

Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)

OUTLOOK

JUNE 2017



PENTECOST 2017

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

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



JUNE 2017

Dear Friends,

In this first week of June we are celebrating the Festival of Pentecost, and during the past week, we have been participating – albeit in a small way – in a movement of prayer for our world – a ‘global wave of prayer’ - **Thy Kingdom Come**.

And I am reminded how much we need to build that Kingdom of God, a place where peace and justice, love and joy are found. A vision not simply for the future but a vision made real among us here and now.

The disciples were gathered together, fearful and confused, waiting in that Upper Room. What to do? What next? My guess is that they felt overwhelmed and inadequate. It was not until they were literally ‘blown away’ by God’s gift at Pentecost that they finally discovered the confidence they needed to live and share the Good News of Jesus Christ their Risen Lord.

Like those early disciples, we too often feel ill-equipped. We assume that someone else, maybe *anyone else*, is better suited, or we think that sharing faith is someone else’s job. But we are all called to be witnesses. It is not a choice. The only choice is whether we are good witnesses or bad ones.



And how do we do it? Simply by the way we live: how we act and what we say. What a responsibility. But also what a privilege! **Thy Kingdom Come** in our own hearts – in our families, our communities, our nation and our world.

This Pentecost then, like the disciples all those years ago, may we be open to receive God’s enabling gift. May we embrace it, live it and share it. May God’s Kingdom come even through us – you and me.

Don’t miss out! Open your heart! Come Holy Spirit!

Angela

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Where there is tender care and love, God is present

Several people within our Church family who have been unwell are now feeling much better and it is good to see them back amongst us. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

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

Finally, congratulations to **Councillor Jane Dowson**, our newly elected Lord Mayor, and to her husband, **Alan Bellhouse**, who will be her consort. We wish them both a fulfilling and enjoyable year!



HERE AND THERE

Looking back.....

After Eight's Weekend Away - 29th April - 1 May 2017. This year our party of 23 returned to the Kings Head, Masham for our 33rd weekend away, our 4th consecutive year at this venue.

This year the Tour de Yorkshire 2017 stage 2 (Tadcaster to Harrogate) was on Saturday 29th April - the route took the cyclists through Masham on the Saturday morning and afternoon so we had to plan our journeys carefully on the day, in view of the many road closures and to avoid being stuck in traffic. Some of our group set off early and managed to arrive in time to watch the cyclists ride through Masham and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Others took detours and called at different venues in the afternoon and also enjoyed their time in the Yorkshire Dales.

Having pre-booked our evening meal on the Saturday we all gathered together at 7pm for dinner which was excellent and it was great to meet up with everyone and have a good chat.

We were all interested in the route for the Sunday walk which Peter (Craske) had given a lot of thought to – Peter had been up the previous week and rejected one of the walks as it was too long and reverted to a walk that we have done in previous years, whereby a few people would have the opportunity to make the walk shorter if they wished.

At breakfast on the Sunday morning Peter had second thoughts and decided we should all walk together and changed the route slightly. This turned out to be a great decision, it was so good that we were all able to stay together, walk along the riverside, had lunch in a field and all really enjoyed the day.



Doreen Elliff was again a wonderful tour guide – driving Peter Webster, John Coates and Pam McFetridge around the Yorkshire Dales, enjoying their lunch, the scenery and the coffee breaks.

After a relaxing time in Masham on our return, some enjoying an ice cream or a coffee in the Market Place (in the sun!!), we all met for Sunday dinner, the roast selection being a popular choice for many of us.

After breakfast on Monday morning and a look around the market in the square we all went our separate ways - another successful weekend with good friends, good times and lots of happy memories!!

After Eight's Summer Walk - Sheila Ryan organised and planned our walk around Harewood on Wednesday May 16th. Due to differing circumstances only 8 After Eight's attended the walk this year, however whilst being a short walk around the grounds, taking in the church, which was very interesting, everyone enjoyed the sunny evening, relaxing afterwards in the Harewood Arms for a refreshing drink. Many thanks to Sheila!

Doreen Moore

‘Together we can’, what a great theme for our **86th Anniversary** celebration (well done to those observant readers who spotted the rogue 76 which found its way into last month’s issue – apologies). We had a participative service celebrating all those things in our shared lives which we do together and I think, together we were amazed. We thank all those who took part, speakers and musicians too. It was a great morning rounded off by the now traditional Faith Lunch giving lots of time for the further sharing in stories of our 86 years at Stainbeck.

