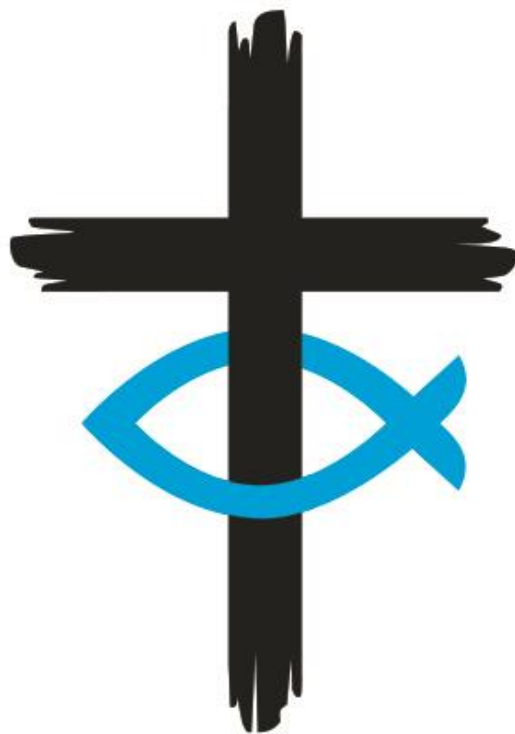


STAINBECK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BOOK OF REPORTS

**for
2016**



Sunday 5th February 2017 held within Morning Worship

www.stainbeck.urc.org.uk

SECRETARIES' REPORT

Yet another busy and fulfilling year for Stainbeck with many exciting and positive outcomes. I hope you will take time to read this small booklet, it contains lots of information about **your** Church and what is happening in the wider community. We are aware that people who do not attend worship or join in with events consider Stainbeck as 'their' Church. The Church at Stainbeck is here for you and you are remembered regularly in our prayers both on Sunday morning and at Thursday prayers - our doors are open and you are welcome.

Some of the community projects that we have become involved with are now very much part of Stainbeck life *ie* InterACT, Leeds Citizens, Messy Church and the Chapel Allerton Youth Project are all a positive force and those who organise them work extremely hard to bring about change, friendship, support and a knowledge of the love of Jesus in many exciting and different ways.

The word change occurs in quite a few of the reports. This is of course not surprising and as we all know there have been many changes that have been unexpected, dramatic, unwelcome, positive and not so positive in our world. Stainbeck has not escaped change and as you read on you will see that there has been a lot of good and some sad changes but we have to remember that in all of this God is with us and alongside our Church family and friends.

One of our members, Hazel Pilsworth, died at the beginning of March; our Minister also officiated at the funerals of Jack Grant (Steve's Dad), Dorothy Moore (Peter's Mum) and Hilda Wise (June Mawson's Mum). On a happier note we welcomed into membership Helen and Adrian Booth.

We continue to worship at Carr Croft Nursing Home where residents look on us as friends and are happy to see us. Our Minister and Ann Coates continue to support St. Gemma's. See Outlook for dates and times if you wish to join us.

We have taken the decision to close the Wednesday Lunch Club (see lunch club report) but continue with the Monday one. On a positive note new volunteers have stepped forward to organise the Red Team Sunday Lunch and are doing a wonderful job. The fortnightly knit and natter sessions, held at the IQRA Centre, with our Muslim friends continue and are much enjoyed by those who attend.

Our second-hand books' cupboard at the back of the Café Room is always open on Thursdays – it is well stocked and the books are priced. A big thank you to John Harrison, who makes sure that this is so.

Our thanks once again must go to our web master, Donald Hughes, who continues to oversee anything to do with IT and to all of the people who are involved in making sure that Stainbeck is noticed locally and in the wider world. We thank also those who work the PowerPoint on Sunday mornings and special services.

Our children and young people are learning and doing exciting things through Sunday Club and Messy Church. Don't forget to look at their display board in the prayer corner, it's worth a visit.

Further changes are taking place within the URC Leeds Partnership and we now have a Minister, Revd Clare Davison, appointed to work with and alongside us all as we look to the future.

Another initiative within the wider United Reformed Church is *Appreciative Inquiry* and the Elders are to meet shortly to see how we can use this process to further our own work here at Stainbeck.

Those of you who read these reports will have noticed by now that we have not mentioned the Café – read on - this year the Café merits a report all of its own.

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

The mortar that holds us together, that makes us the church that is Stainbeck is surely our faith; our faith expressed week by week in worship and in action. Throughout this book of reports we read of the action, the business and more importantly the living out of our faith, here for a moment we focus on our worship life, Sunday by Sunday.

“Surely that is always the same” I hear a voice say – well yes it is in many ways which is what makes writing this overview so challenging – but no it isn’t, for each Sunday is different. Different people are in church each week with differing needs at any one time. The world from which we come is different, presenting different concerns, challenges. The lectionary which gives us the readings which we follow week by week give us different thoughts to focus on, passages to explore. Yes, the framework, the form may be very similar each week but the content varies enormously – and that I believe is one of the joys of our worship at Stainbeck within the United Reformed Church.

