

Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)

OUTLOOK

MARCH 2017



**Please worship with us:
Sunday Morning at 10.45am
Thursday Evening at 7.30pm**

<http://stainbeck.urc.org.uk>



Dear Friends,

Every month, for a number of years now, Ann Coates and I, together with other local Church leaders, have led informal prayers at St Gemma's Hospice. Numbers have varied over that time but it constantly reminds us of the important role of prayer in supporting and sustaining the day-to-day life at the Hospice. How important that patients, relatives and staff in every capacity know that they are held in prayer at every moment. The right word at the right moment – the smile – the hug - the tough decision: I rather think that many of us have experienced this at first hand.

What about our life here as God's people at Stainbeck? Is our day by day life together sustained by prayer? Are we 'learning and growing' together? Are we encouraging one another? Do we talk about it? And if not, why not?

Questions for us all as we move through LENT 2017.

For many of us life is busy and we are pre-occupied with many things – family – jobs – caring for one another – or we do not have the capacity and energy we once knew. We all pray in different ways and have different techniques for restoring our perspective and peace of mind. But sometimes it is good to do this together.

Two thoughts:

- Why not join us on a Thursday evening during this Lenten Season? An opportunity to share and support one another in a visible way as we underpin and sustain our work together in Christ?
- If this isn't possible for you – what would help you – a House Group – a series of Bible Study - a discipleship course?

Please talk to me – let me know what you think and feel. Or talk to an Elder. Please don't keep it to yourself!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Angela

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Where there is tender care and love, God is present

We remember in prayer those amongst our Church family and friends who have recently been bereaved these include: **Joan Dalrymple** and her family who mourn the loss of Gordon; **Carol and Gill** and their families who mourn the loss of **Harry Tyson** their father and **Vana** and **Gertrude Hlabangana** who are mourning the loss of Vana's brother.

We think of all those others, especially at this time of year, who have on-going health issues or are struggling in other ways, who come and go through our building: you are remembered – **God loves you all.**

HERE AND THERE

Looking back.....

Whilst to me January seemed to be a very long and busy month February seems to have disappeared in the blink of an eye. We did as a church family have two very important Sundays. First we held our **AGM** in the context of worship. We reviewed the past year and shared thoughts about possibilities and opportunities for the future. Appropriately the following Sunday, we inducted **Christine Robson** and **Judy Taylor** to serve a further term on our Eldership Team and received **Averil Jones** into membership before rededicating ourselves to be the people of God in this community.

We once again invite everyone to take home a copy of the LENT PRAYER DIARY (<https://networkleeds.com/news/leeds-lent-prayer-diary-final-prayer>) – they are on the window-sill in the church. Please use it during these weeks of LENT – a wonderful way of informing our prayers – not just for our communities but also for our city in these uncertain times. It is both inspiring and encouraging.

And finally we must mention the **ANIMAL FUN HALF-TERM EVENT** overseen by **InterACT** and managed by **Maureen Lillywhite**. 130 children plus their grown-ups enjoyed craft, games, lunch and finally the animals. Our thanks to all who worked so hard to make this happen. There are some more photos on the notice-board in the Café Room. What a great way to catch up with families and have fun together.



This year's **After 8's Annual Dinner** on the 15th February was held at the Olive Tree Restaurant in Headingley. There were 14 of us; everyone enjoyed both food and company.

Once again thanks are due to Doreen Moore for arranging the Annual Dinner.

Sandra Smith

There was more dining out, this time at the Mustard Pot where **Stainbeck Players marked 62 years of giving – and receiving - entertainment to the church and the wider community. Dorothy**

Jackson, our guest of honour, took us back to the very beginning. She told of a time even further back, to before the Players were officially formed, speaking of war-time entertainment, a church band and the involvement of many of the congregation.

Many memories were shared, photographs passed around eliciting comments - "I don't remember being in



that!” “*Whoever is that?*” “*What an amazing set.*” Even, “*How did we get away with that?*” - and Peter recalled some pantomime-related anecdotes, among others ... the only pantomime people actually walked OUT of and Steve’s ad lib when someone stood in at the very last minute following a cast member’s accident “*She was only standing at the bus top*”. How open and welcoming Stainbeck’s stage has always been.

So many happy shared memories which as Dorothy said “We will always have”. Many thanks to Peter, Joan, Doreen and Peter for organising such a great evening.

Ann Coates

Looking forward....

