
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>	10-45am	<b>Hybrid Morning Worship led by Revd Angela Hughes</b>
		3.30 – 5.30pm	<b>Messy Church at Stainbeck</b>
		2.00pm	Leeds Concert Band at Wigton Moor
Mon	20 <sup>th</sup>	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Tue	21 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting

Thu	23 <sup>rd</sup>	11-1pm	The Café opens for tea, coffee, toasties, sandwiches, cakes and friendship
		7.30pm	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday prayers led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson</b>
Sun	26 <sup>th</sup>	10-45am	<b>Hybrid Morning Worship led by Revd Geoff Ellis</b>
Mon	27 <sup>th</sup>	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Thu	30 <sup>th</sup>	11-1pm	The Café opens for tea, coffee, toasties, sandwiches, cakes and friendship
		7.30pm	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday prayers led by Avril and Brian Bellwood</b>

### **Diary for November**

Sun	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.45am	<b>Hybrid Morning Worship led by Revd. Angela Hughes – Preacher Professor Haddon Willmer</b>
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A reminder of the Stainbeck link:

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

## **CHARITY for OCTOBER STREET ANGELS**

<https://www.leedsstreetangels.org.uk>

A word to reflect on the ‘**Hope explored course**’, which three of us have attended with friends from St. Andrew’s, and was held at St. Edmund’s Church, Roundhay.

Following the Lent course we shared with this group, we would like to affirm that this truly has been time well spent. Time to reflect and share thoughts, time to get to know new people and to find where we ourselves fit as we discover Bible passages together. We recommend looking out for further shared opportunities to learn with others. *Ann Coates*

## Looking forward...

October begins with a special service as we annually mark the **Harvest**. This year our service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October will be led by **Revd Dr Rosalind Selby** and we invite you to join us as we give thanks for all God's gifts to us. If you wish to bring gifts these will be shared amongst our community to support those in need.

No stooks of corn, harvest loaves, huge marrows or bowls of gleaming apples, grapes and cauliflowers in 2025. This year we ask you to bring dry and tinned goods which we can give to the **InterACT Food Pantry** or put into our emergency **Church Food Cupboard**.

We do however invite you, if you wish, to bring flowers at 3.00 pm, on Saturday afternoon, so that we can decorate the church as is customary. The flowers will then be distributed with love to members and friends.

The **Yorkshire Synod of the URC** meet at St. Andrew's Roundhay, on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October. This meeting is open to all who are interested in the work of the Synod across Yorkshire. Speak to a minister or elder if you would like to know more.

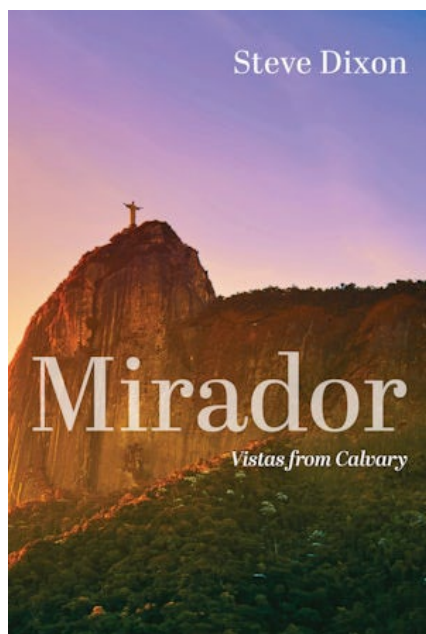
On **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October** we celebrate '**All Things New**' with our community friends, our room hirers and each other as we mark the Raising of the Roof, the completion of all the work undertaken in the past year to make our church warmer, brighter and even more welcoming. From 11.00 am to 2.00 pm friends and neighbours are invited to join us. An opportunity to be reminded of all the activities taking place each week in our building. Coffee, tea and cake! Any offers of help in preparation and on the day will be gratefully received by Ann (0113 3930835) who is compiling a 'little list'.

The **Leeds Concert Band** are performing at **Wigton Moor URC** on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October** in the afternoon. Helen Booth has tickets for this. You may also like an advance note that the band's **Christmas Concert at Stainbeck** will take place on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30 pm**.



## OPEN BOOK @ STAINBECK

### *Mirador: Vistas from Calvary*



Revd Dr Steve Dixon, a former member of our congregation and an annual visiting preacher, has published a new book – *Mirador: Vistas from Calvary*. It asks if there could be more to the meaning of the crucifixion than penal substitution. A mirador is a viewing point, and Steve's *Mirador* aims to provide different perspectives on the cross that could change the reader's view of the world as they look out from Calvary. He explores thirty-six ways that the death of Jesus can benefit humanity, each outlined in a brief reflection, followed by two

short, accessible poems.

*'Profound and thought-provoking, challenging and moving'*

*Elaine Graham, Emeritus Professor, University of Chester*

Orders from Amazon and the Wipf & Stock website where sample pages can be viewed.

## AND SOME NEWS

Steve also writes:

'I went to **Mike Taylor's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday** celebration on Sunday afternoon. A joyful occasion with about 40 people present, mostly his extended family. Mike was bright as ever, 'working' the room on his mobility scooter – though a little hazardous due to his speed and uncertain steering! Luckily, he had young relatives aplenty to clear his way! Perhaps readers of Outlook might be interested in the accompanying photo of the birthday boy. *Steve Michael was Minister at Stainbeck (1967-1975)*

### **A SPECIAL SUNDAY**



**The Pets' Blessing** held at Stainbeck last month was welcomed by many friends – all looking very content. All are welcome!



## TOTALLY TUESDAY

Tuesday nights in term time for  
school years 5-7 from 6:45-8pm at  
Chapel Allerton Methodist Centre  
**GAMES, ACTIVITIES, SPORT, SNACKS AND  
CHAT ABOUT FAITH AND LIFE**

## WOW YOUTH GROUP

Wednesday nights in term time for  
school years 8+ from 7:45-9:15pm at  
Chapel Allerton Methodist Centre  
**SPORT, GAMES, SNACKS AND CHAT ABOUT  
FAITH AND LIFE**

Contact Hannah: 07918 029840  
hannah.dey@thriveleeds.org.uk

**THRIVE**



After school until 4:15pm  
for years 7-9  
@Stainbeck Church  
Food, Games, Crafts



Led by local young volunteers



**THRIVE**





**Leeds URC Partnership**

# QUIET DAY

**Join us for a day  
led by the Ministry Team  
on the theme:  
Be brave, go gently.**

- ✓ A time for reflection and worship
- ✓ 2 course lunch and fellowship
- ✓ Opportunities to explore the beautiful grounds



**Saturday 8 November  
10am-4pm**



**Community of the Resurrection  
Mirfield, WF14 0BN**



**Pay as you feel**

**To book or get more information,  
contact: [sheana.dudley@standrews.cc](mailto:sheana.dudley@standrews.cc)**

**07460 813179**

**by 18 October**



Another date for your diaries ... see the poster above.

Many will recall the peaceful day we spent there last year. Do make a space in your diary if you can. Again, talk to one of the Elders or Ministers.



# "ALL THINGS NEW" COMMUNITY GATHERING

11AM-2PM  
SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER  
STAINBECK CHURCH, LS7 2PP



**Come along and meet all our wonderful  
community groups**

**Activities and crafts**

**Refreshments: drinks and cakes**

**Thanking our grant funders**

**[www.stainbeckurc.org.uk](http://www.stainbeckurc.org.uk)**



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

**Revd Dr Nicola Robinson, Minister: [revnicola.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:revnicola.robinson@gmail.com)**

**<https://stainbeckurc.org.uk>**