Our Minister has once again led the majority of our weekly services but often with invited preachers, speakers alongside her. We have had visits from other URC worship leaders and clergy from our local churches. We have had visitors sharing their faith stories - giving us pause to consider our own faith journeys that have brought us to this place at this time. This year it was good to be able to support both Tessa Henry-Robinson and Linda McHale as they pursued their own paths to develop their ministries.

We must thank the Sunday Club for the creative services which they have prepared for us – how good it is for the whole family of the church to be together and how much we must value the participation of our young people at the start of each Sunday service. We learn together. At this point I must mention Messy Church - lots of fun which involves crafty and zany activities, the sharing of food bringing in many families from our community and all of which is firmly based in worship. (Speak to Emmanuelle if you would like to join in!)

“The singing is really good now” - words I recently heard, and agreed with. We even seem to be more at home with the hymnal, thank you to Peter for getting in control of that. Particularly though we must say thank you to Liam for his ministry of music so thoughtfully expressed and how good too it has

been to have the addition on occasions of trumpet, guitar and flute ... not to mention tambourines and shakers all adding to the joyful sounds of praise. We are blessed by the sharing of these gifts.

There are also those with technical gifts – thank you to Adrian for preparing the power point presentations which help us to lift our heads to sing and to share. We thank too the team of week by week ‘operators’. Did you know that the services are recorded week by week? Our web master, Donald puts the sermon on to our website so that, if you are unable to be in church on a Sunday, or if you would like to listen again to a sermon they can be found there. We thank Donald for this ministry.

Again I want to thank those who willingly and carefully prepare the Bible readings which they bring for us; those stewards who offer a warm welcome, the first face of Stainbeck to people as they arrive each week; those who ensure there are flowers in church which we can then share with prayer to those to whom we want to send love. To Sheila, Judith and Jean we offer thanks for their monthly preparation of Communion. All the above are a part of our worship, so many have a valued part to play.

Nearly finally – once again I do encourage you to attend if you are able one of our valued Thursday Prayer times of quiet, relaxed worship. On the first Thursday of the month we are joined by friends from our community when prayers for the community are led in turn by Vanessa and members of our partner churches. Also – look out for the Sunday evenings when we share in Taizé prayers.... reflection, peace in candlelight. Another way to worship, to be with God.

On the fourth Wednesday of the month you can worship with us at Carr Croft too.

Now, finally – I thank Angela for her leadership of our worship and for her loving ministry among and with us throughout the year. Please hold her and Donald in your prayers.

Ann Coates Worship Co-ordinator

SUNDAY CLUB

This year we have been very pleased to welcome Anny Kochmann to the team. Sunday Club leaders now are: Kate Boylan, Angela Dunigan, Richard Hamlin, Claire Jones, Anny Kochmann and Emmanuelle Bastide-Wilson. As last year, we remain grateful for the team of volunteer elders who enable the High School group to function.

We continue to meet regularly to plan and provide support to one another. We have maintained Roots as our main material for session planning. In April, the team attended a safeguarding training session given by Claire Dodd from Leeds Safeguarding Board. It was a very practical session which was felt to be very useful by all who attended.

This year James and Sophia joined the high school group. We said goodbye to Carson, Chloe and Kimberley as they moved to new homes. The group varies from a few children to 12/14 children ranging from 2 years upwards. We have been grateful for the thoughtful and gentle Charlotte's participation as a young leader in Sunday Club as part of her Duke of Edinburgh bronze award.

Looking back:

- During their Lent journey, Sunday Club heard stories about Jesus and created a road of tears which was transformed into a beautiful flower at Easter.
- On Mother's Day, the children enjoyed distributing flowers to everyone in church.
- This year the team conceived and planned our Harvest service on the theme of thanksgiving and not taking things for granted. The service involved 5 short rotating small group sessions on specific themes around how we source and consume what we buy. The service was enjoyed by most participants.
- During Advent the children took turns to read the advent wreath prayers. Sunday Club also arranged for a number of nativity sets to travel to our church families to help us think about how to make room for Jesus during Advent.

- In December Sunday Club chose to tell the nativity story adapting a crib service idea from “The Spiritual Child Network” website. We started from the beginning of the world and focused on the idea that God sent Jesus so that everyone would know God’s love, warmth and light. All children and Sunday Club leaders participated in the readings and in the procession and enjoyed telling the story and dressing up!

Sunday Club is very blessed to be able to walk alongside children with so many different individual stories, personalities, interests and talents. We cherish them all and thank them and their families for their presence.