Come and Rest Sessions – facilitated at Stainbeck and led by Meanwood Valley Baptist Church every two months. These ‘Come and Rest’ sessions offer the opportunity to relax in the quietness and allow God to input his blessing into our lives, just because he loves to bless us. We learn how to sit, wait and watch for him and he can teach us about worship that flows from a place of rest. It’s time to lay any burdens at the feet of Jesus. It may take effort to quiet your racing thoughts, but it is well worth the effort.

Jesus says in Matthew 11:28-30 “Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Psalms 23:1-3 “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul.”

All are welcome – Rosemary Laxton – MVBC



It's FAIRTRADE's annual awareness raising fortnight - 27th February to 12th March – a reminder that ethical, fair and tasty foods and crafts are available in the shops and supermarkets all year round, as well as now. Look out for the Fairtrade

mark on tea, coffee, cocoa, chocolate, sugar, nuts, dried fruits, bananas, mangoes, pineapples – to name but a few items. Call at the Beehive, 67 Potternewton Lane (www.thebeehiveshop.org.uk/)

for a wide range of items. You are especially invited to the Beehive Café and Fair on 18th March in the Chapel Allerton Methodist Centre from 10.30 a.m.-1.00 p.m. Always a good crowd. Always lovely cake.

Early warning! Magnificent Fairtrade Easter Eggs are about too.

Christine Robson

ALSO: The BIG BREW EVENT will take place on Saturday 4th March between 2-5 p.m. at Beeston Hill United Free Church on Malvern Road Leeds LS11 8PD(No1 Bus to Beeston stops outside the Church) – All welcome.



This year's service for **Women's World day of Prayer (Friday March 3rd)**, written by Christian women in the Philippines, is entitled 'Am I being Unfair to you?'

Services in our area are as follows:

10.30 am St Anne's Cathedral - City Centre

10.30 am St Martin's Church - Harrogate Road - Chapeltown

1.30 pm St John's Church - Moor Allerton

6.00 pm St Andrew's URC – Roundhay

Also you may like to support:

The Church in Cottingley at 2.00 pm

The services will welcome both men and women to join them. One learns something of the life within the 'sending' country and it is always impressive to be a part of this wave of worship, prayer and praise which crosses the world all on one day thus uniting all participants.

The Leeds Mission and Care Group next meet on **Tuesday 7th March** at the **URC in South Leeds, at Belle Isle Church, LS10 3LG, 7.00 for 7.30pm**. On the agenda for this meeting will be discussion centring on the role of **Revd Clare Davison**, the newly appointed enabler, who will work within the Leeds Partnership. Her work and the development of the Partnership will impact the future of life at Stainbeck and is important to us all. A warm invitation is offered to all – transport available.

On Saturday 18th at 11.00 am, **The Church in South Leeds in Belle Isle** (LS10 3LG) invite us to join them for their *Monthly Saturday Coffee Morning*. As an added bonus they are offering a tour of their building with a potted history of the past Churches involvement in South Leeds illustrated by the Triptych Collage.

Once again we are hosting the **Churches Together Lent Soup Evening** at Stainbeck. Our soup makers are at the ready! This year the evening will focus on and **CELEBRATE** all those various enterprises that we already do together – but maybe we are not all aware of. Please mark the date in your diary **Thursday March 23rd at 7.30pm** and come along.

Another **Spring Clean** is offered on Saturday 25th March 10.00am-12noon yes, we are looking forward to this morning because we were so pleased with the results of our ‘Autumn Clean’ mornings. It is always good to be part of a group doing something together for a prescribed length of time ...not slogging along on your own with the job seeming to go on forever. So do you have a couple of hours to give a hand? Glen, our regular cleaner, together with a couple of others, do a really good job but a little extra help would be appreciated.

Dementia Friends – Wednesday 29th March at 10.00 am at Stainbeck Church – organised by Luke Dean. This event provides basic information on how to be more dementia-friendly and simple ways you can help in your communities. It will last no longer than an hour if you are interested please let Luke know.

Tel: 07876800535 or email him at luke@mvbc.org.uk

Appreciative Inquiry at Stainbeck!

You will notice that on **Sunday 26th March** (Mothering Sunday) **Tim Slack (co-director of Appreciating People)** will be sharing worship with us. Tim has worked in youth and regeneration for over 30 years, holding a number of senior posts in local government, community engagement and arts organisations. He specialises in *Appreciative inquiry facilitation* he is a part-time potter in his spare time, an avid reader of military history, and is learning how to garden and grow his own veg. He has lots to share! Don't miss out.

