

STAINBECK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday 7th February 2016 held within Morning Worship
BOOK OF REPORTS

SECRETARIES' REPORT

It's report time again soon – these few words have been buzzing around my head since before Christmas and they will not go away. So today I decided to sit down at the computer and get on with it. The Church has had a very busy year and many decisions have been made. We have considered same sex marriage; agreed to engage in the process of setting up a Leeds Partnership of URC Churches; become a member group of Leeds Citizens; shared responsibility for setting up an ecumenical Messy Church; agreed to adopt the URC's Safeguarding Policy and accepted a request to be part of the Appreciative Inquiry initiative. Quite a list! We hope that you will enjoy reading this booklet which gives an overview of all that happens here at Stainbeck. Even if you are not part of our actual membership, you are part of our wider community who we pray for regularly at our Sunday morning worship and at Thursday prayers and to which you are welcome to join us.

Our very successful Community Café continues apace with our regulars who come without fail, regardless of the weather and others who drop in for help and advice from Maureen Lillywhite from ZEST; from Housing Leeds who have a Benefit Surgery from 1.00 pm in the parlour; or for Food Vouchers or other issues of pastoral need. The Café also provides a listening ear for those who just need some company and conversation and thanks must go to Janet Simpson, Donald Hughes and our Minister along with those wonderful volunteers who regularly give of their time to make the sandwiches and supply cups of tea and coffee and bake cakes and also listen and sympathise.

The Make It Craft Club – is continuing apace, new members always welcome. Some interesting crafts and knitting has been produced over the year and it is a good place to meet socially and make some new friends. The Asian ladies group, who meet after the Café, continue learning and improving their computer skills.

The monthly services at Carr Croft Nursing Home and St. Gemma's Hospice continue and the in-patients, staff and residents of both these

establishments do appreciate our visits; it means so much to them to know that people are praying for them and taking the time to remember them. This is a very valuable part of our mission work once a month and anyone is welcome to join the small band of regulars who attend these services. See Outlook for details.

Our Monday and Wednesday Lunch Clubs (see lunch club report) are much appreciated by those who attend.

The MENA (Meanwood Elders Neighbourhood Action) Sunday lunches continue under the auspices of the RVS (Royal Voluntary Service). We must thank Pam McFetridge and Sylvia Webster who have been the shoppers and cooks for the Red Team for nearly 20 years and who now feel that they should step down and let some younger volunteers take over. Thank you and to those others in your team who have decided to retire, for all your hard work over the years. You will all be missed.

We still hold the fortnightly knit and natter sessions, at the IQRA Centre on Carr Manor Parade with our Muslim friends. If anyone would like to join us please speak to June Mawson or myself.

Once again we must thank our web master Donald Hughes who continues to oversee a number of IT matters and is always happy to give advice on all those technical matters to do with the complexities of modern technology. Thank you to all of the people who are involved in making sure that Stainbeck is noticed locally and in the wider world and to the IT team who work the PowerPoint on Sunday mornings and at special services.

Sadly our membership has fallen due to the deaths of Audrey Riley in May; Leslie Desborough in June and Doreen Hindle in July. Our Minister presided at all three funerals. However we welcomed Janet Simpson into membership in February.

Last but not least we must remember our children and young people who continue to attend Sunday Club – please read the Sunday Club report and find out what exciting things they have been up to over the course of the year.

And finally we thank Angela for her work and ministry here in this place. Please remember her and Donald in your prayers and yourselves as we all work together for Christ's Kingdom and don't forget – God loves you all!

Avril and Brian Bellwood – Joint Church Secretaries

WORSHIP REPORT

There are a number of things in our life together which have changed over the years – we are different people of course; some activities no longer happen; the building is altered to make it fit for current purpose, it is decorated, refreshed. Equipment is updated; new projects begin, new people join the family that is Stainbeck each bringing their own particular gifts, skills. Change happens. Yet there is one constant at the heart of all that we share together.

When we became members we each promised “to be faithful in public and private worship, to live in the fellowship of the church and to share its’ work and to give and serve as God enables for the advancement of the Kingdom throughout the world”.

Week by week style and content may vary but week by week we come together as God’s people learning, growing, supporting , caring, giving and receiving one with another “...a powerful sign of God’s life giving presence” as Angela wrote last year.

In this past year Angela has again led just over half of our Sunday services maintaining a valuable continuity, whilst we have received ministry from a number of visiting preachers including the Revd. David Grosch Miller. David is currently Moderator of the General Assembly of the URC and was for a number of years minister at St Andrew’s, Roundhay. It is always good to hear of the wider work of the United Reformed church both within Yorkshire but also nationally and internationally.