I am also always amazed and grateful for the many gifts, skills, ideas and talents and huge friendship that different Sunday Club leaders have brought over the years and the current batch is no exception. Our children will grow in faith even better with more adults taking an interest. Have you ever thought of helping out? You might be interested in craft, telling stories, singing, playing, or just listening to the children – talk to anyone in the team we’ll be so glad to welcome you.

In 2017 we are looking forward to more exploration of our Christian faith with the children. We will be sharing our topics, discussion and experience more actively on the board at the back of the church. Do have a look and talk to the children about it!

Emmanuelle Bastide-Wilson

COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Twelve years ago the Community Café first opened its doors to the community on Thursday 28th October 2004 from 11.00 - 2.00 pm and has remained open ever since. The Café has run successfully from the beginning with a dedicated group of volunteers who give of their time each week to provide somewhere for anyone locally to call in and have a cup of tea/coffee, a sandwich and a chat in a safe and friendly environment. It was decided from the outset that we would not charge a large amount for the food and drink and indeed prices have remained the same during this time. It is interesting to note that a small profit was made from day one and as the café has grown so has the profit. We contribute one week's Café profits to our charity of the month.

The Café was one of our mission projects to help us to get to know and engage with our local community. We set up wifi and were gifted some laptops; we kept our bookstall fresh and up to date; we shared local information and offered signposting and support where needed. Our PCSO's have always supported us well and other agencies have found it a good venue for local surgeries. Over the course of the last twelve years things have changed (there's that word again) and it has slowly evolved into a thriving and busy place with a calm and non-threatening atmosphere. We have had many interesting people and characters pass through out Café, some have stayed, some have moved on but all have been met with a warm smile, a friendly greeting, someone who will listen, homemade cakes and great sandwiches!

This year we have managed to obtain funding from the Local Council Wellbeing Fund and from Housing Leeds to fund a Community Development Worker to head up a 'Family Solutions Team'. This is now working well and is enabling us to meet some of the current needs of local families. We also support a Benefit Surgery offered by Housing Leeds. And as a bonus InterACT runs some activities alongside the Café – at present crafts and board games.

The Café has proved to be a central feature of our church life offering a real flexibility and willingness to adapt as local needs change and new opportunities arise.

Well done and thanks to all our faithful volunteers and supporters!

Avril Bellwood and Angela Hughes

STAINBECK LUNCH CLUB ANNUAL REPORT

It was with some regret, much thought and various reasons over many months that we came to the decision to close the Wednesday Lunch Club and concentrate on a Monday only Lunch Club. Our volunteer helpers have continued their support, some of whom have willingly changed their day to help out. Our lunch clubbers were understandably sad but understood perfectly the reasons for the change. We still meet between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm, when we all gather for coffee and a chat. There is also dominoes and cards, a daily newspaper which is read from cover to cover by some of our members and tea, coffee and biscuits. The charge for the meal is £4.50 and this money also contributes towards the cost of birthday cards and a small gift of chocolates, get well cards, biscuits, the daily newspaper, milk and petrol.

The lunch club provides a warm, safe environment and a valuable listening ear. Everyone goes home with a smile on their face and a spring in their step. 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 Hazel Pilsworth and Arthur Wray both died during the course of the year and Daphne Archibold has had to go into a home.

Our members once again received a free Christmas lunch and a gift along with a small box of biscuits from a very generous donor. We had a fish and chip lunch on the Monday before Christmas and it was good to have Daphne with us who had been brought along by her daughter. Both these lunches were a huge success much enhanced by the nursery children singing Christmas songs and some wonderful raffle prizes donated once again by the Doctors and Staff at the Meanwood Health Centre. We also enjoyed an afternoon tea during August when the club was closed for the holidays and which was much enjoyed by all.

June and I would like to say a big thank you to all our volunteers; also to our Minister who calls in regularly; our Church Treasurer; the local PCSO's and the staff at Knowsthorpe Gate who prepare our meals.

Avril Bellwood and June Mawson – Lunch Club Organisers

CHRISTIAN AID

2016 has again turned out to be a very busy year for Christian Aid – responding to emergency situations round the world as they happen, as well as initiating and supporting projects set up to enable communities to be more self-sufficient. We cannot respond to every appeal that comes our way, but we make contributions to Christian Aid whenever we can.

After Christian Aid Week in May we were able to pay in £956.21, a surprising total in view of the financial climate at this time. 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 £5277.33. We also took £25 from the sale of the Yorkshire 2016 Quiz Sheets, which went to the Christian Aid office in Leeds.

Christian Aid Week 2017 takes place from the 16th to 22nd 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. Thanks to all who help and support Christian Aid in any way.

June Mawson – Christian Aid Organiser

AFTER EIGHTS REPORT

The year started as usual with the AGM held at Doreen Moore's house. A good supper (provided by Peter Moore) was enjoyed by the After 8 members.