<http://www.appreciatingpeople.co.uk/>

Another evening of Taizé Prayers is planned for Sunday 26th March at 8.00pm (see the LENT PRAYER DIARY). How much we need this foundation of prayer to underpin our life and work together (see Angela's letter). A further opportunity to be quiet, to think and to listen for God's Word to us.

There are prayers, a reading, a reflection, an opportunity to sing if you wish but also to be still and regain our perspective amidst all that preoccupies us.

‘Be still and know that I am God.’

REFLECTIONS

30th January 6.07pm God (authority, order, caring, etc) is our own creation – not artificially created but COMING INTO EXISTENCE as we respond to each other. Throw the church open to the community. Here's a building: use it!! After a dream of utter chaos, with everything out of control, I reflected that, as we are swept along on a sea of chaos and inevitability, we must try to create our own uniquely individual spirituality.

These were random entries from my 1986 diary, which, in many ways, seems to have been, quote, a 'wonderful year', all this brought to mind by listening to Peter Gabriel's 'Mercy Street', and the image it evoked: driving through Wales in torrential rain at night, alone, on my way to Gregynog, part of the University of Wales, thinking of holding Lucy as a child, the way my dad held her in a photograph from Jersey, ten years earlier, and being overwhelmed with emotion at the line, 'in your daddy's arms again'.

6th February 9am AGM; Group 1; Angela D. reported on a group which had focused on the stories we had to tell. In our group, we had a visitor and, slow thinker that I am, I didn't immediately abandon 'the questions' to work through the reports so that we could tell the story of Stainbeck, but, with the help of Helen B. that was, in effect, what we did.

Thinking about the group reports yesterday, I'm struck by how the stories we have individually to tell reveal a congregation united in its support for Stainbeck but rather like a football team, all on the same side, but playing in different ways, attack and defence, old and new, inward and outward, believers and doubters. We all have our own stories to tell and perhaps we should be telling them to each other, not as an exercise in nostalgia, nor even as a journey of faith, but rather as a story which arrives at where we are now. Where Stainbeck is right now is well told in the AGM reports. But, for example, where am I?

7th February 8.30am Footballers in the best teams nowadays play all over the field. Take, oh take me as I am!

10th February 8.56pm The Stainbeck Players, like the church, gave me the opportunity to do what I wanted. Which may have been what God wanted, if it was what I truly wanted, since, I believe, when we act in a way we

truly want to act, then we act as God wants us to act. Or was I simply acting as if I had a God-given right to act in that way?!?

12th February 1pm What is the difference between Stainbeck and a well-run Community Centre? Or rather, what is the difference between God working through Stainbeck and God working in the community? That rather archaic sounding word ‘worship’ comes to mind.

Best joke in the Baftas? ‘That’s the thing about Hitler – you never hear about the good things’. Fault of the media, I suppose.

15th February 10.35pm Great drama on television lately. ‘Apple Tree Yard’, I thought rubbish at first but it improved on a theme of the animal within. The unforgettable ‘Unforgotten’ came to a brilliant and moving end last week, with a powerful message about the effects of child abuse. And we still have the riveting, fearful, and authentically staged ‘Taboo’.

Tonight though, real life drama in ‘Hospital’. A ‘live’ kidney swap, followed last week’s astonishing episode when a heart valve was replaced in an 86 year old man, an operation in the course of which he suffered a stroke. He was immediately taken to another hospital where the clot was removed from his brain using a wire inserted through his leg. Multi-ethnic teams are performing miracles, despite an ever present problem: the shortage of beds.

20th February 11.58pm On a walk near Timble, I stood in a silent forest of tall trees and thought ‘these trees are alive’. In the LRB, I now read of a ‘portrait of the forest as a networked system of constant intercommunication’ where trees were pumping sugar into a stump with no leaves for photosynthesis which was all that remained, still alive, of a huge beech felled centuries ago. What we categorise as objects are living beings.

There is a ubiquity about neurones in the brain, and people in organisations like the church, or a drama group, and the roots of trees in a forest, which tells us of a network of intelligence constituting life itself.

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Transport: if you require any transport to church or for any other event, please contact John Mawson (2938941). Alternatively, contact your elder or Angela or, on a Sunday morning, telephone the church (2370251) and leave a message.

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

Revd Angela Hughes, Minister: 0113 225 3766

Avril and Brian Bellwood, Church Secretaries: 0113 293 5847