We have again heard a couple of inspiring ‘faith stories’ which may have caused us to reflect on our own faith journeys. It has been good to share worship with Tessa Henry Robinson, on placement with us as part of her ministerial training. We look forward to spending more time with her in this coming year.

During the year we have been working more closely with partner churches in Leeds and have had a short series of evenings sharing

worship resources and ideas. This is but one aspect of the plan to bring United Reformed Churches in Leeds into a closer working partnership at a time when it has been recognised that the earlier pattern of one minister one pastorate is no longer viable. The challenge of Change.

It has been good to welcome new friends to Thursday evening prayer time – we would love to welcome more of you for just half an hour of quiet focus and thoughtful reflection. Every year I offer that invitation in prayerful expectation! You are also invited to experience occasional Taizé prayers on a Sunday evening and to come with us once a month to Carr Croft Care Home where the residents are always happy to receive us.

As every year it is with gratitude that I thank all those who participate in worship week by week. Thank you to Liam not only for his ministry of music but for the warmth of his friendship within the fellowship.

Thank you to our team of technical wizards who efficiently keep everything going smoothly. Thank you for the flowers which bring pleasure to different people each week and thank you to those who greet us warmly. My thanks too to the expanding team of readers who carefully prepare to bring the Bible to us each week.

At the centre of this web of preparation is Angela whom we thank for her enabling, loving and generous leadership of the family that is Stainbeck. We continue to be truly blessed by her ministry among us, throughout the year not just on Sundays!

Ann Coates – Worship Co-ordinator

SUNDAY CLUB

This year Sunday Club has seen a few changes in its team composition. After many years of dedication Lucy, Elanor, Sarah and Joan have decided to move on and apply their many talents in other areas of their life and church life. We are very grateful for all the work visible and perhaps less visible that they have brought as part of the Sunday Club team. After some time away from the team, we were delighted that Angela Dunigan was able to join us again in September, and we have also been pleased to welcome Claire Jones who started in September.

The Sunday Club team now comprises: Kate Boylan, Angela Dunigan, Richard Hamlin, Claire Jones and Emmanuelle Bastide-Wilson. We are also grateful for the team of volunteer elders who enable the High School Group to function.

The team meets regularly to reflect on the weekly readings, coordinate its activities, share good practice, exchange ideas and plan participation within some services during the year. As in previous years we have carried on using Roots as the main basis for planning our sessions.

With more children moving to the High School Group in September, Sunday Club has ranged from a few children to a dozen a week. The High School Group remains a small but consistent group. In planning Sunday Club activities, we have always tried to provide interest and activities to suit the varied ages (from a few months to pre-teens) and abilities or inclinations of the group. We have made a more conscious effort in the latter part of the year to enjoy some singing time with the children, an activity they are starting to find fun!

Looking back Sunday Club has contributed to the following:

- In July Sunday Club and the High School Group joined together in experiencing prayer spaces. About 9 prayer stations were created for them. The stations encouraged them to think about our world, or to think about things we can be thankful about, or to dare ask big questions, or to just enjoy a moment of quietness with God. All the

children who took part enjoyed this different experience that Sunday Club offered.

- In October Sunday Club took part in the Harvest Service which was organised in a Messy Church style with several activity stations: a food activity, a discussion group, a paper bird making activity and a beautiful poster representing our world's gifts created by Helen Booth.
- We enjoyed the moving voice of Charlotte Boylan on Remembrance Sunday in November.
- In December Sunday Club children (24) and leaders took part in the nativity service, telling the real story of Christmas. We all dressed up, sang, listened, journeyed around the church, told the story. All who took part enjoyed themselves and took pride in sharing their part of the story.

Looking to the future, as our children grow up, our challenge remains to accompany our children in their faith journey in ways that are right for them.

More immediately the team is always on the look-out for new talent to join the team. A strong diverse team will have a real positive impact. It is a real pleasure be a part of our children's life and explore the bible with them. If you are thinking about it but are unsure, why not join us one morning and see for yourself? Talk to any of the team or Angela.

Emmanuelle Bastide-Wilson

STAINBECK LUNCH CLUB ANNUAL REPORT

Our Lunch Club continues on a regular basis Mondays and Wednesdays between 11 am and 2.00 pm. We have continued to still charge £4.50 per meal and this money also contributes towards the cost of birthday cards and a small gift of chocolates, get well cards, biscuits, a daily newspaper, which is read avidly by some of our members and tea/coffee.