We put together a calendar of events for the monthly meetings; Harvey Nichols for the annual dinner in February; country dancing in March; a darts evening with a Royal theme in April (for the Queen's 90th birthday) with a supper. As usual the After 8's weekend was at Masham during the May Day bank holiday. The May meeting was a walk led by Sheila. Millrace at Garforth was our garden visit in June.

We played foot golf at Wyke in July and an outing to York for the Mystery trip in August; no meeting in September. We had another Darts and Domino night in October and the usual Quiz night. Matthew Bellwood gave us a talk in November and the year finished with the Dinner and Dance in December at Sandmoor Golf Club.

Our group tries to have varied events throughout the year. The membership is about 20. We welcome anyone wishing to join us for any of our events. If you feel you would like to be an After 8 just have a word with Doreen Moore or myself.

We look forward in anticipation to 2017 which I am sure will be as interesting as 2017.

Sandra Smith – After 8's Secretary

THE STAINBECK PLAYERS

But was it the last?? (AGM Report 2016). Oh, no it wasn't! There was a feeling that we should do just one more with everyone knowing from the start that this one really was the last Stainbeck Pantomime (though not necessarily all believing it!).

Having had a good response from a poster calling for new members, and having prepared for a rehearsal of 'Dick Whittington' ideally suited to new members and a gang of children, we waited in anticipation, then apprehension, but finally realised, with a touch of embarrassment, that nobody, apart from those who could remember the last time we did Mother Goose, had turned up, on October 14th. So, Mother Goose was to be our last pantomime, and I began to virtually re-write it around our loyal cast. We had a very good first rehearsal, going through the entire script, and making me wonder if I'd cut too much out! Then Liam joined us lifting the whole production. There followed a month of problem-solving, scene-setting, back-breaking, activity with all the usual ups and downs until by some recurring miracle it was alright on the first night. And even better on the ensuing nights. Jasmine's lights never failed, Sarah's sound was always on cue, the band were brilliant, skeleton's dance terrific, and Robin and Batman were surely unlike anything we've seen in 60 years. As for the loyal cast, Ian's physicality, Steve's wit, Sara's sweetness, Mike's dependability, John's redness, Sandra's fairy happiness were all crucial to the plot. We had two newcomers in the end, but not via the poster, Jools hiding in the Goose costume, and Victoria striding about as a Queen. And we had a double act from brothers Nat and Ty as truly batty Bailiffs. Colin was memorably described by the Dame as being a cross between Donald Trump and Super Mario, whilst Peter and Doreen looked down on the Dame through their pinz-nezes, at least until the Duke decided 'I could go for you' (Oh, go for yourself!). To play all the other parts we had Elesha, and Alisha, a Lily and ghostly Lily, and a Milly. Oh, and Andrew, a Herald. And Joan sold sweets and drinks (and did a lot more!) and thought it 'never flagged'. What more can you hope for?

And so, for those without access to the website:

THE STAINBECK PLAYERS – THE LAST ACT?

At the end of the highly successful ‘last ever’ pantomime in February 2016, the curtain came down on 62 years of plays and pantomimes which have been a creative way of entertaining many people of all ages, and raising a considerable sum of money over the years to support the work and mission of Stainbeck Church.

Why did it have to end? It began as a small group of local Church people putting on a play to celebrate the 23rd Church Anniversary. Within a few years, the Youth Players were formed and at least two plays were presented each year, and soon after, to these productions, was added the Pantomime.

And then the Society stopped developing. It was understandable, but when you stop developing you begin to feel your age. The junior players became the senior players. With a large cast of all ages, the Pantomime became the main event, and then, as 3 Act Plays became more of a challenge, the only event.

The Pantomime has always been a challenge creatively. That was where the pleasure (for me) lay. It continuously evolved, though, significantly, the leading names on the programme of this year’s Mother Goose also feature in the 1992 production of the same pantomime. (That year we also presented two plays, the second of which was, the appropriately named ‘Happiest Days of Your Life’). More recently, the Pantomime became a different kind of challenge, firstly, to cast, and then to hope that everyone would be ‘alright on the night’.

Many people of all ages have been involved in the Stainbeck Players, and particularly the Pantomime. But it has been the enthusiasm and commitment of a small group of people which ensured that the Stainbeck Players survived fundamental changes in the way we live, and in Stainbeck Church itself. That there has been, and still is, a small group of people with a commitment, over many years, to Stainbeck Church as well as to the Stainbeck Players, unfortunately, inevitably, and somewhat ironically, limits the future of the Stainbeck Players.

On a personal note, I’ll look back on the pantomimes, from Abiyoyo in 1973, onwards, in the same way as I look back on the YHA holidays which began in the 50’s, with so many happy memories, and great appreciation of the people without whom none of it would have happened, and of Stainbeck Church, which provided the framework and the opportunities.

The members of the Stainbeck Players decided at the AGM to formally 'wind up' the organisation. This was primarily to release the funds for Church use. But once a Stainbeck Player always a Stainbeck Player, and, who knows, there may be yet more to come. Can we really live without our audience, who have played such an essential role throughout? Only time alone, the one thing that never ends, can tell.

