Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)

OUTLOOK

NOVEMBER 2026

Remember war make peace

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

https://stainbeckurc.org.uk

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NOVEMBER 2026

This month two letters -as we reflect on this month:

1 Remembrance

Remembrance Day. On a day which causes us to look back in sadness, perhaps it is helpful to consider the act of remembering as being in opposition to 'dis-membering'. Where 'dismembering' means to take apart, 're-membering' can be a putting back together of sorts. It may be a putting back together of pictures of the past. But perhaps as we 're-member' with sadness the pictures and pains of wars long past, we can turn our concerns, our prayers, to a world which is crying out for peace. And I hope we can ask: how we can start to put back together those places, people, relationships damaged so severely by violence and warfare?

Some conflicts cause us to have strong feelings about which 'side' may be in the right, and which in the wrong. And yet during a war, on all sides: lives are lost, families are broken, young lives are damaged, our Earth is harmed. In times of conflict and violence, there can be no 'winners', only those who perhaps lose least.

Let us be a people who concentrate our prayer and prophetic voices on a call for peace, always peace. And may our actions model our words and prayers and embody peace. Each and every one of us. This was the teaching that Jesus lived and taught us to live.

We can live this out by:
supporting all the members in our communities
caring for our beautiful world
speaking out against injustice.

In the words of the hymn writer, Fred Kaan:
Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it;
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.
Peace,
Nicola

HERE AND THERE

Looking back ……

October seemed to flash by even thought it was not particularly eventful when I look in my diary! It was good to begin the month however, with our **Harvest festival,** not the café style as we had planned but Revd Nicola was able to lead us on Zoom from Scotland. We are most grateful for all the 'non-perishable' gifts offered which we were able to send to the Food Pantry, which, week by week, offers so much support within our community.

Yorkshire Synod held a well-attended meeting at Moldgreen Church, Huddersfield. It is always good to be together with people from many different churches, sharing experiences. Planned into the meeting there was an opportunity to work together to discover the different ways in which we can provide meaningful experiences for our church families.

It was good also to meet again and share news with the **Churches in Chapel Allerton and Meanwood.** We reflected on the work done together during the Arts Festival and shared news of various activities – some of which can be read about in the Café Room. Please do keep an eye on all the posters and notices which are there for your benefit!

Here's a very advanced notice – we agreed that Stainbeck would again host the **Lent Soup** evening on Thursday 11th March, 2027.

Looking forward…

Some news from **InterACT** who are heading up our involvement in the **Love Leeds** programme that the Council are rolling out over the year. Moortown and Chapel Allerton wards (*ie* most of the area covered by CTCAM) are both involved in the first wave of activity. The programme is a concentrated effort by the Council to use resources differently with a mind to see longer term changes.

It aims to bring together residents, community groups, local partners, and council services to enhance the look, feel, and cleanliness of their local neighbourhood. It hopes to do this through us as we work together to spot community priorities, build action plans, and carry out visible neighbourhood improvements. In each ward there will be a week of action; for Chapel Allerton in November and Moortown in December. InterACT is a key partner and a really good way for us to play our part.

Want to know more? Have a look at the council website and keep track of opportunities through facebook and social media or even face to face meetings!

https://www.leeds.gov.uk/campaign/love-leeds

And so we leave Autumn and turn our heads towards Winter. As I write I realise the clocks will go back this week and I guess the trees will finally lose their leaves…. The majority seemingly in my garden!

We continue to welcome new visitors to our Thursday Café, now operating in the Church where there is room for larger groups as well as in the Café Room. We are grateful for all our volunteers and there is always room for more who would like to take a turn at offering their services.

It has been good to welcome friends from both our Partnership and local churches. The Café is a place where conversations are shared and friendships grow. I wonder, do you know that there is a group which so enjoy their time at the Café that at its conclusion they evolve into the Sunshine Group and carry on chatting (and I understand 'planning') in the lounge for another hour. I am sure you would be welcome there too!

Ann Coates

ELDERS' NOMINATIONS ?

It's that time of year again....Elders' nominations!