The volunteer helpers consider themselves to be a valuable listening ear and sometimes I'm sure that the volume in the room is very loud but good to hear. Everyone goes home with a smile on their face and it is often heard said that they would be totally isolated if the Lunch Club wasn't there for them to come to. Those of our members who are not able to attend because of ill health do receive telephone calls and get well cards and really appreciate the fact that they have not been forgotten and there is still a place for them when they feel better. Sadly Leslie Desborough who had not been for a long time died earlier in the year as did Audrey Riley who really appreciated coming along twice weekly to the club. Audrey is sadly missed.

June Mawson and I continue voluntarily to cover the role of the Lunch Club supervisors and really do appreciate the help from our very willing volunteers who do an amazing job and are much loved by the members who consider them their friends.

Our members once again received a free Christmas lunch and a gift along with a small box of biscuits from a very generous donor. The lunch was a huge success much enhanced by the nursery children singing Christmas songs and some wonderful raffle prizes donated by the doctors and staff at the Meanwood Health Centre. We all enjoyed an afternoon tea during August when the club was closed and this was great fun and enjoyed by all.

June and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helps with our lunch club and also to our Minister who calls in regularly, our Church Treasurer, the local PCSO's and the staff at Knowsthorpe Gate where we collect our meals.

Avril Bellwood and June Mawson – Lunch Club Organisers

CHRISTIAN AID

2015 has again turned out to be a very busy year for Christian Aid - dealing with emergency situations as they happen, as well as on-going help given to projects designed to enable communities to be more self-sufficient.

We cannot respond to every appeal that comes our way, but we have made contributions to Christian Aid whenever we could. Following a disastrous earthquake in Nepal in April, we forwarded our contribution of £27.

After Christian Aid Week in May we were able to pay in £1178.83, once again a surprising increase on the previous year's totals. Peter Ward, the Chapel Allerton Area Organiser for Christian Aid, sent a letter of thanks to everyone at Stainbeck for their hard work. The amount raised by the six churches in the group was £5435.03. We also took £15 from the sale of the Yorkshire 2015 Quiz Sheets, which went to the Christian Aid office in Leeds.

The December Appeal to donate money in place of sending so many Christmas cards within our Church family produced a further £30. Many thanks to all who helped in 2015 in any way and to all who contributed so generously.

Christian Aid Week 2016 takes place from the 15th to 21st May, when we hope to gather sufficient support again to enable us to take part in the usual red envelope collections locally. Offers of help will be much appreciated!

Our support through prayer is also invaluable, both for the Christian Aid workers and for the millions of people who depend on their help.

June Mawson – Christian Aid Organiser

AFTER 8's REPORT

2015 has been a pleasant year for the After 8's. We had our usual favourite activities plus a very interesting talk by Revd. Roger Quick. His talk was about St. Georges Crypt and the good work they have been doing there over the years.

We visited a super garden at Dacre Banks. It was bad weather but we managed to see it between the showers.

Cynthia Harrison and Cliff Hutchinson won the Darts and Dominoes evening in October and June and John Mawson's Team won the Quiz which was also in October. They have said they will set the 2016 Quiz. Date to be announced.

The train ride to Hebdon Bridge was enjoyable. Unfortunately the rain started as we were walking about, but a good Mystery Trip.

We also had a Fashion Show in April and a walk in May, plus the annual weekend away at Masham. The Annual Dinner was at the Olive Branch.

The year finished with our Dinner Dance and now we look forward to the A.G.M., in January.

Sandra Smith – After 8's Secretary

THE STAINBECK PLAYERS

I began thinking about the pantomime for 2015 in October 2014. From first thoughts to the first rehearsal has always been, for me, the most enjoyable time. During that time a script has to be found which suits our available actors, and the pantomime cast. The script is adapted, and usually some re-writing takes place. Problems over staging and music have also to be sorted out. But then, it's January, and confidence suddenly drops. These days we've usually had one reading at least, Doreen has organised the meetings, and Ann is ready to direct. So instead of staring at the phone willing myself to make the first call which will set the ball rolling, it's simply a question of beginning to tackle the innumerable tasks which make up the practical side of producing the pantomime.

This year was a fairly smooth ride up to, that is, the dress rehearsal, when re-casting and re-writing had to take place. The original casting had been quite straightforward once I'd come up with the exciting idea of turning our ever-present Principal Boy, Zoe, into a 'frightful' Fairy. The two other fairies were obviously going to be Sandra and Doreen, Ian was comfortably back in the Dame role, whilst Steve could be expected to find some humour in the part of the Storyteller. There were numerous small parts for the Drama Club, who had done so well the previous year, and who else but Mike would be able to wake up our Sleeping Beauty, Sara?