Peter Craske – Stainbeck Player

MANAGEMENT REPORT

1. Management: Angela said to me, ‘You know what we want? A Manager. Someone to manage the building’. That’s a good idea, I thought. Not sure how we’d be able to pay them though. If the salary was right I might even apply for the job myself. A job worth (?) retiring for, shared, of course, with Joan. We wouldn’t need accommodation. On the other hand, I could just take the title, fantasise about being the Night Manager, and give everyone my phone number. But then most people know it. Why else would I get a call this morning to tell me that the Emergency Doors had been left open (thanks Glenn, well observed; could have been open all night), and, two hours later, that the kitchen sink was blocked.

Seriously though, it is up to all of us to ‘manage’, take care of, the building, and to think of the others for whom use of the building is essential. But just in case, it’s 0113 2120803.

2. Services to the building: June 27th (the 52nd anniversary of the first time I took J. out). I was working, with key staff missing, when the Nursery rang to say there was danger in the electric cupboard. At Lucy’s, where we were living, J. fell carrying a camp bed, possibly cracking a rib. The man from British Gas arrived at 10.30pm conveniently after England had lost to Iceland (!!). He left me to wait, in the dark, apart from the green emergency lights, for a better trained person to arrive some time later, to disconnect the system. And I never did buy any yellow roses!

This is an ongoing story. Apparently the burnt out meter served the Nursery Portacabin. We’d always assumed that this meter and one supplying the upstairs at the church were sub meters, that is, feeding into the main smart meter. Apparently not. British Gas admitted that it was their fault the meters had not been individually read, and they would not charge for the electricity supplied but not paid for in the past. Good news. The bad news has been trying to sort it out since. I objected to the first bill of £2,500 because of the readings. The next bill was £12,500. The objection became a complaint. Meanwhile we’ve changed suppliers. The new people are still bemused by the new meter. Meanwhile, the lights are still

on, usually. Incidentally, turn them off whenever you can, and the water. It saves money.

3. Room bookings: No sooner had the Lunch Club vacated Wednesday morning than a new group for toddlers took their place. Called Music Bugs, they've had a successful first term. Early in the year I think (the year's a blur) I went to a centre on Potternewton Lane, where a dedicated man called Bernard, was running a club for the disabled. The Council were about to refurbish the building and he had to find another venue immediately. Stainbeck was available on a Thursday evening as long as they didn't disturb worship upstairs. The John Smith Dartboard was installed by Peter and I've had no complaints from the worshippers. In fact, the group, part of 'People in Action', are very good hirers, leaving the room better than they find it. Explorer Scouts are also doing well, and have begun to pay a small rent. There have been some minor changes in timings, and in January the Fall into Drama Group begin on Friday afternoons, eventually extending to 7.30pm, in the Café Room.

If you look at the list of activities which take place in our building, a mix of church, interACT, social, and commercial activities, you can see that each one in its own way, is life enhancing. Appropriate.

4. Safeguarding: The safeguarding committee is no more. We have now formally adopted the URC policy, which calls for a Co-ordinator, and Emmanuelle has taken on that role. We are reminded that safeguarding both Children and Vulnerable Adults is the responsibility of all members.

5. The Manse: New tenants arrived at the Manse in September. Dr. Hussein is from Iraq involved in research at Leeds University. He met his wife in Sweden. She is from USA. There was a period of uncertainty as we'd agreed to offer the Manse on a long term let to a Minister to be called by the Yorkshire Synod to reach out to 'Generation Y' (Y don't they come to church?). Some months had passed when suddenly two people Kate, a minister, and Sal, an ordinand, responded. The estate agents had already asked our tenants whether they wanted to renew at the end of February, and

they were keen to do so, but our first duty was to Synod. Then Kate looked up a house for sale on Carr Manor Parade and didn't like the look of it. So an urgent viewing was arranged. It was a Friday, so Doreen and Peter stepped in. The manse was judged too small and not fulfilling the criteria to be a Manse, we were told. Dr. Hussein's wife gave Doreen a gift her children had chosen for a child who may not be as fortunate as them. She commented on what a nice home it was, and they have now extended their tenancy for another six months from March.

6. Property: This year has seen the north side wall re-pointed, and the South Entrance inaugurated. Our painter has been appointed to paint the church walls, and the hall wall damaged by damp. You can now enter the building via the South Entrance using the same key as you use on the front and back doors. Read the instructions though. You lock the door on the outside even if you're on the inside. If you don't have a compass handy, it's the door by the Portacabin.

Last year we dreamed of a re-surfaced car park. Well, we're almost there, free of charge, in exchange for allowing Highways contractors to park, also free of charge. And maybe even the dream of new church chairs is a little nearer reality as we look forward to 2017.

