

**Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)**

# **OUTLOOK**

**June 2026**



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

<https://stainbeckurc.org.uk>

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**June 2026**

## **Courageous Love**

Last month, I was fortunate to take part in our Yorkshire Synod's annual Ministers' Summer School. We travelled across the sea and spent time with the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland. A community which has dedicated itself to building peace and connection between people. A place that responded to the Troubles and countless conflicts and divisions across the world.



During the Troubles, the Corrymeela Community welcomed people from different sides and provided a way for them to meet safely, have difficult conversations well and support one another. And today, people continue to meet from across the world to do the same.

In our increasingly divided world, it feels utterly essential that we create more spaces to get to know each other as fellow human beings to love rather than opponents to hate. I firmly believe that there is so much more to discover in each other to celebrate rather than there is to fear.

When we meet with someone and take time to listen to someone from a different religion, race or culture, someone who has a different sexuality or gender identity, we are transformed. It is a real and practical way of recognising and acknowledging that we are all made in the image of God. We learn more about God when we really get to know one another and when we learn to deeply care for one other.

And that takes courage. Courage is not the absence of fear, but it is recognising and acknowledging it and being strong enough to do what is right. Each and every day, we are invited to listen to God and each other and love courageously in all we feel, think, say and do.

At Corrymeela, there is a space of worship called The Croí, which is designed in the shape of the human heart. “Croí” is the Irish word for “heart.”



I close with a prayer that is prayed each morning.

Courage comes from the heart  
and we are always welcomed by God,  
the Croí of all being.

We bear witness to our faith,  
knowing that we are called to live lives of courage,  
love and reconciliation in the ordinary and extraordinary  
moments each day.

We bear witness, too, to our failures and our complicity in the  
fractures of our world.

May we be courageous today.

May we learn today.

May we love today. **Amen.**

*(Pádraig Ó Tuama, Former Leader of the Corrymeela Community)*

## HERE AND THERE

### Looking back .....

The May highlight for me was the **Christian Aid coffee/brunch** morning – see Helen’s report below. What a great morning that was.... special for me because it was my first proper trip out following the hip job. How good it was to see church friends, community friends, Partnership friends and Churches Together friends. Very tasty bacon and vegan sausage sandwiches, cakes, a choice of beverages. Stalls in the Church - I bought a sunflower – still safely growing and some tomato plants now placed in a big growbag and I look forward to harvesting both red and yellow fruit. Thank you so much to all those who came, who gifted items for sale, who came to chat, who came to support Christian Aid ... and who came to work too! It was a good morning. Special thanks to Helen and Adrian for organising it all.

I very much regret not being able to join the **Synod Big Day Out** at the Yorkshire Sculpture part. That’s one of my favourite places to visit and to be there with friends from across the Synod with so many activities to share in would have been great. Katherine Bradshaw (Kat) shares this:



*‘It was such a nice experience and very friendly; there was a lot to see and do and I felt like I was part of the day instead of being on my own. The craft activities were a brilliant idea and I liked sharing my skills with other people that just see me not my chair. Thank you for the wonderful day and making me feel normal for that day x*

Good work with our young people continues through the regular evening events and at **Messy Church** and the **Thrive Drop-In** weekly sessions. Young people building relationships, growing and working together. Thank you to **Helen, Hannah,** and their team of supporters – including of course the Young Leaders.



## DIARY FOR JUNE

### Elder on Duty – Ann Coates

	1 <sup>st</sup>	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Tue	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting to be held at the home of Ann Coates
Wed	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00pm	PRIDE Service at Leeds Minster led this month by Nicola. Whether you're a member of the LGBTQI community or an ally, a Christian, a person of faith, or you're a seeker...you are welcome to join us.
Thu	4 <sup>th</sup>	11-1pm	Community Café open for tea, coffee, sandwiches, toasties, cakes and friendship. All Welcome
		7.30pm	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday Partnership Prayers led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson</b>
Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	<b>Hybrid morning worship led by Ann Coates, Speaker: Vanessa Brown from InterACT</b>
Mon	8 <sup>th</sup>	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Thu	11 <sup>th</sup>	11-1pm	Community Café
		7.30pm	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Claire Jones</b>
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	<b>Hybrid morning worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson</b>
<b>A Quarterly Church Meeting will follow this service</b>			
Mon	15 <sup>th</sup>	11-2pm	Lunch Club
Thu	18 <sup>th</sup>	11-1pm	Community Café open for tea, coffee, sandwiches, toasties, cakes and friendship. All Welcome
		7.30pm	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday prayers led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson</b>
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup>	10.45am	<b>Hybrid morning worship led by Revd Tim Lowe Leeds Partnership Ministry Team</b>

		<b>3.30-5.30</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
Mon	22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Churches Together in Chapel Allerton and Meanwood meeting at
Tue	23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Thu	25 <sup>th</sup>	11-1pm	Community Café
		<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Zoom opens for Thursday prayers led by Avril and Brian Bellwood</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Twenty-four hour prayer room in the Cabin – see below for details.</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Hybrid morning worship led by Revd Angela Hughes, Leeds URC Partnership Ministry Team</b>
Mon	29 <sup>th</sup>	11-2pm	Lunch Club

A reminder of the Stainbeck link:

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

### Looking back cont'd:

Did you share our **95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration?** Worship led by Angela and more cake of course! A good time to look back – and what



a long way we can look now but more importantly, it is a time to look forward as we move to our centenary!