The music was influenced by a trip to the WYP, featuring classics such as 'Blue Skies', and although the singing was never going to be brilliant, the appearance of Liam three weeks before the first night to join Bob was a tremendous boost to the overall production.

Then, with just one week to go, Doreen tripped over her wand. She broke her Humerus, and this was serious, more for her than for the Pantomime, disastrous as it was. A five hour operation followed by a night reciting the Lords Prayer, and her redundant lines, took the place of her 'opening night'. Meanwhile, Sleeping Beauty was somehow enjoying at least three good nights.

There being, strangely, no scary scene in the original script, I'd written one in, which also featured scary 'Eyes' (lifted from Vision Express!), played by the Drama Club, as was the scary Crony, and an opportunity for the stars of the previous year, Stage Managers, Peter and John. Jackie was also in the scene, and Leon's part as Handley Page was extended. Alas, Peter was out of it, looking after Doreen, and John was ill. The day before the opening night I re-wrote the scene and delivered scripts to Ian and Steve, whose many years of acting in (or improvising!) scary scenes ensured that this high spot of Stainbeck pantomimes went as well as ever.

Colin and Cynthia as regal King and Queen, and John as featured in the hit song 'Swinging on a Star', will be remembered, and I should name all the Drama Club actors: Lily, Kala, and Ty as the Doolallies; Alisha and Lily as Princesses; Conner, Miguel, Lola-Mae as Monkeys, Nathaniel as the pig, Frank as the mule, and Haaris as the bee; Jayden and Preston as guards; Kala was also the Crony and everyone played other parts or were in the chorus.

Glen did another brilliant (and exhausting) job on the costumes, as did Peter (you could almost spin thread on the Spinning Wheel) and John on the stage. Sarah put in hours on the Sound and Jasmine operated the lights, once we'd got them working at 7pm on the first night. The Bostons moved chairs, but it was Joan who, on this our 'last' pantomime, 'worked overtime to get everything right' (Diary Feb. 15th) before saving the day by taking Doreen's place as Fairy First, a Pairy.

But was it the last??

Peter Craske – Stainbeck Players

MANAGEMENT REPORT

1. **Management:** Ultimately the management of both Stainbeck, the church, and Stainbeck, the building, is in the hands of the Elders, elected by the membership, and responsible to the Church Meeting of members. The ‘Mission and Ministry’ of the church at Stainbeck is directed, if not controlled, by the national United Reformed Church, represented locally by the Yorkshire Synod. The recently formed Leeds Partnership of local United Reformed churches is an attempt to solve the problem of a shortage of ministers, but each church will still shape its own mission depending on its locality and membership. Stainbeck, no doubt, will continue to seek to serve the local community in whatever way we can, including through the use of the building. The building is held in trust by the Yorkshire Congregational Union (Stainbeck was originally a Congregational Church) who are the landlords of the manse. Administration and responsibility falls to the Yorkshire Synod.

That preamble is simply to state something which isn’t always obvious – we are not alone! However, whilst there is an active Property Committee, other aspects of management do not lend themselves to committee work, so that’s where I come in, not as a convenor, but as a co-ordinator.

2. **Services to the building:** I found, some years ago, that, rather than try to make sense of gas and electricity contracts, it was best to rely on an expert, a broker, to find the best available price. In September, via Colleen, our broker, we have negotiated slightly lower prices on the cost of gas to hold for 24 months.

As part of their overseeing, the Synod sends out a Property Compliance Questionnaire each year to check, for example, on gas and electrical safety inspection certificates. I’m glad to say that ours are up to date. And, this year I can confidently answer ‘yes’ to the question ‘Do you have a Fire Risk assessment’ because Helen Booth has created a document with recommendations which the Property Committee has in hand.

3. Room bookings: We have one new booking this year, another Tai Chi group. They have moved to us from a cold hall in Meanwood, and will be known as Tai Chi Friday. Very welcome extra income came from short term bookings, using the hall, by WRVS (Drama rehearsals), and by LCC (School Sports).

In general, it's been a trouble free year, though we must always remember that this is an important interface with the outside community, and, as we solve problems that occur from time to time, we represent the Church, and, indeed, Jesus Christ. On a positive note, we are, I think, a church with happy hirers!

4. Safeguarding: This is another area where the wider Church has been a big help, since our policy is an adaptation of the Synod template. A training evening in Morley wasn't entirely successful, but it demonstrated our commitment.

5. The Manse: Once again, we have new tenants, a mother and her family. The property was vacant for just 18 days and the rent has increased by £40 per month. The tenant has paid six months rent in advance.