Peter Craske – Management Committee Convenor

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 hand wash sink has been installed to meet Health & Safety requirements (in respect of preparing food).

Church Grounds:

- The car park potholes were filled in by Leeds City Council workers, in payment for them leaving their equipment overnight whilst doing road works on Stainbeck Lane. Further work is required to complete the job – estimate received from Halsteads for £3,200 plus VAT.
- Tree pruning work near the paths and overlooking the gutters has taken place by (Mark Calvert (tree surgeon) – cost £400.
- The drains have been cleared by Peter Moore – leaves are a big problem in this area – PM has sourced a leaf guard which will help with keeping the drains clear of leaves in the future.

Church Building

- The side wall parallel with the garden was pointed in July 2016. This was to stop the damp coming through into both the church and the hall walls. The cost was £2,500. Painting of the church and hall walls will take place in 2017.

- A Roof Survey has been carried out by Derek Yearby (£120), this has revealed work required at the North Side, Flat Roof to Main Entrance, South Side and Blue Slate Pitch Roof. Initially work will be undertaken to point the path between path & church wall North side and to repair retaining wall to North side flight of steps (£220).
- Use of South entrance - in order to make use of this entrance and allow access to the Café Room a new lock has been fitted – this uses the same key as the front and back door key – also a new light inside the Nursery Lobby and outside on the church wall has been installed.

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 etc. LED lights will be installed in the near future.

Neville Brooksbank – 5 year survey of buildings

- The next survey will be carried out in September 2017.

Future Work

Garden Area

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

THE MANSE

Minor repairs and maintenance have been carried out over the year – this work is managed by Linley & Simpson.

Doreen Moore – Property Minute Secretary

LEEDS CITIZENS

Stainbeck URC and Team Beckhills continue to be active members of Leeds Citizens. We have seen some great successes locally and the city-wide priorities have seen good progress too.

Mental Health - Leeds Citizens has been campaigning for Leeds NHS bodies to introduce mental health workers to provide personal support and guidance for people accessing primary care mental health services. This would mean a dedicated human being, who you can access locally (*ie* at your GP surgery) to assist, rather than people being left isolated, bounced between different professionals or relying on online information.

Following actions and negotiations with the City Council, mental health trust and Clinical Commissioning Groups throughout 2016, pilots of this provision will be taking place in 8 specific locations in 2017.

Transport – Discussions with First Bus continued over 2016 regarding timetables, routes, information at bus stops and the frequency. Leeds City Council are also doing city-wide consultation regarding transport in Leeds. They have £176 million to cover this and consultations include audio visual displays on buses, cycle ways, light railway to serve the airport, orbital bus routes, transport hubs and the ambition for buses to have priority over cars to give far better journey times.

Living Wage Week - the new accredited living wage rate of £8.45/hr was celebrated with a breakfast at the Park Plaza Hotel on 31st October and a lunch at the Leeds Church Institute on 1st Nov. Leeds City Council still wanting to be an accredited living wage employer, Beeston, Harehills and Armley Churches and the Diocesan Office are now Living Wage Employers. (*Also the URC Synod and Stainbeck Eds*)

Leeds Citizens Birthday Party – 19th July 2016 food, fun, meeting people and the commission to get ready to listen.

Paths and Steps – Team Beckhills had an amazing result when they met with the Council regarding the state of the paths and steps on the estate

– the Council committed £400,000 to renew to modern standards 10% of the steps and paths. Work will start at the end of Feb 2017 and take 4 months.

Litter – Another fantastic result for Team Beckhills with litter collections increased, collections monitored and disciplinary action taken for non-collection of litter. Fly tipping tackled with signs, clearance of existing litter and visits to fly-tippers.

A round up of the year's activities on 8th December celebrated the achievements and looked at the different ways of listening. Food was key to good listening and some groups had also had training from the Samaritans to aid their listening campaigns. If **you** like eating (there's food at nearly every event), want to meet people from all over the city and help make Leeds a better place to live in, come and join us at the next action for Leeds Citizens or the Delegates Assembly (Tuesday 28th February '17) when we'll get to vote on the priorities for 2017.

Helen Booth – Leeds Citizens Representative

THE LEEDS (URC) PARTNERSHIP

If you have re-read last year's Book of Reports you will recall that our United Reformed Churches in Leeds were making plans to enable the churches to come together, to work more closely.

The good news is that great strides have been made in this regard. The post for a 50% minister at Headingley St Columba and 50% Mission Enabler to work with the Partnership was agreed, details were determined (by a Vacancy Group set up by Mission and Care) and the financial implications for participating churches were agreed. It has been pleasing that all but two of our Leeds churches have expressed a desire to explore these possibilities. In the Autumn (2016) a Minister expressed an interest in this post.

A weekend was set aside for this minister to come to the city, to meet with two representatives from each church to share her vision and to answer questions. The following day she was taken on a whirlwind tour of the churches ending with a meeting with the fellowship at Headingley. She led worship at St Columba's on the Sunday.