Wow! What changes can we still make? We are never too old to think of growing, developing and working in new ways in and with our local community and also across Leeds as the Partnership gains in strength. A challenge for us all as we begin another year of being God's people in this place.

*Ann Coates*

**AND FINALLY.....** looking back this month a few more 'thank yous' to

- 1) the regular '*purple bag litter pickers*' who keep our space clean and encourage an awareness of our environment. Not only that but they spend time to put the aluminium cans in the cage – you are amazing!
- 2) our *Green Men* who have been so busy every Thursday weeding and trimming – we notice the difference.
- 3) everyone who puts litter in the bins provided.
- 4) those who take the time to put card and paper on the correct bin.

Let's keep at it! Angela

## **Meet the Team – Alex Walker**

Earlier this year it was agreed that we, the Ministry Team, would write short introductions of ourselves in an attempt for the Leeds Partnership congregations to get to know us and what makes us tick. This month it's my turn.

My faith journey is unremarkable. I was taken to Foley Park Methodist church in Kidderminster, where my mother was on the council, as a child and stayed. I committed my life to Christ at 14 after an odd Vancouver Blessing service where I saw nothing of God in the histrionics and rather in the places I found myself. If God isn't in the normal places, where is he after all?! This thinking has shaped my ministry to this day.

Most of you have probably heard me preach before but perhaps haven't heard what inspires or touches me. My favourite Old Testament verses are Judges 3:12-20, the story of the King Eglon of Moab and Ehud. My favourite Psalm is Psalm 121; I lift my eyes to the hills. My help comes from the Lord. Some days I need more than I'd care to admit. There is a beautifully sung version of the Psalm sung by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir. My favourite New Testament passage is Matthew 17:1-21. The transfiguration and Jesus healing a boy.

All of this is well and good, but who is Alex? I'm going to share with you six factoids that I hope explain more about the person under the air.



- 1) I am named after Alex Higgins, the snooker player, who won the world championship just before I was born. I have neither his cue skills nor his drinking habits!
- 2) I grew up on what was, at the time, the fourth poorest housing estate in England. We lived there until my parents had worked and saved enough to buy a house. I have seen, and survived, the effects of poverty.
- 3) I was diagnosed with dyslexia three weeks after passing my joint honours B(Ed) degree at Worcester University. I passed my music degree not being able to sight read music. Still can't.



4) I met Kate (Mrs Walker) when I was 15 when we were put together in a group for a GCSE music project. My mother thought she was better than that. Most days she was right!

5) Michael, my 13-year-old son, is named after both of his grandfathers. Neither of whom lived to meet him. Conversely, my own grandfather is 99 and turns 100 in December.

6) I trained as a Maths teacher but was so bad I got put in the music block where I found my calling in life.

I hope this paints a picture of who I am and helps you to understand why I was led into my role as **Elder in Local Leadership**. I enjoy visiting all our churches and I hope this leads to us all sharing a deeper connection and sense of togetherness.

With Blessings,  
Alex Walker.



We would  
VERY BIG  
YOU to  
who

like to say A  
THANK  
everyone  
supported

this year's Christian Aid café on 9<sup>th</sup> May. I am very pleased to say that the donations to Christian Aid this year raised an amazing **£1129.28** (including Gift Aid). A fantastic result – well done everyone!

The café was a great event and many thanks go to all those who helped in advance with publicity (Nicola, Jennie and Doug), baking cakes (Glenys and Des from CA Methodist Church), making cards (Pam and Sylvia), growing plants (Diane, Emma and Clare), and on the day – setting up, cooking, serving, taking orders, making drinks, clearing up, washing up (Suzie, Sophia and Diane), selling plants (Clare from ESOL and Emma), and everyone for coming to the café (it would have been a total failure without you 😊), and for donating lots of money and making it a very enjoyable event.

It was very apt to have a plant stall this year as we were thinking about the urban farmers and their water-saving cone gardens in Dagoretti, Nairobi.

Here is the breakdown of where and how the money was raised:

Saturday café, plant stall, cake stall, card stall (cash minus expenses)	£378.03
ESOL 50/50 Plant stall	£24.50
Card payments made on 9 <sup>th</sup> May (minus fees)	£475.90
Stainbeck Church envelopes	£49.10
TOTAL given	£927.53
Gift Aid (applied to 38 gifts totalling £807)	£201.75
<b>GRAND TOTAL including Gift Aid</b>	<b>£1,129.28</b>

An additional donation will be made in July directly from the church to Christian Aid for the Thursday café during Christian Aid week, the communion service in May and Charity of the Month collections for May and June.

*Helen and Adrian*

*Views expressed by individuals are personal and not necessarily those of Stainbeck Church.*  
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