6. Property: Refurbishment of the Hall included, this year, the payment for the repair of the floor in 2014. The cowl was removed and Church lights repaired. Despite an 'austerity budget' we found the £2,500 to do this work. This year we must find a similar sum to repair the fabric of the building. We dream of new church chairs, a polished Hall floor with new windows, and, of course, a resurfaced car park. And why not?

Peter Craske- Co-ordinator

PROPERTY REPORT

Management Committee: - Peter Craske (PC), Helen Inglis (HI) and Brian Bellwood (BB), Angela Hughes (AH) (ex-officio member)

Property Committee: - Peter Moore (PM), John Mawson (JM) and Doreen Moore (DM) (Minute Secretary)

The scope of the Property Committee is –

- To organise and overlook all building work, repairs and maintenance of the property and grounds and to make recommendations for work/improvements to the Elders.
- To carry out regular inspections as recommended by the URC.

Church

Day to Day Maintenance

Day to day maintenance problems are undertaken/overseen – a list is available in the ground floor vestibule for anyone to enter anything that needs attending to and this is viewed and action is taken on a regular basis.

Major Work Completed

Kitchen

- A new kitchen boiler was fitted in August 2015 and is working well.
- The outstanding problem with the kitchen oven door hinges was fixed by PM who located replacements from eSpares(online) – these were fixed in September 2015.

Car Park

- The car park potholes were filled in with tarmac scalpings from Mone Bros. in May 2015 – this resolved the problem throughout the summer months but with the recent rainfall we are now suffering the same problems again with large holes in the car park and a solution will be discussed at future Property/Elders' Meetings.

Church Roof

- For safety reasons, the roof cowl was removed in May 2015 and the chimney was capped.
- The slipped slates were rectified and new battens have been inserted over the two areas where rainwater was pouring through the gutters.
- In September the guttering was cleaned and repaired where necessary and the gutter/downpipe over the window in Café room was cleared.

Church Hall

- In November 2015 Maureen Lilleywhite from Zest set up a team from Lloyds Bank to paint the church hall. Eleven volunteers came along and spent from 9.30am to 3pm/5pm on the 5th November painting the walls, woodwork and radiators. Unfortunately they didn't complete all the painting so JMC/PM spent time finishing the work off painting all the window frames and other areas. The paint was sourced and purchased by

the Church along with new curtains. We were grateful for a £200 donation from Lloyds Bank towards the cost of the paint. The ceiling was painted at a later date by a professional painter. All in all a successful operation and a much nicer place to be in for both ourselves and the people who use the hall on a day to day basis.

Other Work/Projects

Fire Risk Principles and Risk Assessment

- Maintenance check lists are now being carried out weekly, monthly and annually under the guidance of Helen Booth.

Electrical Work

- Ongoing work continues to take place – faulty light switches, intercom failures, the cross in the sanctuary has been rewired and new equipment installed, the high level lights in the church have been fixed by using better quality lights.

Neville Brooksbank – 5 year survey of buildings

Recommended work now completed:

- A panic bolt has been installed on the left hand fire door in the hall and a closer on the right hand fire door.

Future Work

Car Park

- Further work is required regarding the holes in the car park in view of the recent inclement weather.

Roof

- Halls – the roofing company have detailed certain areas that need attention:
 - downpipes need replacing with uPVC as they are cracked and leaking.
 - several areas need repointing.
 - some of the drains are in need of repair.
 - the buttresses at the Nursery side of the church need making safe.

Notice Board

- To be repaired and new hinges to be fitted – JM/PM to action.

Garden Area

- External services continue to be used to maintain the grass cutting, border trimmings, weeding etc. at the Church and the Manse.

Manse

- Minor repairs and maintenance have been carried out over the year.
- Smoke and CO alarms have been fitted.

Doreen Moore – Property Minute Secretary

LEEDS PARTNERSHIP (URC)

The United Reformed Churches within the Leeds Mission and Care group have been meeting during this past year to consider various options to discover the best way to move the churches forward into a new future. It has been a challenging but rewarding exercise.

At the last meeting held in November seven churches agreed in principle to continue to explore a defined process – namely to call a Minister to serve 50% at Headingley and 50% across the partnership in order to *‘encourage and enable partnership working in order to transform mission and ministry amongst United Reformed churches and LEPs with URC involvement across the Leeds Mission and Care Group Partnership.’* The decision was reached in the context of quiet prayer and thoughtful deliberation and the willing support of the churches was encouraging for all present.