The outcome of these consultations was that Headingley St Columba and the Leeds Mission and Care Group Partnership issued a call to the Revd Clare Davison which she has accepted and we look forward to Clare joining us in June. Thanks be to God.

Now the work will begin in earnest and we ask for your prayers for Clare and her family as they prepare to move to Leeds later in the year and also for the Partnership that our mission in the city will be fruitful.

Ann Coates - Church Elder

InterACT Church and Community Partnership

As ever, it's been a packed year and one which has brought highs and lows. We ended the year in a positive place, feeling there was much to celebrate.

Challenges have included a drop in numbers for some of our activities, with the inevitable questions of whether to sit it out or finish one thing to make room for another; we have continued to struggle to find enough volunteers for all we're doing; and a number of our grant-givers completed their grant commitments last year, leaving us in a weak position.

However, to the up-sides: To contrast the drop in numbers in some areas of activity, we've been over-subscribed at Play and Learn, and Craft for Kids has continued to be popular. Holiday activities have been great – we took a group of young people to Lineham Farm for a full day of physically challenging and fun activities; we took part in a circus skills session, which told the Easter story in a really unique way; and we were more actively involved in fun day sessions at Woodhouse Cricket Club in the summer. Although we struggle to find enough volunteers, we have had someone join the volunteering team this year and seen an increase in involvement from those who were already volunteering. And, of course, people are always willing to get stuck in for one-off events, such as the Afternoon Tea, led by a group of young people (mostly from Bradford!) in the café space at Easter. Thank you!

As to our finances and management: we were hugely encouraged by positive responses to grant applications towards the end of the year, which does mean we'll be here for a bit longer! We still have some way to go before we could call ourselves stable, but we take the encouragement that we're on the right tracks and to keep looking forwards. Alongside this, we began the process to become an independent charity, which should complete in the next weeks. For those who don't know, we are currently a member organisation of Leeds Christian Community Trust, which supports a wide variety of projects across the city. We now feel ready to move from under their wing, so we've been putting things in place to make this happen. Please remember us as we transition through to this new and exciting stage of InterACT's life.

Vanessa Brown – InterACT Co-ordinator

CHAPEL ALLERTON YOUTH PROJECT (Christmas update)

Thank you for this opportunity to share news of our work together.

It's been fantastic to have Helen Greenwood join the staff team as our children and family worker in September. MESSY Church meets monthly on Sunday afternoons, alternating between the Chapel Allerton Methodist Centre and Stainbeck. Here's what Helen has to say about the work of **Messy Church**: *We've been having a great time at Messy Church this year, exploring our faith together in creative and messy ways! It is exciting to see new families join us along with the families who have become regulars over the past year. As Messy Church is getting more established, we feel we are getting to know the families a bit better each month. It is great to start to feel more of a church family together and we pray that this will continue in the next year.*

Totally Tuesday (9-12 year olds) is jam-packed with people and fun! They're a fantastic bunch and keen to get stuck in with everything. Each week we have games led by one of the group, which is always a highlight. We've had our first experience of using the prayer room that we run regularly at WOW, which was a new experience for many of the group. We're finishing off the term with a bowling trip, so I'll let you know the score in the next newsletter!

Some recent news is that Ben will be leaving CAYP at Easter; we will miss him! Here are his reflections on **WOW** this term:

It's has been a great few months for the WOW crew (12 plus years). We've spent the last term looking at the "I am" statements in John's gospel, exploring what they say about Jesus and what they say about us. We've had some great nights of prayer together and welcomed a number of new members to our gathering. It's been great to see the group welcoming new people and growing in community with each other.

This term has seen our **schools work** continuing as I've been able to go in and support young people in both a Christian Union and a Transition Girls' group for Year 7s. This work will continue in the New Year.

Thank you for supporting the work of CAYP and joining together to encourage young people locally.

Hannah Dey, CAYP Youth Leader (hannah@chapela.org.uk)

FINANCE REPORT

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

At first sight the accounts reflect a very good year. Income and expenditure are both significantly higher than the previous year, and at the end of the year we have a little bit more in the bank. The key figure is under Grants, up from £500 to £12,000. But the church has, in fact, channelled these substantial grants into areas of our wider work in the community. Firstly, £3,000 was to sustain InterACT, lifting 'our' contribution this year from £2,500 to £5,500. A further £4,000 went to Messy Church, recorded under Sundries along with the URC Levy. I've also changed the heading (or nominal code), 'Church and Community Gifts', which, mainly, was where the odd bunch of flowers was listed, to 'Work in the Community', and it's here that the £5,000 grant is listed which will enable Maureen to work in the Café, running 'Family Solutions', and following on from the family events at Woodhouse Cricket Club. Janet Simpson is handling the administration.

