

**Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)**

# **OUTLOOK**

**March 2026**



**The Lenten Journey**

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

<https://stainbeckurc.org.uk>

Stainbeck Road,  
Leeds, LS7 2PP  
revnicola.robinson@gmail.com

**March 2026**



## **Beloved**

This month, we continue to journey through the Season of Lent. A season in which we journey towards Easter. A season when we are encouraged to stop and notice what matters most in life. Stop and notice God.

It feels important we remember that before Jesus entered the wilderness, as He does at the start of Lent, He did not go without a blessing. He did not venture into that challenging terrain, without hearing himself named by God: Beloved.

In our own lives, there are times we can experience our own wildernesses. The wilderness of long-term physical and/or mental illness. The wilderness of grieving for a loved one. The wilderness of feeling unsafe and afraid to come out. The wilderness of losing our job/independence/security.

Yet in this wilderness, as we recognised at Christmas – Emmanuel – God – God with us. God with us in the pain. God with us in our loss and sickness. God with us in our fear. God with us in the moments of joy. God with us in looking forward to a hopeful future.

As we journey through Lent, we, too, should not begin this journey without a blessing. We should not miss hearing: “Beloved” sounding in our ear. The message that each and every person, each and every life and part of this Earth is beloved.

Because God’s abundant love in and for everything impacts on absolutely everything in our lives and world, including: the way we treat our earth, the way we treat our local and global neighbours, the way we treat ourselves.

At times we may feel small, old, broken, useless, a failure... but looked at in God’s eyes, there is so much more to every being and every life. It is true of every person and each part of Creation; all are Beloved. This belovedness cannot be changed or taken away.

In the words of Rev. Sarah Speed, from “The Bravest Thing We Can Do”:

Trust your belovedness.

Let it be a protest,  
an act of resistance,  
a song of celebration.

Trust your belovedness in a world  
that is rarely satisfied.  
Wear it like a badge of honor.  
Speak it as confidently as your last name.  
Tattoo it to your heart.

When outside forces  
chip away at your sense of self,  
when life asks you  
to hand over the keys,  
remember.

Remember creation.  
Remember how it was good,  
so very good.  
Let that truth hum through your veins.  
Sing it so loud  
that it drowns out the weariness of the world,  
for the bravest thing we can ever do  
is trust that we belong here.

## HERE AND THERE

### Looking back .....

I don't know about you, but when I look back into February all that I can mostly recall is grey skies, wind and rain. What a dull month. I remember it being called 'February filldyke'. I think it has been this year but now, as I write the snow drops have appeared in the garden together with some budding daffodils. We look to Spring with confidence and thanks.

**Churches Together in Chapel Allerton and Meanwood** met at the beginning of the month at the Methodist church when news was shared. The joy of carol singing together around the estate was noted by all. St Matthews and the CAMC are following a joint Lent study group using 'The Women of Holy Week' by Paula Gooder. Details of times are available if you would like to join them, contact Ann if interested.

Other future events include the annual **Lent Soup Evening** at Stainbeck, details below. A **Fairtrade Café** 10-00am – 1.00pm at CAMC on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March to which all are welcome. There will also be a second **Green Fair** on Gledhow Valley Road in the summer. Discussions regarding this are ongoing. If you are interested why not join the Eco Group? Again, contact Ann for details.

The meeting also heard of the ongoing work of Thrive and InterACT and of the continuing progress of the Immaculate Heart of Mary towards becoming a 'Live Simply' parish. Please look out for notices in the café for activities and events to share.

### Looking forward .....

Once again we look forward to welcoming friends from all our churches in Chapel Allerton, Meanwood and across the Partnership to our annual **Lent Soup evening on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March**. This year our focus is 'Celebrating the value of Volunteering'. **We are inviting people to share how they benefit from supporting and getting to know other people and maybe doing different things through volunteering. Either a brief video clip, or written response would be great.** Please send to Nicola ([revnicola.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:revnicola.robinson@gmail.com)) or to Ness (InterACT) who will collate. Any queries call Angela (07752904317). Thank you.

The soup makers are lined up and ready...if you have a speciality soup which you are happy to offer it will be received with enthusiasm. 😊  
 The young people who attend the weekly Drop-In centre will help to prepare the room for us. We look forward to welcoming you!