A job description for the ministerial post is with the Moderator, participating churches have each prepared a brief pen picture of their church which will go out to any prospective candidates, and Church Treasurers have met to decide how the expenses for the 50% city ministry will be set.

The participating churches are as follows: Headingley St Columba; St Andrew’s , Roundhay; West Park, Leeds; Stainbeck; Wigton Moor; URC in South Leeds and Christ Church, Halton.

We would ask that you hold the fellowships of these churches in your prayers as together they seek to enrich their mission and ministry across the city. What we cannot do alone, with God’s help, we can do together.

Ann Coates

LEEDS CITIZENS

Stainbeck URC became a fully paid up member of Leeds Citizens at the Delegates Assembly on Wednesday 11th February 2015 at Makkah Masjid Mosque in Burley. At the Delegates’ Assembly the issues voted as the top three by all the members of Leeds Citizens were Poverty, Transport and Health and Social Care. These matched well with the issues raised by our community.

There have been action groups for each of the topics, targeted listening and training. Actions are short and fun and designed to draw attention to the issue, put across the main point quickly and enable Leeds Citizens to get a meeting with the relevant decision makers.

Some of the actions that have been carried out are:

- First Bus, who have subsequently agreed to introduce a Bus Covenant and improve local bus routes,
- The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) with reference to providing Navigators and improving primary mental health care. Leeds Citizens awaits a meeting with the CCG Chair early in 2016,
- The Living Wage - recognising companies who pay the Living Wage and Credit Unions - signing people up and raising the profile of the Leeds Credit Union,
- Year 6 children from Mill Field Primary have been looking at the local area to see what made them sad, mad and glad about their area. Interestingly they identified litter, lack of lighting, dangerous pavements, steps with no hand rails and lack of disabled access as things which needed improvement. The view from the playground was one of the things that made them glad. The playground itself and the 'No Children' sign on it made them sad!

The Founding Assembly on 7th July 2015 saw 700 people from across Leeds joining together to make their voices heard and make Leeds a better place for all.

A round up of the year's activities on 10th December encouraged everyone to achieve even more in 2016.

On 6th January 2016 about 15 people including Judith Blake and Tom Riordan from Leeds City Council, local councillors, housing staff, the master planner for the Beekhill Estate and others arrived at Stainbeck Church following a tour of the neighbouring council wards and wanted to hear what we thought the local issues were. We got to present the issues which cause difficulties to local people and to ask what the plans are to improve the area.

The 'Banana Block' will be demolished in late January and the area landscaped as it is deemed too steep to rebuild on. The pavements and

steps will be improved and the playground redesigned and relocated to a safer more central location. The children of the three local primary schools will be asked to design the new playground so that they will have ownership of the new facility and pride in their environment.

So if you want to meet people from all over the city and help make Leeds a better place to live in come and join the next action for Leeds Citizens.
Helen Booth – Leeds Citizens Representative

InterACT, Church and Community Partnership

It's been a fairly steady year for InterACT, although there have been a number of new beginnings. One of the most significant is to welcome Kingsley Dowling as the new vicar of Holy Trinity Church, after Chris moved on to new pastures last winter.

The makeup of **Monday Night Youth Club** has changed quite dramatically over this last year. Many of the older youth have moved on, and we have had an influx of younger teenagers (and a few pre-teens). This has been a positive change, although it's always sad to say goodbye to familiar faces. We are building some good relationships and we are pleased with the new dynamics.

Drama Club continues with old and new faces. We are always so proud to see the young people grow in confidence and team skills. We were more involved in Stainbeck's pantomime this year, which was a great boost to all of the children and their families.

Thursdays are as crafty as ever. **Make It** is a small(ish) group, but we are pleased that changing the time and space to run alongside the café does mean more people "pop in" to join us. **Craft for Kids** runs after school and continues to be a peaceful and well-attended group, run by Agnis Smallwood (Holy Trinity).

We have run two **parenting** courses this year, one for parents of children age 0-6 and the other for 5-11's. Attendance is small but valuable, and relationships built can become quite strong as we share our stories and reflect together. One thing to note, which I think I may have mentioned last year – cakes! We always have cakes baked by people from the churches and they are genuinely a great way for us to

introduce the fact that we're Christians and why we're running the course. Participants are usually quite touched by this simple gift, so thank you bakers!

We ran a **Board Games** day this year, which we've never tried before. It was suggested by one of the members of Meanwood Valley, who is involved in gaming regularly. It was a really good day. We ran it in the church space at Stainbeck, about 60 people came and most were male (this is significant!). They loved the space and were very appreciative that a church was open minded enough to accommodate them! It will be great to have another day like this, and hopefully we will see more church folk involved, now that we know what it's all about.