Elders are called to share responsibility, with the Minister, for the spiritual, practical and pastoral oversight of the congregation.Our Church currently has five Elders. This year, no Elders are due to step down. But we are open to new, additional nominations. Please think prayerfully about those who might be nominated to serve from 14 February 2026, this is a whole church opportunity to reflect on whom to approach. Letters and nomination sheets will be sent to all Church Members in the coming weeks so please pray and nominate.

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

Elder on Duty – Claire Jones

Sun	**1st**	**10.45am**	**Hybrid Morning Worship led by Alex Walker – a member of the Partnership Ministry Team – Also today we will be joined on zoom by Partnership friends from Christ Church Halton**
		2.00pm	Leeds Concert Band at Wigton Moor URC -Tickets £10 on the door
Mon	2nd	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Wed	4th	7.00pm	PRIDE worship at Leeds Minister
Thu	5th	11-1pm	The café is open for tea, coffee, toasties, sandwiches, cakes and friendship
		7.30pm	Zoom opens for Partnership Prayers led by Revd. Dr. Nicola Robinson
Sun	**8th**	**10.45am**	**Hybrid Morning Worship with Holy Communion for Remembrance Sunday will be led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson – (See below)**
A quarterly Church meeting will follow this service. Please re-read page 8 of the October Outlook which asks us to pray about the issues which will be raised at this meeting.			
Mon	9th	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Wed	**11th**	**7-9pm**	**Meeting for the Partnership Steering Group and all Church Elders at St Andrew's – see page 8.**
Thu	12th	11-1pm	The café is open for tea, coffee, toasties, sandwiches, cakes and friendship
		7.30pm	Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Ann Coates
Sun	**15th**	**10.45am**	**Hybrid Morning Worship led by Revd Dr Rosalind Selby**

		3.30-5.30 pm	Messy Church
Mon	16th	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Thu	19th	11-1pm	The café is open for tea, coffee, toasties, sandwiches, cakes and friendship
		7.30pm	Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Revd. Angela Hughes
Sun	**22nd**	**10.45am**	**Hybrid Morning Worship led by Rev Angela Hughes**
Mon	23rd	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Thu	26th	11-1pm	The café is open for tea, coffee, toasties, sandwiches, cakes and friendship
		7.30pm	Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Claire Jones
Sat	28th		Christmas Fayre at Chapel Allerton Methodist Church (look out for posters)
Sun	**29th**	**10.45am**	**Hybrid Morning Worship for Advent 1 Revd Andy Hobbs**
		2.30pm	The Leeds Concert Band (see p 11)

A reminder of the Stainbeck link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7019277749 (Meeting ID 7019277749).

The Ministry Team spent a challenging but fruitful day facilitated by **Place for Hope** in October. The outcomes of this will be shared with all Elders and then taken to our local churches. We are encouraged and excited as we move forward.

An invitation from the Ministry Team
to learn more about working with

Place for Hope

on

Wednesday 11th November at 7.30pm
(finishing by 9.00pm)
at St Andrew's Roundhay URC,
Shaftesbury Avenue, LS8 1DS

An opportunity to be part of the process of exploring how the Ministry Team can best support and serve our churches.

Following the Ministry Team's Away Day with facilitators from 'Place for Hope' we are inviting our church Elders and leadership team members to join us to hear, discuss and reflect on how we might work together more effectively in a team ministry.

Thank you for your prayers and support as we seek together to agree those next steps needed to help our Partnership churches in their mission and discipleship.

From the Ministry Team: Geoff Ellis, Angela Hughes, Tim Lowe, Edward Lyne, Nicola Anne Robinson, Alex Walker

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PARTNERSHIP

ECO THOUGHTS FOR NOVEMBER:

As winter creeps in, homes are really important. God calls us to give nature a home, too. Does your garden have a bird feeder? Could your balcony or windowsill do with some plant life? If you don't own the house you could make a case to the homeowner for a bird box, hedgehog highway or whatever. (*For a hedgehog highway do make sure the neighbours are OK with you making a small hole in a shared fence*).

Why not gather your housemates, friends and family to discuss how a new recycling, heating or transport arrangement might work for you all - you'll go further together!

And here are some Bug Hotels made by the Thursday Drop in for our garden.

REMEMBER WAR MAKE PEACE

It is soon Remembrance Sunday – poppies are in the shops. And this morning an advertisement fell out of our newspaper.