We were fortunate that we had lovely sunny afternoons for both of the **Meanwood Street Parties**, one held in the Farm Hill South the second in at Stonegate Green. They were fun and well attended by the residents who enjoyed loads of good food generously provided by The Barn Café based at the Urban farm. There was music, face painting, always drawing a long queue, balloon modelling, two jolly clowns, street dancing and lots of time to relax and chat in the sun, getting to know our neighbours. Both the events were part of Meanwood Festival.

For photos of these and other events and to discover what’s going on in our community and church life together why not look at the church facebook page? Lots to see. Eds.

On a beautiful May morning 4 of us set off to travel by train to the Spa at Scarborough for the **Yorkshire Assembly**. What a glorious journey, Yorkshire looking as beautiful ever, the sun shining out of a clear blue sky on the incoming tide as we walked down to the Spa. Although the numbers at the conference were down the content was not and the committee, headed by Sue Ripley, had once again organised a meaningful and at times emotional conference for us all to enjoy. We have a copy of the programme which we would be happy to pass on. Those of us who attended this year’s conference would encourage anyone who has not been to the Yorkshire Assembly to think about coming along next year – the date **Wednesday 9th May 2018**.

Avril Bellwood and Ann Coates



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 14th to 20th May

We have had an excellent response to our house to house collections this year thanks to the work of June Mawson and the team of collectors, card makers and counters. The amount raised so far is £920 pounds. There is still more money to come from the proceeds of a Café and our Communion collection for May. Cards are still available to purchase, just ask June if you can have a look at the selection still available.

June has given us notice that this year is the last time she will be organising the Christian Aid Week house to house collection and feels that after 21 years it is time to hand this on to someone else. If anyone among our Church family and friends would like to take on this role we are sure that June would be pleased to talk you through the process.

A very worthwhile job – and so important for the on-going work of Christian Aid. Could this be for you? And the commitment doesn't have to be for 21 years!

We offer a big **THANK YOU** to June for her commitment over the years to Christian Aid. *Eds*

Looking forward

Luke Dean is running another **Dementia Friendly Workshop** on Wednesday 7th June at 10.30 am, at Stainbeck. Those of us who attended his previous workshop found it interesting and informative. It lasts for 1 hour, nothing onerous and you all receive a badge at the end of the workshop. Speak to Avril if you wish to attend.

As you read the diary for June you will see that we have added in some events that are happening in our **Leeds URC Partnership Churches**. These include coffee mornings and Summer Fairs which we are all encouraged to go to, if we are able, and meet and get to know some of the other Church families. We know it is not possible to 'do' everything but it would be good if some of us within our Church Family could go

along to some of these events. In particular it would be good to have a few visitors for **Armley, Wesley Road** – a lovely little chapel. A visit from us would really bless them. Lifts available (ask Avril or Angela).

Saturday 1st July heralds another of our **Saturday Café** events between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm The café will be serving sandwiches, toasties, cakes, tea, coffee and juice. Also available will be a cake stall, second hand books, Fairtrade, cards and ‘everyone a winner Tombola’. Avril Bellwood and June Mawson are organising and will be pleased to hear from anyone who can offer their help.

Important advance notice:

The Revd Clare Davison is to be inducted as Minister of Word and Sacrament to the joint pastorate of Headingley St. Columba URC and to the Leeds Mission and Care Group Partnership as Mission and Ministry Enabler on **Saturday 22nd July at 3.00 pm**. All the Churches in the Partnership have received an invitation to this service. If you would like to go along please speak to Avril as Headingley need numbers for seating and catering. Thank you.

And finally: A little rain didn't stop the visitors to the **Meanwood Festival Fun Day** – lots to see and lots to do!





Statement on the United Reformed Church Past Case Review

We have all made mistakes and we want to learn from those mistakes.

People have been hurt by bullying or abuse in churches in the past. Things went wrong and people may be carrying the hurt inside them. We want to learn from the past and do better in the future. The past Case Review is a way for the United Reformed Church to listen and to learn.

We truly want to hear about any behaviour which may need challenging, or if you have been hurt in the past by anyone in the United Reformed Church.

If anyone who has had any connection with your church wishes to share something that has happened to them within any United Reformed Church, we would ask them to get in touch with the Past Case Review team. The details are set out below.