A significant "new" venture this year was to restart **Play and Learn**, which was originally a group run by Meanwood Valley Baptist Church. The aim of this is to create a positive environment for parents and carers of children age 5 and under to play together. The sessions include eating together, singing, messy play and free time. It was run by Gemma Dean (Luke's wife) until the birth of baby Orla Dean and is now headed up by Anny Kochmann. This runs each week in term time on Fridays between 10 and 11.30 at Meanwood Community Centre. The grown-ups really seem to appreciate it as a calm and friendly place to be. And it is!

Summer holiday club focused on the theme of being investigators this year, encouraging the children to ask questions, pursue truth and seek information about Jesus. Open and thoughtful minds in regards to faith is both fun and important!

Jamie Fletcher was back this year to run more **drumming sessions**, but this time with a difference. We opened the 8 week course to people age over 14 only and ran it as an ensemble, with the expectation of developing the skills of the group and learning some pieces along the way; in the past, we've run sessions more as a beginners drop in. There were 11 of us altogether, again mainly men, and it was very well received by those who came. This course was funded by what was East North East Housing. If we're able to find more funds, we hope to develop this further.

Vanessa Brown – InterAct Co-ordinator

Chapel Allerton Youth Project

It's a time of new beginnings and growth in the youth project recently, with much to be excited about and thank God for.

We have been trialling **MESSY CHURCH** for the last six months, which is a monthly gathering on a Sunday afternoon for families. We explore faith in creative and fun ways and enjoy a meal together too! We have met many new local families and are looking at how we nurture this beautiful beginning. Many thanks to the whole team, especially Emmanuelle and Helen who have led us. Emmanuelle shares, *"I think the ecumenical identity of our Messy Church has been and still is our strongest point. It has shown a welcoming and energetic side to our churches in the area. It has been very rewarding welcoming a different mix of families every time and share this moment of fun and celebration with them."*

Over the last few months the Wednesday gatherings or **Wow Reborn** (as the young people have come to call it) has been going really well. Working with local congregations and young people from existing groups, such as the former Wow group, we have launched 3 small discipleship/cell groups for those in school Years 8+. We have 15-20 young people coming along and it's been great getting to know them and seeing them gel together as something new. We spend time hanging out and having fun as a large group as well as time for discussion, prayer and conversation in small groups (3 small groups to be precise!). Over the last term we've looked at various topics of the groups choosing and had our first prayer night in the basement of the Methodist centre. We hope over the coming months to make more space for the young people to begin to lead and take ownership of their small groups as they grow into the New Year. It's been fantastic welcoming Ben Cordy to join the CAYP team, who now works with us for two days a week. We are currently looking to grow our team, so if you or someone you know has a passion for sharing faith and hanging out with young people, it would be great to hear from you.

We have a really fantastic group at **Totally Tuesday** and enjoy spending time together exploring faith and having fun. A real highlight this term has been seeing the young people lead games each week and

support each other as they do this. We've been exploring some of Jesus' I am statements and thinking about issues such as honesty, materialism, success and whatever else comes up! Rich and I lead this group and it'd be great to have another pair of hands so that we can develop the activities we do with the group. If you're someone who enjoys being around 9-12 year olds and wants to give them your time, care and attention, do get in touch.

This term has seen a renewal of our work in **Carr Manor High School** and Hannah has been working with RAISE and InterACT to run small groups with Year 7s and Year 9 and 10 girls. The focus has been on giving space to explore how we feel about ourselves and those around us and developing a supportive peer group. I am also part of a lunch club called Rock Solid which I lead alongside Leeds Faith in Schools. We're exploring how we can continue this work in the New Year.

Hannah Dey - hannah.dey@chapela.org.uk

FINANCE REPORT

This report should be read in conjunction with the Draft Accounts, for which it is explanatory.

A challenging year has been successfully negotiated. We were facing a year in which our Mission and Ministry payments would rise and our income from Room Lettings would fall, a total excess of expenditure over income amounting to over a projected £5,000. We are grateful to the After Eights and the Stainbeck Players, whose donations totalled £2,000 which equalled the fall in rental income. The increase in payments to the URC, based on membership numbers, was matched by a fall in spending on the property (ignoring that funded by grants).

Direct giving this year fell by over £600, though Gift Aided donations rose.

The Balance Sheet (but remember, these are Draft Accounts) shows that overall the excess of income over expenditure was £1,988. However, £1,906 of this is Manse Rent paid in advance. It has been placed in the 'Legacy account' so as not to give a misleading Current bank account figure. (Each month the rent will be transferred into the Current account.)