The end result is that the excess of income over expenditure on the Balance Sheet reduces to around £1,000, because the remainder is held in our Legacy Account 'ring-fenced' for Maureen. Even so, this is better than anticipated ('I think we should budget for a deficit this year' AGM 2016). The reason is, quite simply, that we haven't begun our payments to the Leeds Partnership yet.

Looking in more detail at the figures, without the grants, or the appeals, Direct Giving was roughly the same, but Room Lettings increased by over £1,600. The Inland Revenue income also increased, by almost £1,200, because of an opportunity to claim Gift Aid on collections from previous years. On the other hand, income from the Manse was lower (having been paid in advance the previous year), there was no donation from the Stainbeck Players, and fewer sundry donations. The 'real' income for 2016 was £61,866. Expenditure was much the same as last year, Maintenance rising to a more normal level after a low year in 2015, whilst Heating, light and water fell because of the disputed, unpaid, electricity bill. This leaves 'real' expenditure at £60,680.

Looking ahead, I'm hoping for a fairly comfortable year, with Stainbeck Players back, in terms of donations, for one more year. Inland Revenue will be down, but Manse rent could be up. Of course, we could start thinking about, or even planning for, church chairs?!

The Lunch Club accounts reflect the fact that they have only been meeting on a Monday since September, so turnover is lower. The 'loss' on the year is slightly up, but I think that will disappear because the cost of meals in November and December (not yet paid for so not in this year's accounts) will be significantly lower than it was in November and December 2015, which were paid in 2016 and included in this year's accounts. There is just under £3,000 in the bank.

This year we donated a total of £2,143.36 to Charities:

Network Leeds £80.15; Benevolent Fund £102.54; LASSN £148.22; Lineham Farm £94.55; Blind and Deaf £99.59; Christian Aid £122.64; Potternewton Club £67.63; Caring for Life £46.20; St. Gemmas £240; Help for Heroes £76.09; Children in Distress £530.59; UNICEF £535.16

Apart from bunches of flowers (an over simplification), in recent years 'Church and Community Gifts' have also included Benevolent Fund gifts. Now under 'Work in the Community', I have listed only those which are Gift Aided. This year £360, listed under Direct Giving Gift Aid has enabled the donors to provide Angela with £450 to distribute to local people in need, at her discretion.

Peter Craske - Treasurer

**DRAFT ACCOUNTS: YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2016
INCOME**

	2016		2015	
	£	£	£	£
Direct Giving:				
Envelopes	856		803	
Cash	2812		2783	
Gift Aid	13371		13643	
		17039		17222
Legacies				500
Room lettings		28749		27096
Tax refund on gift aid		5406		4220
Grants		12000		500
Donations and fund raising 1)		4666		7225
Interest received		2		1
Manse rent		6004		7952
Appeals for charities		2070		2635
TOTAL INCOME		75936		67358
Carried forward				

**DRAFT ACCOUNTS: YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2016
EXPENDITURE**

	2016		2015	
	£	£	£	£
TOTAL INCOME brought forward		75936		67358
EXPENDITURE				
Ministry and Mission	19964		21216	
Organist	960		890	
Manse insurance	448		425	
InterACT	5500		2500	
Insurance	2767		2586	
Loan interest and bank charge	4		16	
Professional fees	300		250	
Cleaning inc. waste removal	7329		6869	
Maintenance inc. gardening	2741		1674	
Heat, light and water	7578		9102	
Telephone	516		451	
Property	5227		5729	
Ministerial expenses	3920		3620	
Worship resources	1057		1541	
Gifts to charities	2238		2172	
Work in the Community	3790		-	
Sundries (2)	8818		6037	
		73157		65078
		2779		2280

DRAFT ACCOUNTS: YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2016

BALANCE SHEET

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	2016		2015	
	£	£	£	£
Current bank account		4696		3165
Loans		(2450)		(3850)
Legacy account		5285		5327
Cash		242		302
Creditors		(300)		(250)
		7473		4694

REPRESENTING:

As at 1 January 2016	4694		2414	
Excess	2779		2280	
		7473		4694

DRAFT ACCOUNTS: YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2016
NOTES

(1) DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING	£
From Church groups	400
Outlook donations	142
Community Café	2963
Fund raising	139
Donations	381
Photocopying for InterACT	641
	4666
(2) SUNDRIES	
Leeds Citizens	250
Administration	124
Café supplies	1188
Stationary, postage and printing	2120
Messy Church and URC Levy	4575
Publicity	155
Licenses	386
Training aids	20
	8818

LUNCH CLUB ACCOUNTS

INCOME

	2016	2015
Leeds City Council Grant	2337	2246
Members Contributions	3918	4734
Grant	-	500
Total	£6,255	£7,480

EXPENDITURE

Cost of meals	4483	4789
Transport	853	1155
Rent	1080	1080
Shopping	293	207
Equipment	-	471
Total	£6,709	£7,702
Excess of income over expenditure	(£454)	(£222)

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