

Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)

OUTLOOK

FEBRUARY 2026



Lent means Spring

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

<https://stainbeckurc.org.uk>

Following Jesus

A new acquaintance of mine recently asked: *when did you find Jesus and decide to follow Him?* As I took time to consider, I realised that Jesus has always been a part of my life. I can't remember a time when I 'found' Jesus or was not aware of Him. He's always been there. He was present in the stories we read and the prayers we prayed at home, at church and at school. And I learnt that following was about how those stories about Jesus and our world gave us a really good example of how to treat each other, ourselves.

In my teens, I remember that those stories became more difficult. I continued praying and reading the Bible. But there was disconnect with Jesus' stories of loving people and being in a church where I didn't feel truly accepted for me.

Later, I experienced Jesus' love in a church community where I was seen and treated as someone made in the image of God. And this was transformational in reigniting my faith in a God we see in Jesus, who reaches out to all who are marginalised or demonised.

The more important question for me then is: why do I still follow Jesus? I follow Jesus because His encounters and interactions help guide me to listen to people's stories, act and speak out against injustice and stand up for the most vulnerable in society.

Crucially I believe that like Jesus' disciples then, we, too, are called to follow Jesus as part of a community. A community which tries to live out that calling collectively in supporting and being alongside our neighbours locally and globally.

So, I ask you the same question: what does following Jesus mean to you?

This year our Leeds URC Partnership course for Lent is called *Journeys of Discipleship with Matthew's Gospel*. Over 5 weeks, the people we meet in Matthew's Gospel respond to Jesus, and gradually bring us closer to Him and to his passion, with opportunities to reflect on our own journeys of discipleship. The aim is to take up the challenge to understand and to follow for "then" and for "now".

I'm going to take part in this time to share and explore together, it's going to be really good, why don't you come too?

In peace, **Nicola**

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

Elder on Duty – Ann Coates

Sun	1st	10.45am	Hybrid Morning Worship will be led by Revd Angela Hughes and will include the Annual General Meeting followed by a Faith Lunch
Mon	2nd	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Wed	4th	7.30pm	Churches Together in Chapel Allerton and Meanwood meet at Chapel Allerton Methodist Church. All welcome
Thu	5th	11-1pm	Café open for toasties, sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee and friendship. All welcome
		7.30pm	Zoom opens for Partnership Prayers led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson
Sun	8th	10.45am	Hybrid Service of Rededication with Holy Communion led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson
Mon	9th	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Thu	12th	11-1pm	Café open for toasties, sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee and friendship. All welcome
		7.30pm	Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Avril and Brian Bellwood
Sun	15th	10.45am	Hybrid Morning Worship led by Revd. Geoff Ellis, Partnership Ministry team
		3.30-5pm	Messy Church
Mon	16th	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Thu	19th	11-1pm	Café open for toasties, sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee and friendship. All welcome
		7.30pm	Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Karen Benjamin

Sun	22nd	10.45am	Hybrid Morning Worship for LENT 1 led by Sheila Telfer – Elder at St. Andrew's Church, Roundhay
Mon	23 rd	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Tue	24 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Thu	26 th	11-1pm	Café open for toasties, sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee and friendship. All welcome
		7.30pm	Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Claire Jones

Worship for March

Sun 1st 10.45am Hybrid Morning Worship for Lent 2 led by Revd. Dr. Nicola Robinson

A reminder of the Stainbeck link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7019277749> (Meeting ID 7019277749)

And a reminder to check out the **LENT GROUP** dates and times are all on the back page.

This year, we're very pleased that our material has been written by Revd Dr Rosalind Selby and is called: **Journeys of Discipleship with Matthew's Gospel**. It's based on Matthew as the lectionary Gospel for 2025-2026.

The people we meet respond to Jesus, and gradually bring us closer to him and to his passion, with opportunities to reflect on our own journeys of discipleship. The aim is to take up the challenge to understand and to follow – as for those earlier disciples so for us. See Nicola's letter.

If you need transport please ask an Elder or one of the Ministers.

ALSO

Look out for the LEEDS LENT PRAYER HANDBOOK.

AND

Remember the CHURCH FOOD CUPBOARD and the bags prepared by InterACT as part of our support for any in need this Winter.

HERE AND THERE

Looking back

This is one of the hardest editions to write each year for I must test my memory as I look back on two busy months.

Once again, the Partnership Ministry Team offered '**God in the manger**', an Advent course each week at South Leeds, on Zoom and at Stainbeck, three different opportunities to share in our readiness for Christmas.

This year the partnership was invited to decorate a Christmas tree as part of **St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival**. Each of our eight churches was asked to provide 2 or 3 decorations to hang on the Partnership tree which was placed with over 30 other trees in the church. What a splendid display they made representing many different activities and organisations. Our Ministry Team led a wonderful **Advent Carol Service** attended by many partnership members there to listen, to sing and to reflect. We thank St Andrew's for their hospitality.

And so, the preparations continued. **MESSY Church** shared in an impromptu nativity – many angels, two Marys, a couple of kings...choose to be whichever costume you wish to wear – adults joined in too!

InterACT organised a splendid community Christmas party – lovely food, jolly music, a visit from Father Christmas, generous gifts and a visit from the little ones from Angel's nursery who came to sing. What a happy occasion. Many thanks to Maureen Lillywhite, Vanessa and the team for organising it.



And so, the celebrating continued - thanks to those who shared in the service of **Carols and Readings**, especially Edith who played '*Away in a manger*' so beautifully on her flute.

Carols around the fire pits and the local estates, as is our custom, and it was good to have friends from our local churches joining us and sharing more mince pies as we warmed up afterwards! See the photo – always good to talk!



Then the traditional **Christmas Eve** service with the lighting of the white Christ Candle in our Advent ring at midnight – followed by a joyful **Christmas celebration**.

And so we moved into January, a new year full of opportunity!

It was therefore with anticipation that we looked forward to the weekend Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th of January – the weekend when we were due to meet a possible candidate to join our Ministry Team.

On the Saturday we met ‘Ed’ with a chance to meet and chat informally and on the Sunday he led worship at two of our partnership churches. Café worship at Beeston Hill in the morning and a more traditional service in the afternoon at Headingley St Columba’s.

Following this we held a Partnership Meeting and during which a vote was taken from all members to discern whether **Edward Lyne** should be called to serve the Leeds Partnership as part of the Ministry Team. As you will have doubtless heard, the result was a 99% vote in favour of a call and it was with great joy that next day we received the news that Ed had accepted the call.

Edward (Ed) is an ordinand at Luther King House so we now look forward to September when he will join us. Thank you to all those who thoughtfully supported this important process.

Please hold Ed in your prayers as he completes his course and prepares for ordination. Please also pray for our churches and the Ministry Team as we too prepare to welcome and work with him. Let us all have open hearts and minds as we seek God’s way for us in the weeks and years ahead.

Journeys of Discipleship with Matthew's Gospel



A
time for
exploration and
discussion
over **five**
weeks,
led by the Leeds
URC Partnership
Ministry Team

Beginning on:

Monday 23 February 11:00am, Beeston Hill United Free Church, Malvern Road, LS11 8PD

Tuesday 24 February 7:30pm, St Andrew's Roundhay United Reformed Church, Shaftesbury Avenue, LS8 1DS

Wednesday 25 February 7:30pm, on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7019277749>

For more information,
email: revnicola.robinson@gmail.com



LEEDS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
PARTNERSHIP

*Views expressed by individuals are personal and not necessarily those of Stainbeck Church.
Revd Dr Nicola Robinson, Minister: revnicola.robinson@gmail.com*