## DIARY FOR MARCH

### Elder on Duty – Brian Bellwood

<b>Sun</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Hybrid Morning Worship for Lent 2 led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson</b>
Mon	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11-2pm	Lunch Club
		11.00am	Partnership Lent Course 2 at Beeston Hill URC (see below for details)
Tue	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm	Partnership Lent Course 2 at St. Andrew's URC Roundhay
Wed	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Partnership Lent Course 2 on Zoom
Thu	5 <sup>th</sup>	11-1pm	Café open for tea, coffee, cake, sandwiches, toasties and friendship
		<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Pride Service at Leeds Minster</b>
		<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Zoom opens for Partnership Prayers led by Ann Coates</b>
Fri	6 <sup>th</sup>		World Day of Prayer. A service written by women of Nigeria. See page 8 for details
<b>Sat</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am-1.00pm</b>	<b>Eco Fairtrade Café at Chapel Allerton Methodist Church. All welcome</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Worship for Lent 3 with Holy Communion led by Revd Angela Hughes</b>
Mon	9 <sup>th</sup>	11-2pm	Lunch Club
		11.00am	Partnership Lent Course 3 at Beeston Hill URC (see below for details)
Tue	10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Partnership Lent Course 3 at St. Andrew's URC Roundhay
Wed	11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Partnership Lent Course 3 on Zoom

Thu	12 <sup>th</sup>	11-1pm	Café open for tea, coffee, cake, sandwiches, toasties and friendship
Thu		7.00pm	<b>Churches Together Annual Lent Soup evening at Stainbeck</b>
Sat	14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Synod meet at West Park URC, Harrogate</b>
Sun	15 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	<b>Hybrid Morning Worship for Lent 4 led by Revd Dr Rosalind Selby</b>
		3.30-5.00pm	<b>Messy Church</b>
Mon	16 <sup>th</sup>	11-2pm	Lunch Club
		11.00am	Partnership Lent Course 4 at Beeston Hill URC (see below for details)
		7.30pm	Thrive AGM – All welcome
Tue	17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Partnership Lent Course 4 at St. Andrew's URC Roundhay
Wed	18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Partnership Lent Course 4 on Zoom
Thu	19 <sup>th</sup>	11-1pm	Café open for tea, coffee, cake, sandwiches, toasties and friendship
		7.30pm	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Avril and Brian Bellwood</b>
Sun	22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.45am	<b>Hybrid Morning Worship for Lent 5 led by Revd. Tim Lowe</b> <b>Partnership Ministry Team</b>
Mon	23 <sup>rd</sup>	11-2pm	Lunch Club
		11.00am	Partnership Lent Course 5 at Beeston Hill URC (see below for details)
		7.30pm	Elders' Meeting at The Manse
Tue	24 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Partnership Lent Course 5 at St. Andrew's URC Roundhay
Wed	25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Partnership Lent Course 5 on Zoom
Thu	26 <sup>th</sup>	11-1pm	Café open for tea, coffee, cake, sandwiches, toasties and friendship
		7.30pm	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Karen Benjamin</b>
Sun	29 <sup>th</sup>	1045am	<b>Hybrid Morning Worship for Palm Sunday led by Revd Angela Hughes</b>
Mon	30 <sup>th</sup>	11-2pm	Lunch Club

A reminder of the Stainbeck link:

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

# Journeys of Discipleship with Matthew's Gospel



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

## TIMES & DATES in the DIARY & final page

There is a flyer in the Café Room which gives venues and times when services for the **World Day of Prayer** will be held on Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>. This year the service has been written by the Christian women of Nigeria. Their theme is 'I will give you rest, Come.'

1.30 pm St. Anne's Cathedral

3.15 pm Oakwood Church

6.00 pm Leeds Minster

6.30 pm St Andrew's URC

**CHARITY for  
April: LEEDS  
AID:**

**March &  
WOMEN'S**



<https://leedswomensaid.co.uk>

As we look ahead, after following our Partnership Lent Course (see February edition of Outlook), whether in person or on Zoom, we come to **Maundy Thursday on 2<sup>nd</sup> April**, when we invite you to join us for **Communion Round the Table** at **7.30pm**, marking the last meal Jesus shared with his friends.