We want our churches to be safer places, where people can grow without fear.

Telephone: 020 7916 8682

Website: www.urc.org.uk/past-case-review

Email: pastcase.review@urc.org.uk

Further resources and information are available online at:

www.urc.org.uk/past-case-review

REFLECTIONS

1st May 6pm After the After 8's weekend. I had a walk already planned, a re-run, or rather re-walk, of the original from the King's Arms, Masham. On the evening of our arrival, I explained that there were two points at which people could drop out if they'd had enough, and return to Masham via a short walk. Of course, there was the inevitable question: how far is it? Not being absolutely sure, I later went upstairs and measured the three distances using a shoelace. As I did so, I had an idea, which I explained the next morning. A new, shorter, adaptation would ensure that most people would be able to complete the walk. We could, most of us, walk together. It would mean breaking with tradition and not stopping at a pub half way, and not having an A team doing a longer walk. In practice, it worked very well; lots of conversation on a lovely day. I reflect that I'm not as pig headed as I used to be. The problem about 'always doing what you want to do' is that 'everything has a price'. Eat, drink, and be merry, but not necessarily, healthy. Answer a Box No. with a line inviting the woman to 'catch the No. 7 on Vicar Lane – I'll be the driver', won't necessarily get you a reply. But that's another story, from another day, on another good After 8's weekend.

7th May 4.48pm Walking down the road, near Eccup, I felt I was walking through a totally green world – fields of grass, hedgerows, and distant woods, many shades of green, but, predominantly, a sea of green fields. I thought of walking down a hillside in Cyprus, by the sea (of blue), under a clear, blue sky. And the feelings? Something like new life, and the joy of life. Odd that turning green signals being sick, and that feeling blue is feeling low. What can be done if you're feeling sick of life? I remember a friend of mine recommending 'work' – as in tidying the place up, or clearing your desk – anything that might give you that positive feeling of having done a good job. A walk along a coastal path on a sunny day might help though....

9th May 9.25am We first watched Line of Duty in its 4th season. It is a brilliantly constructed, police drama about an anti-corruption unit working to uncover 'bent' policemen. 'Bent' is a good adjective because the integrity of the police demands an unbending sense of duty. Lives are lost in 'the line of duty'.

Morality based on duty means following rules (and regulations). This seems to me to be a lesser form of morality than one based on virtue. The contrast

between Old Testament commandments, and Jesus' teachings might be taken as an example, though Jesus told his followers that he did not come to abolish the Law. Acting out of a sense of duty can sometimes seem heartless. On the other hand, trying to lead a 'good life' can expose vulnerabilities. The slippery slope, so vividly depicted in 'Breaking Bad' is never far away. What is interesting about Line of Duty is the way the temptation to break the rules can tragically ruin a life of virtue, (Season 2), and, conversely, how the temptation to stray from a life of virtue can corrode a strong sense of duty, (Season 1).

With over 9 million people gripped by Season 4, in which ambition was the temptation, with a consequence that both rules and feelings were jettisoned, could the aptly named writer Mercurio, be the new Shakespeare?! And can anyone tell me where I can find Season 3?

30th May 10.30am A sunny morning in the Lake District, camping. Go Outdoors! Escaping from the four walls of house and work, and church even. Eat outside. Walk across the field for a shower. Sit in the tent as it rains. And it's a shared experience with everyone else leaving home comforts (to varying extents) behind.

An hour into a walk yesterday, having climbed a very steep hill to the Castlerigg Stone Circle, and thought about the people in the Neolithic Age who had created the circle, 5,200 years ago, I suddenly found that my I Phone, 75% charged when I set off, was dead. I felt the loss quite acutely. For years I've walked alone, but nowadays we've grown accustomed to living in a world where we are only a text away from anyone we know. Technological breakdown can be devastating (British Airways etc) but even at a micro level it's quite disturbing. I could have made a decision to abandon the mobile for the weekend but that would have been the opposite of abandoning walls. It's great to be closer to nature, but who wants to be further away from friends and family?

The walk was further than I thought, with a result that I walked the last nine miles in three hours, so as not to be too late back. I've now abandoned the shoe lace method in favour of a little device which measures the miles on a map. I read in my little booklet, sold by the ice cream man, that 'standing stones emit a form of energy'. Perhaps they absorb it as well!

PLC

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