The overall situation is that we spent almost exactly all the income received, always remembering that we also paid £1,600 off our loan. In other words, expenditure equals income.

It's interesting to note that if the rent from the Manse is regarded as a 'church investment' then total church related income covers church expenses, but income from the building still matches the expenses of the building.

In the year ahead, I think income may fall because last year we benefitted from £1,000 carried forward from 2014 by the Stainbeck Players. On the other hand, expenditure will rise because we will be supporting the new Leeds Partnership. This will put a further squeeze

on Property spending at a time when spending on the outside of the building has now become a priority.

To finance this, I think we should budget for a deficit this year, always being careful to keep spending in check so that we don't entirely lose the benefit of having a small reserve in our Legacy account.

Turning to the Lunch Club, the 'loss' of £1,200 in 2014, as anticipated, brought the grant back up towards what it used to be. This year the excess of expenditure over income was down to a much more manageable £220. At the end of the year there was £3,378 in the bank.

This year we donated a total of £1,967.55 to Charities:

Benevolent Fund £85.31; Faith in Schools £69.30; LASSN £221.19
Blind and Deaf £57.65; Christian Aid £91.80; Help for Heroes £129.50
Lineham Farm £146.55; PAFRAS £65.79; Traidcraft £84.10; Nepal
£27; Children in Distress £652.59; St. Gemmas £252.56; MUVF
£84.21

Private donations continue to maintain the Benevolent Fund. 'Church and Community Gifts', listed under Sundries, is mainly a total of benevolent gifts made to local people in need, at the discretion of our Minister, Angela.

Peter Craske, Treasurer

DRAFT ACCOUNTS: YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2015

INCOME

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	2015		2014	
	£	£	£	£
Direct Giving:				
Envelopes	803		995	
Cash	2813		3618	
Gift Aid	13311		12976	
		16927		17589
Legacies	500		606	
Room lettings	27096		28817	
Funerals	-		100	
Tax refund on gift aid	4220		4049	
Grants	500		1916	
Donations and fund raising 1)	7158		5779	
Interest received	57		27	
Manse rent	7952		6331	
Appeals for charities	2351		2375	
TOTAL INCOME	66781			67589

Carried forward

DRAFT ACCOUNTS: YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2015

EXPENDITURE

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	2015		2014	
	£	£	£	£
TOTAL INCOME brought forward		66781		67589
EXPENDITURE				
Ministry and Mission	21466		18132	
Organist	890		180	
Manse insurance	425		394	
InterACT	2500		2763	
Insurance	2587		2458	
Loan interest and bank charge	24		63	
Professional fees	250		1270	
Cleaning inc. waste removal	6870		7121	
Maintenance inc. gardening	1739		2575	
Heat, light and water	9102		9608	
Telephone	451		401	
Property	5729		10338	
Ministerial expenses	3620		3596	
Worship resources	1504		771	
Gifts to charities	2205		1886	
Sundries (2)	5270		6148	
Outlook	161		181	
		64793		67885
		1988		(296)

DRAFT ACCOUNTS: YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2015

BALANCE SHEET

	2015		2014	
	£	£	£	£
Current bank account		3072		4789
Loans		(3850)		(5450)
Legacy account		5327		2945
Cash		103		380
Creditors		(250)		(250)
		4402		2414
 REPRESENTING:				
As at 1 January 2014		2414		2710
Excess		1988		(296)
		4402		2414

DRAFT ACCOUNTS: YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2015
NOTES

(1) DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING	£
Coffee and Cakes	319
From Church groups	2000
Outlook donations	120
Community Café	2543
Fund raising	112
Donations	1175
Photocopying for InterACT	889
	7158
(2) SUNDRIES	
Administration	65
Café supplies	1237
Stationary, postage and printing	2067
URC Levy and Churches Together	595
Publicity	239
Church and Community gifts	1008
Licenses	38
Training aids	21
	5270

LUNCH CLUB ACCOUNTS

INCOME

	2015	2014
Leeds City Council Grant	2246	1425
Members Contributions	4734	5215
Grant	500	160
Total	£7,480	£6,640

EXPENDITURE

Cost of meals	4789	4519
Transport	1155	1302
Rent	1080	1080
Shopping	207	419
Equipment	471	408
Activity	-	118
Total	£7,702	£7,846
Excess of income over expenditure	(£222)	(£1,206)

*Revd Angela Hughes, Minister: 0113 225 3766
Avril and Brian Bellwood, Church Secretaries: 0113 293 5847*