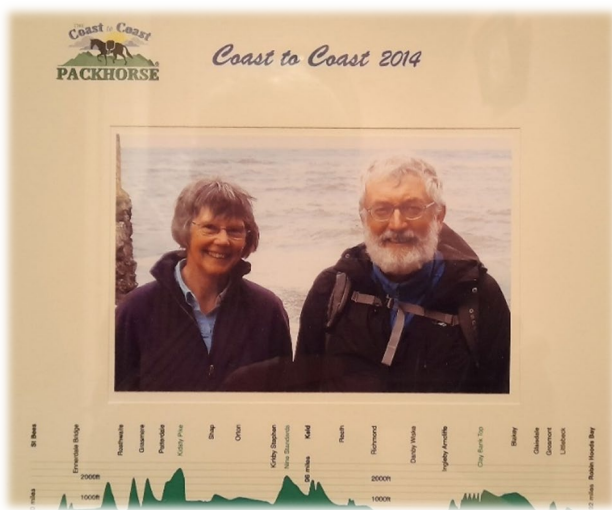
On **Good Friday (3<sup>rd</sup> April)** we will hold our **Tenebrae Service** at **9.00pm** as we hear again the story of that day. It is a Service of increasing darkness as we look forward to the light and joy of Easter morning.

**Easter Sunday** will begin with **Holy Communion** at **9.00am** followed by breakfast starting at **9.30am** and then a **Service celebrating the Risen Christ** at **10.45am**. Remember to bring a flower to fill the Cross.

**Christ is Risen!  
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

*As we grow together as a team and explore new ways of serving our Leeds Chyrches we thought it would be good to share a little more about ourselves. Geoff has set the ball rolling!*



### Meet the Ministry Team: Revd Geoff Ellis

Jackie and myself discovered the United Reformed Church in 1982. After a warm welcome at St Andrew's Roundhay we became members. Our daughters Hannah and Ruth were baptised by Revd Eric Allen. In 1993 I was encouraged to

answer a call to be an Elder. This was preceded by an experience that was preparing me for a pastoral ministry. I drove my mother-in-law to visit her sister who was coming to the end of her life in an Oban hospital. She told us no one had been to pray with her. We prayed with her. As we had to travel back to Yorkshire, I made a promise to remember her in my daily prayers. It was a time when I was being challenged and being drawn closer to God in other ways too.

After 3 years on embarked on one year Discipleship came the call to preacher, and encouraged to Minister.



the Eldership I Workshop - a Christian Course. Then train as a lay later I was test a call to be a

In 2004 I was ordained and inducted as a Non-Stipendiary Minister at Beeston Hill United Free Church. This congregation had previously encouraged me on placement as a trainee preacher. Jackie and myself had an amazing time there working with such a faithful group of Christians. The church hosted Kidz Klub Leeds on Tuesday evenings, supported asylum seekers who joined the church, worked together with local churches, and welcomed all who came through the church doors.

The experience of leading worship in the Leeds URC churches gave me new insights into ways of being church and doing mission. I developed an appetite for closer working together across our churches and with other denominations. I have preached widely in URC, Methodist, Baptist and Anglican churches. I took semi-retirement in 2008 from my paid job in industry, and responded to an initiative by Revd Kevin Watson to encourage Leeds URC Ministers to work closer together and support all our churches in local mission.

I was active in discussions that followed in our Mission and Care Group. I served as interim Minister at Headingley St Columba and then at West Park URC. Finally in 2022 our Leeds URC Partnership of 8 churches was formed with the induction of a Ministry Team in a joint service at St Andrew's. From 2012-2024 I also worked as a Methodist Homes Chaplain at the Assisi Place care scheme in Hunslet.



We each respond in different ways to Jesus' call and each has a unique part in sharing God's love. We can help each other in that. My story and call have been supported by many friends from across our churches. Thank you. You have encouraged me to share the faith we are all part of.

Our family includes 2 daughters, 2 sons-in-law and 4 grandchildren. Ask me and I'll tell you more about them. Ask me about my hobbies

and how I relax, and I'll tell you about gardening, walking in the mountains, painting in watercolours or acrylics, and playing classical guitar. We have good memories of long distance walks including the 200 miles Coast to Coast and the 150 mile Pilgrim's Way from Winchester to Canterbury. We now take shorter walks on well-trodden paths, sometimes high in the Swiss mountains.

Every blessing, Geoff Ellis

Churches Together in Chapel Allerton and Meanwood

# Lent Soup Evening



Join us for great company and delicious  
homemade soup, as we  
**Celebrate the Value of Volunteering**

Stainbeck Church, Stainbeck Road

**Thursday 12th March at 7pm**

*All Welcome*

*Please bring cake, biscuits or fruit to share*

*Views expressed by individuals are personal and not necessarily those of Stainbeck Church.*  
**Revd Dr Nicola Robinson, Minister: [revnicola.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:revnicola.robinson@gmail.com)**  
**Avril and Brian Bellwood, Church Secretaries: 0113 293 5847**

# 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](mailto:revnicola.robinson@gmail.com)



**LEEDS**  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
PARTNERSHIP