Remembrance Appeal 2026: **COMBAT STRESS.**
'The last time my brain remembered being safe was in Afghanistan, just before I was blown up.' ***Andy, Army veteran.***

And this set me thinking.

I have just finished reading Kate Atknson's latest book 'Our Noble Selves'. It is all about the Festival of Britain held in 1951 – an event to lift the spirits of a weary nation, celebrating our creativity, grit and ingenuity. Although based mainly in London, pageants and celebrations took place across the country.

A snapshot of post-war Britain, it took me down memory lane as, in common with so many others, the Sacred Heart Grammar School in

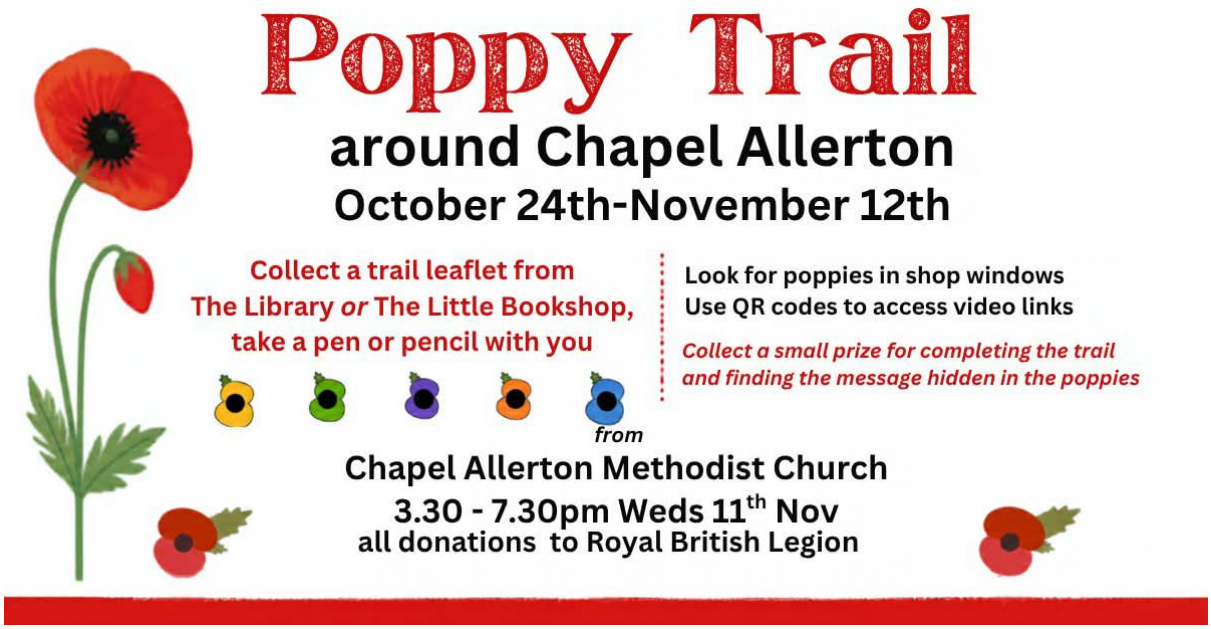
Wealdstone, North London, put on a pageant as part of the celebrations. Wealdstone even has a mention in the book!

A quirky story follows a small group of former strangers through the preparations for this Summer of celebration. As we get to know these characters we are reminded how the experiences of war are not easily erased and so often hard to share. It was not easy to pick up their lives again following so much pain and loss. They were changed forever. Many of us have recognised this in our own parents or grandparents.

It is not a big step to move on and reflect on the pain and suffering in Easter Europe and the Middle East – in fact across the world. A world now brought daily into our living rooms through paper, word and social media. We see the bodily damage but what about mind and spirit?

And I find I have travelled full circle back to where I started at the Remembrance appeal.

Active peace is not easy – no peace comes without justice. We all have a part to play. No, we can't make all things right everywhere but we can look around us here and share the love of God as we are able. The love of the God we know in Jesus Christ – light of the world. At this time of uncertainty may we share both love and light. ***Angela***



LEEDS CONCERT BAND

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday 29th November
2.30pm at Stainbeck URC
Tickets £10 available on the door
Family friendly!